



Ask Dr. Liz

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Family Physician



SICKLE CELL

Sickle cell anemia is an inherited disorder of the red blood cells. Instead of looking like round, plump disks, the blood cells take the curved, sliver shape of a sickle. Sickle cell is caused by abnormal hemoglobin, which is a protein found inside red blood cells. Hemoglobin has a very important job – it allows the red blood cells to carry oxygen to all the other cells in the body. Sickle-shaped cells are fragile and carry less oxygen. Because of their shape, they can also get easily clogged in small arteries. Children with sickle cell disease should receive regular care from a pediatrician. Parents and guardians should be on the lookout for symptoms like high fever and chest pain.

Red blood cells are normally shaped like a disc. Sickle cell anemia is a genetic disease in which red blood cells form an abnormal crescent shape. Common symptoms of this disease include abdominal pain, bone pain and breathlessness. At MEDICAL ASSOCIATES OF DENTON, we provide comprehensive medical care to patients of all ages. Tests commonly performed to diagnose and monitor patients with sickle cell anemia include a complete blood count and hemoglobin test. Please call us at 940-484-1887 to schedule an appointment. Our practice is located at 3303 Colorado Blvd. We accept major forms of insurance, including Cigna, United and Aetna.

P.S. Children with sickle cell should drink lots of fluids, avoid extreme heat, and get plenty of rest.

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