

LOBULAR CAPILLARY HEMANGIOMA (LCH) (PYOGENIC GRANULOMA)

A lobular capillary hemangioma is a long and fancy name for a common benign blood vessel growth. The term lobular refers to the fact that the growth is shaped like a small lobule or pimple. The word capillary refers to the small capillary-type blood vessels that make up the growth. The term hemangioma refers to the fact that it is a benign blood vessel growth.

A lobular capillary hemangioma is usually a single growth. Because it is made of blood vessels it is often red or purple in color. These types of growths can appear rapidly. Because they are made up of blood vessels they can bleed quite easily. It is sometimes difficult to get the bleeding to stop. As I noted above, these growths are harmless and never become malignant.

A lobular capillary hemangioma can occur at any age but is most common in younger patients. They can occur anywhere on the body.

The exact cause of a lobular capillary hemangioma is not known but the majority is felt to occur in response to a minor injury in the skin such as a scratch or insect bite. In one way it is an overgrowth of healing tissue, which is primarily formed of blood vessels.

Because these growths appear rapidly and bleed easily, treatment is usually indicated. This is easily accomplished in the office by one of several removal methods. I will determine what is the best removal method based on your specific growth.

Pyogenic granuloma is a term that was previously used to describe these growths. This is for your information in case another doctor has told you this name.

As noted above, these types of blood vessel growths are benign and normally easily removed. Rarely, do they come back after the initial removal. If you have any other questions, please ask me before you leave the office.