

What is CMN?

CMN stands for Congenital Melanocytic Naevus (or naevi), which is a brown or black mole present at birth. They can be very large, covering up to 80% of the body, and very numerous – up to hundreds in one individual. People with large or multiple CMN have an increased risk of malignant melanoma (a type of cancer) and brain problems, including tumours.

At the moment, large or multiple CMN are untreatable. CMN can be shocking for other people to look at if they have never seen them before, causing distress and anxieties to those affected. CMN are often more fragile than normal skin and can therefore tear easily if traumatised.

Melanoma in this condition is at highest risk during childhood. Although melanoma is always an aggressive tumour, in children with CMN it is particularly aggressive and resistant to treatments. All cases of melanoma in CMN seen to date have proven fatal.

With money raised we have recently found the cause of CMN. We now need to find the life-saving treatments to prevent any more suffering.

<Add in your personal message about the person that you know who has this condition>

Example:

<Name> has CMN covering 70% of her body with many hundred smaller CMN all over. She visits Great Ormond Street Hospital ever six months for check-ups and to participate in the research. She has undergone operations in the past to remove lumps which thankfully have been benign. <Name> is a very happy and confident little girl who deals well with her disfigurement. It is with thanks to the support both her and her family receive from the dedicated support group Caring Matters Now that she gets the opportunity to meet friends with the same condition and share her anxieties and worries.