

TRADITIONAL MEDICAL CARE

Traditional medical care for Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) focuses on managing symptoms and preventing complications. Here's a breakdown of some key components:

Medications:

- **Hydroxyurea:** This medication is a mainstay of SCD treatment. It increases the production of fetal hemoglobin, a type that's more flexible and less likely to sickle.
- **Pain Medication:** Doctors prescribe pain relievers to manage acute and chronic pain associated with SCD crises.
- **Antibiotics:** Regular antibiotics are often used to prevent infections, a serious complication for SCD patients.

Blood Transfusions:

- **Red blood cell transfusions:** These increase the number of healthy red blood cells and alleviate severe anemia.
- **Chronic transfusions:** In some cases, regular transfusions may be needed to prevent complications like stroke.

Other Treatments:

- **Bone marrow transplant:** This is the only curative option for SCD, but it's a complex procedure with risks.
- **Supplements:** Folic acid supplements are recommended to support red blood cell production.

Specialist Care:

- **Hematologists:** These doctors specialize in blood disorders and manage the overall course of SCD treatment.
- **Comprehensive SCD centers:** These centers offer coordinated care from a team of specialists including nurses, social workers, and pain management experts.