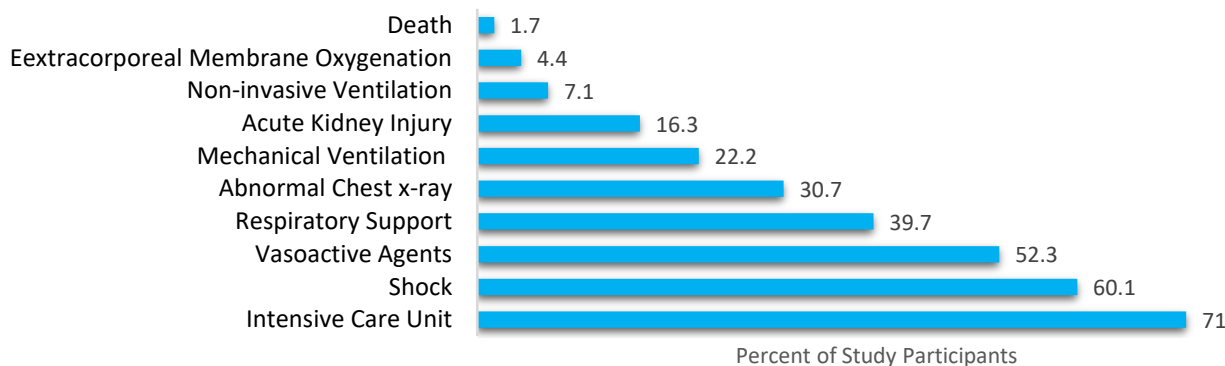


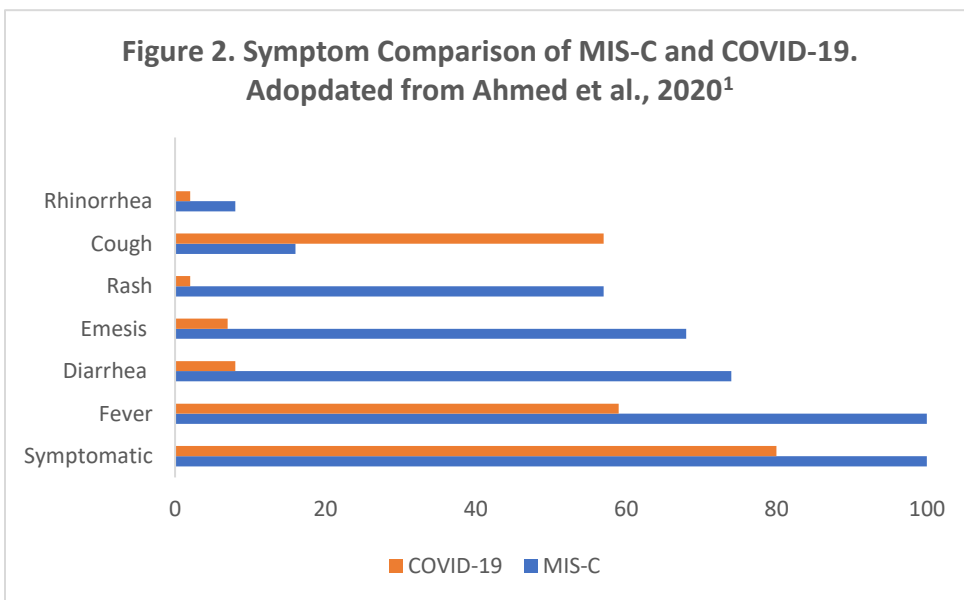
Screening Individuals for Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome

Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) presents as a varied yet significant inflammatory response in children previously infected with COVID-19 without symptoms.^{1,2} This document supports the need for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants to screen patients for signs and symptoms of MIS-C on a regular basis. Screening allows for early diagnosis and treatment, which are important for maximizing clinical outcomes. Figure 1 presents clinical outcomes of children with MIS-C.

