

Infantile Haemangioma

What is it?

An infantile haemangioma is the most common type of birthmark in babies. They often appear a few weeks after birth and fade over time. They may be a bright red colour. These marks often appear on the scalp and face. They can also show up on the chest or back. Most don't need treatment.

Haemangiomas are more common in premature babies. Most go away on their own. Around half have gone by the time a child starts school. Nearly all will go away by age 10. Rarely, birthmarks may bleed or affect vision if located close to the eye. A child with birthmark may need medication or laser surgery, but this is rare.

What will my GP do now?

Your GP may:

- Assess your child to see if they may need treatment
- Ask you how long your child has had the birthmark
- Check the mark's size and where it is on the body
- Check and treat any signs of bleeding or infection
- Educate you about the birthmark
- Check for any other serious symptoms

If your child has other symptoms, your GP may treat these as well. If your GP suspects the birthmark is serious, they may refer you for an urgent check-up.

Your GP may suggest that your child see a specialist if:

- They believe the birthmark may need treatment
- Your child develops an infection
- Your child develops new symptoms
- The birthmark is painful or bleeding

What questions could I ask my doctor?

- What symptoms should I watch for?
- Will the birthmark go away?
- Does my child need treatment?



What can I do?

Follow your GP's advice. Keep an eye on the birthmark. Watch out for any new symptoms or signs of infection. If you are worried about the birthmark, or if it starts bleeding, see your GP.

What supports are available?

Your GP can refer you to a public paediatric clinic in your area. Some local clinics have limits on the numbers of patients they can see. Private specialists are also an option. Ask your GP to refer you.

Where can I learn more?

- **The Australasian College of Dermatologists** – Infantile Haemangiomas: dermcoll.edu.au
- **The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network** – Haemangiomas of Infancy: schn.health.nsw.gov.au