



# Types of Sickle Cell Disease

## Sickle Cell

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### **You should learn what type of sickle cell disease your child has:?**

- 1) Hemoglobin SS disease
- 2) Hemoglobin S Beta zero thalassemia
- 3) Hemoglobin SC disease
- 4) Hemoglobin S Beta plus thalassemia

### **When will I know what type of sickle cell my child has?**

- The doctors can look at your child's newborn screen. This is bloodwork taken from a heel stick at birth.
- The doctors will confirm what type of sickle cell your child has by his/her first birthday

### **Why is it important to know what type of sickle cell disease?**

- Every child is different, but some patients with Hemoglobin SS or S $\beta$ 0 thalassemia have more severe disease than patients with Hemoglobin SC or S $\beta$ + thalassemia.

### **What is sickle cell trait?**

- Sickle cell trait is when you have one sickle cell gene and one non-sickle cell gene.
- People with sickle cell trait do not experience symptoms of sickle cell.

### **How did my child get sickle cell disease?**

- Sickle cell is an inherited disease. The mom gives one gene and the dad gives one gene.

### **How did my child get sickle cell disease if I don't have it?**

- A mom and dad both with sickle cell trait may each give the sickle cell gene to their child.
- Also, one mom or dad could have beta thalassemia and may give that gene to his/her child.
- Many parents with sickle cell trait or beta thalassemia trait do not know they have it.

### **What doctors will help my child stay healthy?**

- It is important that you keep up with your regular visits to the Pediatrician.
- You will also be closely followed by social workers, education specialists, nurses, nurse practitioners, and doctors in a sickle cell clinic.
- Other specialized nurse practitioners or doctors may be needed to help your child.