

Laser Suite

Haemangioma

Information for parents and carers

What is a haemangioma?

A haemangioma is a collection of abnormal blood vessels. It is very common, but we are unsure of its cause. A haemangioma is not usually present at birth but develops quickly within the first few months of life. Usually at the age of 9-12 months old, the growth of a haemangioma stops, and thereafter begins to become smaller and paler.

Will my child need any tests or investigations?

A haemangioma is usually obvious to a clinician, and investigation is not usually necessary.

How will I care for my child's haemangioma?

Keep the haemangioma clean and dry, and moisturise if necessary. If it is an area that rubs against clothing or is in a skin crease, then applying Vaseline can be helpful. Haemangiomas do not usually bleed unless they become ulcerated. If it does bleed, just apply firm pressure for 5 minutes, and the bleeding will stop. If the skin over the haemangioma becomes ulcerated (raw), it may need to be covered with a dressing.

Will my child need treatment and if so, when?

Most children do not need any treatment. However, some may need early treatment, especially if the haemangioma is on the face.

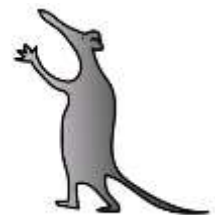
What are the treatment options for haemangioma?

Propranolol medicine is the most common early treatment. Surgery and laser treatment may be used later. Each treatment is individually tailored, and the rationale of treatment will be explained to you in the clinic.

Further Information

For further information contact the Laser Team on laser@alderhey.nhs.uk
(Available Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday)

Support Group: www.birthmarksupportgroup.org.uk



This leaflet only gives general information. You must always discuss the individual treatment of your child with the appropriate member of staff. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about your child's treatment. This information can be made available in other languages and formats if requested.

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