

Contact: Angie Porter
919-297-7152
APorter@ASEcho.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Echocardiography Plays an Important Role in Monitoring Abnormal Cardiac Findings in Children Previously Diagnosed with COVID-19

(SEATTLE, June 10, 2022)—Cardiac-related COVID-19 research is one of the prominent topics that will be highlighted at the American Society of Echocardiography’s (ASE) 33rd Annual Scientific Sessions, June 10-13, 2022, in Seattle, Wash.

Findings from a study titled *Long Term Assessment of Global Longitudinal Left Ventricular Strain in Patients with Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome in Children*, offer an encouraging outlook for pediatric patients experiencing a significant aftereffect of COVID-19—multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C).

The year-long study measured global longitudinal strain (GLS)—a measure of cardiac function seen on a heart ultrasound or echocardiogram—in nearly 50 pediatric patients admitted with MIS-C to New York-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital and Columbia University Irving Medical Center in New York City. The patients displayed abnormal GLS values during acute COVID-19 illness.

As the primary modality in assessing cardiac function and cardiac inflammation, echocardiograms played a vital role in monitoring cardiac manifestations of MIS-C throughout the study. The results of periodic echocardiograms helped guide the patients’ treatment. At the conclusion of the study, most patients with MIS-C who had cardiac manifestations of inflammation recovered fully after six months from their initial illness, which is a reassuring finding for physicians and parents concerned about potential longer-term effects of COVID-19 infection.

“Our research will help better understand how ventricular strain, which is another measure of cardiac function determined from echocardiograms, recovers in children who have had MIS-C,” says lead author on the study Nicole Stanford, MD, a Pediatric Cardiology Fellow at New York-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital and Columbia University Medical Center. “Further evaluation and additional studies are needed to better determine the long-term cardiac implications of having MIS-C, but these findings can help us better care for pediatric patients suffering from abnormal cardiac findings because of COVID-19.”

The research study will be presented at ASE 2022 during a poster presentation on Monday, June 13, 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. at the Seattle Convention Center. Learn more about ASE 2022 and download the conference’s final event program at ASEScientificSessions.org.

About ASE

The American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) is the Society for Cardiovascular Ultrasound Professionals™. Founded in 1975, ASE is the largest global organization representing cardiovascular ultrasound imaging. ASE is the leader and advocate for physicians, sonographers, scientists, veterinarians, students, and all those with an interest in echocardiography, setting practice standards and guidelines for the field. The Society is committed to advancing cardiovascular ultrasound to improve lives. For more information about ASE, visit: ASEcho.org and follow us [@ASE360](https://twitter.com/ASE360).

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