

# SICKLE STROKE SCREEN

*for sickle cell anemia*

A **Sickle Stroke Screen** is a transcranial Doppler ultrasound (TCD).

It is used to measure the speed of blood flowing through blood vessels in the brain.

---

It helps us to see if a child with sickle cell anemia (HbSS, HbS $\beta$ 0) may be at risk for stroke.



FUNDED BY DISPLACE  
NIH 5R01HL133896-02

Let us know what you think of this brochure!



The **Sickle Stroke Screen** measures the speed of blood flow in the blood vessels of the brain. It can tell us how fast or slow the blood is moving.

If the **Sickle Stroke Screen** shows any high or low speeds, your child may need a change in treatment to help prevent a stroke.

Your provider will use the results to help decide the best plan of action for you and your child.

IS YOUR CHILD  
WITH SICKLE CELL  
AT RISK OF **STROKE**?



KNOWLEDGE IS  
**POWER**

**Schedule your Sickle Stroke Screen today!**



## What are the possible results of the **Sickle Stroke Screen** (TCD) and what happens next?

---

### Normal:

- Repeat the **Sickle Stroke Screen** in a **year**

### Conditional:

- Repeat the **Sickle Stroke Screen** more frequently

### Abnormal:

One or more of the following may happen:

- **Repeat** the test within 1-2 weeks
- Start **blood transfusion** therapy
- Get an **MRI** of the brain

Your **provider** will talk with you about the best options for you or **your child**.



*Child getting a Sickle Stroke Screen*

## Why is this test important?

- People with certain types of sickle cell disease (HbSS, HbS $\beta$ 0) are at a much higher risk of stroke.
- A stroke is when the blood supply to the brain is blocked or very decreased. The **Sickle Stroke Screen** helps to see if you/your child could be a **risk** of stroke.

## How can I help my child?

- Make sure your child receives a Sickle Stroke Screen as recommended
- Attend all of your child's appointments
- Ask questions about the **Sickle Stroke Screen results**
- Ask about the signs of stroke

**Let us know what you think!**



## Sickle Stroke Screen FAQs:

---

**Q:** How often should I or my child be tested?

**A:** At least every year from age 2 -16.

**Q:** Will the test hurt?

**A:** No. It is painless. The technician will put a special gel on different spots on the person's head. They will then move a small wand to measure the speed of blood flow through the vessels.

**Q:** How long will the test last?

**A:** Each test usually lasts about 45-60 minutes.

**Q:** Do I need to do anything to prepare for the test?

**A:** No special preparation is needed for the **Sickle Stroke Screen**.

**Q:** How do I know if my loved one is having a stroke?

**A:** If your child/you has sudden neurologic change, difficulty walking or problems with strength or talking, call 911 or your physician to be evaluated.

**SICKLE  
STROKE  
SCREEN**  
for sickle cell anemia