

The Network of Pro-Inflammatory Factors CD147, DcR3, and IL33 in the Development of Kawasaki Disease

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Introduction: Kawasaki disease (KD) is an acute febrile systemic vasculitis, but the etiology remains unknown. We studied serum levels of CD147, DcR3, and IL33 in different stages of KD to explore the value of CD147, DcR3, and IL33 in the pathophysiology of KD.

Methods: We measured serum levels of CD147, DcR3, and IL33 by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) at different stages with 71 KD patients and 66 healthy control children. We apply for network tools GeneMANIA and Cytoscape APP to analyze the functions of these pro-inflammatory factors at the gene and protein level.

Results: Serum levels of CD147, DcR3, and IL33 were significantly increased in KD patients before IVIG treatment. Serum levels of CD147, DcR3, and IL33 gradually decreased over time after the treatment of IVIG. Eight cases were IVIG non-responders, while nine KD patients got CALs, but they did not overlap. And there were no statistical differences between group IVIG responders and IVIG non-responders or between groups without CALs and with CALs. We explored the functions of CD147, DcR3, and IL33 from GeneMANIA and Cytoscape APP and found these third pro-inflammatory factors were coexpressed, physical interactions, genetic interactions with other KD-related factors.

Conclusion: CD147, DcR3, and IL33 are involved in the pathophysiology of KD, which provides novel evidence for diagnosing and treating KD with their inhibitors.

Keywords: Kawasaki disease, coronary artery lesions, CD147, DcR3, IL33, PI3K/AKT pathway

Introduction

Kawasaki disease (KD), as an acute, febrile systemic vasculitis, its pathogenesis gets more and more attention on account of its severe complications such as coronary artery aneurysm (CAA), thrombosis, myocardial infarction, even sudden death. The mechanism of KD remains unknown, despite several decades of ongoing studies.¹ The AHA scientific statement¹ says that: in the early stage in Kawasaki disease, activation of the immune system starts, which with high numbers of activated, circulating neutrophils and activation of cytokines, including interleukin-(IL)1, IL6, tumor necrosis factor (TNF) signaling pathways.² Simultaneously, both pro-inflammatory and regulatory T cells can be found in the circulation.³ However, no detailed profile has told us the crucial role of these factors.

The cluster of differentiation (CD)147, also called Basigin (BSG), belongs to the immunoglobulin superfamily.⁴ CD147 is a potent inducer of angiogenic factors such as VEGF.⁵ It induced the up-regulation of VEGF-derived foam cells, which

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may further promote intraplaque angiogenesis through the PI3K/AKT pathway.⁶ A study indicated elevated CD147 in pressure-overloaded exacerbated RV dysfunction while suppressing CD147, and its ligand Cyclophilin A (CyPA) can meliorate RV dysfunction in PH model animals.⁷ What is more, CD147 plays a role in mediating angiogenesis in psoriatic arthritis.⁸

Decoy receptor3 (DcR3), which belongs to the TNFR superfamily, also named TNFRSF6B, is a soluble receptor lacking transmembrane domains.⁹ The overexpression of DcR3 blocks the suppression of apoptosis in some malignant cells by interfering with the binding of VEGI, FasL, and LIGHT to receptors.¹⁰ Coronary artery disease (CAD) patients requiring coronary artery bypass grafting have high circulating levels of TL1A and DcR3, which may thus be valuable biomarkers for diagnosing severe CAD.¹¹ A study demonstrated that DCR3 inhibited inflammatory factor expression levels by regulating the PI3K/AKT signaling pathway.¹² Taken together, DCR3 may be a promising drug for treating coronary heart disease via regulating inflammation and apoptosis through the PI3K/AKT signaling pathway.¹²

Interleukin (IL)33 is a member of the IL1 family that acts by its receptor ST2, and it was described as an immunomodulatory cytokine powerfully inducing T helper cells type2 (Th2) cytokine production initially.^{13,14} IL33 produces different pro-inflammatory cytokines by directly stimulating human mast cells and improving these cells' survival.^{15,16} What is more, endothelial cells are also the cellular target for IL33. It upregulates the urokinase-type plasminogen activator (u-PA) in endothelial cells and promotes angiogenesis.¹⁷ Bone marrow-derived mast cells (BMMCs) produce IL6, IL13, and tumor necrosis factor (TNF)- α upon IL33 stimulation and depend on MK2/3-mediated activation of the PI3K/AKT pathways.¹⁸

As it is known, vascular endothelial cells (VECs) perform a crucial function in the onset and progression of KD. Changes in the serum vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) level suggest that the PTEN/PI3K/VEGF signaling pathway plays a role in developing KD.¹⁹ KEGG PATHWAY Database described the PI3K/AKT signaling pathway (map04151) in detail. The PI3K-Akt signaling pathway is activated by many cellular stimuli or toxic insults and regulates fundamental cellular functions such as transcription, translation, proliferation, growth, and survival.²⁰ Coincidentally, CD147, DcR3, and IL33 may regulate VECs pathogenesis and are associated with the PI3K/AKT pathway.

