

Splenic Sequestration

Normally, in Sickle Cell Anemia, the spleen is repeatedly damaged by the sickled red blood cells. This results in gradual fibrosis (fibrous tissue), scarring, and shrinking of the spleen. These impairments may cause dysfunction of the spleen and can lead to an increased tendency to bacterial infections.

Splenic sequestration occurs when the outlets of the spleen are blocked by sickled red blood cells causing a build-up and pooling of blood in the spleen. This can lead to severe anemia, body system shock, unconsciousness, and even death due to a decrease of blood in the body. Splenic sequestration may occur prior to age 5 in some individuals with Sickle Cell Anemia. Some young adults and adults with Sickle-Hemoglobin C and Sickle Beta Thalassemia may also develop splenic sequestration. The treatment for chronic splenic sequestration is usually surgical removal of the spleen.

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.