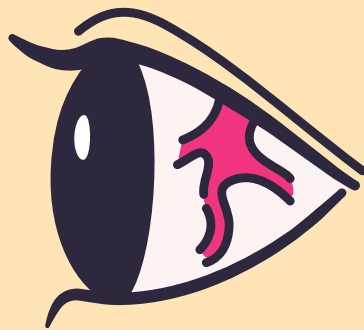


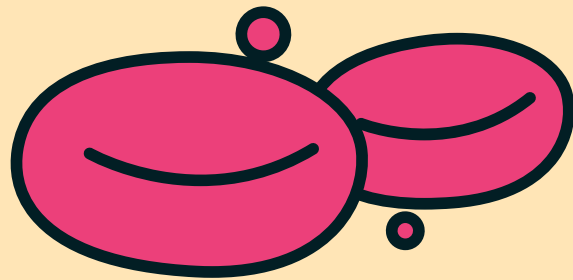
Sickle Cell Made Simple: Symptoms Edition



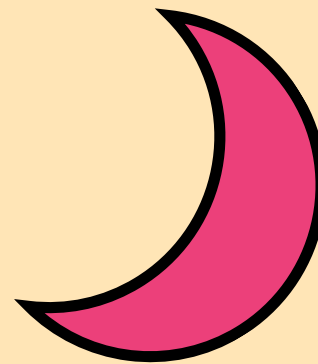
Sickle Cell Made Simple: Symptoms Edition

This is not an exhaustive list of symptoms that are experienced by those living with sickle cell disease. Sickle cell disease affects those who live with the condition in an array of different ways. For more information about the condition and its affects visit www.conqueringthecurve.org

Sickle Cell Made Simple: Symptoms Edition



Normal Red Blood Cells

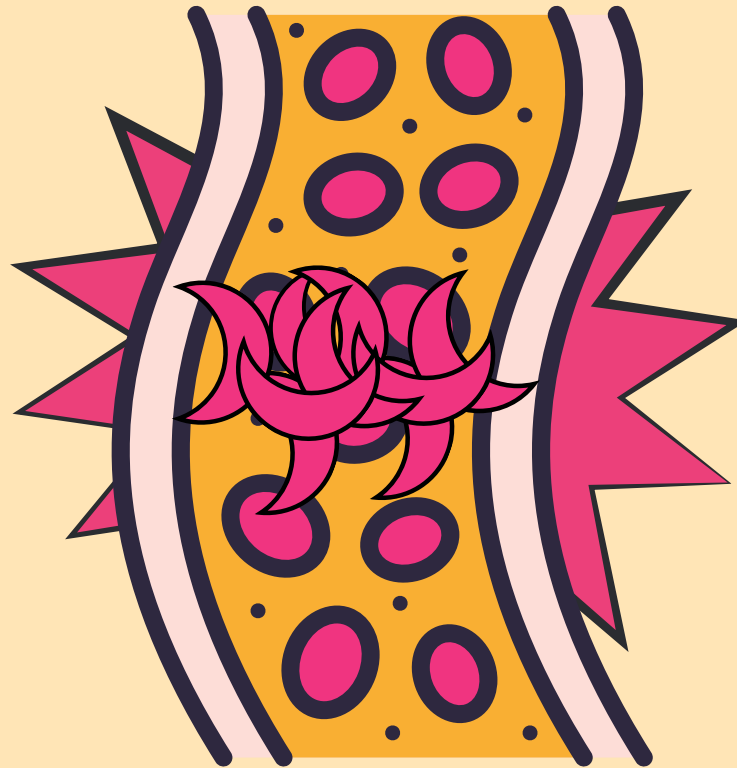


Sickled Red Blood cell

Sickle cell disease is a blood disorder that is passed down from parents to children. The disorder causes the production of abnormal red blood cells that are misshapen and rigid. The misshapen blood cells cause blockages in blood pathways throughout the body. These blockages cause excruciating pain along with damage to major organs. Other complications cause organ removal, the need for blood transfusions, and death.

