

Referral Support Service

Dermatology

D14

Port Wine Stains/Skin Camouflage

Definition

- A port wine stain is a flat red or purple patch with well-defined borders caused by malformed dilated blood vessels in the skin.
- It is present at birth and 0.3% of new-borns are affected. Girls are twice as likely to be affected as boys.
- The face is most commonly involved but it can occur anywhere on the body.

Exclude Red Flag Symptoms

- Sturge-Weber syndrome – port wine stain affecting skin in distribution of trigeminal nerve associated with underlying epilepsy, glaucoma or other eye complications.
- Klippel-Trenaunay – rare syndrome with port wine stain on the limb with increased limb size and varicose veins. Associated with other developmental abnormalities and an increased incidence of DVT and PE.

Management

- Facial lesions should be referred early to Dermatology
 - To consider the possibility of an associated syndrome
 - To discuss laser treatment which can successfully treat or improve the appearance.
- Lesions on or near the eyelid should be referred to Ophthalmology, as these are associated with glaucoma.
- Cosmetic camouflage is very good at hiding lesions and is available from [Changing Faces](#).
- Further information is also available at The British Association of Skin Camouflage at <http://www.skin-camouflage.net>

Referral Information

Information to include in referral letter:

- Size and site of lesion
- **Photograph is required. (Preferably a close up of the complete lesion and one from a distance providing an anatomical overview of the affected area)**
- Any associated symptoms e.g. epilepsy
- Relevant past medical/surgical history
- Current regular medication
- BMI/Smoking status

Investigations prior to referral

- No investigations needed prior to referral

Patient information leaflets

- [Patient UK leaflet on Port Wine Stains](#)

References

Information available on the following websites:

<http://www.dermnetnz.org/vascular/vascular-malformation.html>

<http://www.pcds.org.uk/clinical-guidance/port-wine-stain-syn.-naevus-flammeus>