

Cerebral Cavernous Angioma Fast Facts

1. **Cerebral Cavernous Angioma** is also known as **cerebral cavernous malformation (CCM)** or **cavernoma**.
2. A cavernous angioma is a **mulberry-shaped abnormal blood vessel with thin, leaky walls**.
3. Cavernous angiomas are found mostly in the **brain and spinal cord**.
4. **1 in 500 people** have at least one cavernous angioma in their brain. **Most people will have no symptoms**.
5. Cavernous angiomas can grow and **hemorrhage at any age**, including in **young children**. They are most likely to become symptomatic when a person is between the **ages of 20-40**.
6. The most common first symptom is **seizure (50%)**, followed by **hemorrhage (25%)** and **neurological deficits (25%)** like blurred vision and weakness in limbs.
7. Cavernous angioma is **hereditary in about 25%** of people who have the illness.
8. Those with the hereditary form of the illness will have **more than one** cavernous angioma and will **develop more lesions** over time.
9. The hereditary form of the illness **does not skip generations**. Each child of an affected person has a **50/50 chance** of inheriting the illness.
10. The hereditary form of the illness can be caused by a mutation on any one of three genes: **CCM1, CCM2, and CCM3**.
11. The hereditary form of the illness can happen in any family. However, there are several groups of people that are at **higher risk** for the hereditary form: descendants of the **original Hispanic population of New Mexico** where the mutation began in the mid-1600's, the **Ashkenazi Jewish population**, and a European-American group with roots in the **deep South and Oklahoma**.
12. **Brain or spinal surgery** is the only current treatment for the illness, but there are a number of **medications under development** to strengthen the vessels and stop more cavernous angiomas from forming.

MRI OF TEMPORAL LOBE
CAVERNOUS ANGIOMA

