

M6.4

**Surgical Services at Hong Kong Children's Hospital and  
Plastic Surgery on Congenital Diseases**

16:15 Convention Hall A

**Plastic Surgery on Congenital Diseases: Management of Vascular Malformation – Surgery or Not***Lau EYK**Department of Surgery, Kwong Wah Hospital, Hong Kong*

Vascular malformations (VM) form part of the vascular anomaly spectrum that describes congenital morphological errors of vascular development. Despite being “congenital” (i.e. present at birth), they may not become apparent until later stages in life. While some malformations may be attributed to genetic inheritance, most of them do not have a specific cause. The elucidation of etiology/pathogenesis has remained difficult due to imprecise nomenclatures in the past.

VMs may involve veins, arteries, lymphatics, or in combination. High-flow VMs include an arterial component, while low-flow VMs do not. Although benign in nature, VMs may involve any anatomical structure. Depending on their components and anatomical location, they may cause significant morbidities to patients including skin changes, pain, bleeding, ulceration, recurrent infections, and even heart failure.

Patients with VMs are often referred to plastic surgeons since the integument is most commonly affected. However, as VMs often have a rather diffuse anatomical involvement, surgery may not represent the ideal solution due to excessive surgical morbidity; therefore, referral to a multi-disciplinary team is warranted in most cases. In this presentation, input from different medical specialties and the role of plastic surgeons in the management of VMs are discussed.