



Sulfur Mustard Exposure and Cherry Angiomas A Fact Sheet for Patients

FACT SHEET 64-036-1016

What are cherry angiomas?

Cherry angiomas, also known as Campbell de Morgan spots or senile angiomas, are common skin growths. They are usually found on people over the age of 30, may increase in size and number as the person ages, and can grow in most areas of the body. They are typically small, ranging from a pinpoint to about 7 millimeters (the size of a #2 pencil eraser). They may be flat or raised and either round or oval shaped. There are small broken blood vessels inside the angiomas giving them the bright red or “cherry” appearance.

Cherry angiomas are benign skin findings, have no related symptoms, and usually require no treatments. Cherry angiomas most commonly develop on the chest, abdomen, back, and arms. Medical science has not identified the cause of cherry angiomas. Cherry angiomas have **no** known relationship to the development of other health problems, either by the angiomas signaling the presence of another condition or by the angiomas themselves becoming cancerous.



Photo Courtesy of Army Public Health Center

Cherry angiomas and association with sulfur mustard exposure:

Recent studies in the medical and scientific literature have demonstrated an association between a symptomatic exposure to sulfur mustard and the subsequent development of cherry angiomas. Between 10% and 50% of people exposed to enough sulfur mustard to cause symptoms significant enough to require extensive medical care at the time of the exposure, may develop cherry angiomas between 1 and 20 years afterwards. Among individuals exposed to sulfur mustard who subsequently developed cherry angiomas, the sulfur mustard exposures identified were severe enough: to have required in-patient hospitalization; to have caused significant health complications 16–20 years later; to have caused extensive skin blistering; or to have resulted in a greater than 25% disability according to the study authors.

No published studies were found showing an association between minimal to mild sulfur mustard exposure and the development of cherry angiomas. Much is still unknown about the relationship between sulfur mustard exposure and the development of cherry angiomas.

The bottom line:

There is no indication that cherry angiomas affect longevity, activities, or lifestyle.

Want to know more?

<http://symptomtreatment.org/cherry-angioma-pictures-removal-treatment/>
<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001441.htm>
<http://www.healthline.com/health/cherry-angioma#3>

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