# Management of Severe MIS-C and Pediatric COVID-19

Christina A. Rostad, MD

Attending Physician in Pediatric Infectious Diseases
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Infectious Diseases
Emory University School of Medicine







#### **Disclosures**

- Clinical investigator in Emory Children's Center Vaccine Research Center (ECC-VRC) and Vaccine Treatment and Evaluation Unit (VTEU)
  - Institution has received funds to conduct clinical research unrelated to this talk from BioFire Inc, GSK, Janssen, MedImmune, Micron, Merck, Moderna, Novavax, PaxVax, Pfizer, Regeneron, Sanofi-Pasteur
- Co-inventor of patented RSV vaccine technology unrelated to this talk, which has been licensed to Meissa Vaccines, Inc.

# **Management of Severe MIS-C**

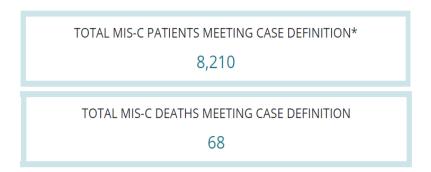
#### **CDC MIS-C Case Definition**



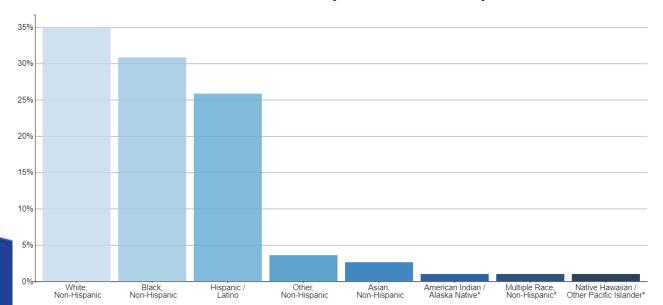


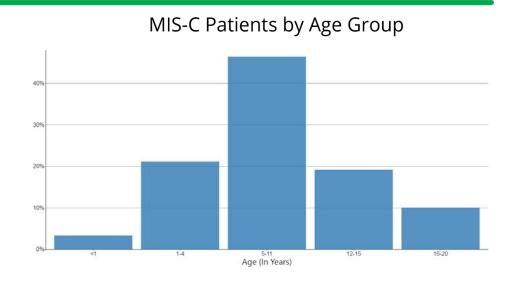
- An individual aged <21 years presenting with fever<sup>i</sup>, laboratory evidence of inflammation<sup>ii</sup>, and evidence of clinically severe illness requiring hospitalization, with multisystem (>2) organ involvement (cardiac, renal, respiratory, hematologic, gastrointestinal, dermatologic or neurological); AND
- No alternative plausible diagnoses; AND
- Positive for current or recent SARS-CoV-2 infection by RT-PCR, serology, or antigen test; or COVID-19 exposure within the 4 weeks prior to the onset of symptoms
  - <sup>i</sup>Fever ≥38.0°C for ≥24 hours, or report of subjective fever lasting ≥24 hours
  - "Including, but not limited to one or more of the following: an elevated C-reactive protein (CRP), erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), fibrinogen, procalcitonin, d-dimer, ferritin, lactic acid dehydrogenase (LDH), or interleukin 6 (IL-6), elevated neutrophils, reduced lymphocytes and low albumin

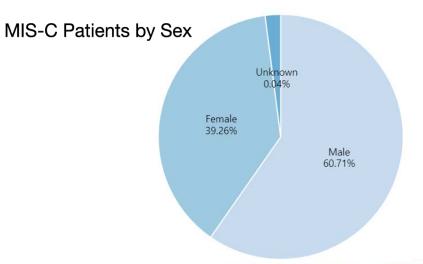
# Who is affected by MIS-C?



