

Sickle Cell Anemia, Sickle-C Disease, and Sickle Beta Thalassemia affect a person's red blood cells. They may have life threatening complications in infancy.

IMPORTANT

Call your baby's doctor today to talk about your baby's specific diagnosis. Your baby's doctor will tell you exactly what type of sickle cell disease your child has and what to do about it.

Children with sickle cell disease have special needs and must have regular medical care to stay healthy. Ask your doctor to talk with you about the following:

- **Twice daily doses of penicillin**
- **Routine immunizations** (shots), especially prevnar
- **Signs of infections, especially a fever over 101°F**
- **Referral** to a pediatric hematologist or a comprehensive sickle cell center or program who are experts in the care of these blood problems. They will work with your child's doctor to provide supportive services and ongoing parent education

How serious is it?

Very! Babies born with sickle cell disease can get very sick and may die if they do not get the proper care. The most common problem in babies and young children is infection.

Is there a cure?

There is no cure for sickle cell disease but with penicillin and good care, most serious infections and almost all the deaths in young children can be prevented.

About those living with sickle cell disease ...

- Sickle Cell Disease is inherited and is not contagious.
- Anyone can be affected, although most are of African or Hispanic Descent.
- Thousands of Texans are living with Sickle Cell Disease.
- Those living with Sickle Cell Disease touch us daily. They are our family members, neighbors, co-workers, and friends.
- Many persons with Sickle Cell Disease live successful and productive lives despite their disease.

How can I find out about services in my area?

Because your child has been born with a serious genetic disorder, we want to make sure you are aware of all the services available to you. Please contact the Sickle Cell Association in your area to find out if these services are available:

- **Testing** for sickle cell disease and other hemoglobin disorders.
- **Community Health or Public Health Nurses** to visit you and your baby in your home.
- **Community-Based Sickle Cell Counselors** to give your family information and answer questions about the disease.
- **Parent Support Groups** to allow you to meet and talk with other parents of children with sickle cell disease.
- **Educational Presentations** in your church, school or community to help make others more aware of sickle cell disorders.

SICKLE CELL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA TEXAS CHAPTERS

Dallas

214-942-1262
214-948-9517 fax

San Antonio

210-566-7899
210-566-7980 fax

Houston

713-666-0300
713-666-0217 fax

Fort Worth

817-534-5997
817-534-6792 fax

Waco

254-752-3441
254-752-5955 fax

Austin

512-458-9767
512-458-9714 fax

Adapted from:
Mid-Atlantic Regional Human Genetics Network, Inc.
c/o Family Planning Council
260 S. Broad St., Suite 1000
Philadelphia, PA 19102-3865

Distributed by:
Texas Department of State Health Services
Newborn Screening M-555
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756-3199

1-800-252-8023



Stock # 05-12057
09/01/2004

Parents' Alert



URGENT

**Your newborn has been
identified with probable
Sickle Cell Disease**