

Sickle Cell Disease

Hydroxyurea: What You Need to Know

If you have sickle cell disease, your body makes sickle-shaped, or crescent-shaped, red blood cells. For patients who have sickle cell disease, an oral medicine called hydroxyurea may be able to help.

Patients who take hydroxyurea **must have** regular medical care. A doctor who knows about hydroxyurea can tell you about the risks and benefits of taking this medicine.

Taken daily by mouth, hydroxyurea can help:



Reduce the likelihood of having a pain event



Reduce the need for blood transfusions



Improve anemia and quality of life



Reduce emergency visits and hospitalizations



Prevent symptoms like acute chest syndrome, a condition similar to pneumonia

Some patients may also benefit from taking a new medicine called L-glutamine oral powder. Talk to your doctor to determine if this medicine is right for you.



National Heart, Lung,
and Blood Institute