

Introduction

Haemangioma's are a benign overgrowth of blood vessel cells. Strawberry naevus or haemangioma look similar to a strawberry. They can occur in about one in 20 (5%) of all newborns.

Please refer to BAD Information on Haemangioma of Infancy.

Ulceration *(An open wound)*

Ulceration of the haemangioma can occur and this will need to be managed to promote wound healing.

Ulceration may be associated with infection, bleeding and severe pain. An ulcerated area is more likely to leave a scar than a non-ulcerated area of haemangioma. Healing time may vary from child to child but it may take several weeks.

Pain

Haemangiomas may be very painful when ulcerated, so regular pain relief will be required. Pain medication will be required prior to a dressing change dressing, and should be given 45 minutes before each dressing change. If pain continues to be a problem this should be discussed with the dermatology team.



Infection

An ulcerated haemangioma is an open wound and is at risk of becoming infected.

Signs of infection include

Increased redness/oozing or crusting in the area of ulceration

- Swelling in or around the area of ulceration
- Child becoming unwell
- High temperature
- Increased pain

If any of the above occur, contact the Dermatology department

Antibiotics are recommended, if infection is present.

These come as creams / ointments, which are applied directly to the ulcerated area.

An oral antibiotic may be required in some cases. This will be decided by the team.

Bleeding

This may occur if the area is ulcerated. The blood vessels that bleed are usually small and respond to pressure. If bleeding occurs on removal of the dressing, apply firm pressure to the area with clean tissue or cloth for at least 5 minutes. Do not be tempted to remove pressure before the required time to have a look as this could start the bleeding again.

If blood soaks through the dressing just apply another one on top. It is unusual that bleeding would persist but should this happen take the child to your nearest Emergency Department.

Dressings

Your nurse will advise on the frequency of dressing change. Dressings may need to be changed at home.

Bathing

Milton Soaks

Dressing

You will have frequent follow up by phone or clinic review, until the ulceration is fully healed.