

Blood Transfusions

What is a blood transfusion?

Blood transfusions are an important treatment available for sickle cell disease. There are certain situations in which the blood counts (hemoglobin) decrease and cause anemia that is worse than normal. This can be caused by infection, pain, or when blood gets trapped in the spleen (also known as splenic sequestration).

What to know:

- Many people with sickle cell disease require a blood transfusion at some time in their life.
- Some patients with sickle cell disease require regular blood transfusions every month to reduce the risk of serious complications such as stroke.
- Learn more about TCDs in the “Treatment” section and the risk of stroke in the “Pain and Complications” section.