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CIRCULATING INTERLEUKIN 17 IS INCREASED IN THE ACUTE STAGE OF KAWASAKI DISEASE

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Objectives: During the acute phase, patients with Kawasaki disease (KD), an inflammatory disease, demonstrate a drastic increase in serum interleukin-6 (IL-6), which parallels the duration of the fever. Recently IL-17 has been reported to induce IL-6 production. The aim of this study was to elucidate the involvement of IL-17 in the pathogenesis of KD.

Methods: Serum samples were obtained from patients with KD, and the concentrations of IL-17 and IL-6 measured using the ELISA method.

Results: Serum IL-17 was markedly elevated in patients with acute KD (25.47 ± 5.05 pg/ml), which gradually decreased in the subacute phase (5.94 ± 2.83 pg/ml, $p < 0.01$). The acute phase IL-6 level was 83.52 ± 19.12 pg/ml, which correlated well with the serum levels of IL-17 ($r = 0.70$, $p < 0.05$).

Conclusion: These results suggest that the increased IL-17 level may be further evidence of inflammation in patients with KD.

