

Guzy i malformacje naczyniowe głowy i szyi

Hemangiomas and vascular malformations of the head and neck

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Summary

This paper presents the review of current knowledge regarding vascular lesions of the head and neck. For many years the term hemangioma was used to describe all vascular lesions. Mulliken and Glowacki classified congenital vascular lesions and recognized two distinct entities, hemangiomas - vascular tumors and vascular malformations. Hemangiomas are usually not present at birth, proliferate during first year of life and then involute. They are composed of proliferating endothelial cells. Vascular malformations are always present at birth although not always apparent, increase slowly in size throughout whole life and never involute. They enlarge by hypertrophy of malformed vessels. Vascular malformations can be further subdivided according to the type of involved vessels as arterial, arteriovenous, venous, capillary or lymphatic. Accurate diagnosis of hemangiomas and vascular malformations remains a challenge for physicians. Although majority of hemangiomas are self limiting lesions some of them may develop complications such as; ulceration, airway obstruction, ophthalmic complications, psychosocial consequences. Segmental hemangiomas are associated with the risk of structural anomalies such as those that occur in PHACE syndrome. Clinical presentation and forms of treatment of various forms of vascular malformations are presented. Vascular malformations have to be treated according to their histopathology and location, as well as their hemodynamic features shown by radiological examinations.