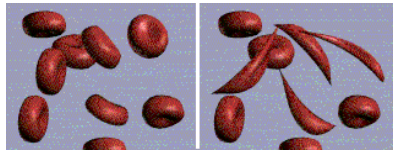


Sickle Cell Disease

Web page on <http://dshs.texas.gov/newborn/sickle.aspx>

Sickle Cell Disease



Sickle Cell is a group of related disorders that affect a person's red blood cells. It is caused by a change in the genes that make hemoglobin, the substance in red blood cells that carries oxygen. There are several types of sickle cell disease, the most common being Sickle Cell Anemia (Hb SS Disease). The other types of sickle cell are caused by different variations in hemoglobin that in combination with hemoglobin S may cause problems. It affects males and females equally. Sickle cell disease is *inherited*. That means it is passed from mothers and fathers to their children when both parents have the disease or trait. It is not contagious. People of many ethnic groups can have sickle cell disease. It is most common in persons of African descent, but it is also found in persons whose ancestors come from Asia, India, Indigenous America, Latin America, Mediterranean, and Middle East regions.

People with sickle cell disease have periods of well-being and stages of illness. The periods of illness are called sickle cell crises.

With sickle cell disease, a person's red blood cells can become hard, sticky, and shaped like sickles. Sickle cell disease can cause a serious health problems. These problems can include:

- pneumonia
- organ damage
- painful erections in men
- swelling of hands and feet
- complications during pregnancy
- chest pains and trouble breathing
- blood in urine
- fever
- stroke
- leg ulcers
- infections
- jaundice
- gallstones
- anemia
- pain

Early treatment is essential. Some treatments are still being researched. Sickle cell disease can be controlled by:

Medications
Blood transfusions
Oxygen therapy

Commented [T11]: Consider hyperlinking to new "Hemoglobinopathy" page which would list – Hemoglobin SC, Sbeta+, Sbeta0, and learn more about SCD page

Commented [T12]: New "ethnic" statement

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Intravenous fluids
Vitamin supplements

It can be cured by a bone marrow transplant.

All newborn babies in [Texas](#) are tested for sickle cell disease, despite race or ethnic background.

To learn more about Sickle Cell Disease ~~and other blood disorders~~, click [here](#).

To learn more about Sickle Cell Trait, click [here](#).

This site and related brochures do not take the place of an informed discussion between a patient and their health-care provider.

Last updated August 1, 2012

Commented [FD4]: Consider a hyperlink for newborn screen page?

Commented [FD5]: Hyperlink to "learn more about this condition" page

Commented [FD6]: Hyperlink to Trait page