

ASH Guideline Recommendations for Sickle Cell Disease: Stem Cell Transplantation



Evidence-based guidelines to support individuals with sickle cell disease and their clinicians considering allogeneic stem cell transplants.

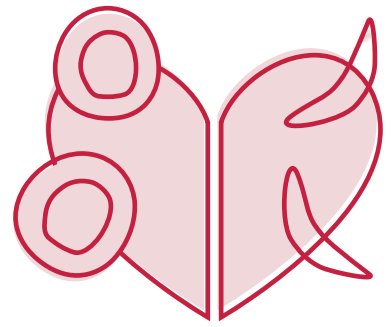


SCD is a common inherited blood disorder in the United States. SCD results in significant health complications and affects quality of life.

Allogeneic Hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT), a process in which the individual's blood-forming stem cells are replaced with healthy cells from a donor (allogeneic), is currently the only potentially curative therapy for SCD.

Guidelines are needed to inform how to apply HSCT in clinical practice, particularly to weigh the risks and benefits versus disease modifying/supportive therapies or potential curative therapies under development, such as gene therapy.





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HSCT should be considered over standard of care (transfusion) in individuals with SCD who have experienced a stroke or are at very high risk of stroke. Further, transplantation should be considered for all patients with neurologic injury who have a matched, related sibling donor. Recommendations point to evidence suggesting that children under age 13 who receive HSCT from a matched sibling donor have better outcomes than those older than age 13.

For patients with frequent pain, as well as those with recurrent episodes of acute chest syndrome, the ASH guidelines suggest transplantation from a matched sibling donor over the standard of care.

For individuals with an indication for HSCT who lack a matched sibling donor, the ASH guideline panel suggests transplantation from alternate donors only in the context of a clinical trial.

In patients with an indication for transplant, the ASH guideline panel suggests transplantation with cells from a matched donor earlier in life due to the risk of irreversible SCD-related damage to the body that increases with age.

