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.

90,000 to 100,000 people in the U.S. have sickle cell disease

What are the symptoms?

- Infections
- Fatigue
- Painful swelling of hands & feet (dactylitis)
- Organ Damage
- Pain

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.

- Collection: Stem cells are collected from a donor's bone marrow or blood.
- Processing: Blood or bone marrow is processed in the lab to purify and concentrate the stem cells.
- Chemotherapy: Chemotherapy is given to the patient.
- Infusion: Thawed cells are infused into the patient.

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 is currently developing a mentorship program to pair older patients with younger patients to help them cope with living with sickle cell disease.
- St. Jude doctors are conducting research in the laboratory to develop cures for sickle cell disease.
- 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.

The St. Jude-MethoDex Sickle Cell Disease Transition Clinic

- Created to help 10 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.

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Sources:

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