

Cook Children's

Dept of Neurosurgery

682-885-2500

Doctor: _____

Cavernous Malformation

Abnormality of the veins in central nervous system.

- Found most commonly in the brain.
- Rarely found in the spine.

Bleeding or hemorrhage

- All cavernous malformations are *at risk* of bleeding. Hemorrhage is the most serious complication.

Diagnosing Cavernous Malformation

Problems caused by a cavernous malformation are different for each child. Many times a child will not show any signs of the malformation.

Symptoms may include:

- Seizures, often the presenting symptom of children with cavernous malformations.
- Frequent headaches.
- Weakness in arms or legs.

MRI (magnetic resonance image)

The best way to diagnose a cavernous malformation.

Cook Children's Neurosurgery team consulted if your child presents with a seizure.

The neurosurgery team will monitor your child's cavernous malformation with routine MRI's and regular clinic visits.

1. We will closely monitor your child for:
 - Changes in their neurological exam.
 - Signs or symptoms of bleeding.
 - Any change or increase of seizures.
2. We will prescribe seizure medicine:
Your child will go home on seizure medicine and will need this medicine for several months.

Cavernous Malformation

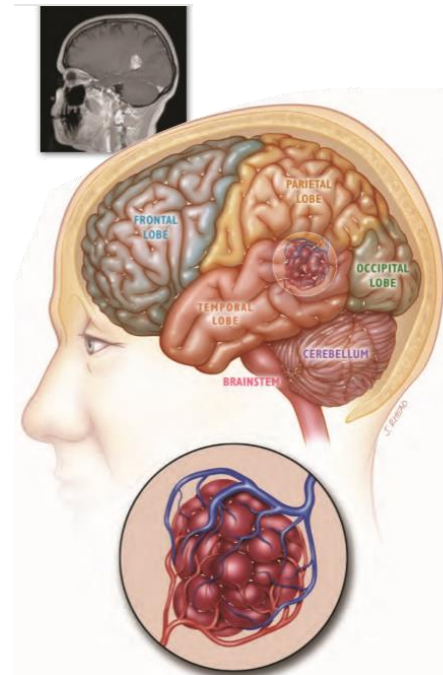
Surgery may be necessary if the malformation gets larger or repeatedly bleeds

Your neurosurgery team will base the need for surgery on the increasing changes in your child's condition and in the MRI's.

The ideal treatment is to remove the entire malformation. However, this also poses a risk to the surrounding healthy brain tissue.

If surgery is necessary

Your neurosurgery team will explain all of the risks associated with this surgery. We will also discuss the possible problems surgery may cause.



Used with permission of Angioma Alliance. Artist Jill Rhead.

Activity restrictions after surgery.

It is very important to limit your child's activity after surgery. This includes:

- No playing in sports or athletics
- No active, rough or vigorous activity or play
- No exercising of any type.

Your neurosurgery team will let you know when and how you can slowly return to normal activities.

These instructions are only general guidelines. Your surgeon may give you special instructions. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask a member of the Neurosurgery team.