Sickle Cell Made Simple: Symptoms Edition

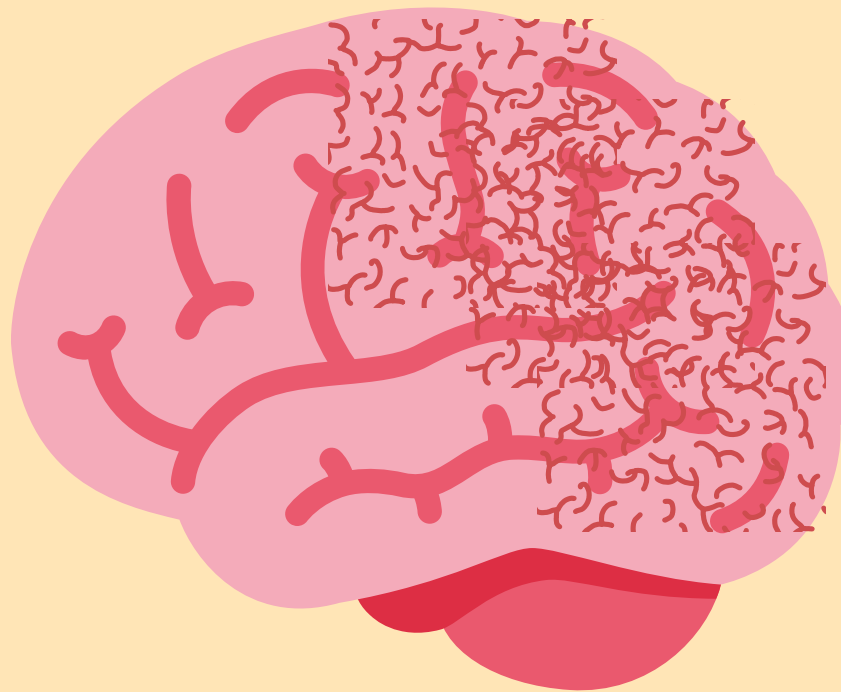
Sickle Cell Pain Crisis (Vaso-Occlusive Crisis)



A pain crisis is caused by a blockage in blood vessels due to the rigid and sticky texture of sickled cells. These blockages can occur in any part of the body and can last from anywhere between minutes or days.

