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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

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6167	03.06.2021	04.06.2021	Goa	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/now-docs-grapple-with-mis-c-in-post-covid-kids/articleshowprint/83187618.cms
Title:	Now, doctors in Goa grapple with MIS-C in post-Covid kids			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to SSU-Goa			

The state has seen around 20 cases of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) since the first wave of the pandemic. In this rare but serious complication associated with Covid-19, different body parts can become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs. It usually happens post-Covid recovery, and is due to immunological reasons.

While the state has seen four casualties so far, MIS-C is a curable disease if diagnosed on time. Paediatricians and general practitioners have been sensitised about MIS-C, so that such cases are picked up quickly and treated correctly.

"Children with MIS-C may have a fever and various symptoms, including abdominal (gut) pain, vomiting, diarrhea, neck pain, rash, bloodshot eyes, or feeling extra tired," according to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"There is no need for parents to be panicky, but if a child gets a high-grade fever for more than 48 hours, they should contact a paediatrician," said senior paediatrician Dr Harshad Kamat. "MIS-C is a very uncommon condition, and most children will recover if diagnosed in time." Kamat is a member of the expert committee that is helping the government prepare for a possible third wave, that is expected to affect children.

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**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

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एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

While MIS-C is seen in children after they are cured of Covid-19, the time frame for the condition to develop may stretch up to three months, though normally, it may be evident 2-4 weeks post-recovery.

Dr Maria Silveira, head of paediatrics at GMC, said that the institute has seen 20 cases and some casualties, but one or two had comorbidities. "One child died within 24 hours of admission, as when she was brought to us, she was in a critical condition and could not be saved," said Silveira.

Dr Shivanand Gauns, a leading paediatrician and an executive member of the Indian Academy of Paediatricians (IAP), said that MIS-C is now their major worry.

"It is a condition in which a child's defence mechanism, which is otherwise regulated, goes out of control. It starts producing antibodies targeting the child's own system, and will lead to multi-organ dysfunction. If not treated on time, it can lead to mortality," said Gauns.

During the first wave, he said, he treated two children who had MIS-C — a seven-year-old and a 12-years old — both of whom fully recovered as they were referred in time.

Kamat said that while children with MIS-C usually present with fever, red eyes, rash on body/mouth or abdominal pain, patients can also present with cardiac problems, since multiple systems in the body are attacked. There could also be neurological or GI (gastrointestinal)-related complaints.

Kamat has seen three patients so far, including one during the current second wave.

Gauns said that though MIS-C is seen post-recovery among children, in some cases, it can overlap when a child is diagnosed with Covid-19. "Child can have acute Covid and MIS-C simultaneously, but mostly, it occurs two to four weeks after recovery," he said.

Kamat said that one problem could also be that some parents may not know if their child had Covid-19 in the past as they were not tested. "This could happen because many times, children are asymptomatic and there is no reason to do a Covid test," he said. "I have seen one such case. After the antibody tests, it was confirmed that the child had Covid-19 in the past."

While MIS-C is specific to children, the CDC reports that in the US, since June 2020, several case reports and series have reported a similar multisystem inflammatory syndrome in adults (MIS-A).

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