

Parent Fact Sheet

Sickle Hemoglobin C Disease (Hb SC Disease) (Sickle He mo glo bin C Disease)

What is Sickle Hemoglobin C Disease?

Sickle hemoglobin C disease is a disorder that affects the shape and function of the red blood cell. The disorder produces abnormal hemoglobin that causes the red blood cells to change from a soft, round shape to a hard, crescent or “sickle” shape when they give off oxygen. Sickle hemoglobin C disease is inherited. It is present at birth.

What type of problems occurs with Sickle Hemoglobin C Disease?

A baby born with this condition may have many symptoms that may not begin until after 2 years of age. The most common symptoms are a mild anemia (a low number of red blood cells), infection, and periods of pain. Early diagnosis and treatment will help prevent some of these problems.

What is the chance my baby will have Sickle Hemoglobin C Disease?

This condition occurs in about 1 in 835 African-American births and in about 1 in every 25,000 births in the general population. Babies born with this condition have a changed gene from each parent. A person who has one changed gene is called a carrier. A person who is a carrier does not have symptoms. If both parents are carriers, either parent can pass on the changed gene to their baby. If both parents pass on the changed gene, the baby will have the condition. If both parents are carriers, for each pregnancy:

- There is a 25% chance that the baby will be born with this condition.
- There is a 50% chance that the baby will be a carrier for this condition.
- There is a 25% chance that the baby will not be born with this condition and will not be a carrier.

What is the treatment of Sickle Hemoglobin C Disease?

The treatment for this condition includes medication and making sure your baby’s shots are kept up to date. You will be referred to a doctor who specializes in blood disorders. Your baby’s doctor will help you make sure that your baby gets the right diet and medical care.

Where in Virginia can I take my baby for care?

Please speak to your baby’s pediatrician about obtaining a referral to a pediatric hematologist in your area. If you want to know more about this condition, please contact Virginia Newborn Screening Services, Virginia Department of Health. The Web site is <http://www.vahealth.org/gns>.



The information provided is offered for general information and educational purposes only. The information is not offered as and does not constitute medical advice. In no way is the information meant to be a substitute for professional medical care nor should it be construed as such. Contact your doctor if there are any concerns or questions.