ALLIANCE TO CURE
CAVERNOUS MALFORMATION

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Cerebral Cavernous Angioma Fast Facts

1. **Cerebral Cavernous Malformation** (CCM) is also known as **cerebral cavernous angioma** or **cavernoma**.
2. A cavernous malformation is a **mulberry-shaped abnormal blood vessel with thin, leaky walls**.
3. Cavernous malformations are found mostly in the **brain and spinal cord**.
4. **1 in 500 people** have at least one cavernous malformation in their brain. **Most people will have no symptoms.**
5. Cavernous malformations 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 malformation 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 malformation 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 malformation from forming.