CD147 may be necessary to inhibit autophagy via the PI3K/Akt/mTOR pathway.²¹ Activating the PI3K/AKT signaling pathway can regulate DcR3 expression and then promotes cell proliferation and migration and inhibit apoptosis.²² Down-regulation of IL33 reduced cell viability and EMT and induced cell apoptosis by activating the PI3K/AKT signaling pathway.²³ It is not yet clear whether CD147, DcR3, and IL33 are involved in the process of KD. So we investigated their serum levels in different stages of KD compared to healthy controls. And we explored these pro-inflammatory factors' function in the pathophysiology and prognosis of KD.

Materials and Methods

Ethical Statement

The ethical committee of the Children's Hospital, Zhejiang University School of Medicine, approved the study. The investigation, which was based on the institution's guidelines for human studies, conformed to the ethics guidelines of the Declaration of Helsinki. Informed consent was obtained from each patient's parent or guardian.

Patients

Seventy-one patients with Kawasaki disease (50 boys and 21 girls) were enrolled in this study at the Children's Hospital, Zhejiang University School of Medicine, China, between 2015 and 2017. All patients fulfilled the diagnostic criteria¹ and were treated with high-dose intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) (2g/kg) and oral Aspirin at 30 to 50 mg/kg/d. When the patient's temperature returned to normal for three days, the dose of Aspirin was reduced to 3 to 5 mg/kg/d for eight weeks. There were eight IVIG-resistant KD patients whose temperature was still higher than 38°C after 36 hours of standard treatment, so they were continued on IVIG at 1~2 g/kg/d or methylprednisolone therapy. Nine patients, including seven girls and two boys, had CALs (defined as coronary artery z-score >2.0)¹ identified by echocardiography during the disease process. Four patients had CALs in the left and right coronary arteries, four in the left coronary artery, and only one in the right. The complications of CALs in the seven patients were improved observably and disappeared in 3 months after standard treatment. Two patients have persisted with CALs for more than 9 and 12 months. Besides, there were 66 healthy children enrolled in the control group. All the KD patients and healthy children had no particular family history or general history, and there was no recurrence case.

Laboratory Analysis

We, respectively, collected blood samples from healthy children and KD patients at several time points. The first time point was at the acute phase of the disease before IVIG treatment (Pre-IVIG). The second was three days after the patients' temperature had returned to regular following IVIG treatment (Post-IVIG). And the third was at 14 to 21 days when the patients were first followed up after discharge (about one month of the disease). The samples were centrifuged to yield serum immediately and then kept at -80°C until analysis.

We measured serum levels of CD147, DcR3, and IL33 according to the manufacturer's instructions with Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay Kit (ELISA). Our hospital laboratory used conventional methods to measure IL6 and IL10 and WBC, CRP, and ESR. We used the following reagents: human EMMPRIN/CD147 immunoassay (catalog number DEMP00, Quantikine, R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN, USA), human DcR3 ELISA Kit (catalog number ELH-DcR3 RayBiotech, US); human IL33 immunoassay (catalog number D3300, Quantikine, R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN, USA).

Statistical Analysis

We used the SPSS22.0 software package for all statistical analyses and GraphPad Prism 9 for painting the figures. Except where indicated otherwise, the results were expressed as mean (95% CI). Routine data analysis was performed with analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by least significant difference (LSD) test for multiple comparisons; nonparametric data were analyzed by the Mann-Whitney test. Differences in parameters

were considered Statistic significant at P-values less than 0.05.

We used GeneMANIA and Cytoscape APP to see the interactions between protein and protein and predict gene function. The query gene list included CD147, DCR3, IL33, VEGF, VEGI, ZO-1, ICAM1, S100A12, TNFa, IL6, and IL10. At the same time, the protein list was CD147, DCR3, IL33, and expanded necessary.

Results

Clinical Characteristics of KD Patients

Our study enrolled 71 KD patients (50 boys and 21 girls) and 66 healthy children (33 boys and 33 girls). There were no significant differences in age and weight between KD patients and healthy control. The duration of fever days was 2–15 days in KD patients. Almost all KD patients had cervical lymphadenopathy, but 28 cases did not have extremity changes (Figure 1A). Twenty-nine KD children did not have other clinical findings until discharge. Ten patients had more than one other manifestation (Figure 1B). Eight cases were IVIG non-responders, while nine KD patients got CALs, but they did not overlap.

Serum Levels of CD147, DcR3, and IL33 with KD Patients and Healthy Controls

We summarized the clinical characteristics of 71KD patients and 66 healthy children in Table 1 and Figure 2. Serum levels of CD147, DcR3, and IL33 were significantly increased, like the change of CRP, ESR, IL6, and IL10 in KD patients before IVIG treatment. Serum levels of CD147, DcR3, and IL33

