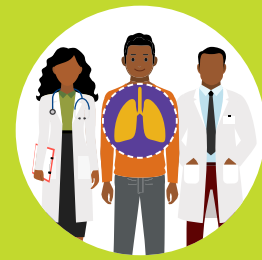


Steps to Better Lung Health for People with Sickle Cell Disease



Accessible link: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/sicklecell/betterhealthtoolkit/index.html>

People with sickle cell disease (SCD) are at greater risk than the general population for lung problems. Lung problems can cause breathing-related difficulties and sleep-related disorders. Below is one step you can take towards better lung health.

Talk to your provider if you have, or have ever had, any signs or symptoms of breathing- or sleep-related problems. Use the checklist below to guide this discussion.

Breathing- or Sleep-Related Problems Checklist (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coughing/wheezing | <input type="checkbox"/> Acute chest syndrome (life-threatening complication of SCD) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath | <input type="checkbox"/> Blood clots in the lungs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty breathing with exercise | <input type="checkbox"/> Stroke |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chest pain | <input type="checkbox"/> Frequent pain episodes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Recurring, prolonged erection of penis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being very sleepy or drowsy during the day | <input type="checkbox"/> Bedwetting after 10 years of age |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waking up feeling unrested | <input type="checkbox"/> Congestive heart failure (when the heart's ability to pump blood to the body is very impaired) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early morning headaches | <input type="checkbox"/> Fainting/dizziness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inability to focus or think straight, confusion | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Low oxygen levels (“hypoxemia”) | |

It is important to share your checklist with your provider because he or she may need to perform

- A sleep study (a test used to diagnose sleep disorders); and/or
- Routine testing to measure how well your lungs are working.

Learn more about sleep disorders here: www.cdc.gov/sleepdisorders

Visit the “Sickle Cell Disease: Steps to Better Health” toolkit available here: www.cdc.gov/SCD/betterhealth

Source: Liem RI, Lanzkron S, D Coates T, DeCastro L, Desai AA, Ataga KI, et. al. American Society of Hematology 2019 guidelines for sickle cell disease: cardiopulmonary and kidney disease. *Blood Adv.* 2019 Dec 10;3(23):3867-3897.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities

