

**Guidelines for the Treatment of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)**

*This is a living document that will be updated as more data emerge.*

**MIS-C CASE DEFINITION (CDC)**

Age younger than < 21 years old

Fever  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$  for  $\geq 24$  hours

Laboratory evidence of Inflammation including but not limited to increased C-reactive protein (CRP), erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), fibrinogen, procalcitonin, d-dimer, ferritin, lactic acid dehydrogenase (LDH), interleukin 6 (IL-6), elevated neutrophils, reduced lymphocytes, low albumin

Clinically severe illness requiring hospitalization

Involvement of  $\geq 2$  organs (cardiac, renal, respiratory, hematologic, gastrointestinal, dermatologic, or neurologic)

**AND**

No alternative diagnosis

**AND**

Positive for current/recent SARS-CoV-2 or exposure to a suspected/confirmed COVID-19 case within the 4 weeks prior to onset of symptoms

**INITIAL PRESENTATION & SYMPTOMS OF ORGAN DYSFUNCTION**

**For all patients with High Suspicion for MIS-C:**

**Immediately discuss management with Pediatric Infectious Disease (ID) & Pediatric Cardiology**

**AND**

**Admit to the Pediatric ICU or Pediatric Progressive Care Unit for blood pressure & continuous cardiopulmonary monitoring.**

**High Suspicion for MIS-C (if other causes are ruled out):**

**Persistent fever ( $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) + Link to SARS-CoV-2 + At least TWO suggestive clinical features (marked as \* below)**

- **Cardiac:** Tachycardia; myocarditis
- **Dermatologic\*:** Skin rash (polymorphic, maculopapular, or petechial); oral mucocutaneous lesions (red or cracked lips; strawberry tongue, or erythema)
- **Gastrointestinal\*:** Abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting
- **Hematologic:** Thrombosis
- **Immunologic:** Lymphadenopathy\*
- **Kawasaki-like disease:** Conjunctivitis (bilateral without exudate)\*, edema of hands & feet\*, rash, coronary artery enlargement/aneurysm
- **Neurologic\*:** Altered mental status; encephalopathy; focal neurologic deficits; papilledema
- **Renal:** Acute kidney injury
- **Respiratory:** Respiratory distress (any severity); tachypnea
- **Systemic:** Hemodynamic instability; hyper inflammatory features; hypotension; shock



**INITIAL LABORATORY TESTING (ON PRESENTATION)**

**High Suspicion for MIS-C (further workup is required):**

**CRP  $\geq 50$  mg/L OR ESR  $\geq 40$  mm/hr**

**AND**

**At least ONE of the following laboratory features: Lymphocytes  $< 1$  bil/L; Platelets  $< 150$  bil/L; Na  $< 135$  mmol/L; Elevated Neutrophils; Hypoalbuminemia**

- **General:** Comprehensive Metabolic Panel
- **Hematologic:** CBC with Differential
- **Inflammatory Markers:** Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR); C-reactive protein (CRP)
- **Microbiology:** SARS-CoV-2 PCR and/or SARS-CoV-2 serology



## FURTHER LABORATORY TESTING IF HIGH SUSPICION FOR MIS-C

**Discuss further laboratory workup with Pediatric ID, Pediatric Cardiology, and Pediatric ICU prior to ordering**

- **Hematologic:** PT/PTT (if not already done), Fibrinogen; Ferritin; D-Dimer
- **Inflammatory Markers:** Procalcitonin; Lactic Acid Dehydrogenase (LDH); Interleukin 6 (IL-6); Cytokine panel; Creatine Kinase
- **Cardiac Evaluation:** Troponin 1; BNP; Triglycerides ; EKG; ECHO
- **Respiratory Evaluation:** Chest X-Ray
- **Infectious Evaluation:** SARS-CoV-2 serology (if not already done)



### HEMODYNAMIC INSTABILITY OR SEPTIC SHOCK

**Emergency Department  
Pediatric ICU**

- Fluid resuscitation
- Vasoactive medications (e.g., Epinephrine or Norepinephrine) if necessary

### IMMUNOMODULATORY TREATMENT

**Pediatric ID**

- **Immune Globulin (10%)** 2 grams/kg/dose IV x 1 dose (max: 120 grams) infused over 10-12 hours

**AND**

- **Methylprednisolone** 0.5 mg/kg/dose IV every 6 hours x 5 days (max: 40 mg/dose)

### ANTIPLATELET THERAPY

**Pediatric ID**

- **Aspirin (low dose)** 3-5 mg/kg/dose PO every 24 hours (max: 81 mg/dose)  
Avoid use in patients with active bleeding (or at bleeding risk) or with thrombocytopenia (platelets < 50 bil/L)

Clinically worsening or  
minimal improvement  
after 24-48 hours



### IMMUNOMODULATORY TREATMENT (REFRACTORY DISEASE)

**Pediatric ID**

- **Infliximab-dyyb** 5 mg/kg/dose IV (max: 500 mg/dose) every 24 hours x 2 doses.  
*Pharmacy manager approval:* Required prior to initiation of therapy.  
*Premedication:* Not required (patients will remain on methylprednisolone)  
*Administration:* Infuse each dose over 2 hours.  
*Monitoring:* refer to the guideline for Management of Infusion-Related Reactions to Infliximab, Infliximab-dyyb, and Vedolizumab in Pediatric Patients

#### References:

- Abdel-Haq, N., Asmar, B.I., Deza Leon, M.P. *et al.* SARS-CoV-2-associated multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children: clinical manifestations and the role of infliximab treatment. *Eur J Pediatr* (2021).
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) Interim Guidance. Last updated 2/2/2021. Available at: <http://services.aap.org>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Information for Healthcare Providers about Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C). Last updated: 2/17/2021. Available at: [www.cdc.gov/mis-c](http://www.cdc.gov/mis-c).
- Henderson LA, Canna SW, Friedman KG, Gorelik M, Lapidus SK, Bassiri H, et al. American College of Rheumatology Clinical Guidance for Pediatric Patients with Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) Associated with SARS-CoV-2 and Hyperinflammation in COVID-19. Version 1. *Arthritis Rheumatol* 2020; 72; 1791-1805. doi: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/art.41454>.

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