



Spinal Hemangioma

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What Is a Hemangioma?

Spinal hemangiomas are benign tumors that are most commonly seen in the mid-back (thoracic) and lower back (lumbar). Hemangiomas most often appear in adults between the ages of 30 and 50. They are very common and occur in approximately 10 percent of the world's population. Most cases show no symptoms.

[Symptomatic hemangiomas](#) represent less than one percent of all hemangiomas, and are more common in women than in men. If left untreated, symptomatic hemangiomas can cause serious neurological effects.

At UPMC, [we treat hemangiomas with surgical removal \(resection\) of the tumor](#) or the affected vertebra, and radiation therapy to treat pain. Ethanol injections and [laminectomy](#) may also be performed.

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