



## Eyes Sickle Cell

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### **How does sickle cell affect my eyes?**

Red blood cells can sickle in the small vessels of your eyes. When this happens your eyes can become damaged (retinopathy). This can happen to all sickle cell patients but is most common in patients with hemoglobin SC.

### **Should I see an eye doctor?**

- The current guidelines for sickle cell disease recommend that all patients should have an eye exam beginning at 10 years of age.
- We recommend that you find an eye doctor to do this exam.
- Tell the eye doctor that you have sickle cell disease and need your eyes examined.
- The eye doctor should dilate your eyes with drops to better evaluate your eyes.
- It is important that you see an eye doctor every 1-2 years.