A case of Kawasaki disease presenting with parotitis
A case report and literature review
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Abstract
Rationale: Kawasaki disease affects multiple organ systems. Its typical symptoms include fever, rash, oropharyngeal mucosal erythema, bilateral non-exudative conjunctivitis, cervical lymphadenopathy, extremity changes, and membranous desquamation of the fingers and toes. In severe cases, cardiovascular, respiratory, musculoskeletal, gastrointestinal, neurological, and genitourinary complications may occur. In the early stage, Kawasaki disease is often manifested by uncommon symptoms, such as pyuria, meningitis, shock, and retropharyngeal or parapharyngeal abscesses, which may delay diagnosis and treatment. We have reported a case of Kawasaki disease presenting with mumps and reviewed the clinical features of 14 other similar cases, in order to facilitate the early diagnosis and treatment of this unusual presentation of Kawasaki disease.

Patient concerns: A 10-year-old boy presented with persistent fever and parotitis and was diagnosed with suppurative parotitis. After antibiotic therapy, the parotid swelling reduced, but the fever persisted and other typical symptoms of Kawasaki disease appeared, including bilateral conjunctival hyperaemia, cervical lymphadenopathy, oropharyngeal mucosal erythema, membranous desquamation of the fingers, and left coronary artery widening.

Diagnoses: The patient was diagnosed with Kawasaki disease 12 days after the onset of fever.

Interventions: The patient was administered γ-globulin 1.0 g/kg-d for 2 consecutive days and oral aspirin 5 mg/kg-d.

Outcomes: The left coronary artery returned to a width of 3.8 mm after 1 month and of 3.1 mm after 3 months. The dose of aspirin was reduced to 3 mg/kg-d after 2 months and to 1.5 mg/kg-d after 3 months.

Lessons: Physicians should be aware that Kawasaki disease may develop after parotitis.

Abbreviations: CRP = C-reactive protein, ESR = erythrocyte-sedimentation rate.

Keywords: Kawasaki disease, literature review, parotitis

1. Introduction
Kawasaki disease is a type of systemic vasculitis presenting with fever, rash, bilateral nonexudative conjunctivitis, erythema of the oral and pharyngeal mucosa, cervical lymphadenopathy, and extremity changes. However, some patients present with less-common symptoms such as pyuria, meningitis, shock, and retropharyngeal or parapharyngeal abscesses instead of the above typical symptoms. These unusual presentations often result in a delay in the diagnosis. One such unusual presentation of Kawasaki disease is parotitis.

Thus far, 2 cases of Kawasaki disease presenting with mumps have been reported in the United States (1987, 2008), 1 case in South Korea (2009), 1 case in Japan (2017), and 10 in China (2009, 2011, 2013, 2017). However, most of these articles only reported the symptoms without discussing the relationship between mumps and Kawasaki disease. It has been proposed that parotitis may present as the first symptom of Kawasaki disease since it has been hypothesized that infectious agents associated with Kawasaki disease trigger a complex and incompletely understood cascade of inflammation in susceptible children. Furthermore, the mumps virus was identified using serological tests in 1 patient with Kawasaki disease. Moreover, intra-salivary gland arteritis in one-third of the patients and periaductal and interacinar infiltration of lymphocytes and mononuclear cells in the salivary gland in 81% was described in a series of 37 autopsies in patients with Kawasaki disease in Japan by Amano et al. Salivary gland fibrosis was identified in those who died long after the onset of the disease. Pathological studies have suggested that small-vessel vasculitis lesions of Kawasaki disease...
can affect the parotid gland, which may be the pathological basis of mumps lesions in Kawasaki disease. Some scholars consider that parotitis should be added to the already lengthy list of associated findings in Kawasaki syndrome.

Here, we present another case of Kawasaki disease occurring after parotitis in a 10-year-old child and summarize the features of all cases of Kawasaki disease presenting with mumps that have been reported in the literature. We hope that our findings will provide a basis for clinicians to facilitate early diagnosis and treatment.

