

Any Lab Test Now

SICKLE CELL ANEMIA SCREEN

DESCRIPTION

People with sickle cell disease (or anemia) have an abnormal form of blood cell (Hemoglobin S) which causes the red blood cells to be curved into crescent or “sickle” shape and not the normal, round shape. Round blood cells pass through blood vessels easily, carrying oxygen throughout your body. Sickle shaped blood cells can get stuck, block blood vessels and prevent oxygen from getting through. Symptoms of sickle cell disease are very painful and can cause long term damage to organs, muscles and bones. Painful episodes due to blocked blood vessels can cause pain in the hands, feet, belly, back or chest. Sickle cell disease may also cause numerous infections and anemia leading to weakness and fatigue.

Even those with only one sickle cell gene, called sickle cell trait, can sometimes have symptoms such as muscle pain or other serious issues if they exercise strenuously or become overheated. Some college athletic programs test student athletes for sickle cell trait if the test wasn’t done at birth or the results are unknown. Coaches and doctors can work with athletes to prevent complications for competitive athletes.

WHY DO I NEED THIS TEST?

Are you considering having children and know that someone in your family has sickle cell trait or sickle cell disease? Are you a competitive athlete?

Infants, especially in the African-American community, are required to be tested in the hospital for sickle cell disease in all 50 states in the US. This allows physicians to treat babies and children who have the disease with daily antibiotics from 2 months to 5 years of age to prevent infections

Adults who are concerned, perhaps because a family member has sickle cell trait or sickle cell disease, may carry the gene and want to be tested to determine the risk to their children of inheriting the disease. Competitive athletes may consider testing so that they can take necessary precautions to prevent complications and to allow coaches and doctors to monitor their health if they carry the sickle cell trait.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO GET MY LAB TEST RESULTS?

Test results generally take between 24 to 72 business hours after your specimen is collected.

AM I REQUIRED TO FAST FOR THIS LAB TEST?

No. You are not required to fast for this test.

WRITTEN BY:

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Ekan Essien, MD, MPH, a native Georgian, received his BA from Duke University. Dr. Essien continued his education at Florida A&M University where he received his Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology; received his medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee; and obtained training in general and trauma surgery at Grady Memorial Hospital at Morehouse School of Medicine. He is a candidate in the post graduate fellowship in anti-aging and regenerative medicine from the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE YOUR TEST TODAY CALL 1.800.384.4567

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