

SICKLE STROKE SCREEN

for sickle cell anemia

A **Sickle Stroke Screen** is a transcranial Doppler ultrasound (TCD).

It is used to measure the speed of blood flowing through blood vessels in the brain.

It helps us to see if a child with sickle cell anemia (HbSS, HbS β 0) may be at risk for stroke.



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Let us know what you think of this brochure!



The **Sickle Stroke Screen** measures the speed of blood flow in the blood vessels of the brain. It can tell us how fast or slow the blood is moving.

If the **Sickle Stroke Screen** shows any high or low speeds, your child may need a change in treatment to help prevent a stroke.

Your provider will use the results to help decide the best plan of action for you and your child.

IS YOUR CHILD
WITH SICKLE CELL
AT RISK OF **STROKE**?



KNOWLEDGE IS
POWER

Schedule your Sickle Stroke Screen today!



What are the possible results of the **Sickle Stroke Screen** (TCD) and what happens next?

Normal:

- Repeat the **Sickle Stroke Screen** in a **year**

Conditional:

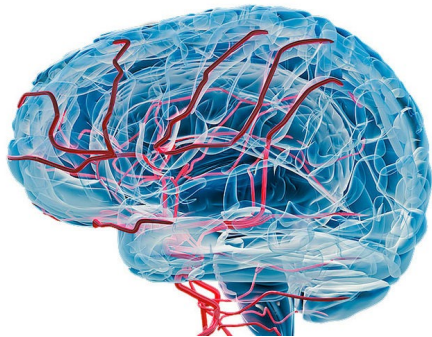
- Repeat the **Sickle Stroke Screen** more frequently

Abnormal:

One or more of the following may happen:

- **Repeat** the test within 1-2 weeks
- Start **blood transfusion** therapy
- Get an **MRI** of the brain

Your **provider** will talk with you about the best options for you or **your child**.



Child getting a Sickle Stroke Screen

Why is this test important?

- People with certain types of sickle cell disease (HbSS, HbS β 0) are at a much higher risk of stroke.
- A stroke is when the blood supply to the brain is blocked or very decreased. The **Sickle Stroke Screen** helps to see if you/your child could be a **risk** of stroke.

How can I help my child?

- Make sure your child receives a Sickle Stroke Screen as recommended
- Attend all of your child's appointments
- Ask questions about the **Sickle Stroke Screen results**
- Ask about the signs of stroke

Let us know what you think!



Sickle Stroke Screen FAQs:

Q: How often should I or my child be tested?

A: At least every year from age 2 -16.

Q: Will the test hurt?

A: No. It is painless. The technician will put a special gel on different spots on the person's head. They will then move a small wand to measure the speed of blood flow through the vessels.

Q: How long will the test last?

A: Each test usually lasts about 45-60 minutes.

Q: Do I need to do anything to prepare for the test?

A: No special preparation is needed for the Sickle Stroke Screen.

Q: How do I know if my loved one is having a stroke?

A: If your child/you has sudden neurologic change, difficulty walking or problems with strength or talking, call 911 or your physician to be evaluated.

