

Capillary Hemangioma

This material will help you understand capillary hemangioma and how it is treated.

What is capillary hemangioma?

Capillary hemangioma is a growth of tiny blood vessels. It is sometimes referred to as a “strawberry” birthmark. A capillary hemangioma can be located anywhere on a child’s body including in or around the eyes. It may not be visible at birth, but usually appears before a child is six months old. It is more common in female infants and in low birth-weight babies.

Lesions around the eyes may involve the eyelid, eye socket, or the surface of the eye. Although a capillary hemangioma itself is benign and usually resolves on its own, it can affect your child’s vision.

How can a capillary hemangioma affect my child’s vision?

Depending on where your child’s growth is located, it can put pressure on the eye and cause significant astigmatism or block vision entirely. Your child may be at risk for the following conditions:

- Amblyopia (lazy eye)
- Ptosis (droopy eyelid)
- Strabismus (eye misalignment)
- Optic nerve atrophy (damage to the optic nerve)

How is capillary hemangioma treated?

The treatment for a capillary hemangioma depends on its location, severity, and whether or not it is causing vision problems. If your child does not have any vision problems, observation may be recommended. Your child should visit an eye doctor regularly to make sure his/her eyes have not developed any

problems. If treatment is necessary, there are systemic medications available that can make the growth smaller. These medications can be associated with side effects, so your child should be watched closely by a primary care provider during treatment. In some cases, laser treatment or surgery may also be recommended.

How long will it take for my child's capillary hemangioma to go away?

A capillary hemangioma usually decreases in size once a child is 12 to 15 months old. By the age of 5 or 6 years old, the growth may be completely resolved. Lesions usually resolve sooner with treatment. Some children will still have a slight residual red mark or wrinkle on their skin. Other growths disappear completely.

For more information, scan these codes with your smartphone or visit the websites listed.



<http://www.aapos.org/terms/conditions/30>

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