Sickle Cell Made Simple: Symptoms Edition

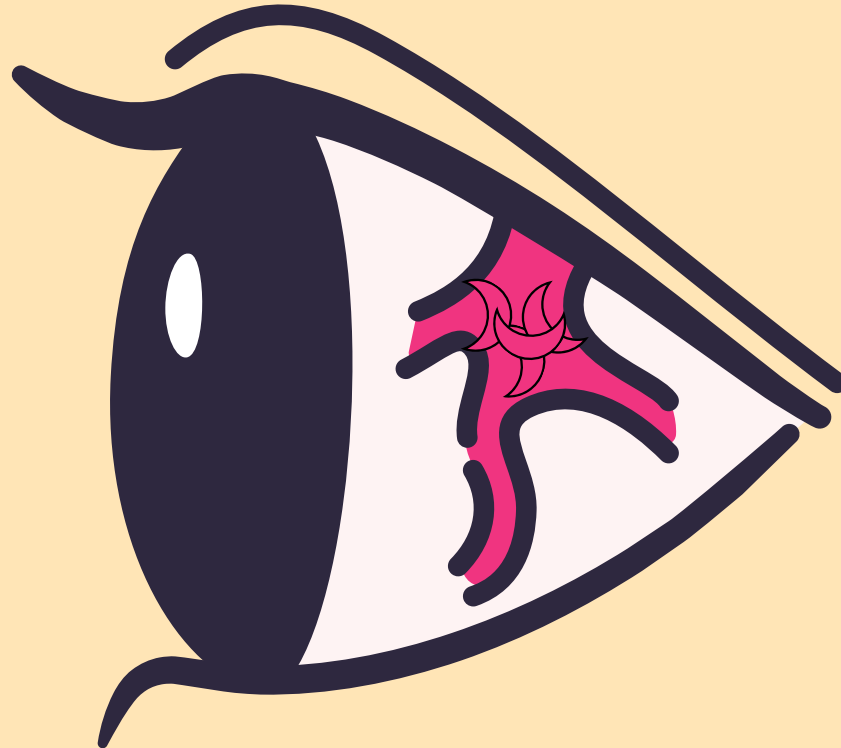
Childhood Strokes



Sickle cell disease is the most common cause of childhood strokes. It occurs due to the sickled red blood cells being rigid and clumping up along the walls of larger arteries, damaging vessel walls and exposing tissue that gathers more sickle cells and further narrows the vessels.

Sickle Cell Made Simple: Symptoms Edition

Sickle Cell Retinopathy



Sickle cell retinopathy is a symptom that affects the eyes. This symptom results in eye pain, redness, decreased visual sharpness, floaters, flashes, and peripheral vision loss.

Sickle Cell Made Simple: Symptoms Edition

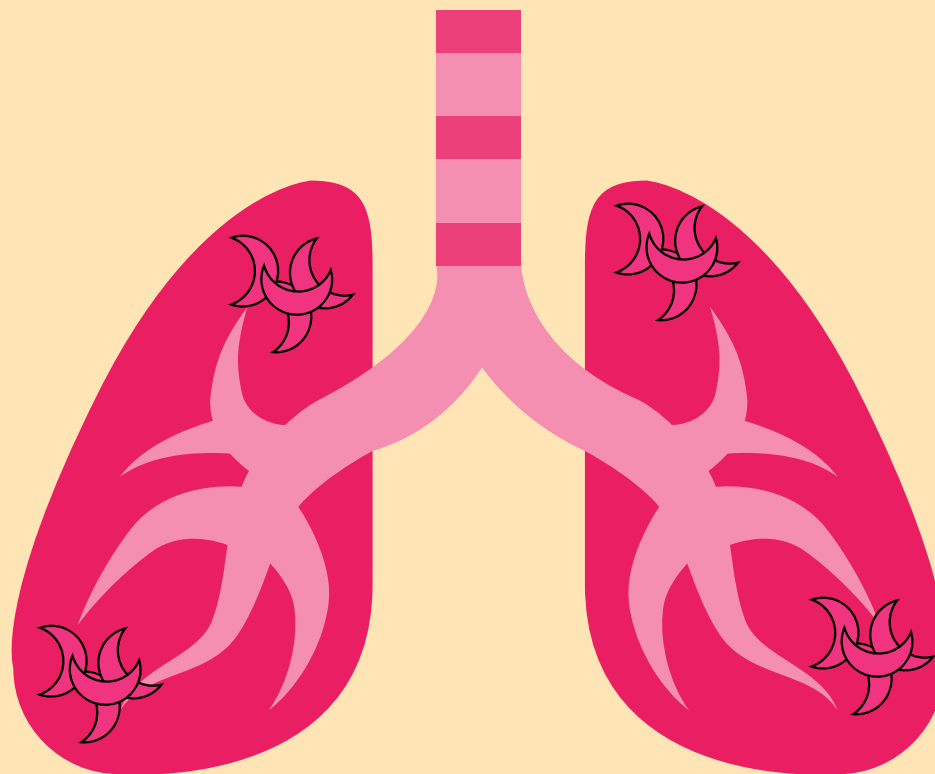
Leg Ulcers



Leg ulcers in patients with sickle cell disease are a result of the infection of smaller injuries. The ulcers often recur in sickle cell patients and cause great pain with each occurrence. Treatment includes antibiotics and medicated bandages.

