

NEVUS SEBACEOUS

What is a nevus sebaceous?

A nevus sebaceous is a hairless area that is usually present at birth. It usually occurs on the scalp and less commonly on the neck or trunk. The surface may be smooth or pebbly and the colour is often yellow to yellow-orange.

This birthmark is made up of a collection of oil-producing (sebaceous) glands and few, malformed hairs. It is not inherited and may occur equally in males and females of all races. The nevus sebaceous enlarges as a child grows.

Sometimes, it is more obvious at birth because the hormones from a mother cause the sebaceous glands in the lesion to be active. As the baby ages, it may become less noticeable as hormone levels decrease.

As the child enters puberty, the spots usually becomes more raised, thickened and can develop more bumps. Very rarely a bump in the nevus sebaceous become a slow-growing basal cell carcinoma. Although this is rare, because this can sometimes happen, we recommend that any lumps and bumps should be examined by a doctor who has experience with these birthmarks. Because this birthmark will not go away by itself, some children and teenagers prefer to have this removed. This is a procedure that is paid for from the province's medical services plan. If you feel like you would like your nevus sebaceous removed, a referral will be placed with a local pediatric or adult plastic surgeon.

