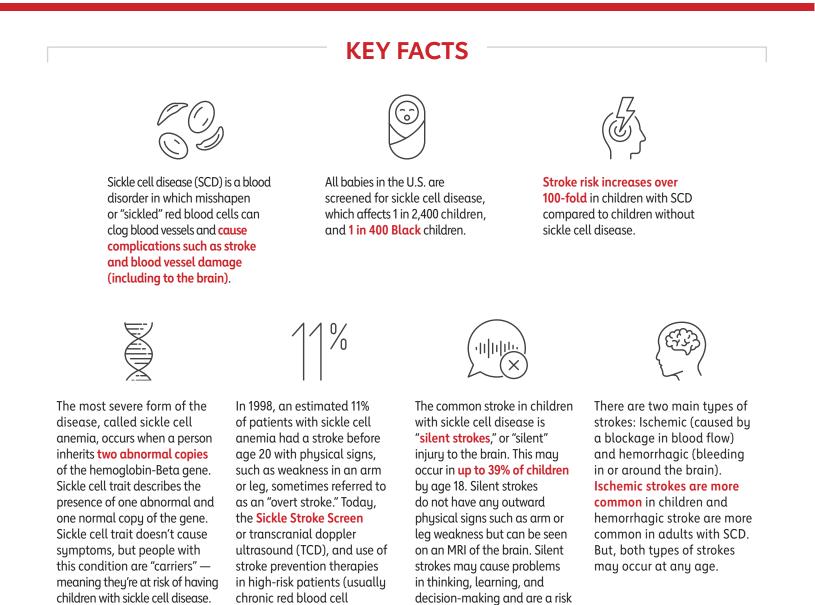






The American Stroke Association, Sickle Cell Disease Association and International Alliance for Pediatric Stroke - collaborating to prevent stroke in infants and children.

SICKLE CELL DISEASE RAISES A CHILD'S STROKE RISK. CLOSE EVALUATION AND TREATMENT MAY HELP PREVENT STROKE.



factor for future strokes.

transfusions), can significantly

reduce stroke risk.

SICKLE CELL DISEASE RAISES A CHILD'S STROKE RISK.

CLOSE EVALUATION AND TREATMENT MAY HELP PREVENT STROKE.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Guidelines recommend children with sickle cell anemia have an MRI screening of the brain when they are old enough to hold still for the test without sedation.
- Work with your child's health care team to determine if annual stroke screening is appropriate for your child. The **Sickle Stroke Screen** — also called transcranial doppler (TCD) ultrasound — is a painless test for stroke risk that measures the speed of blood flow in the brain. Experts recommend this test for children ages 2 to 16 with sickle cell anemia. But, fewer than half of children who qualify received it and are screened.
- If the Sickle Stroke Screen detects any problems, work with your child's sickle cell doctor (hematologist) to review and discuss treatment to prevent stroke, which may involve approximately monthly blood transfusions or a medicine called hydroxyurea.
- All children with sickle cell disease should be seen by their sickle cell doctor (a hematologist) every year for routine screening, even if they feel well.
- If your child with sickle cell has a stroke, continue to work with their health care team to discuss post-stroke management that may include: seeing a neurologist, rehabilitation therapy, extra help at school and possible monthly blood transfusions. Other treatments might be offered depending on the situation.

LEARN THE SIGNS OF STROKE

Symptoms of stroke are similar in people with and without sickle cell disease. Use the acronym F.A.S.T. to remember the warning signs of stroke: Face drooping. Arm weakness. Speech difficulty. Time to call 911.



Learn more at stroke.org.

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If your child has one or more of these signs, don't delay — call 911 or your local emergency number.

If it looks or feels like a stroke, it may be one.

Other stroke symptoms include sudden onset of:

