

What is a nevus simplex?

A nevus simplex is a common birthmark. It is seen at birth or shortly after. At least one out of five babies is born with this birthmark. The cause is not known. Other names used for a nevus simplex are:

- Stork bite. On the back of the neck.
- Angel kiss. Between the eyes.
- Salmon patch.

What does it look like?

A nevus simplex varies in color from pale pink to bright red. It gets darker when your baby is crying, very active or warm. This birthmark is flat. It is most often seen on the upper eyelids, forehead, back of the neck, and between the eyes. It may also be on the top of the head, under the nose and on the lower back.



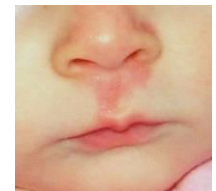
How is it diagnosed?

The doctor will look at your baby's skin. This is important because there are other conditions that can look like a nevus simplex but are treated differently. Nevus Simplex is sometimes incorrectly diagnosed as a capillary malformation (port wine stain) or as a hemangioma. No tests are needed.



How is it treated?

Most often, a nevus simplex goes away on its own by two years of age. Laser may be used to treat the redness on the face if it is not gone by age 2 to 3 years. Many on the back of the neck don't go away. These don't need treatment because they are hidden under hair. There are normally no complications with this birthmark.



ALERT: Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if your child has special health care needs that were not covered by this information.

This sheet was created to help you care for your child or family member. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up.