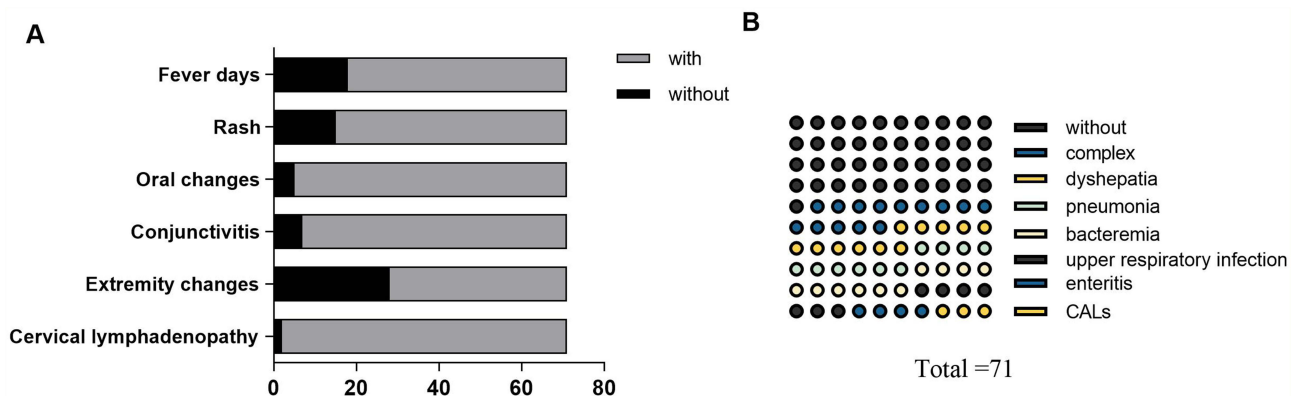


Figure 1 The clinical features of KD patients. (A) The main clinical characters. With fever days: fever days more than five. (B) Other clinical findings of KD patients. Complex: two or more than two clinical findings.

Table 1 Serum Levels of CD147, DcR3, and IL33 with KD Patients and Healthy Controls

Patients with Kawasaki Disease				
	Controls	Pre-IVIG	Post-IVIG	One Month
Male/female	33/33 [§]	50/21		
Age, Month	34.1 (28.0~40.2)	38.6 (32.4~44.7)		
Weight, Kg	14.9 (13.2~16.6)	14.8 (13.4~16.6)		
CD147, ng/mL	6.41 (6.21~6.61)*	8.96 (8.85~9.06) [#]	8.47 (8.34~8.60) ^{&}	7.86 (7.73~7.99)
DcR3, ng/mL	1.76 (1.67~1.84)*	2.62 (2.51~2.74) [#]	2.30 (2.20~2.40) ^{&}	2.05 (1.96~2.14)
IL33, 10 ² pg/mL	1.18 (1.16~1.21)*	1.57 (1.53~1.60) [#]	1.48 (1.45~1.52) ^{&}	1.36 (1.33~1.40)
WBC, 10 ⁹ /L	8.96 (8.38~9.54)**	14.7 (13.2~16.2) [#]	8.07 (7.21~8.92)	7.53 (6.89~8.17)
CRP, mg/L	2.85 (2.32~3.38)*	74.2 (61.7~86.8) [#]	16.3 (11.4~21.2) ^{&}	2.72 (1.82~3.63)
ESR, mm/h		72.5 (64.4~80.6) [#]	94.8 (87.4~102) ^{&}	19.33 (15.1~23.6)
IL6, 10 ² pg/mL	0.12 (0.07~0.17)*	0.99 (0.62~1.36)		
IL10, pg/mL	4.89 (3.36~6.42)*	17.9 (12.3~23.5)		

Note: Values are the mean (95% CI). [§]P-values < 0.05 between KD patients and healthy control. *All P-values are for patients versus healthy control, and all of them < 0.01. **P-values < 0.01 is for group Pre-IVIG versus healthy control. [#]P-values < 0.01 in kinds of groups with Kawasaki disease. [&]P-values < 0.01 in kinds of groups.
Abbreviations: IVIG, intravenous immunoglobulin; CD 147, cluster of differentiation 147; DcR3, decoy receptor 3; IL33, interleukin 33; WBC, white blood cell; CRP, C-reactive protein; ESR, erythrocyte sedimentation rate; IL6, interleukin 6; IL10, interleukin 10.

gradually decreased over time after the treatment of IVIG. However, in different stages with KD patients, even at one month, serum levels of CD147, DcR3, and

IL33 were significantly higher than healthy controls. Primarily, only fewer cases of CD 147, DcR3, and IL33 levels increased after IVIG treatment.

