



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

After your child has sclerotherapy for a lymphatic malformation

This information sheet explains how to look after your child after they have had sclerotherapy of a lymphatic malformation at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) and what to expect in the days following treatment.

The medicine injected into the lymphatic malformation may make the area swell over the first week or two. The area may also be red, bruised and feel slightly tender. These effects are normal and show that the medicine is having an effect. Most children only need a dose or two of children's pain medicine, such as paracetamol or ibuprofen. Any swelling should start to go down within a week but the effects of the treatment, such as a decrease in pain or size, may not be obvious for a couple of months.

Lymphatic malformations are also prone to blood clots forming inside the cysts. Your child's lymphatic malformation may have shown signs of this in the past, such as sudden swelling and bruising. Treating the lymphatic malformation may provoke another bleed in the week following treatment. If this occurs, give your child a dose or two of children's pain medicine. The bleed or clot usually settles without treatment, in which case it will not affect how well the sclerotherapy works. If the clot stays big and hard for more than two weeks, your child may need the procedure to be repeated. Please call the IR department to tell us about this (details below).

Treating the lymphatic malformation may provoke an infection following treatment. An infection makes the area more swollen, hot and painful than expected rather like an abscess. Your child will have a high temperature and feel generally unwell. If this occurs, your child may need a short course of oral antibiotics from your family doctor (GP).

If you have any questions, please call the clinical nurse specialists in the Birthmark Unit on 020 7405 9200 extension 5132 or 1113.

Compiled by the Birthmark Unit and Interventional Radiology department in collaboration with the Child and Family Information Group

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JH
www.gosh.nhs.uk