

Patient Information for Venous lake - Skin

Overview

A venous lake is a small blue or purple raised bump caused by dilated capillaries. It is usually found on the lips, face, or ears of older adults. It is harmless, except that it can easily bleed if irritated.

A venous lake may look similar to a skin malignancy, but it is not malignant.

Who's At Risk

Venous lakes are more common in older adults. More men than women are found to have venous lakes.

Signs & Symptoms

Look for a soft, raised, dark blue or violet blood-filled bump on the face, ears, or nose. The venous lake may seem to disappear when you push down on it.

Self-Care Guidelines

Venous lake is harmless, but will not go away on its own.

Irritating or injuring the venous lake may cause bleeding.

When to Seek Medical Care

It is important to see your health care provider to rule out malignancy. You may also want to discuss removing the venous lake if its appearance or bleeding bothers you.

Treatments Your Physician May Prescribe

No treatment is necessary. If you wish to have the venous lake removed, ask your health care provider about your options.

Venous lakes may be removed by freezing, laser therapy, cauterization, or excision.