



Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust: Information for Families

Cutis marmorata telangiectatica congenita (CMTC)

This information sheet from Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) explains the causes, symptoms and treatment of cutis marmorata telangiectatica congenita (CMTC) and where to get help.

What is cutis marmorata telangiectatica congenita?

Cutis marmorata telangiectatica congenita (CMTC) is a birthmark that affects the blood vessels in the skin causing a net-like pattern on the skin giving a 'marbled' appearance to the skin. In most cases, CMTC does not cause any problems and the skin marbled appearance fades in early childhood.

<p>Cutis = skin</p> <p>Marmorata = marbled</p> <p>Telangiectatica = blood vessels like thread veins</p> <p>Congenita = present at birth</p>

What causes cutis marmorata telangiectatica congenita?

We do not fully understand what causes CMTC. It probably develops early in fetal life when the blood vessels are forming. It is not passed on from parent to child. It is unlikely to have been caused by anything that happened during pregnancy. It is a rare condition.

What are the signs and symptoms of cutis marmorata telangiectatica congenita?

The main feature of CMTC is the net-like pattern on the skin, which gives a marbled appearance. This pattern ranges in colour from blue to purple and may become more visible in extremes of temperature.

The pattern may affect one area of the body – most commonly a leg, but sometimes also the arms and trunk. The pattern rarely affects the face and scalp. In most cases, the condition causes no problems and is not painful. Very rarely, part of the affected skin may bleed or break down, which may be painful.

Occasionally, CMTC can be associated with other problems such as a difference in growth rate of the affected limb.

How is cutis marmorata telangiectatica congenita diagnosed?

The net-like pattern is visible soon after birth. Although the net-like pattern is distinctive, imaging scans such as x-ray, CT or MRI may be suggested to confirm or rule out other conditions that have similar features. On the rare occasions where the skin of the face and scalp is affected, children should have a specialist eye and neurological examination to check for any associated problems.



How is cutis marmorata telangiectatica congenita treated?

In most cases, treatment is not required as the net-like pattern fades within the first few years of life. If areas become ulcerated, these will need special dressings to help them heal. If bleeding is a problem laser treatment may be required.

What happens next?

Depending on any associated features, the outlook for children with CMTC is good, with the symptoms improving during early childhood.

Further information and support

At Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH), contact the Birthmark Unit on 020 7405 9200 ext. 1113.

The Birthmark Support Group offers support and advice to parents of children with all types of birthmark, including CMTC. Telephone their helpline on 0845 045 4700 or visit their website at www.birthmarksupportgroup.org.uk