

**Mayo Clinic Minute: What is this bright red birthmark on my baby?**

Video	Audio
	Some babies can develop bright red birthmarks called hemangiomas.
<b>Megha Tollefson, M.D.</b> <b>Pediatric Dermatology</b> <b>Mayo Clinic</b>	Dr. Megha Tollefson, a Mayo Clinic pediatric dermatologist, says they're technically tumors, but parents shouldn't let that name or their stark appearance worry them.  "They're actually the most common tumor of infancy, happening anywhere from 1 in 20 to 1 in 50 babies. And, so, just a collection of blood vessels that grows in the first part of a baby's life."
	They're more common among babies born preterm. And they can appear anywhere on the body, but commonly involve the head and neck areas.
	Another feature that might alarm parents is the rapid rate of growth. Dr. Tollefson says hemangiomas will continue to grow until children are about 6 to 9 months old. At that point, they typically stabilize, then go away slowly.
	"We say that 90% of hemangiomas resolve — or involute is what we call it — by age 4. So it's a pretty slow process."
	Treatment usually isn't needed. However, Dr. Tollefson says if the hemangioma interferes with vision, other functions, has the potential to be cosmetically disfiguring, or is large or growing rapidly, babies should be evaluated for treatment.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.