

What is **sickle cell disease**?

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is an inherited disorder of hemoglobin.

Individuals with sickle cell disease have abnormal, or 'sickle shaped', red blood cells. These cells cannot transport oxygen well, have a shorter lifespan and aren't replaced as quickly by the body as normal, healthy red blood cells. This can cause anemia.



Cannot transport oxygen well

Shorter lifespan

Aren't replaced as quickly

Can cause anemia

Providing R₀ blood type to SCD patients

is the key to avoiding transfusion complications.

It also enhances their quality of life and prevents strokes and hemolytic reactions. Poorly matched blood makes future transfusions more difficult.



Told that she would not live a long life, blood transfusions helped **Shanice** survive. She was born with sickle cell anemia, a painful and life-threatening blood disease that predominantly afflicts African-American patients "Thanks to blood donors, I can make a difference in people's lives," says Shanice.



To learn more about the R₀ donor program visit Versiti.org/Rodonor



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