Sickle Cell Made Simple: Symptoms Edition

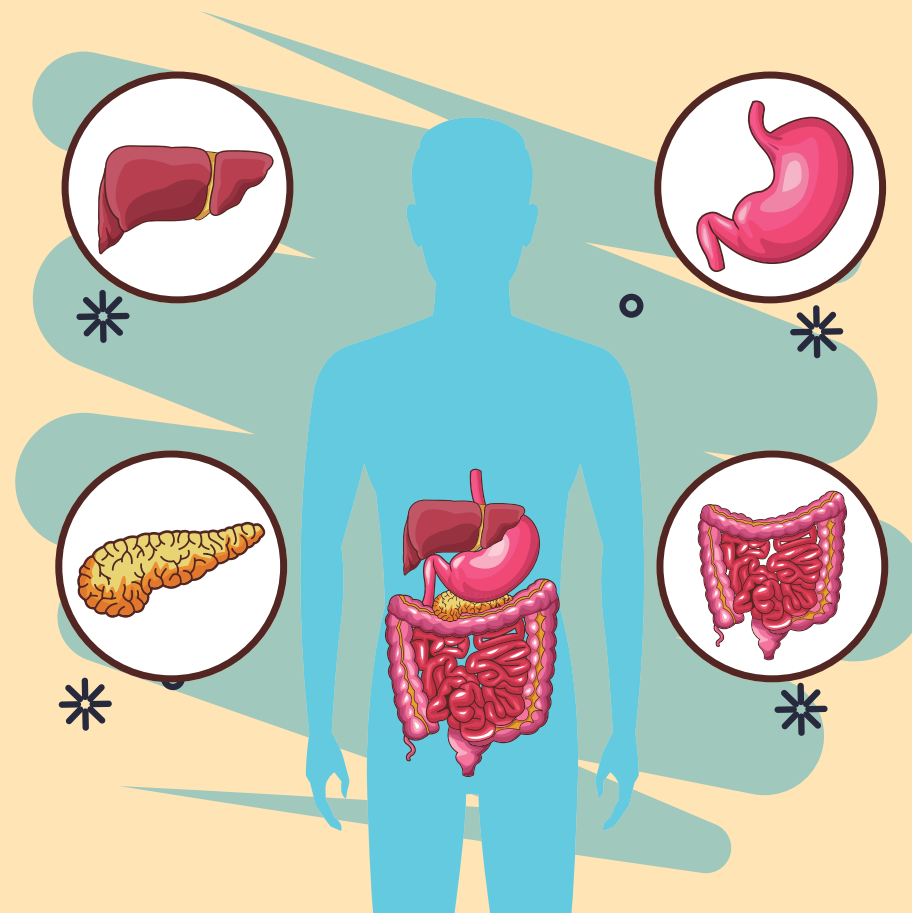
Acute Chest Syndrome



Acute chest syndrome is caused by blockages or infections in the lungs and chest. Development of this symptom can cause lung injury, decreased oxygen in the body. It is a major cause for the hospitalization of children with sickle cell disease and can even end in death.

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Major Organ Failure



Sickled red blood cells do not effectively carry oxygen through the body because of their abnormality. This causes very important organs to slowly shutdown due to a lack of oxygen supply. The most common organs to experience this shutdown are the brain and kidney.

Sickle Cell Made Simple: Symptoms Edition

Quick Facts

- 1 in 12 African-Americans carries the sickle cell trait.
- 1 in 365 African-Americans lives with sickle cell disease.
- 1 in 16,300 Hispanic Americans lives with sickle cell disease.
- Children living with sickle cell disease are 4 times more at risk for stroke.
- There is no universal cure for sickle cell disease.

Sickle Cell Made Simple: Symptoms Edition

For more sickle cell disease educational
resources visit:

[ConqueringTheCurve.Org](https://conqueringthecurve.org)