Interdisciplinary team

The Vascular Anomalies Center at Children’s is composed of a team of physicians who sub-specialize in the field of vascular anomalies. They have extensive experience with vascular anomalies in children and understand the needs of their families.

The disciplines they represent include:

- Anesthesiology
- Dermatology
- Gastroenterology
- General surgery
- Hematology
- Interventional radiology
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopaedic surgery
- Otorhinolaryngology
- Pathology
- Pediatrics
- Plastic surgery
- Pulmonary medicine
- Vascular radiology

In addition to physicians, the pediatric nurses, technicians, and other caregivers in the center provide pediatric-focused expertise to patients and their families, and ensure that all aspects of care are well-organized and coordinated. Families benefit from the full complement of pediatric services for which Children’s staff is well-known, including social work, child life, nutrition, and psychology.

For consultation, referral, or an appointment, call (612) 813-7100.

James Sidman, MD
Surgical Director
Pediatric Otolaryngologist

Stephen Nelson, MD
Medical Director
Pediatric Hematologist

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www.childrensmn.org
Children’s of Minnesota provides a complete array of highly specialized care for children with vascular anomalies and their families. By coordinating the experts from several pediatric disciplines into a single visit, families experience a new level of convenience in an environment focused exclusively on pediatrics.

The Vascular Anomalies Center, located on the Children’s – Minneapolis campus, provides both medical and surgical options for treatment – as well as an experienced, multi-disciplinary pediatric staff – to ensure the best possible outcomes for children from infancy to 18 years old. Diagnoses treated at the clinic include:

- Hemangiomas
- Vascular malformations, like port-wine stains
- Capillary malformations
- Telangiectatic nevi
- Venous, lymphatic and arteriovenous malformations
- Sturge-Weber syndrome
- Klippel-Trenaunay syndrome
- Kasabach-Merritt syndrome
- Kaposiform hemangioendothelioma

It is estimated that up to 60 percent of vascular anomalies are misdiagnosed, often resulting in inadequate or inappropriate treatment. In addition, recent research has shown that contrary to conventional wisdom, many of these conditions do not ‘go away’ over time. Today’s successful treatment plans may include a more aggressive approach, thanks to advances in diagnosis and treatment technology, and early intervention. Backed with statistical analysis and years of experience, physician specialists in the Vascular Anomalies Center can help determine which treatment is appropriate.

Comprehensive diagnostic treatment services

With vascular anomalies, each diagnosis is unique – and so is the treatment, whether it involves medical care, surgical care, or both. The Vascular Anomalies Center treats children from early stages of diagnosis and treatment through a complete follow-up plan that involves the region’s leading pediatric expertise at Children’s of Minnesota.

- Diagnosis
- Evaluation
- Second opinion
- Treatment
- Ongoing consultation to primary-care and specialty physicians
- Access to Children’s and community resources
- Information about vascular anomalies
- Information about educational organizations, support and networking groups, and other patient and family resources
- Insurance coverage information
- Complete post-treatment follow-up

Delivering Next Generation Care

- Children’s is one of only a few comprehensive vascular anomalies centers in the country, specializing in pediatrics.
- Every child is assigned a pediatric nurse case manager who coordinates all treatment and communication between care providers and the family.
- For certain types of anomalies, the team can use chemotherapy to shrink the anomaly before surgery.

Treatment highlights

Children’s provides national expertise in several treatments, including laser treatment that goes deep enough to reach the hemangioma without damaging the skin.

Additional treatments include:

- cooled tip pulse dye laser.
- chemotherapy treatment to shrink the anomaly before surgery.
- pharmacological management, including steroid treatments.
- surgical procedures performed by a variety of specialty surgeons with clinical expertise dedicated to caring for children.

Expert consultation made convenient by technology

In addition to direct patient care at Children’s, the interdisciplinary staff of the Vascular Anomalies Center consults with patients and physicians throughout the region through digital image sharing. Our vascular anomalies experts can begin discussions around diagnoses and treatment options, or provide a second opinion, based on a high-quality digital photo.

Consistent with all of Children’s services, referring physicians maintain their role as primary physician. Children’s physicians ensure that primary care givers are kept apprised with diagnostic and treatment updates on their patients.