#### MIS-C Patients by Race & Ethnicity

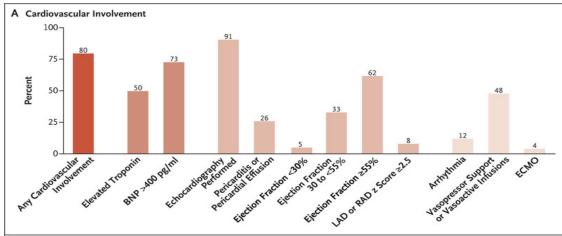


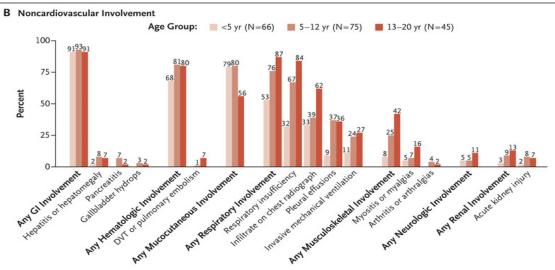




#### The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

#### **MIS-C Clinical Features**

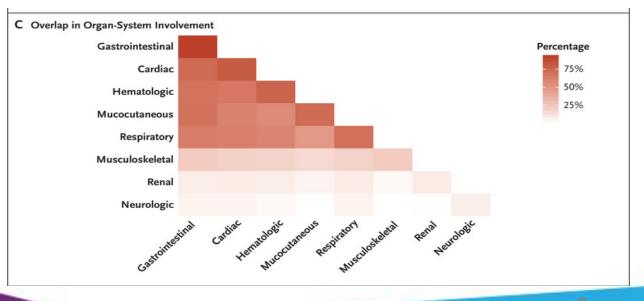




#### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in U.S. Children and Adolescents

Highest level of care — no. (%)				
Ward	11 (15)	5 (9)	22 (40)	38 (20)
Intensive care unit	62 (85)	53 (91)	33 (60)	148 (80)
Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation	6 (8)	1 (2)	1 (2)	8 (4)
Mechanical ventilation	23 (32)	8 (14)	6 (11)	37 (20)

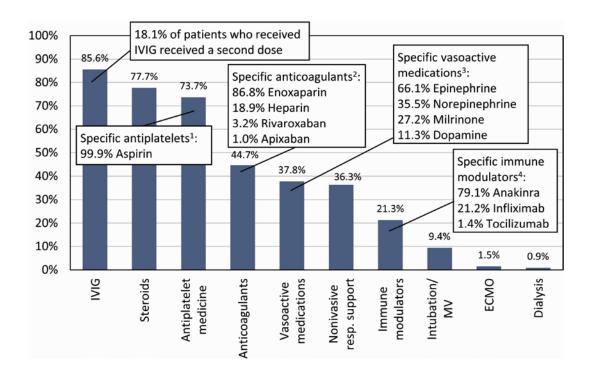


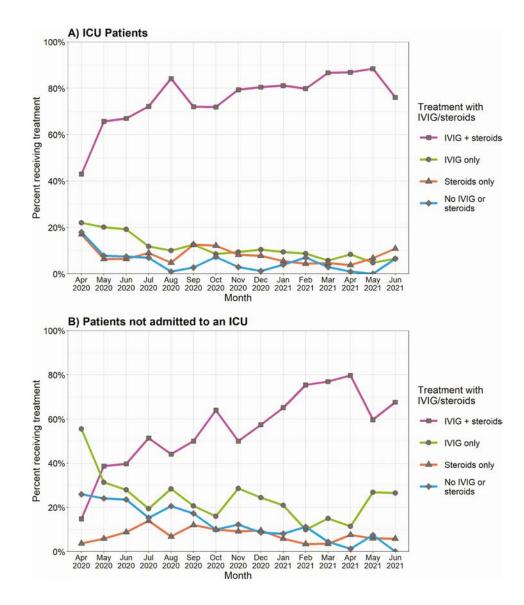
#### Treatment of MIS-C

- Best Available Treatments Study (BATS)
- Observational cohort
- 614 children from 32 countries
  - IVIG alone: 246
  - IVIG + steroids: 208
  - Steroids alone: 99
- Primary outcomes:
  - Inotropic support or mechanical ventilation by day 2 or death;
  - Reduction in disease severity by day 2
- Results: No difference in recovery