2. Case report

A 10-year-old boy was admitted to our hospital because of fever since 5 days and painful swelling of the left ear since 4 days. He did not have a history of mumps exposure. A physical examination revealed a tender swelling of the left ear and the surrounding tissue, limited mobility of the mandible, and elevated body temperature. Enlarged lymph nodes could be palpated on the right side of the neck; they were approximately 1.5 cm wide and were not tender. Other findings included limited mouth opening, throat congestion, and absence of a skin rash or purulent secretions in the parotid duct opening. The respiratory rate was 18 beats/min, and the breath sounds were clear, without any wet or dry rales. The heart rate was 96 beats/min, without any murmurs. The abdomen was soft and without tenderness, rebound tenderness, or muscle tension. A neurological examination revealed no positive signs. Blood examination demonstrated the following: white blood cells, 26.29 × 10^9/L; neutrophils, 86%; lymphocytes, 5%; erythrocytes, 4.35 × 10^12/L; haemoglobin, 119 g/L; platelets, 336 × 10^9/L; C-reactive protein (CRP), 87.47 mg/L; erythrocyte-sedimentation rate (ESR), 76 mm/h; and fibrinogen, 8.40 g/L. Liver function, myocardial enzymes, renal function, and lipase, amylase, and procalcitonin levels were normal. Negative results were obtained on 5 Epstein-Barr virus, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, and Chlamydia pneumoniae antibody assays. Neck ultrasonography showed changes in the left parotid gland with bilateral enlargement of the submandibular lymph nodes. The patient was diagnosed with suppurative parotitis. He was treated with ceftriaxone sodium at 80 mg/kg·d for 5 days and cefminox at 60 mg/kg·d for 7 days, but developed bilateral conjunctival hyperemia on the next day after hospitalization (6th day after the onset of fever). He was therefore also diagnosed with conjunctivitis at this point. By 5 days after the development of conjunctivitis, the parotid swelling reduced, and color Doppler ultrasonography showed no abnormalities in the parotid gland. However, the patient continued to have fever, and routine blood examination showed the following: white blood cells, 14.88 × 10^9/L; neutrophils, 72%; lymphocytes, 17%; hemoglobin, 124 g/L; platelets, 412 × 10^9/L; high-sensitivity-CRP, 127.00 mg/L; ESR, 76 mm/h; and fibrinogen, 7.90 g/L. All the laboratory results have been summarized in Table 1. Antibiotic treatment was therefore continued and the fever was relieved on the 6th day after admission. However, the patient then developed redness of the oral mucosa and dry, chapped lips lip mucosal blush, dry, and chapped, together with mild scaling on the bilateral thumb tips on the 7th day after admission. Colour Doppler ultrasonography indicated mild widening of the left coronary artery (4.2 mm).

Therefore, the patient was diagnosed with Kawasaki disease and was administered γ-globulin 1.0 g/kg·d for 2 consecutive days and oral aspirin from 5 mg/kg·d decreased to 3 mg/kg·d after 2 months. The left coronary artery returned to the width of 3.8 mm after 1 month and of 3.1 mm after 3 months. Thus, the amount of aspirin was reduced to 1.5 mg/kg·d.

3. Review of literature

We searched the PubMed and CNKI databases using the keywords “Kawasaki disease” and “parotitis.” Articles published since 1980 were included in the search. According to the relevant literature, 14 other cases of Kawasaki disease occurring after parotitis have been reported (Table 2). Together with our report, this includes 10 boys and 5 girls with a mean age of 3.3 years (range, 3 months to 10 years). In these 15 patients, the

| Table 1 |
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| **Laboratory results.** |
| **Test** | 4th d | 8th d | Reference range |
| Blood routine | White blood cells | 26.29 × 10^9/L | 14.88 × 10^9/L | 4–10 × 10^9/L |
| | Neutrophils | 86% | 72% | 50–70% |
| | Lymphocytes | 5% | 17% | 20–40% |
| | Erythrocytes | 4.35 × 10^12/L | 119 g/L | 3.5–5 × 10^12/L |
| | Haemoglobin | 336 × 10^9/L | 124 g/L | 110–150 g/L |
| | Platelets | 87.47 mg/L | 412 × 10^9/L | 100–300 × 10^9/L |
| C-reactive protein | 17.00 mg/L | 127.00 mg/L | <3 mg/L |
| Erythrocyte-sedimentation rate | 76 mm/h | 76 mm/h | <15 mm/h |
| Fibrinogen | 8.40 g/L | 7.90 g/L | 2–4 g/L |
| Etiology | Epstein-Barr virus antibody assay | Negative | Negative |
| | Mycoplasma pneumoniae antibody assay | Negative | Negative |
| | Chlamydia pneumoniae antibody assay | | |
| Liver function | Normal | Normal | Normal |
| Myocardial enzymes | Normal | Normal | Normal |
| Renal function | Normal | Normal | Normal |
| Lipase | Normal | Normal | Normal |
| Amylase | Normal | Normal | Normal |
| Procalcitonin levels | Changes in the left parotid gland with bilateral enlargement of the submandibular lymph nodes | |

