

Do's and don'ts

In general, a person with DCMO can do anything others can do.

We advise regular medical checkups in a specialised centre to discuss treatment options in a timely manner.

In addition to medical attention, we also recommend paying attention to the psychological and psychosocial aspects of both the patient and their family.

For more information, visit: www.cmtc.nl/en/

MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.CMTC.NL/EN

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DCMO

Diffuse Capillary Malformation with Overgrowth

Diffuse Capillary Malformation with Overgrowth (DCMO) is a rare skin/vascular disorder which causes small blood vessels (capillaries) to be malformed in a patch of skin. Sometimes, this also causes the discoloured part of the body to be thicker, wider or longer (overgrowth).



Diffuse Capillary Malformation with Overgrowth

This capillary vascular malformation is visible from birth. One or more mottled or marbled, red or purplish-red stains on the skin can be spotted.

The intensity of the redness can decrease over time, but it usually remains present.

These stains are usually present in multiple anatomic regions at the same time.

The overgrowth of the affected body part that is sometimes associated with this condition often remains unnoticed until the later development stages of the overgrowth. This “overgrowth” affects the underlying tissue, which can cause the limb to become elongated. This can cause asymmetry, which might sometimes be subtle.

The condition is equally common in boys and girls.

When making a clinical diagnosis, there may be doubts between DCMO and CMTC (Cutis Marmorata Telangiectatica Congenita, a condition that causes a marbled pattern on the skin through which blood vessels are visible).

These two disorders can be distinguished from one another because CMTC causes the skin to have visible, more network-like blood vessel patterns on which crusts or wounds may also be present. With DCMO, only a blotchier pattern is visible.

Example of CMTC

DCMO patients suffer from skin anomalies with a red homogeneous colour and a blotchy pattern. This is the result of congenital capillary malformation in the skin. The skin stains may lighten over time.



Possible complications

With this vascular malformation, the skin remains intact. Wounds or infections are not visible in these red stains. Apart from this malformation, patient's bodies develop normally.

We also do not see any other vascular problems occur. However, we do sometimes see itchy skin rashes (eczema) appear on the stain.

In DCMO, a difference in size, width and length may be present or gradually develop in the limbs. This can cause pain and problems with posture and walking.

Some patients experience problems because of local overgrowth, such as enlargement of the fingers, which can restrict finger mobility.

Psychosocial issues and self-consciousness due to the presence of skin stains may occur.

Possible treatments

We are unable to cure these stains as of yet. However, we can try to improve the symptoms and discomfort in collaboration with the patients.

In some cases, laser therapy can be considered for the more visible stains in order to make their colour less prominent.

Patients continue to be monitored for control of the difference in leg length. Timely intervention can prevent problems such as long-term back pain through assistive devices, physical therapy and sometimes surgical intervention.

To date, we have not detected an increased risk of malignant tumors with this syndrome.

