

Social impact for untreated infantile hemangiomas

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(HealthDay)—For preteen children, involuted, untreated facial infantile hemangiomas (IHs) have a social impact, according to a study published online Nov. 19 in *JAMA Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery*.

Victoria A. Costa, from George Washington University in Washington D.C., and colleagues examined the [social impact](#) of involuted facial IHs in preteen [children](#). Records were identified for 236 children with IHs located in a cosmetically sensitive areas; of these, 144 potential participants (parents) were mailed surveys and 30 responded.

The researchers found that 25 of the children had a single IH and five had multiple IHs, at least one of which was in a cosmetically sensitive area. Sixty percent of the children had received treatment. Based on the Social Anxiety Scale for Children-Revised, social anxiety of the children

was not increased over normative data; however, greater [anxiety](#) for new situations was seen for those who did not receive treatment versus those who did receive treatment ($P = 0.02$). The Prosocial Orientation domain score was similar for the children with IHs and for normative data ($P = 0.50$). Children who did not receive treatment had significantly poorer Social Initiative domain scores than those who did receive treatment ($P = 0.006$).

"Although this study is limited by a small sample size, it raises important considerations for whether early treatment of facial IHs in cosmetically sensitive areas has a beneficial effect on social skills in preteens," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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