Association between a Novel Human Coronavirus and Kawasaki Disease

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**Abstract**

Kawasaki disease is a systemic vasculitis of childhood; its etiology is unknown. We identified evidence of a novel human coronavirus, designated “New Haven coronavirus” (HCoVNH), in respiratory secretions from a 6-month-old infant with classic Kawasaki disease. To further investigate the possible association between HCoV-NH infection and Kawasaki disease, we conducted a case-control study. Specimens of respiratory secretions from 8 (72.7%) of 11 children with Kawasaki disease and from 1 (4.5%) of 22 control subjects (children without Kawasaki disease matched by age and the time the specimens were obtained) tested positive for HCoVNH by reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (Mantel–Haenszel matched odds ratio, 16.0 [95% confidence interval, 3.4–74.4]; \( P = .0015 \)). These data suggest that HCoV-NH infection is associated with Kawasaki disease.

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**Topic:**

- polymerase chain reaction
- coronavirus
- child
- infant
- rna-directed dna polymerase
- infection
- kawasaki's disease
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