

Lymphangioma

The lymphangioma, like the hemangioma, is a hamartomatous dysplastic lesion in soft tissue that arises from the endothelial tube. Instead of being filled with blood like the hemangioma, the lymphangioma is filled with lymphatic fluid, but otherwise it has a very similar histological appearance. Ninety per cent of these lesions will occur before the age of two years. There is no sex predominance and the most common locations are the head and neck, axilla, inguinal area and, in some cases, the abdominal viscera including the spleen and liver. Lymphangiomas can be classified as either the capillary type or simplex type, both of which are considered cutaneous lesions. Larger, deeper lesions are usually cavernous or cystic in nature and referred to as cystic hygromas.