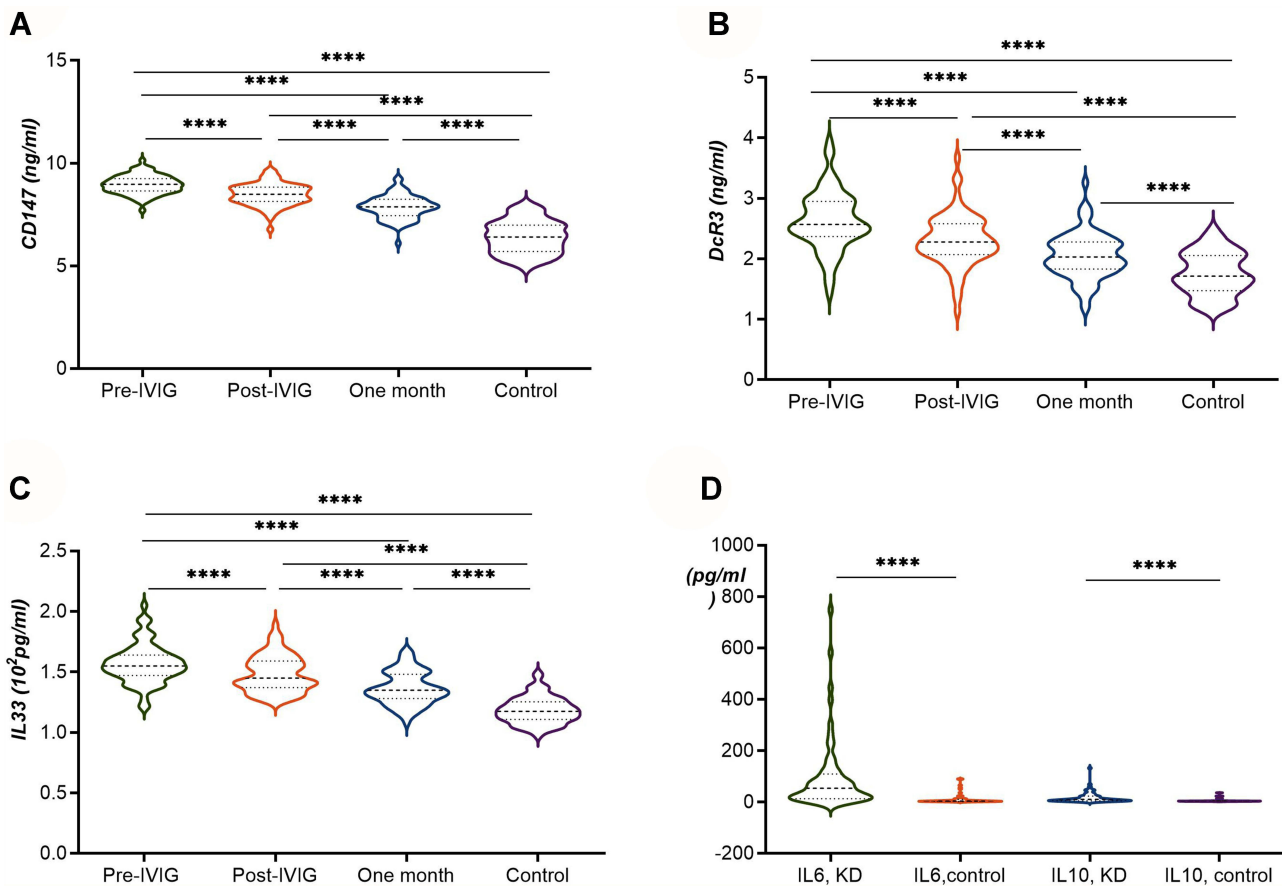


Figure 2 Serum levels of CD147, DcR3, IL33, IL6, IL10 with KD patients and healthy controls. (A–D) **** P-values <0.0001 in kinds of groups.

Serum Levels of CD147, DcR3, and IL33 in IVIG Responders and Non-Responders with KD Patients (Table 2 and Figure 3A)

Before treatment with IVIG, DcR3 and CD147 were slightly higher in IVIG responders than IVIG non-responders. In contrast, the levels of IL33, IL6, and IL10 were marginally lower in IVIG responders versus IVIG non-responders. There were no statistical differences between group IVIG responders and group IVIG non-responders. In each group, CD147, DcR3, and IL33 decreased according to the rule of time. The conventional indexes had similar conditions to them. Before IVIG

treatment, CRP in group IVIG non-responders was higher than group responders, and P-value <0.05. However, after IVIG, ESR increased and P-value <0.05 compared to group Pre-IVIG. Though the mean age and weight in group IVIG non-responders were higher than the other group, there was no statistical difference.

Serum Levels of CD147, DcR3, and IL33 in KD Patients without CALs and with CALs (Table 3 and Figure 3B)

Nine patients were complicated CALs, and 62 cases were without CALs. And the total incidence of CALs was

Table 2 Serum Levels of CD147, DcR3, and IL33 in IVIG Responders and Non-Responders with KD Patient

		IVIG Responders (n=63)	IVIG Non-Responders (n=8)
Male/female		44/19	6/2
Age, Month		32.2 (25.6~38.8)	49.1 (34.3~64.0)
Weight, Kg		14.3 (12.5~16.1)	19.5 (12.9~26.1)
CD147, ng/mL	Pre-IVIG	8.98 (8.87~9.10)	8.74 (8.42~9.07)
	Post-IVIG	8.50 (8.36~8.63)	8.24 (7.87~8.62)
	One month	7.85 (7.71~8.00)	7.91 (7.53~8.29)
DcR3, ng/mL	Pre-IVIG	2.65 (2.53~2.78)	2.40 (2.11~2.68)
	Post-IVIG	2.33 (2.22~2.44)	2.09 (2.87~2.31)
	One month	2.09 (1.98~2.17)	1.81 (1.61~2.02)
IL33, 10 ² pg/mL	Pre-IVIG	1.56 (1.52~1.60)	1.62 (1.47~1.77)
	Post-IVIG	1.48 (1.44~1.51)	1.55 (1.39~1.70)
	One month	1.36 (1.32~1.39)	1.41 (1.30~1.53)
WBC, 10 ⁹ /L	Pre-IVIG	14.8 (13.2~16.4)	13.8(9.20~18.4)
	Post-IVIG	7.98 (7.09~8.86)	8.73 (4.62~12.8)
	One month	7.56 (6.85~8.26)	7.35 (5.40~9.29)
CRP, mg/L	Pre-IVIG	69.8 (56.9~82.7)	109 (62.2~155)*
	Post-IVIG	14.5 (10.2~18.8)	29.7 (-3.38~62.7)
	One month	2.45 (1.55~3.42)	4.33 (0.54~8.13)
ESR, mm/h	Pre-IVIG	92.2 (85.3~99.1)	114 (70.8~157)
	Post-IVIG	17.3 (14.2~20.4)	34.2 (1.78~66.7)*
	One month	14.8 (13.2~16.4)	13.8 (9.20~18.4)
IL6, 10 ² pg/mL	Pre-IVIG	0.98 (0.58~1.37)	1.11 (0.41~2.64)
IL10, pg/mL	Pre-IVIG	15.4 (11.1~19.6)	39.8 (0.10~89.9)

Note: Values are the mean (95% CI). *P-value <0.05.

