



## What is it?

Vascular malformations are a group of non-tumorous vascular anomalies that are characterised by abnormal organisation of blood vessels without endothelial proliferation. There are several classification systems, but are generally divided into “high flow” or “low flow” categories. Classification systems help determine the type of treatment best suited to the malformation.

## Who is it for?

Not all vascular malformations require treatment, while others can be treated simply with compression garments and lifestyle changes. Invasive treatment for vascular malformations is considered when they become symptomatic or bothersome. Your interventional radiologist will discuss this with you in your clinic appointment.

## How is it done?

This procedure is usually performed under general anaesthetic in an operating room with specialised medical imaging equipment. Depending on the type of malformation and the anatomical location, the treatment may include a combination of direct puncture into the malformation or access into the arteries supplying the malformation. The agent used to treat the malformation may include mechanical devices such as metallic coils and plugs, sclerosing agent such as alcohol or sodium tetradecyl sulfate (STS – fibrovenin), or other adhesive or non-adhesive liquids. While some vascular malformations can be treated in one session, they often take multiple sessions to treat.

## What are the risks?

It is important to discuss the risks and complications of this procedure with your interventional radiologist in full, but some of the risk associated with this procedure include:

- bleeding
- infection
- unintentional blockage of vessels that may result in damage to surrounding structures such as the skin, muscles and nerves.

## Follow up

Your interventional radiologist will arrange follow up scans and clinic appointment within the first few weeks after your treatment.

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