



Covid-19 Related Disease

Why in News

Recently, the **Paediatric Intensive Care Society (PICS)** of the **United Kingdom** has observed an apparent rise in the number of children suffering from a **multi-system inflammatory state**. Doctors believe that it **could be related to Covid-19**.

Key Points

▪ Multi-system Inflammatory State

- It is a **rare** illness that causes **inflammation of the blood vessels** leading to **low blood pressure**. It affects the entire body as it **causes a build-up of fluid in the lungs and other organs**.
- Patients suffering from it require **intensive care to support** the lungs, heart and other organs.
- **Symptoms:**
 - Abdominal and gastrointestinal symptoms.
 - Cardiac inflammation.
 - Overlapping symptoms of **Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS)** and **Kawasaki disease** as well.

▪ Toxic Shock Syndrome

- It is a **rare** condition which is caused by certain **bacteria** which enter the body and **release harmful toxins**.
- It could be **fatal if not treated in time**.
- **Symptoms:** High temperature, headache, sore throat, cough, diarrhea, dizziness or fainting, difficulty breathing and confusion.

▪ Kawasaki Disease

- It is an **acute inflammatory disease of the blood vessels** and usually occurs in **children below the age of five**.
- The **inflammation** in the **coronary arteries** that are responsible for supplying blood to the heart results in **enlargement or in the formation of aneurysms** (swelling of the wall of an artery), leading to **heart attacks**.
- **Symptoms:** Fever, rashes, redness of the cornea, red and cracked lips, a red tongue and lymph node enlargement of the neck.

▪ Relation to Covid-19

- **Only a few children** with the symptoms of the multi-system inflammatory state **tested positive for Covid-19**. So, it **remains unclear** if and how the inflammatory syndrome is related to the virus.
- It is suggested by some doctors that the illness **may be a post-infection inflammatory response**, where the immune system gets over-stimulated.
 - A syndrome **associated with an overstimulated immune system response** is

the [Cytokine Storm syndrome](#).

- This syndrome may develop as a response to [coronavirus](#), leading to **sepsis, multiple organ failures and even death**.
- This could be the reason for the negative Covid-19 test results in some children with this illness because they **could have already recovered from the virus before the inflammation set in** or the **tests simply did not detect the virus**.
- These diseases and conditions are rare but it is **important** that **clinicians are made aware of any potential emerging links** so that they are able to give children and young people the **right care swiftly on time**.

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