Medicine (2019) 98:22
### Table 2
Characteristics of the 15 patients who developed parotitis followed by Kawasaki disease.

| Case | Sex | Age, yr | IFPS, d | Side | PD, d | Imaging | History | CKD | WBC, $\times 10^9$/L | Neutrophils (%) | Hb, g/L | PLT, $\times 10^9$/L | CRP, mg/L | ESR, mm/h | CAD | Other complications | $\gamma$-Gb dose | Fever subsided | Dx, d |
|------|-----|---------|---------|------|-------|---------|---------|-----|-------------------|----------------|---------|-------------------|------------|---------|-----|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|------|
| 1    | M   | 10      | 2       | L    | 10    | USG     | Y       | 31  | 0.88              | 138            | 325     | 119               | 76         | L       | N   | 1.0 g/kg x 2          | Before $\gamma$-Gb treatment | *            | 12   |
| 2    | M   | 5       | 3       | LR   | *     | *       | Mumps contact | Y   | 20.98             | 0.9698         | 122.49  | 498.6             | N          | N       | *   | *                    | *               | *            | 13   |
| 3    | M   | 0.25    | 2       | R    | 6     | USG     | Parotitis history | N   | 16.6              | 0.451          | 90      | 239.97            | 20         | R       | *   | 2 g/kg x 1            | 1 d after $\gamma$-Gb treatment | 12           |      |
| 4    | F   | 1.33    | 1       | *    | 5     | *       | *       | Y   | 12.7              | 0.724          | 82      | 31.1              | 55         | N       | *   | 0.5 g/kg x 5          | 4 d after $\gamma$-Gb treatment | 6            |
| 5    | F   | 5       | 1       | *    | 9     | *       | *       | Y   | 16.88             | 0.76           | 97      | 529               | 52.8       | N       | *   | 0.4 g/kg x 4          | 1 d after $\gamma$-Gb treatment | 11           |      |
| 6    | M   | 1.92    | 2       | L    | 7     | USG     | *       | No  | 19.2              | *              | *       | 34.89             | 61         | N       | *   | 1.0 g/kg x 2          | 2 d after $\gamma$-Gb treatment | 12           |      |
| 7    | M   | 5       | 3       | LR   | 8     | USG     | *       | Y   | 26.8              | *              | *       | 52                | 63         | N       | *   | Unused               | 6              |
| 8    | M   | 1.25    | 2       | L    | 7     | USG     | *       | Y   | 23.2              | *              | *       | 86                | 40         | L       | N   | 1.0 g/kg x 2          | 2 d after $\gamma$-Gb treatment | 10           |      |
| 9    | F   | 5       | 4       | L    | 10    | USG     | *       | Y   | 21.7              | *              | *       | 130               | 57         | N       | *   | 1.0 g/kg x 2          | 2 d after $\gamma$-Gb treatment | 7            |      |
| 10   | F   | 7       | 2       | R    | 8     | USG     | *       | Y   | 16                | *              | *       | 202               | 21.37      | 29      | L   | 1.0 g/kg x 2          | 2 d after $\gamma$-Gb treatment | 7            |      |
| 11   | M   | 0.83    | 2       | L    | 6     | USG     | *       | N   | 18.23             | *              | *       | 62                | 45         | R       | No | 1.0 g/kg x 2          | 2 d after $\gamma$-Gb treatment | 11           |      |
| 12   | M   | 1       | 1       | R    | *     | *       | Parotitis antibody negative | Y   | 28.2              | 0.67           | *       | 7.73              | N          | N       | *   | 2 g/kg x 1            | 1 d after $\gamma$-Gb treatment | 5            |
| 13   | M   | 0.25    | 1       | L    | *     | *       | Parotitis antibody positive | Y   | 11.82             | 0.765          | 97      | 266               | 82.7       | L       | N   | 1.0 g/kg x 2          | Sustained fever | 9            |
| 14   | F   | 1.67    | 1       | L    | *     | *       | *       | Y   | 36                | 0.67           | 107     | 637               | 4          | 60      | N   | 2 g/kg x 1            | < 1 d after $\gamma$-Gb treatment | 13           |      |
| 15   | F   | 4       | 2       | LR   | 12    | *       | *       | Y   | 13.7              | 0.52           | 108     | 397               | 1.09       | 57      | N   | Pancreatitis          | *              | *            | 13   |

| Average | M:F, 2:1 | 3.3 | 1.93 | 8   | | | | | 20.8673 | 0.771089 | 105.1863 | 382.5429 | 67.19692 | 50.33333 | | | | | | |

$\gamma$-Gb = gamma-globulin dose and number of doses, CAD = coronary artery dilation, CKD = complete Kawasaki disease, CRP = C-reactive protein, CT = computed tomography, Dx = timing of diagnosis measured in days since the onset of fever, ESR = erythrocyte-sedimentation rate, Hb = hemoglobin, IFPS = interval between fever and appearance of parotid swelling, L = left, N = no, PD = timing of parotid detumescence measured in days since the onset of fever, PLT = platelet count, PS = parotid swelling, R = right, USG = ultrasoundography, WBC = white blood cell count. Y = yes.

