SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SICKLE CELL AWARENESS MONTH

What is sickle cell disease?\(^1\)
- Sickle cell disease is a genetic red blood cell disorder.
- A genetic mutation causes red blood cells to become sickle-shaped cells. This results in a blockage in blood flow that is called a vaso-occlusion.

Who does it affect?\(^2\)
- It is estimated that about 100,000 people in the United States (U.S.) have sickle cell disease.
- 1 in 365 Black or African American individuals in the U.S. are born with sickle cell disease.
- 1 in 13 Black or African American individuals in the U.S. are born with sickle cell trait.

What are common complications of sickle cell?\(^1,3\)
- Recurrent pain crises, stroke, dactylitis, priapism, aseptic necrosis, kidney disease, acute chest syndrome, pulmonary embolism, leg ulcers, and pulmonary hypertension.

What are some treatment options for sickle cell?\(^1,3\)
- Hydration, blood transfusions, analgesics, medications to reduce pain or increase hemoglobin (l-glutamine, crizanlizumab, or voxelotor).
- Bone marrow transplantation and more recently, gene therapy, are curative treatments.

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