

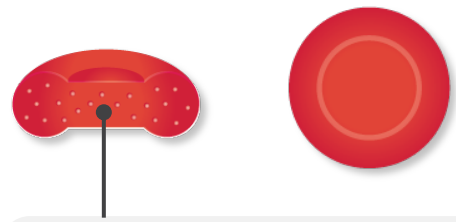
Sickle Cell Anemia

What is anemia?

Because the red blood cells are sickle or "C" shaped, they break more easily than healthy red blood cells. This causes a lower red blood cell count and creates problems getting oxygen where it needs to go in the body. The lack of oxygen and blocked blood flow is what causes pain.

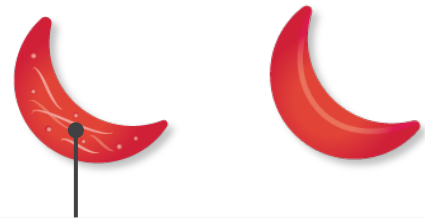
Key Point

Red blood cells are the wrong shape and this causes problems throughout the body.



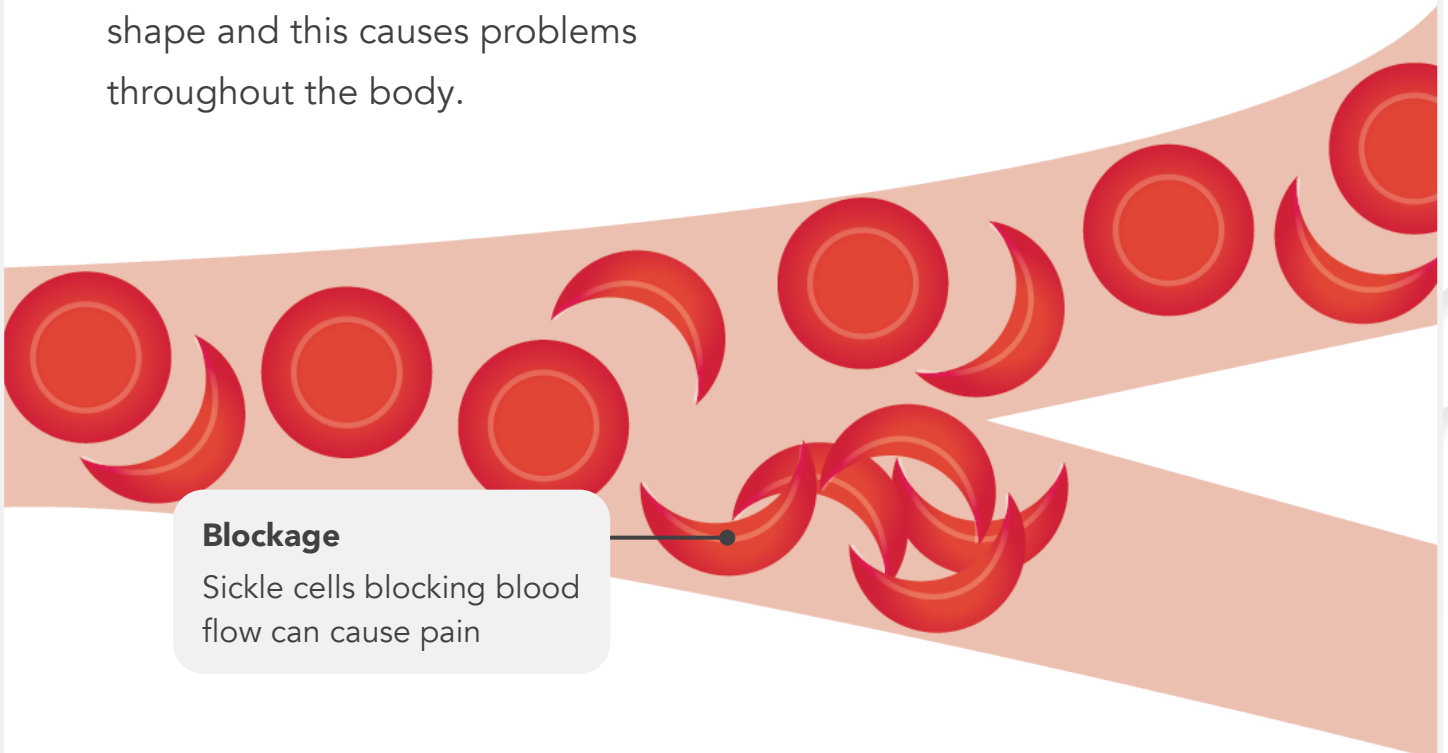
Red Blood Cells

A red blood cell with normal hemoglobin



Sickle Cells

A red blood cell with abnormal hemoglobin



Blockage

Sickle cells blocking blood flow can cause pain