

Strawberry Birthmark (Infantile Haemangioma)

What is it?

An infantile haemangioma is a collection of blood vessels in the skin, which can look different depending on where it is in the skin (bright red and bumpy if it's on the surface of the skin, or bluish and smooth if it's deeper in the skin).

An infantile haemangioma usually appears in the first few weeks of life and it grows quickly for the first 2-3 months of life. It usually stops growing by 6-months of age; however, deeper haemangiomas can sometimes grow for longer. Between 6-18 months, the haemangioma will begin to slowly improve, however this can take several years as it becomes softer, flatter and less red.

As a rule of thumb, 50% of infantile haemangiomas will be clear by 5-years of age, 60% by 6-years, 70% by 7-years, etc.

Most infantile haemangiomas do not need treatment and will resolve in their own time. The decision to treat the infantile haemangioma depends on several things, such as where it is on the body, if it bleeds or if it impacts on vision, hearing or eating.



What treatment is available if your doctor recommends it?

When treatment is needed for an infantile haemangioma, your doctor will choose the best option for your child, which may be:

- **TIMOLOL GEL:** A medication applied directly to the haemangioma, used for small haemangiomas to help stop growth and shrink/fade the haemangioma.
- **PROPRANOLOL LIQUID:** A liquid medication given by mouth and used to treat larger haemangiomas. It usually starts to show improvement within a few weeks and treatment usually continues until your child is 12-15 months old.
- **VASCULAR LASER:** This may be helpful to stop bleeding haemangiomas (very rare) or to help with healing.



Haemangioma is not preventable.

Today your child has been prescribed:

Want more information?

dermnetnz.org

dermcoll.edu.au/a-to-z-of-skin

This factsheet was developed as part of the Koolungar Moorditj Healthy Skin Project.