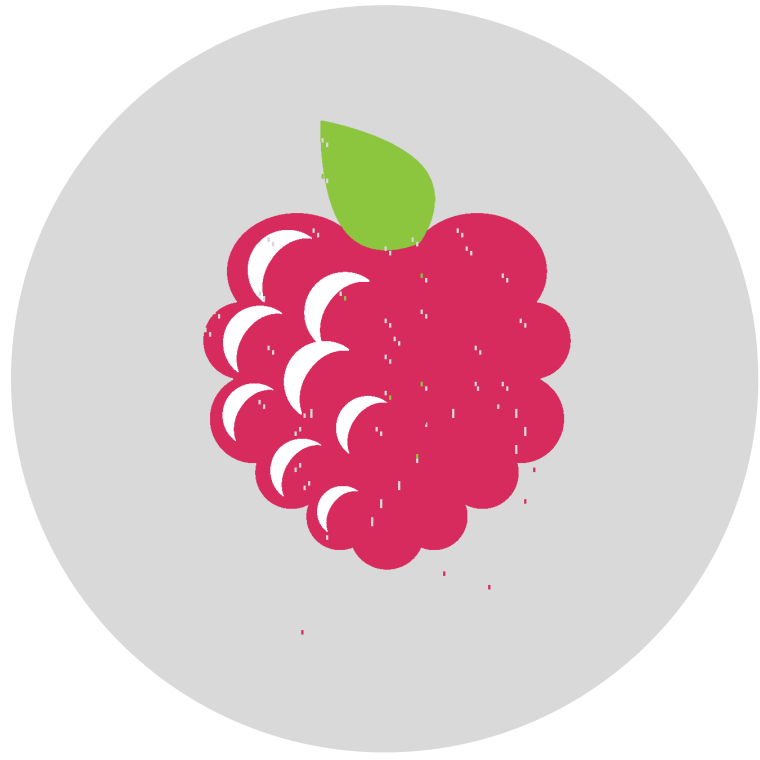


QUICK FACTS ABOUT CAVERNOMA



WHAT IS IT?

A cavernoma (also sometimes referred to as a cavernous angioma, angioma, hemangiomas, or cerebral cavernous malformation (CCM)), is a cluster of abnormal blood vessels usually found in the brain and spinal cord. It often look like a raspberry.



WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Symptoms vary, however, typically patients will have; headaches, fits/seizures, neurological problems such as dizziness, slurred speech, double vision, balance problems and a tremor, weakness, numbness, tiredness, memory problems and problems concentrating.



HOW MANY HAVE IT?

1 in 600 people have a cavernoma - often without knowing it. 1 in 400,000 is diagnosed every year due to a symptomatic cavernoma which has bled. When it bleeds it can cause a type of stroke called a haemorrhagic stroke.



IS THERE A CURE?

There's currently no cure for cavernoma and we aim to fund research that will work towards this in the future. However, if the lesion is in an accessible area of the brain or spine then a neurosurgeon may opt to remove it. Most specialists will prefer a 'watch and wait' approach and manage the symptoms. Some neurologists will offer gamma knife radiosurgery, but this has no proven results.



IS IT HEREDITARY?

Yes and no. Some people only ever have one cavernoma and this is considered to be sporadic. Others may have the genetic form which they've inherited and may therefore have multiple. The genetic forms are Krit1, Krit2 and Krit3. If you have more than one your neurologist will often suggest genetic testing. Less than 50 per cent of cases are thought to be genetic.



HOW OFTEN DO THEY BLEED?

The risk of haemorrhage varies depending on whether there's been a previous bleed. If it's never bleed, it's estimated there's less than 1% that it will haemorrhage each year. If it has bled previously, the risk of having another haemorrhage is somewhere between 4% and 25% each year. But this risk decreases progressively over time if there are no further bleeds, and eventually returns to the same level as that of people who have not had a bleed.