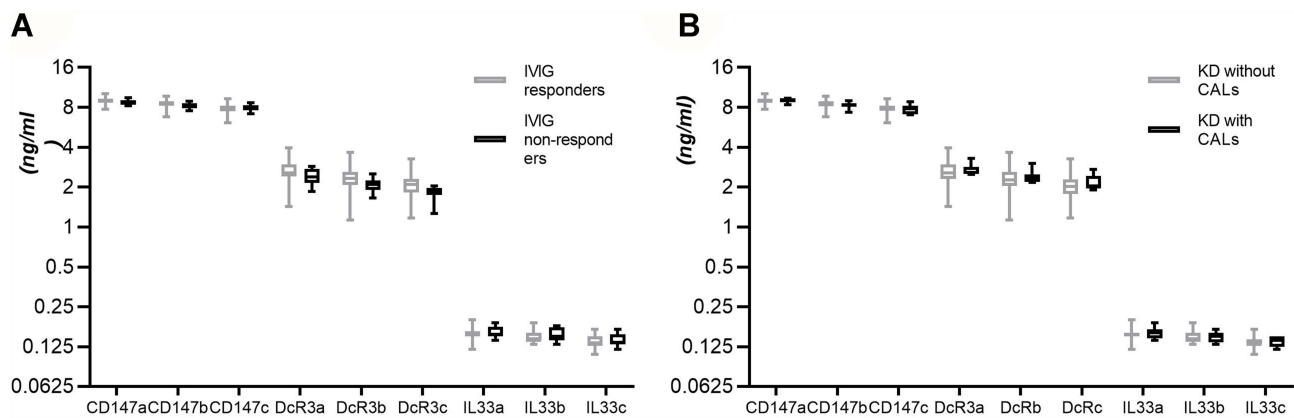


Figure 3 Serum levels of CD147, DcR3, and IL33 with KD patients. (A) Compared in groups IVIG responders and non-responders. (B) Compared in groups without CALs and with CALs.

Notes: a. Pre-IVIG, b. Post-IVIG, c. One month. P-values >0.05 between groups. P-values >0.05 between groups IVIG responders and groups IVIG non-responders.

12.7%. Besides, the age of KD patients with CALs less than patients without CALs, and the P-value was <0.05. Before treatment with IVIG, CD147 and DcR3 was slightly higher in group KD with CALs than those without CALs. In contrast, the levels of IL33, IL6, and IL10 were marginally lower in groups with CALs versus without CALs. There were no statistical differences between groups without CALs and with CALs. In each group, DcR3, IL33, CD147 decreased the levels according to the rule of time.

The Interactions Between Protein and Protein and Prediction of Gene Function (Figures 4 and 5)

A query gene list including CD147 (BSG), DCR3 (TNFRSF6B), IL33, VEGF, VEGI, ZO-1, ICAM1, S100A12, TNFa, IL6, and IL10, GeneMANIA found functionally similar genes using a wealth of genomics and proteomics data. We used GeneMANIA and Cytoscape APP to see the interactions between protein and protein and predict gene function. The networks represented co-expression 50.84%, Physical interactions 27.4%, predicted 15.33%, co-localization 3.57%, shared protein domains 2.82%, and genetic interactions 0.3%. IL33 had more tasks than shown in Figure 4. There was no direct correlation with protein CD147, DcR3, and IL33, and they made a protein interaction network through other related proteins (Figure 5).

Discussion

As a clinical syndrome, Kawasaki disease (KD) has various atypical clinical manifestations. Although the

scientific statement of AHA in 2017¹ provided us with a diagnosis process of incomplete KD, the clinical variability has still increased the difficulty in the diagnosis of KD. Our result demonstrated that almost all patients were complicated with cervical lymphadenopathy, but one-third were without extremity changes. Only 29 KD children did not have other clinical findings until discharge; moreover, ten patients had more than one other manifestation. The coronary artery damage may even be challenging to recover. And the high incidence of CALs may be the result of regional bias. However, we found KD CALs increased in clinical practice recently. Besides, age is a risk factor for CALs.

