




No relationship was observed between Kawasaki disease and COVID-19 in Japan

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During the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been reports on the relationship between Kawasaki disease (KD) and SARS-Cov-2 from the United States, Europe, and other parts of the world.^{1,2} However, there have been no such reports from Japan, until now. Japan has the largest number of KD patients in the world.³ Besides a nationwide survey of KD,³ Japan also has a national surveillance system of the disease.^{4,5} Under this system, 199 participating hospitals promptly register all patients who have been diagnosed with KD by a pediatrician.

On July 13 2020, all the participating hospitals were asked to report the number of KD patients with a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test and the number of positive PCR cases among them.

Of the 199 hospitals, 50 responded by July 21. A total of 496 KD patients were registered by the 50 hospitals between January 1 and July 21 2020. Of the 496 patients, PCR was conducted for 81 patients, including six patients with both a PCR and an antigen test. In addition, an antigen test was conducted for 12 patients and a loop-mediated isothermal amplification test was administered to another five patients. None of the 98 patients tested presented a positive result for SARS-Cov-2. For the other 412 KD patients, the pediatricians treating them did not consider it necessary to conduct a test for the virus because of the patients' symptoms, laboratory data, and other relevant information. In other words, patients with KD who did not present the COVID-19 symptoms were not tested with PCR; however, this may be a limitation of this observation.

Finally, the situation regarding COVID-19 infection in Japan, according to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, as of August 19 2020 is presented.

In conclusion, according to our observation, no KD patients showed a relationship with COVID-19 in Japan. Among

57 140 patients with COVID-19, there were 1,144 (2.0%) patients who were younger than 10 years, with no severe nor fatal cases (<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/10906000/000661165.pdf>).

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Disclosure

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