



## Hemangiomas

Hemangiomas are a benign tumors of dilated blood vessels. They are the most common tumor of infancy.

In Caucasians, hemangiomas are seen in 1-2.5% of newborns and it increases to 10-12% by one year of age. In African-Americans, the incidence is approximately 1.4%.

Hemangiomas appear from shortly after birth to around 6 months of age. . Once the lesion appears, it grows rapidly for the first 6-8 months, slows down between 6-12 months, and begins to involute (shrink) by 12-18 months. The involutinal (or shrinking) phase usually begins at 6 to 8 months. The involutinal phase can last up to 5 years. This part is very slow. These stages are not necessarily well defined and both proliferation and involution can occur at the same time in a single hemangioma

All hemangiomas are different (different sizes, different areas of the body) so there are different end results. Generally, it is best to wait until involution is complete before evaluating the need for surgery. The final appearance can either be normal skin or excess sagging skin requiring excision. Another consideration is performing the surgery before the child starts school to hopefully minimize any teasing from other students.