

Hemoglobin C Trait



Your Baby does Not have a Disease

People with Hemoglobin C trait have two kinds of hemoglobin in their red blood cells. One kind is the normal adult hemoglobin called hemoglobin A. The other kind is called hemoglobin C. Hemoglobin A is the most common kind of hemoglobin.

Hemoglobin (he-mo-glo-bin) is the iron-containing part of the red blood cells. Hemoglobin carries oxygen from the lungs to all parts of the body.

Hemoglobin C Trait Is Inherited

Babies inherit Hemoglobin C trait from their parents just like eye color or hair color. Your baby inherited Hemoglobin A from one parent and Hemoglobin C from the other parent. (AC = Hemoglobin C trait.) Your baby was born with Hemoglobin C trait and will always have it.

Hemoglobin C trait cannot be spread to another person like the measles or a cold. Hemoglobin C trait *will not* change into disease later on.

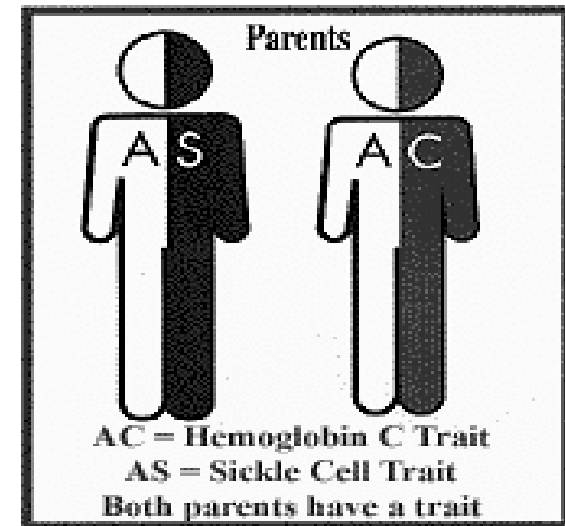
Your baby with Hemoglobin C trait will never get sickle cell disease.

Babies With Hemoglobin C Trait Are Usually Healthy

Hemoglobin C trait will not affect your baby's chances of having a normal healthy life. Hemoglobin C trait will not make your baby sick. You should always tell every doctor that sees your baby that he/she was tested and has Hemoglobin C trait. If your baby ever gets sick, this should help the doctor know sickle cell disease is **not** the problem.

Parents With Hemoglobin C Trait Can Have Babies With Sickle Cell Disease

If one parent has hemoglobin C trait (AC) and the other parent has sickle cell trait (AS), their babies can have a sickle cell disease. It is called Hemoglobin SC dis-





ease. *Each* baby has a 25% chance of having this sickle cell disease.

You can find out if you have a trait by having a blood test called **hemoglobin electrophoresis** (e-lek-tro-for-e-sis). This is the only test that should be used to find out if your blood carries a trait.

Hemoglobin C Trait Is Not The Same As Sickle Cell Disease

People who have a sickle cell disease called Hemoglobin SC *disease* have red blood cells that become sickle-shaped when they give up oxygen to the tissues. These cells become trapped in various organs or blood vessels causing pain, discomfort and organ damage. Babies with Hemoglobin SC *disease* need treatment with penicillin twice daily to reduce the risk of infections.

More Tests For Your Baby

Talk to your baby's doctor. Your baby might need the hemoglobin electrophoresis test at about one year of age. This test will tell more about your baby's blood.

As Your Child Grows

Tell your child that he/she has Hemoglobin C trait. Help your child to understand that this trait is inherited and that it can be passed on to his/her children.

Since October 31, 1988, all babies born in Wisconsin are being tested for sickle cell disease through the Newborn Screening Program. Ask your doctor for the results of your baby's newborn screening tests.

For More Information on Newborn Screening

Newborn Screening Program
1414 East Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53703-3044
(608) 266-8904

For More Information on Hemoglobin C Trait

Genetics Center
Childrens Hospital of Wisconsin
(414) 266-3345

WI Sickle Cell Disease
Comprehensive Center
8739 Watertown Plank Road
P.O. Box 26557
Wauwautosa, WI 53226
(414) 257-1232

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Division of Health
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