

## The difference between sickle cell disease and the sickle cell trait:

Sickle Cell Disease is different from Sickle Cell Trait. SCD causes many disabling symptoms such as anemia, severe pain, or even stroke.

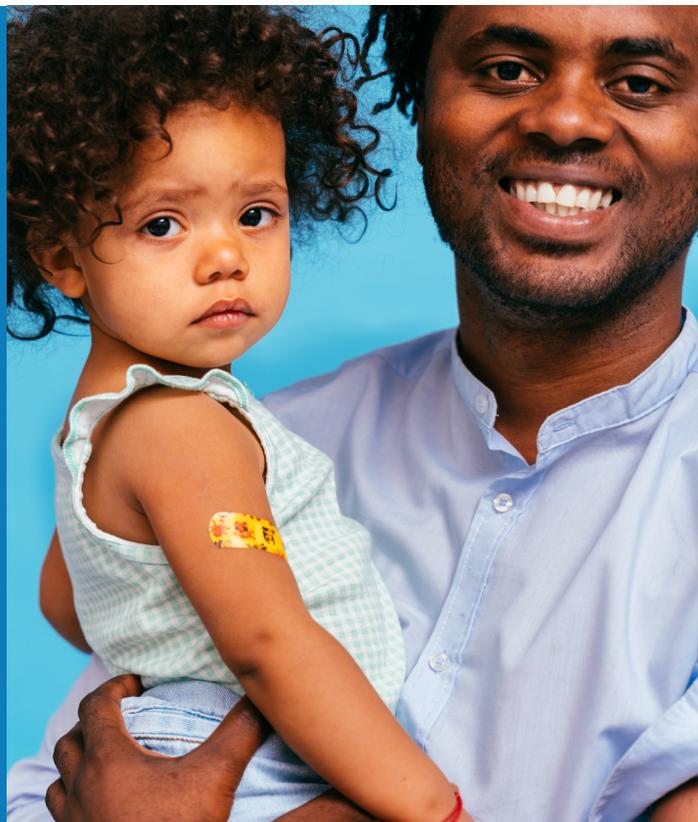
Sickle Cell Trait does not make you sick. Screening tests might show you have SCT, however, you may have never had physical symptoms.

Getting screened to know your sickle cell status is extremely important at child-bearing age because SCD and SCT can be passed down to children through their parents' genes.

 Newborn babies should be screened for sickle cell status (SCD or SCT), as early as 24-48 hours after birth

 In the U.S. (all 50 states and the District of Columbia), babies are screened for sickle cell status as part of the newborn screening program.

 A positive newborn screening test means your baby likely has a condition reported but you need more testing by your baby's doctor to know for sure.



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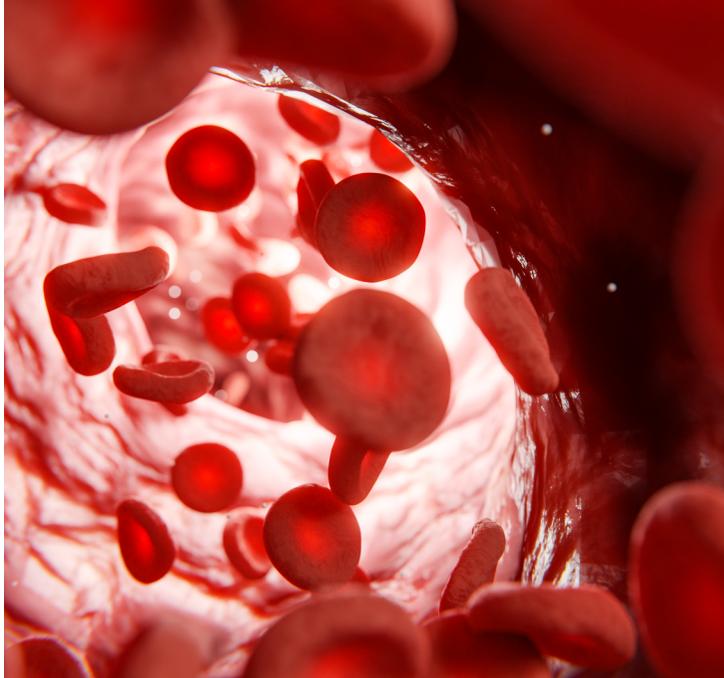
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# KNOW YOUR SICKLE CELL STATUS

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## What is sickle cell screening?

Screening for sickle cell means testing a person's blood for abnormal types of hemoglobin:

Hemoglobin is a substance inside the red blood cell that delivers oxygen to all organs in the body.

There are many types of altered hemoglobin, but people with SCD or SCT make a form of hemoglobin which is abnormal and it is called hemoglobin S or sickle hemoglobin.

Both SCT and SCD are conditions that are genetically inherited or passed down from your parents.

## What tests should be done?

The best tests to tell you whether you or your child is at risk of having SCD or SCT are:

Complete blood count (CBC) - this test screens for anemia, a condition that occurs when not enough oxygen is delivered to the cells of the body due to the presence of abnormal hemoglobin.

A Mean Corpuscular Volume (MCV) should be sent as part of the CBC as abnormalities can identify the presence of abnormal hemoglobin such as beta thalassemia trait.

AND;

Hemoglobin electrophoresis, high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), or DNA testing may be used to determine the type of hemoglobin present in a person's blood.



## How to find out your sickle cell status ?

Ask your family doctor for a requisition for hemoglobin electrophoresis testing.

Order a blood test to determine if you have sickle cell trait (SCT)

High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) is used to check for sickle cell traits or diseases.

Consider a genetic test if needed.