- Overcoming COVID-19 Study
- Observational cohort
- 598 children from 58 U.S. centers
  - IVIG alone: 103
  - IVIG + steroids: 103
- Primary outcomes:
  - LV dysfunction or shock (vasopressor use) on/after day 2
- Results:
  - Lower risk of cardiovascular dysfunction on/after day 2 with IVIG + steroids vs IVIG alone (17% vs. 31%, RR 0.56, 95% CI, 0.34 to 0.94).

#### Treatment of MIS-C





Abrams JY, et. al. Clinical Infectious Diseases, February 1, 2022.

## MIS-C Management: Diagnostic Testing

- EKG and echocardiogram
- SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR and IgG
- CBCd, CMP
- ESR, CRP, DIC screen, ferritin
- Troponin, BNP
- Blood culture
- Urinalysis with reflex to culture
- Other infectious work-up\*

### MIS-C Management: Treatments & Interventions

- Isolation considerations
- Respiratory and circulatory support
- Antibiotics if concern for sepsis
- Anti-inflammatory
  - Our center's approach:
    - Methylprednisolone 1 mg/kg Q12 hrs (max 60 mg)
    - Consider IVIG 2 g/kg x 1 dose (max 100 g) if Kawasaki features
    - For refractory disease, consult Rheumatology, consider pulse steroids vs other immunomodulators
- Anti-coagulation for VTE prophylaxis based on risk
- Anti-platelet: Aspirin 3-5 mg/kg (max 81 mg) daily
- Gastric protection: Famotidine

# **Management of Severe Pediatric COVID-19**

#### Treatment options for severe pediatric COVID-19

#### Remdesivir

- Mechanism: inhibits viral RNA-dependent RNA polymerase
- Approved in children ≥28 days of age who weigh ≥3 kg
- Prioritized for pts with severe rather than critical COVID-19
- Our center's approach: Recommend for all children requiring high-flow oxygen or noninvasive ventilation due to COVID-19
- Dosing:
  - For children ≥3 to <40 kg 5 mg/kg intravenous (IV) loading dose on day 1, followed by 2.5 mg/kg IV Q 24 hrs
  - For children ≥40 kg 200 mg IV loading dose on day 1, followed by 100 mg IV Q 24 hrs
- Usual duration 5 days, can be extended to 10 days
- Co-administer with a steroid
- Common adverse effects: nausea, vomiting, transaminase elevations

#### Treatment options for severe pediatric COVID-19

#### Dexamethasone

- Mechanism: glucocorticoid
- RECOVERY trial in adults showed reduced mortality, especially in mechanically ventilated patients
- Less data available in children
- Our center's approach: Recommend for all hospitalized patients receiving supplemental oxygen, ventilation, ECMO
- Dose: 0.15 mg/kg IV/PO Q 24 hrs up to 10 days
- Patient should receive gastric protection while on steroids and anticoagulation

#### Treatment options for severe pediatric COVID-19

#### • Baricitinib:

- Mechanism of action: Janus kinase inhibitor, immunomodulatory
- FDA EUA for patients ≥2 years of age who are hospitalized with COVID-19 and require oxygen or ventilator support
- In adult studies, the combination of baricitinib + remdesivir appeared to modestly improve the time to recovery and mortality
- Limited data about risks and benefits in children
- Our center's approach: Administer if high-flow oxygen with rapidly increasing oxygen requirements
- Administered in combination with steroids +/- remdesivir
- **Dosing:** 2-9 years: 2 mg PO daily. ≥ 9 years: 4 mg PO daily.
- Adverse effects include venous thromboembolism, cytopenias, transaminase elevation, secondary infections