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| **Child & Youth Outpatient Clinic** | Regional Call CentreTelephone: 0800 333 477 |
|  | Cc Glenys Cotton, Scheduler, THCc FamilyVirtual Clinic letter |

Dear Dr

Thank you for your letter regarding concernswith an infantile haemangioma.

Infantile haemangiomas are a benign skin tumour caused by proliferating vascular endothelial cells. They appear shortly after birth and grow rapidly to reach 80% of maximal size by 4 months. Most stop growing by 6 to 9 months but some can continue and grow until 18 months of age or more. Subsequently they involute over years with the vascular component being largely resolved by 5 years of age although some leave permanent residue such as telangiectasia, scarring or excess fibro-fatty tissue.

Most infantile haemangiomas do not require treatment as they will grow and involute without problems. However, in some locations, treatment is required to prevent complications such as

* Disruption to visual pathways
* Risks to the airway
* Difficulty feeding
* Ulceration, particularly at sites such as lip, perineum and flexures
* Poor cosmetic outcome eg. on lips, cheek, nose and ears

Your letter does not mention any of these concerns, therefore we have not organised to see them. If *he/she* develops any of these features please refer *him/her* back for consideration of Propranolol.

Rarely other tumours or vascular anomalies can mimic infantile haemangiomas. If you are unsure regarding the diagnosis then a referral can also be made.

Yours sincerely

Electronically reviewed

**Paediatric Team**