Furthermore, the mechanism of KD remains unclear, and people have paid more and more attention to KD because of its severe complications. Although there are many pro-inflammatory factors to be conformed related to KD, no study told us the definite factor which can determine the development of KD. We selected several cell markers associated with VEGF or endothelial cell or heart injury indicators from the literature, measured the difference in serum expression levels between KD children and normal controls. Our study showed that the serum levels of CD147, DcR3, and IL33 with KD patients peaked in the acute stage before IVIG treatment and decreased gradually after IVIG and in the subacute phase one month later. The application steadily reduced, but the three periods were higher than the healthy control, and there were statistical differences. Studies showed plasma IL33 significantly increased after IVIG treatment with immunodeficiency or autoimmune disease.^{24,25} It is different from our research because the disorders and the conditions of patients were unconformities, and their number

Table 3 Serum Levels of CD147, DcR3, and IL33 in KD Patients without CALs and with CALs

		KD without CALs	KD with CALs
		(n=62)	(n=9)
Male/female		42/20	7/2
Age, Month		36.8 (30.1~43.4)	16.0 (5.39~26.6)*
Weight, Kg		15.4 (13.5~17.3)	11.3 (8.37~14.3)
DcR3, ng/mL	Pre-IVIG	2.61 (2.48~2.74)	2.71 (2.50~2.92)
	Post-IVIG	2.29 (2.17~2.40)	2.39 (2.18~2.60)
	One month	2.03 (1.93~2.13)	2.17 (1.92~2.41)
IL33, 10 ² pg/mL	Pre-IVIG	1.57 (1.53~1.61)	1.59 (1.45~1.72)
	Post-IVIG	1.48 (1.45~1.52)	1.49 (1.37~1.60)
	One month	1.36 (1.33~1.39)	1.39 (1.28~1.50)
CD147, ng/mL	Pre-IVIG	8.95 (8.83~9.07)	9.00 (8.78~9.23)
	Post-IVIG	8.49 (8.36~8.63)	8.31 (7.95~8.67)
	One month	7.87 (7.73~8.01)	7.78 (7.28~8.28)
WBC, 10 ⁹ /L	Pre-IVIG	14.4 (12.8~15.9)	17.2 (11.7~22.7)
	Post-IVIG	7.99 (7.04~8.95)	8.60 (6.53~10.7)
	One month	7.66 (6.96~8.36)	6.64 (4.88~8.39)
CRP, mg/L	Pre-IVIG	77.2 (63.3~100)	54.6 (24.7~84.4)
	Post-IVIG	16.7 (11.2~22.2)	13.5 (3.96~23.0)
	One month	2.93 (1.91~3.95)	1.33 (0.48~2.19)
ESR, mm/h	Pre-IVIG	73.1 (64.4~81.8)	68.6 (40.6~96.5)
	Post-IVIG	94.8 (86.5~103)	95.0 (77.2~113)
	One month	20.2 (15.5~25.0)	13.0 (5.43~20.6)
IL6, 10 ² pg/mL	Pre-IVIG	1.11 (0.67~1.53)	0.35 (0.13~0.58)
IL10, pg/mL	Pre-IVIG	19.6 (13.1~26.1)	8.30 (2.92~13.7)

Note: Values are the mean (95% CI). *P-value <0.05.

of cases was insufficient. There were no statistical differences between group IVIG responders and IVIG non-responders or between groups without CALs and with CALs.

GeneMANIA (<http://genemania.org>) is a flexible, friendly website for generating hypotheses about gene tasks, analyzing and prioritizing genes for functional assays.²⁶ We explore the functions of CD147, DcR3, and IL33 from GeneMANIA, such as leukocyte migration, myeloid leukocyte migration, regulation of chemokine production, cell chemotaxis, chemokine production, cellular response to tumor necrosis factor, restriction of the interleukin-6 output, and so on. These third pro-

inflammatory factors were coexpressed, physical interactions, genetic interactions with other KD-related factors. There was no direct correlation with protein CD147, DcR3, and IL33, and they made a protein interaction network through other related proteins.

Since some studies discovered CD147 to play a pivotal role in the complex processes of atherogenesis and acute plaque rupture and thrombosis,²⁷ but our result revealed no statistical differences between groups without CALs and with CALs for serum CD 147. We have described that levels of IL6, IL10, TNF α , and IFN γ were significantly increased in KD patients Pre-IVIG, while Post-IVIG, the levels of IL6,

