

## Red Spot on the Nose

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A seven-year-old boy presents with a small, red macule with radiating telangiectasias. He is embarrassed by this lesion since kids at school make fun of him.

### What is your diagnosis?

Spider angioma is the diagnosis for this young boy. Spider angiomas are common, asymptomatic, acquired vascular lesions that are most common in children and in pregnant women. Use of hormone supplementation or OC may increase the likelihood of these lesions. The most common location is the face (especially in the infraorbital and malar locations), neck, upper trunk and arms.

Lesions are typically < 1 cm, with a central red papule measuring 1 mm to 2 mm. These benign lesions are rarely related to an internal disease and the presence of multiple prominent spider angiomas may signify severe liver disease. Other signs of liver disease should be assessed where appropriate, including:

- palmar erythema,
- leukonychia,
- splenomegaly,
- ascites,
- jaundice and
- asterixis.

This lesion consists of a central arteriole with radiating thinner walled vessels. Compression of



Figure 1. Red spot on the nose.

the central vessel obliterates the entire lesion. These lesions are a result of dilation of pre-existing vessels rather than a new vascular proliferation. As much as 15% of healthy children and adults have these lesions.

In children, treatment is not necessary other than for cosmetic reasons. Lesions may resolve over a few years. In young women, spider angiomas may spontaneously resolve months after their pregnancy or stopping of an OC. Treatment options include careful electrodesiccation and laser. Occasionally, there is recurrence requiring retreatment.

CME

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