

What is an angioma?

An angioma is a common, benign (i.e. non-cancerous), skin growth made up of blood vessels. The most common angioma is a cherry angioma, also known as a Campbell de Morgan spot.

What do angiomas look and feel like?

- Often multiple
- Most common in adults, with the number of angiomas increasing from about the age of 40
- Can develop on any body surface but are most common on the trunk
- Cherry angiomas are bright red, other angiomas can be blue and/or purple. Occasionally, and especially if traumatised, an angioma can turn black
- Raised; smooth to touch
- Usually less than 1 cm in diameter

What causes angiomas?

The cause is not known.

Make an appointment at your GP surgery

Most angiomas do **NOT** need treatment. The only reasons for contacting your GP surgery are:

- If an angioma catches and bleeds on a regular basis, in which case treatment may be offered
- **If you develop a skin lesion that looks different to the others i.e. an ‘ugly duckling’**

Treatment for angiomas

- Most do **not** need treatment
- Those that catch and bleed repeatedly may be treated by scraping off (curettage) using local anaesthetic
- Angiomas cannot be treated on the NHS for cosmetic reasons – if you choose to have them treated privately another option is laser

Helping with other skin conditions

If you, a family member, or friend have an undiagnosed skin condition; or you want to learn more about how to treat skin conditions, please visit www.pcds.org.uk – if you click the purple tile near the top of the homepage that reads **Take a Tour** you can learn how best to use this website.