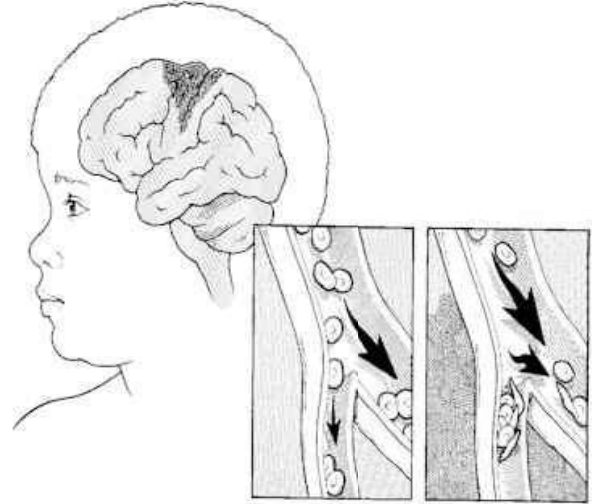


Sickle Cell Disease: Stroke

What is a stroke?

Stroke occurs when red blood cells stick together and prevent the flow of blood and oxygen to the brain. A stroke related to Sickle Cell Disease is a serious and severe problem.

It can occur alone or with other sickle cell complications.



What are the symptoms of stroke?

- Weakness of the arms or legs normally on one side of the body.
- Not able to move arms or legs at all.
- Slurred speech or not being able to talk.
- A sudden drooping on one side of the face. It often looks like a crooked smile.
- A seizure.
- Blurry or double vision.
- Older children may have a severe headache.

ALERT: If any of these symptoms are present, call 911 immediately

What will happen in the hospital?

- A CT or an MRI will be done.
- A sickle cell doctor called a hematologist may talk with you about a special type of blood transfusion.
- Many other doctors and staff may be seen. This may include a neurologist or a physical, occupational or speech therapist.

ALERT: Call the doctor, nurse, or the Sickle Cell Center if you have any concerns or if there are special health care needs not covered by this information.

Sickle Cell Center. Call (414) 257-1232, Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. **Ask to talk with a nurse.**

After hours, weekends or holidays. Call (414) 266-2000. Ask for the hematologist on call.

This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for yourself or your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.