

## Do you or someone you know have a port wine stain or birthmark?

Below is a brief study on port wine stains and birthmarks for your review.

### WHAT ARE PORT WINE STAINS?

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A **port wine stain** or is a vascular birthmark consisting of superficial and deep dilated capillaries in the skin which produce a reddish to purplish discoloration of the skin. They are so called for their color, resembling that of Port wine.

Port wine stains are present at birth. The incidence is 3 out of 1,000 people. Port wine stains occur most often on the face but can appear anywhere on the body. Early stains are usually flat and pink in appearance. As the child matures, the color may deepen to a dark red or purplish color.

The presence of port wine stains can cause emotional and social problems for the affected person because of their cosmetic appearance. It is thought port wine stains that involve the upper and lower eyelids may be associated with the development of glaucoma. All birthmarks such as port wine stains should be evaluated by the health care provider during a routine examination.

Birthmarks get their name for one simple reason: They are marks that are present on the skin of a lot of newborn babies! A baby can develop birthmarks either before he or she is born or soon after birth. Birthmarks happen when many new blood vessels group together in one place on the skin. No one knows what causes blood vessels to group together, but it's good to know that most birthmarks don't hurt at all and they usually aren't a sign of any kind of illness.

***There are many formulations of concealers on the market today that will cover up all different port wine stains and birthmarks. We offer cosmetic solutions...make-up does matter! The right consistency concealer, the right color, the right technique, will create the right results.***