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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

**HEMANGIOMAS OF THE FACE IN CHILDREN – OUR EXPERIENCES**

Andonovska Dobrila<sup>1</sup>

Andonovska B<sup>2</sup>, Minova E<sup>1</sup>, Simeonov R<sup>2</sup>, Risteski T<sup>2</sup>, Jovceski L<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Privat Hospital Neuromedica, Skopje, Macedonia

<sup>2</sup>University Clinic of Pediatric Surgery, Skopje, Macedonia

**INTRODUCTION:** Hemangiomas are the most common benign tumor in infancy. Hemangiomas of the face constitute approximately 60% of vascular anomalies diagnosed in children. Hemangiomas classified into capillary, cavernous and capillary - cavernous based on their depth in the dermis and subcutaneous fat. Infantile hemangioma may be present at birth, but most develop in the first few weeks after birth. Treatment options for hemangiomas include conservative management, drug treatment, minimally invasive interventions by radiology, cryosurgery, laser therapy and open surgery. The objective of this study was to evaluate outcomes of surgical treatment based on hemangioma characteristics.

**MATERIAL AND METHOD:** This prospective clinical study included 15 children with infantile hemangiomas of the face. Their ages ranged from 6 months to 9 years. Cavernous hemangioma in 5 (33,33%) children, mixed capillary - cavernous in 6 (40%) and capillary in 4 (26,66%). Most frequent locations were lips, nose, eyelids and cheeks. The treatment of hemangiomas is dependent on the various stages of growth. Surgery was performed during the proliferative phase in 8 patients (Early excision of hemangioma should be the procedure of choice in selected cases of hemangioma. Skin - subcutaneous lesion up to 5cm in transverse diameter had excision and primary wound closure, lesions > 5cm in transverse diameter had excision and immediate skin graft, lesion ≤ 5cm but complicated by infection, ulceration or hemorrhage had excision and delayed wound closure or skin graft (≥5cm).

**RESULTS:** Favorable outcome of surgical treatment was observed in both simple and complex cases for facial contour, volume reduction and need for reoperation.

**CONCLUSION:** Surgical excision of hemangioma of the face in children is no longer the first choice treatment. The treatment of hemangiomas should be individualized. Surgical excision should be taken for residual lesions, scar hypertrophy or pigmentation.

**KEYWORDS:** hemangiomas, treatment, surgery