



**Woman, Child and Family Service - Paediatrics**  
**Tauranga Hospital**  
Cameron Road Private Bag 12024  
Tauranga NEW ZEALAND

Re: 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

If any of these features develop please refer back for consideration of Propranolol.

Rarely other tumours or vascular anomalies can mimic infantile haemangiomas. If you are unsure regarding the diagnosis, please refer back.

Ngā mihi

Yours sincerely

*Electronically reviewed*

**Paediatric Team**