

Sickle Cell Neurodevelopmental Clinic and Research Center

at Kennedy Krieger Institute

Who We Are

Individuals with sickle cell disease commonly have associated neurological and developmental complications, including strokes, seizures and cognitive dysfunction. In addition, they may have attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), specific learning disabilities, language issues and executive dysfunction, all of which require additional treatment. These conditions may impact the ability of individuals with sickle cell disease to function independently as adults, as well as their mood, quality of life and future education and employment plans, and may increase their risk of future health issues.

Research shows that progressive neurological dysfunction is common in individuals with sickle cell disease. Consequently, they require ongoing monitoring and pharmacologic treatment. Early recognition, evaluation and treatment of neurodevelopmental disorders increases compliance with therapeutic regimens, minimizes the need for other consultation, and improves mental health outcomes for individuals with sickle cell disease.

The Sickle Cell Neurodevelopmental Clinic and Research Center provides specialized comprehensive evaluations by neurodevelopmental physicians, neuropsychologists and therapists for children, teens and adults with sickle cell disease.

Who We Serve

We focus on a wide range of disorders affecting individuals with sickle cell disease. We evaluate children, teens and adults with a history of:

- Academic difficulties
- Anxiety
- Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- Autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
- Depression
- Developmental delay
- Headaches
- Intellectual disabilities
- Language delay and disorders
- Motor dysfunction
- Seizures
- Selective mutism
- Specific learning disabilities
- Stroke
- Tics
- Several other disorders



Our Approach

Each of our patients receives a full neurodevelopmental evaluation, including a complete neurological examination, neuropsychological testing, behavioral evaluation and recommendations for services or further evaluations, as needed. Our team collaborates with each patient's primary care provider and other medical care providers to ensure efficient, high-quality and well-coordinated care.

Clinical Services

Collectively, clinic specialists have expertise in neurology, developmental medicine, neuropsychology, education and behavioral psychology. Working together, they diagnose, discuss and provide treatment recommendations for various neurodevelopmental conditions. They also provide referrals to specialists with experience in treating patients with sickle cell disease in several other fields, including stroke neurology, psychiatry, rehabilitation and speech-language pathology.

Neurodevelopmental Medicine

Our neurodevelopmental physicians discuss each patient's medical condition, collect a detailed medical history, perform a physical and neurological examination, and provide detailed recommendations, which can be shared with the patient's hematologist, if needed.



Neuropsychology

Our neuropsychologists discuss each patient's cognitive and academic challenges, collect a detailed medical and educational history, perform and interpret comprehensive cognitive testing, and provide detailed recommendations, which can be shared with the patient's hematologist and school, if needed.

Psychology

Our behavioral therapists discuss the impact of sickle cell disease on each patient's daily life to identify ways to support the patient in coping with any social, emotional or behavioral changes. This may include gathering a detailed social and behavioral (or psychosocial) history; providing tips to support behavioral goals related to toileting, pill swallowing, sleep and coping skills; and providing detailed psychology recommendations, which can be shared with the patient's hematologist and treatment team, if needed.

Education

Our education specialist discusses each patient's academic challenges and provides detailed educational support recommendations, which can be shared with the patient's hematologist and school, if needed. Our education specialist can also attend school-based meetings to further help a patient's school teams understand their support needs, as documented by our clinicians.

Research

If you're interested in participating in research studies, please let us know. Our team can tell you about any studies for which you may qualify.



CONTACT US

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For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call **443-923-9400**, or call toll-free at **888-554-2080**. TTY users, please contact us at **443-923-2645**, or dial **711** to make a Maryland Relay call.

KennedyKrieger.org/SickleCell

Physicians and Healthcare Professionals
To make a referral, email us at **FindASpecialist@KennedyKrieger.org** or call our Physician Referral Line at **443-923-9403**.

Clinic Location
801 North Broadway
Baltimore, MD 21205

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