



NAEVUS VASCULARIS

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NAEVUS VASCULARIS

Synonyms: Naevus vasculosus, seu sanguineus; Angioma; Birth-mark.

Vascular nevi are congenital localized new growths caused by dilation and hypertrophy of the blood vessels of the skin. Exceptionally they appear in the first month after birth. They are usually single but may be multiple, of various sizes and shapes, and are located most frequently about the head, either upon the scalp or face, though they may occur elsewhere. The color varies from light red to dark purple. Their surface may be smooth and level with the skin, or raised and more or less nodular, the irregularity often increasing with age. The growths are nearly always soft and compressible and they all pale on pressure. Not infrequently small nevi undergo involution and disappear, leaving a faint atrophy or no trace at all. **TREATMENT:** In infants under two months of age a very slight impetus often suffices to start the process of involution in small nevi. A good plan is to keep the growth painted with thick coats of collodion, the contraction of which causes considerable pressure. If this does not provoke the disappearance of the blemish after a reasonable time, more vigorous methods may be resorted to. Excellent results are

obtained, in the removal of permanently established tumors, by the application of solid carbon dioxid. The carbonic snow is molded until its surface will just cover the nevus or part of the nevus to be treated. When the growth is larger than a half-dollar it is not feasible to freeze the whole tumor with one application. The snow is dipped quickly into ether and applied immediately with firm pressure for from fifteen to ninety seconds according to the thickness of the growth. The blister which soon forms dries to a crust and the latter falls in about two weeks. Very thick tumors may require several applications at intervals over the same area. The cosmetic result obtained in the treatment of any small nevus is usually very satisfactory. When the larger lumpy growths are frozen the scar which forms, although it may be more or less mottled and irregular, is much less noticeable and unsightly than the nevus. But in the case of the large, smooth port-wine marks it is questionable whether any form of treatment is advisable. A smooth, uniform stain is hardly more objectionable than a slightly uneven and possibly a mottled scar, though in some cases with slow and very careful treatment excellent results may be obtained.