



Transarterial Embolization

For Liver Hemangioma



NORTH STAR
VASCULAR & INTERVENTIONAL

An alternative to surgery for symptomatic hemangiomas

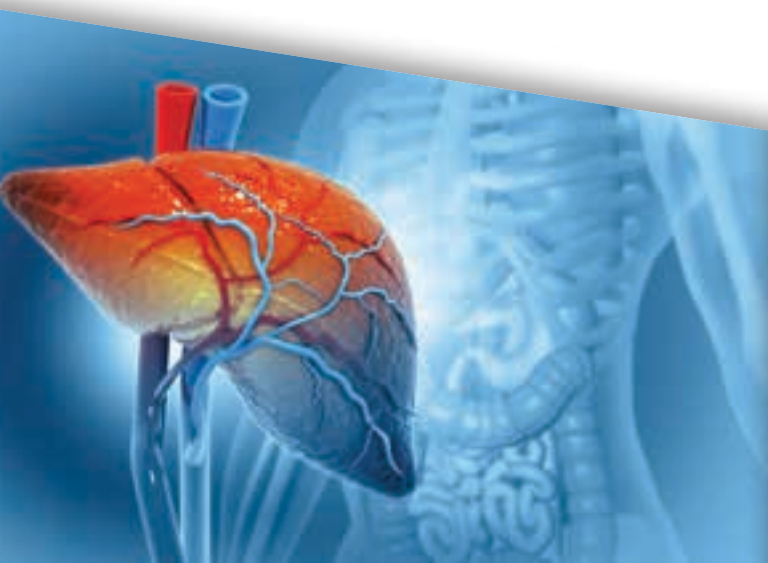
What are liver hemangiomas?

Hemangiomas are benign (non-cancerous) masses in the liver made up of a cluster of blood vessels. Also called hepatic hemangiomas, cavernous hemangiomas and giant hemangiomas, these liver masses occur in about 20% of the population. They tend to appear in those between 30 and 50 years of age. They are also more common in women than men, especially women who have been pregnant or have had hormone replacement therapy.

Most people with hemangiomas do not experience symptoms and do not even know they have them, unless discovered on a diagnostic imaging test. However, some hemangiomas can grow large and begin to cause symptoms such as:

- Pain in the upper portion of the abdomen
- Feeling full after eating only a small amount
- Nausea or vomiting

Experiencing these symptoms doesn't necessarily mean you have a hemangioma... it could be another condition and should be properly diagnosed by a physician.



Treating liver hemangiomas

For those experiencing debilitating symptoms, hepatic (liver) surgery is the gold standard for treating hemangiomas. However, patient age, size of the hemangioma and location, and the presence of other health conditions may make surgery impractical or impossible for some patients. For these patients, as well as for those who wish to avoid surgery for personal reasons, another less-invasive option is available.

A new approach using transarterial embolization (TAE) has been clinically proven as an effective treatment for liver hemangiomas. Using imaging guidance, an interventional radiologist threads a catheter through the bloodstream to the site of the hemangioma. A special sclerosant medication (bleomycin) is then injected, which blocks blood flow into the hemangioma and causes it to shrink. The surrounding healthy tissue of the liver is able to draw blood from other nearby vessels.

Talk to your doctor about the TAE treatment option

Not all hemangiomas are alike, and TAE is typically only recommended for those with hemangiomas of 10 cm or less. In addition, the best results are achieved in patients with more hypervascular hemangiomas, which means they have more blood vessels within them. For those undergoing the TAE procedure, hemangiomas have been reduced in size by up to 80%. Over 90% of TAE patients reported at least partial relief of their symptoms. If your doctor is not familiar with the latest clinical results on TAE for liver hemangiomas, we are happy to share information with them.



North Star Vascular & Interventional

The doctors at NSVI are pioneers in interventional radiology. Hailing from some of the region's most prestigious healthcare and academic institutions, they were among the first to perform certain imaging-guided procedures in the United States. In fact, NSVI doctors play a leading national role in training other doctors to perform minimally invasive procedures like TAE.

NSVI offers the full range of minimally invasive vascular and interventional radiology services, including cancer treatment, at their state-of-the-art Minneapolis-based outpatient center. Tumors, spine fractures, uterine fibroids, knee osteoarthritis and vascular disease can be treated faster, less expensively and with greater precision and safety than ever before.

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