

Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children

Why in News

Recently, doctors in the United States have reported **neurological symptoms in children with Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C).**

Key Points

- Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C):
 - MIS-C is a rare but severe hyperinflammatory condition in children and adolescents that typically occurs 2-6 weeks after a <u>Covid-19</u> infection.
 - It is a potentially deadly condition where different body parts can become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs.
 - 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.
- MIS-C with Neurological Complications:
 - In a recent study, young people with the MIS-C syndrome have shown neurological issues which were life-threatening such as strokes or severe encephalopathy (any brain disease that alters brain function or structure).
 - Neurological symptoms include hallucinations, confusion, speech impairments, and problems with balance and coordination.
 - The new findings **strengthen the theory** that the syndrome is related to a surge of inflammation triggered by an immune response to the virus.
- Causes of MIS-C:
 - As the Syndrome is less researched, there are varied theories as to what causes MIS-C.
 - While some researchers believe that MIS-C is **a delayed response to the coronavirus** which in turn causes massive inflammation in the body and as a result damages organs.
 - Some believe that it can also be a result of the children's immune response making antibodies against the virus.
 - There **may be a genetic component as not every child develops MIS-C** and the presenting symptoms are so varied.
- Treatment:
 - It **involves symptonic relief such as supportive care** or use of various medicines to treat inflammation.

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