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YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

Presented by the medical professionals at Midcoast Pediatrics

SICKLE CELL ANEMIA

Most people have red blood cells shaped like donuts, minus the hole, that flow freely through their veins. Children with sickle cell anemia, however, have red blood cells that are shaped like crescent moons due to an abnormal type of hemoglobin. These blood cells tend to be stiff and sticky, so they do not flow freely and can get caught in the blood vessels. This can lead to serious infections, pain, and even damage to the organs. Children who are born with sickle cell anemia have inherited the gene for it from both parents, and the disease will last for their lifetime. The only cure for sickle cell anemia is a bone marrow transplant.

Sickle cell disease usually is diagnosed at birth with a blood test. Since kids with this condition are at an increased risk of infection and other health concerns, early diagnosis and treatment to prevent problems is important. When your child is in need of quality pediatric care, call MIDCOAST PEDIATRICS at 207-721-8333. We are located at 121 Medical Center Drive, Suite 2600, Brunswick. New patients are welcome.

P.S. Sickle cell treatment begins in the newborn with antibiotics, vaccines, and nutritional supplements.

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