Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder that affects a person’s red blood cells.

Who gets it?

Sickle cell disease is an inherited disorder.

Who gets it?

What are the symptoms?

- Infections
- Fever
- Chest pain
- Stomach pain
- Organ failure
- Pneumonia

In some cases, people with sickle cell trait can have complications under certain conditions such as:
- If they are dehydrated
- If they are in a place of high altitude
- If they are exercising heavily

How do you treat it?

- Stem cell transplant is the only cure for sickle cell disease.

- The patient had leukemia and sickle cell disease. A St. Jude doctor performed a stem cell transplant to cure her leukemia using bone marrow donated from her brother. Ultimately, the patient was cured of both leukemia and sickle cell disease.

What research is being done to help sickle cell patients?

- A new study called SCCRIP (Sickle Cell Clinical Research and Intervention Program) looks at long-term outcomes in sickle cell disease.

- St. Jude doctors are conducting research in the laboratory to develop cures for sickle cell disease.

- The St. Jude-Methodist Sickle Cell Disease Transition Clinic was created to help 18 year olds make the leap from St. Jude to adult-care facilities of their choice.

- Clinicians hope the transition program will become a national model for similar programs that encourage teens with sickle cell disease to continue their treatment as adults.

Sources:

https://www.stjude.org/disease/sickle-cell-disease.html


IN PROGRESS

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St. Jude is currently developing a mentorship program to pair older patients with younger patients to help them cope with living with sickle cell disease.

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