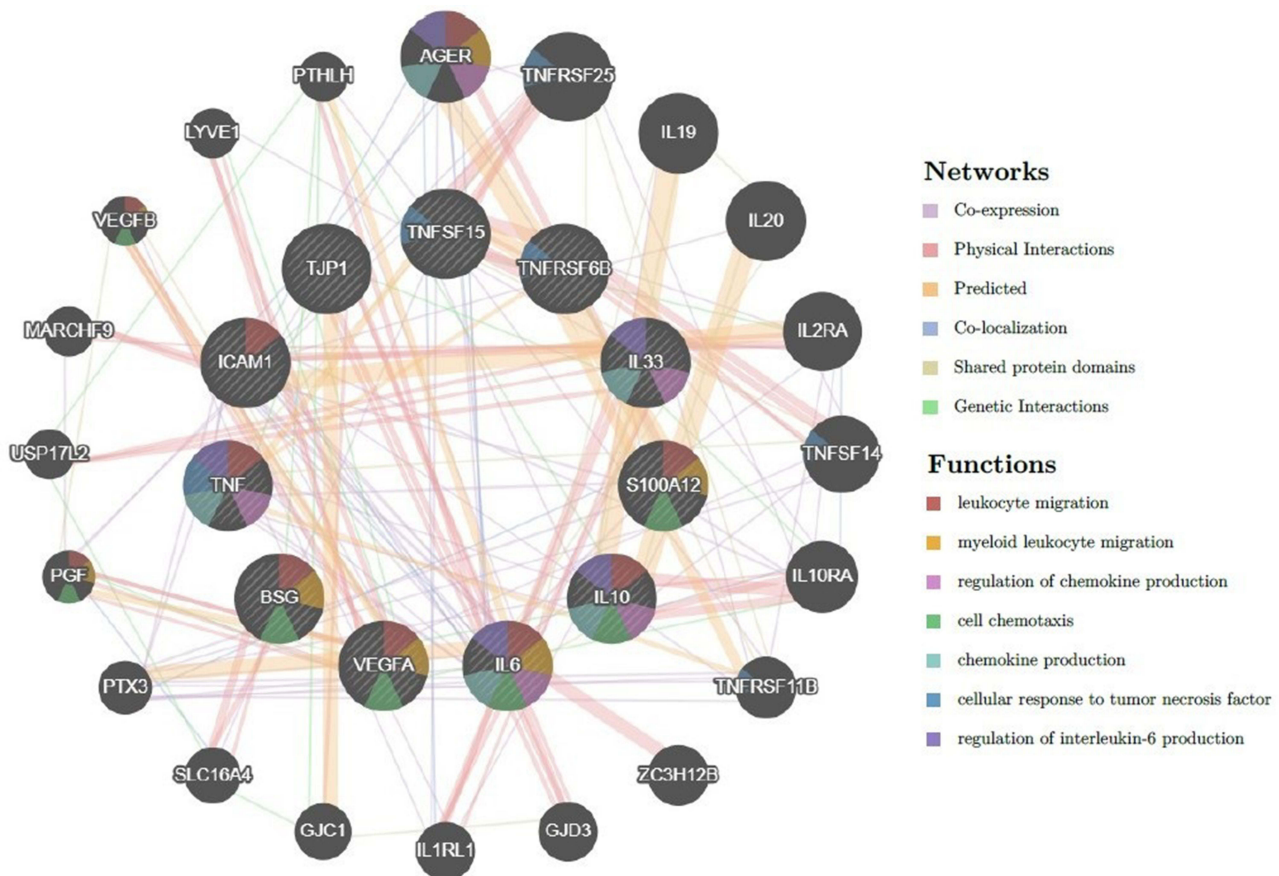


Figure 4 The interactions between gene and gene and prediction of gene function.

Abbreviations: BSG, basigin (CD 147); TNFRSF6B (DcR3), TNF receptor superfamily member 6; IL33, interleukin 33; TNFSF15, TNF superfamily member 15; S100A12, S100 calcium binding protein A12; IL10, interleukin 10; IL6, interleukin 6; VEGFA, vascular endothelial growth factor A; TNF, tumor necrosis factor; ICAM1, intercellular adhesion molecule 1; TJP1, tight junction protein 1; AGER, advanced glycosylation end-product specific receptor; TNFRSF25, TNF receptor superfamily member 25; IL19, interleukin 19; IL20, interleukin 20; IL2RA, interleukin 2 receptor subunit alpha; TNFSF14, TNF superfamily member 14; IL10RA, interleukin 10 receptor subunit alpha; TNFRSF11B, TNF receptor superfamily member 11b; ZC3H12B, zinc finger CCCH-type containing 12B; GJD3, gap junction protein delta 3; IL1RL1, interleukin 1 receptor like 1; GJC1, gap junction protein gamma 1; SLC16A4, solute carrier family 16 member 4; PTX3, pentraxin 3; PGF, placental growth factor; USP17L2, ubiquitin-specific peptidase 17 like family member 2; MARCHF9, membrane associated ring-CH-type finger 9; VEGFB, vascular endothelial growth factor B; LYVE1, lymphatic vessel endothelial hyaluronan receptor 1; PTHLH, parathyroid hormone like hormone.

IL10, and IFN γ quickly decreased.²⁸ IL33 had the same rule as other interleukins, but it does not predict IVIG non-responders or CALs.

Infliximab (IFX) is a novel chimeric monoclonal antibody and produces anti-inflammatory effects through specific blocking of tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF- α).²⁹ IFX is a vital pro-inflammatory factor significantly elevated in the blood circulation of children with KD.³⁰ The effectiveness of IFX in combination with IVIG treatment of nonreactive type KD is controversial. A retrospective review of 2 centers suggested that patients receiving infliximab had shorter hospitalization and fewer days of fever. Still, coronary artery outcomes and adverse events were similar.³¹ We also found the same event in the clinical practice. Perhaps because infliximab is only an antagonist of TNF α and only works on the inflammatory

response pathway. IVIG and glucocorticosteroids are multi-acting mechanisms for vasculitis. But a meta-analysis in 2021 emphasizes the importance of IFX on the treatment response in high-risk KD patients. IFX may play a role in Asian KD patients, prevent progressive CAA, and not increase the risk of adverse events in KD patients.³²

There is no definite signaling pathway in KEGG PATHWAY Database about Kawasaki disease. But all of CD147, DcR3, and IL33 are associated with PI3K/AKT signaling pathways. A study said that the PTEN/PI3K/VEGF signaling course plays a role in developing KD.¹⁹ PI3K-Akt signaling pathway can regulate fundamental cellular functions like transcription, translation, proliferation, growth, and survival.²⁰ So, we should study deeply between KD and these pro-inflammatory factors.

