

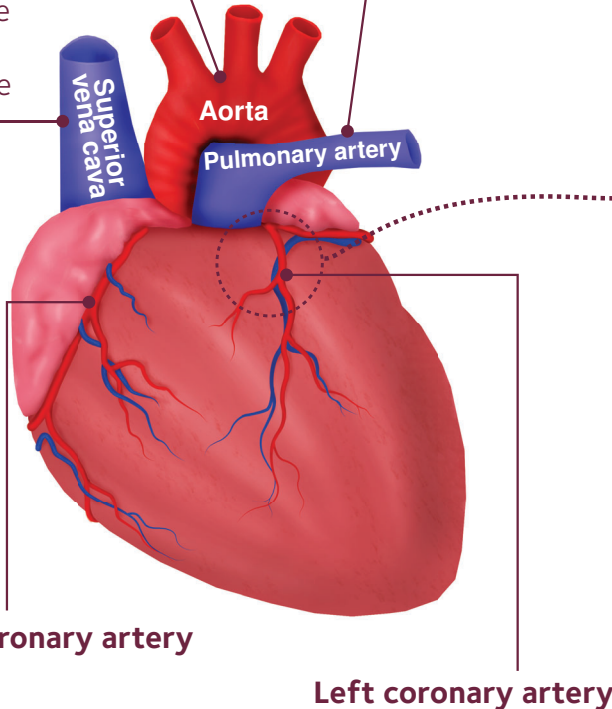
# What is a coronary artery aneurysm?

The coronary arteries are the blood vessels that supply oxygen and nutrients to the heart muscle. This image represents the human heart and shows the left and the right coronary arteries at a normal size. These arteries can be affected by Kawasaki Disease in some children.

The aorta is the main artery that carries blood away from your heart to the rest of your body

The pulmonary artery carries blood from the heart to the lungs

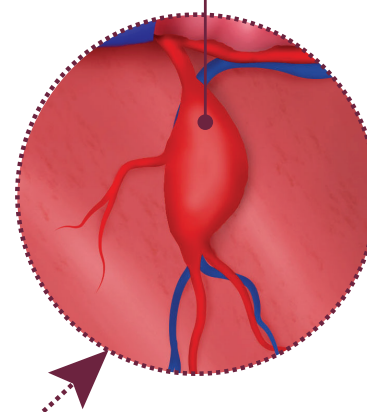
The superior vena cava is a large vein carrying blood into the heart



## What is an aneurysm?

An aneurysm is a swelling in the artery. This image represents an aneurysm that could be caused by Kawasaki Disease. Aneurysms vary in size and can be a small, medium or large/giant. Doctors use something called a “z score” to help to describe the size of an aneurysm.

## Coronary artery aneurysm



## What is dilatation?

Sometimes the inflammation of coronary arteries leads to a slight widening of these blood vessels, although they don't get inflamed enough to cause an aneurysm. Your doctor might describe this change as “dilatation”. If this happens, your child may have additional scans until their coronary arteries have returned to their normal size.

## What is a z score?

A z score allows doctors to understand the size of an aneurysm, relative to the size of the child. This is helpful because a small baby would usually have small blood vessels, but an older child would be bigger and have bigger blood vessels. So, the z score helps doctors to know if the measurements of the blood vessels are healthy for the size of the child or whether there is an aneurysm.

## What about blood clots (thrombosis)?

Blood clots can sometimes occur in Kawasaki Disease where coronary artery aneurysms have developed. Their risk is minimised by using medication such as aspirin or clopidogrel, and with ‘blood-thinners’ such as heparin or warfarin.

## Can aneurysms rupture?

This is very rare indeed, but very occasionally an aneurysm can rupture. This usually happens early during the disease process.