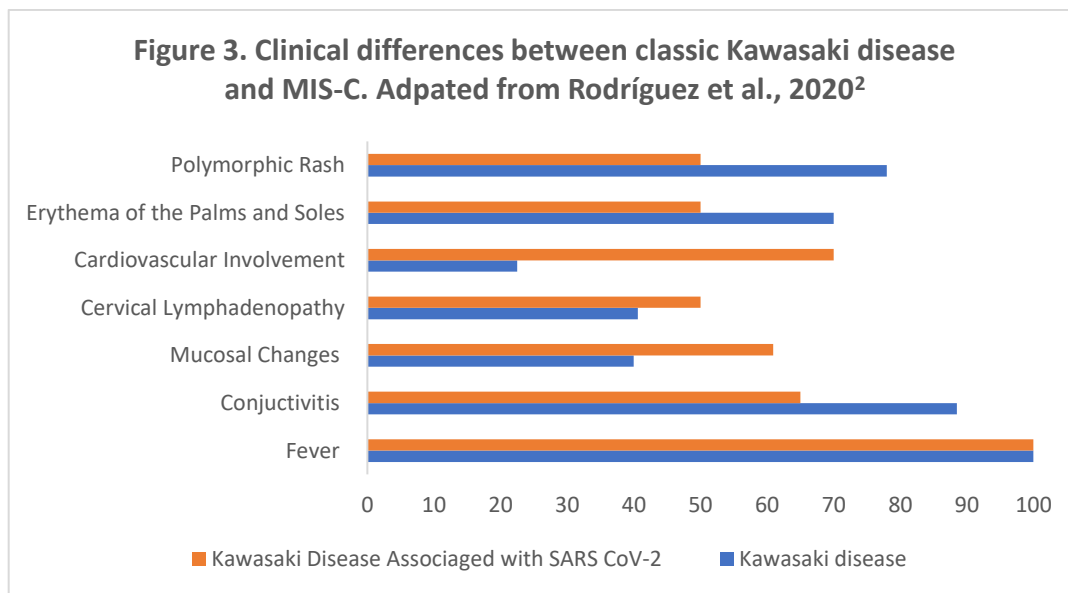
Figure 1: Clinical Outcomes of Children with MIS-C
Adapted from Ahmed et al., 2020¹



Symptom Comparison - COVID-19: While many clinicians are acutely aware of the symptoms of COVID-19, symptoms of MIS-C vary greatly from COVID-19 and should not go undocumented or unaddressed by the child’s healthcare team. Figure 2 illustrates these important differences.



Symptom Comparison - Kawasaki Disease: MIS-C presents similarly to Kawasaki Disease (KD). KD typically affects children younger than 5 years of age and is the leading cause of acquired heart disease in the United States.³ Both MIS-C and KD are believed to be a systemic response of the body to a pathogen. Both conditions have lasting cardiovascular impact and may result in poor clinical outcomes during the acute phase of the condition.^{1,4} A recent study found that 71 percent of children with MIS-C required hospitalization with a stay in an intensive care unit.¹ Any child suspected of having KD should be evaluated by a medical professional familiar with the diagnosis of MIS-C. Figure 3 presents the differences between the clinical findings of these two conditions.



Call to Action: Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants should screen patients regularly for the signs and symptoms of MIS-C. This screening should include:

- Aged <21 years⁵ **AND**
- Persistent fever >38.C (100.4 F), or subjective fever, lasting \geq 24 hours^{1,2,5} **AND**
- Any of the following clinical signs/symptoms:
 - Diarrhea¹
 - Vomiting¹
 - Rash¹
 - Changes in lips/mouth²
 - Conjunctivitis²

Be Mindful: Not all individuals will present with the same clinical profile. If the patient has had a suspected exposure to COVID-19, or is known to have had COVID-19, and is presenting with persistent fever and other abnormal systemic symptoms, MIS-C should be considered.

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