

Heart Injury and Eye Damage

The heart is typically enlarged in individuals with sickle cell disease because of the extra pressure needed to pump sickle cell blood. Rapid heart rates and murmurs are common. The heart muscle can be injured by infarcts and chronic stress on the heart.

The retina, located in the back of the eye, is nourished by many tiny blood vessels. Impairment by sickle cells that block blood flow to the retina can cause partial or complete blindness. Bleeding can also occur in the eye. Individuals with sickle cell disease should begin seeing the ophthalmologist by five years of age and throughout their life.

DISCLAIMER:

This information is for educational purpose only and is not intended to substitute for informed medical advice from your health care provider. You should not use this information to diagnose or treat a health problem or disease without consulting a qualified health care provider with any questions or concerns you may have regarding your condition or conditions of others.