

**Moravians Women's Association**  
**Home & Overseas Paper - September 2018**

**Kawasaki Disease**

Just over a year ago we welcomed the arrival of our third grandchild. There was much joy, happiness, thanks and praise.

Three months later she became seriously ill and was diagnosed with a very rare, life threatening, life changing condition called Kawasaki Disease.

Now, after celebrating our grand-daughter's first birthday, again with many thanks and praise in reaching this milestone, we have learned a great deal about Kawasaki Disease and the importance of awareness and research into it.

Kawasaki disease is the number one cause of acquired heart disease in children in the UK. It is difficult to diagnose as it can present itself similar to meningitis and sepsis. It is thought to be a virus although there are other theories as to its cause. As the cause is not definite there is no cure. Only the symptoms can be treated.

All children are prone to viruses and in most cases time will heal but a child presenting a temperature of five days duration should be investigated further.

There are other distinct symptoms but not all may be present to identify Kawasaki Disease conclusively. The critical diagnosis has to be made within 5 – 10 days of onset for a sufferer to be treated effectively. If this is not the case the arteries to the heart can become enlarged and aneurysms can form.

We are thankful for the brilliant team of doctors at Bristol Children's Hospital for their knowledge, skill, care and attention in saving our grand-daughter's life, as her diagnosis was greatly delayed therefore she developed serious complications which now mean a lifetime of medical care and management.

Although Kawasaki Disease is rare and it can affect anyone at any age, it is sadly on the increase and awareness and research are essential.

We count our blessings each day, grateful for the support, prayers and generosity of many individuals and organisations, especially the Moravians Women's Association who have kindly donated towards our awareness and research campaign.

Further information about Kawasaki Disease can be found on [societi.org.uk](http://societi.org.uk)

Julie Jenkins

Note: The MWA has given £500 to Kawasaki Disease Research this year.

Naomi Hancock