*Not mentioned in the reference.

†Present study.
parotid swelling developed on average 1.93 (1–4) days after the onset of fever. The swelling was bilateral in 3 patients, right-sided in 3 patients, and left-sided in 7 patients; the laterality was not mentioned in 2 cases. One patient had a history of mumps contact, and another had purulent secretions in the parotid duct opening. One child tested positive for the mumps antibody. In most children, the parotid swelling subsided within 6 to 12 days (mean, 8 days) after antibiotic treatment, but the fever continued unabated and the symptoms of Kawasaki disease appeared. According to the diagnostic criteria, \( \text{[1]} \) 3 patients had incomplete Kawasaki disease, while the rest had complete Kawasaki disease. The mean time from onset to the definite diagnosis of Kawasaki disease was 9.5 days (range, 5–13 days). Nine patients had no coronary artery dilation, 2 exhibited right-sided dilation, and 4 exhibited left-sided dilation. Other complications included 2 cases of \( \text{M} \) pneumoniae infection, 1 case of bronchopneumonia, 4 cases of hepatic injury, 2 cases of cholecystitis, 4 cases of pancreatitis, 2 cases of purulent tonsillitis, 1 case of mesenteric lymphadenitis, and 1 case of cardiac insufficiency. In 2 patients, the fever was relieved on the 9th and 10th day without \( \gamma \)-globulin treatment. The remaining children received \( \gamma \)-globulin treatment after the diagnosis. Two of these patients still got fever after \( \gamma \)-globulin treatment; 1 patient, the fever was relieved after 4 days of \( \gamma \)-globulin treatment (500 mg/kg d \( \gamma \)-globulin for 5 days); the other 10 patients, the fever was relieved within 2 days of \( \gamma \)-globulin treatment (most of them received 1 g/kg d for 2 days or 2 g/kg d for 1 day).

4. Discussion

The etiology of Kawasaki disease is unknown. The condition is associated with diverse clinical features. The diagnosis of “classic” Kawasaki disease is based on the presence of fever for \( \geq 5 \) days along with the presence of at least 4 of the 5 principal clinical features:

1. Erythema and cracking of the lips, strawberry tongue, and/or erythema of the oral and pharyngeal mucosa,
2. Bilateral bulbar conjunctival injection without exudate,
3. Rash,
4. Erythema and edema of the hands and feet in the acute phase and/or periungual desquamation in the subacute phase, and
5. Cervical lymphadenopathy (\( \geq 1.5\) cm in diameter), usually unilateral.\( \text{[1]} \)

Patients who meet the above diagnostic criteria are said to have complete Kawasaki disease (also referred to as typical or classic Kawasaki disease). Patients who do not have sufficient principal clinical findings may be diagnosed with incomplete Kawasaki disease (also referred to as atypical Kawasaki disease).\( \text{[1]} \) In certain cases, the onset of Kawasaki disease is heralded by a characteristic of Kawasaki disease and common to all patients. The sex ratio of Kawasaki disease in the general population is 1.5:1, with an average age at onset of 3 years.\( \text{[1]} \) Our cohort of parotitis patients, there were more male children than female children, and the sex ratio was 2:1. Kawasaki disease can be divided into complete and incomplete types based on the clinical manifestations. The incidence of coronary artery dilation was 40%, which is similar to that observed in other Kawasaki disease patients.\( \text{[1]} \) Other complications included pancreatitis (26.7%), liver damage (26.7%), bronchial pneumonia (20%), cholecystitis (13.3%), purulent tonsillitis (13.3%), mesenteric lymphadenitis (6.7%), and cardiac insufficiency (6.7%). In our review, 13.3% children did not respond to \( \gamma \)-globulin, which is similar to the data from other Kawasaki disease patients.\( \text{[1]} \) Most children became afebrile within 2 days after \( \gamma \)-globulin treatment.

In conclusion, physicians should be aware that Kawasaki disease may develop after parotitis.

Author contributions

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