

► Where can I get more information?

Ask your doctor to refer you to a hematologist. Or you may contact:

■ Baton Rouge Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation

2301 North Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
(225) 346-8434

■ Southwest Sickle Cell Anemia, Inc.

1901 Harless Street
Lake Charles, LA 70601
(337) 433-2602

■ Sickle Cell Anemia Research Foundation, Inc.

2625 Third Street
Alexandria, LA 71301
(318) 487-8019

■ Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Northwest Louisiana Chapter

3658 Judson Street
Shreveport, LA 71109
(318) 636-5300

■ Northeast Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation

1604 Winnsboro Road
Monroe, LA 71202
(318) 322-0896

■ Sickle Cell Center of Southern Louisiana — Tulane University

Regions 1, 3, 9
Adults: (504) 988-6300; Children: (504) 988-6253

■ Children's Hospital New Orleans

Regions 1, 3, 9 (504) 896-9740

■ Ochsner Medical Center

Regions 1, 3, 9 (504) 842-95031

■ St. Jude Baton Rouge Affiliate Clinic

Region 2 (225) 763-6337

■ Our Lady of the Lake Adult Sickle Cell Clinic

Region 2 (225) 757-0343

■ Women's & Children's Specialty Center — Lafayette

Region 4 (337) 521-9500

■ Women's & Children's Specialty Center — Lake Charles

Region 5 (337) 371-3107

■ Moss Memorial Health Clinic

Region 5 (337) 480-8066

■ Rapides Parish Health Unit Sickle Cell Clinic

Region 6 (318) 487-5282

■ Women's & Children's Specialty Center — Alexandria

Region 6 (318) 442-5800

■ Sickle Cell Center of Northern Louisiana — Feist-Weiller Cancer Center

Region 7 (318) 813-1000

■ Ouachita Parish Health Unit — Monroe

Region 8 (318) 361-7282

Information provided by: LDH OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH GENETIC DISEASES PROGRAM

1450 Poydras Street, Suite 2046
New Orleans, LA 70112
(504) 568-8254

Or visit: www.ldh.la.gov/genetics

There are even more ways to get up-to-date health information, news and emergency updates from LDH.

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LADEPTHEALTH

WWW.TWITTER.COM/LADEPTHEALTH

WWW.LADEPTHEALTH.BLOGSPOT.COM

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SICKLE CELL TRAIT: WHAT IT MEANS AND WHAT EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW



Visit us at ldh.la.gov/genetics

WHAT IS SICKLE CELL TRAIT?

Red blood cells carry oxygen in the body. The protein that carries the oxygen is called hemoglobin.

Normal hemoglobin is called hemoglobin A. Some people have an abnormal hemoglobin called hemoglobin S.



Normal
Red Blood Cell



Sickled
Red Blood Cell

Each person carries two genes for hemoglobin. Most people carry two copies of hemoglobin A genes. Individuals with sickle cell trait have one hemoglobin A gene and one hemoglobin S gene.

Sickle cell trait is inherited from one's parents, like hair or eye color. If one parent has sickle cell trait, there is a 50 percent (1 in 2) chance with each pregnancy of having a child with sickle cell trait.



SICKLE CELL TRAIT IS NOT SICKLE CELL DISEASE

► What is sickle cell disease?

People with sickle cell disease do not have any normal hemoglobin. They may have a combination of hemoglobin S, hemoglobin C or thalassemia, a blood disorder that reduces the production of hemoglobin. People with sickle cell disease have red blood cells that sickle instead of keeping their round shape. This sickling causes the red blood vessels to cause pain, organ injury and other problems.

► Can my baby get sickle cell disease?

No, your child cannot develop sickle cell disease if they are born with sickle cell trait.

► Can my baby get sick from sickle cell trait?

Most people with sickle cell trait will never have any medical issues because of it.

New research suggests that some people with sickle cell trait could have problems with going to very high altitudes, performing very high-intensity athletics or with becoming excessively dehydrated. These complications are very rare, but should be discussed with your child when they reach their teenage years.

People with sickle cell trait are also at an increased risk of finding blood in their urine (hematuria). This is usually not a serious condition, but it should be evaluated by a physician.

► Can my child play sports when they are older?

Yes, your child can participate in all activities normally. No physical restrictions are necessary at this time.

► Does my child have any restrictions?

No, at this time we do not recommend any restrictions.

Helpful Resources:

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/sicklecell/traits/html