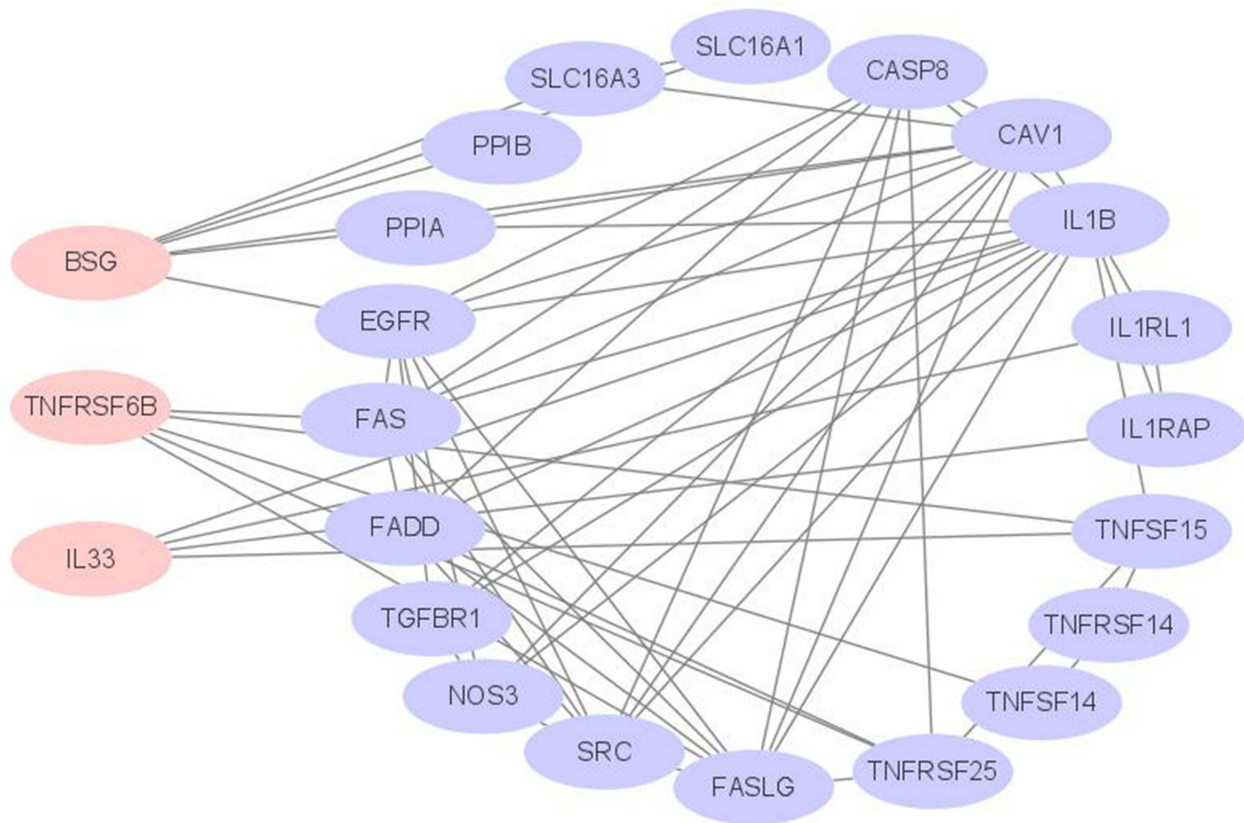


Figure 5 The interactions between protein and protein with CD147, DcR3, and IL33.

Abbreviations: BSG, basigin (CD 147); TNFRSF6B (DcR3), TNF receptor superfamily member 6; IL33, interleukin 33; CASP8, Caspase-8; PPIA, Peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase A; PPIB, Peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase B; FAS, Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 6; FADD, FAS-associated death domain protein; IL1RL1, Interleukin-1 receptor-like 1; IL1RAP, Interleukin 1 receptor accessory protein; IL1B, Interleukin-1 beta; EGFR, Epidermal growth factor receptor; SRC, Proto-oncogene tyrosine-protein kinase Src; NOS3, Nitric oxide synthase, endothelial; TGFBR1, TGF-beta receptor type-1; CAV1, Caveolin-1; SLC16A1, Monocarboxylate transporter 1; SLC16A3, Monocarboxylate transporter 4; TNFSF14, Tumor necrosis factor ligand superfamily member 14; TNFRSF14, Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 14; TNFSF15, Tumor necrosis factor ligand superfamily member 15; TNFRSF25, Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 25; FASLG, Tumor necrosis factor ligand superfamily member 6.

We put forward a hypothesis: KD inflammatory storms and vascular damage are two pathways, not entirely coincide, and we did not find the coefficient intersection yet. Inflammation is just an incentive to activate the target; once vascular damage starts, how to terminate the process still needs further study. Applying bioinformatics technology to the next step of research and exploring the pathogenesis of Kawasaki disease from multiple omics in vitro and animal models is our next research direction.

Conclusion

In conclusion, KD patients' serum CD147, DcR3, and IL33 peaked in the acute stage before IVIG treatment and decreased gradually after IVIG and in the subacute phase one month later. It suggests that the inflammatory pathway is involved in the pathophysiology of KD, which provides novel evidence for diagnosing and treating KD with its inflammatory inhibitors.

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Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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