



**POST-SAN DIEGO 2024**  
Novità dal Meeting della Società Americana di Ematologia

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**Bologna**  
Palazzo Re Enzo  
13-15 Febbraio 2025

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**Introduzione alla lettura «Sickle Cell Disease» (Prof. Mariane de Montalembert)**

**Mauro KRAMPERA**  
*Università degli Studi di Verona*



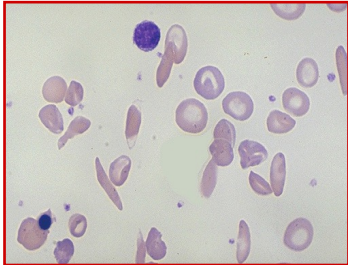
## Disclosures of Mauro Krampera

Company name	Research support	Employee	Consultant	Stockholder	Speakers bureau	Advisory board	Other
Abbvie					x		
Amgen					x		
AstraZeneca					x		
Beigene					x	x	
Gilead					x		
Incyte					x		
Janssen					x	x	
Novartis					x		
Otsuka					x	x	



## SICKLE CELL DISEASE (SCD)

### Why discussing about it?



**HB S**



**Hb electrophoresis**

## NORMOCHROMIC NORMOCYTIC ANEMIAS

### 3) HYPER-HEMOLYTIC

**NON-IMMUNE**

**EXTRAGLOBULAR CAUSES (acquired)**

**INTRAGLOBULAR CAUSES (congenital\*)**

**membrane abnormalities**

**enzymatic abnormalities**

**hemoglobinopathies**

- Fragmentation anemias

- Hereditary Spherocytosis
- Hereditary Elliptocytosis
- Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria (PNH) \*exception

- Altered glycolysis (i.e. PK deficiency)
- Altered hexose monophosphate shunt (i.e. G-6-PD deficiency)

- Unstable Hemoglobin variants
- Sickle Cell Anemia ←
- Methemoglobinemia (Hb M)
- Hb variants with altered affinity for O<sub>2</sub>

- March Hemoglobinuria
- Preeclampsia
- TTP and HUS
- Malaria
- Systemic Vasculitis, etc.



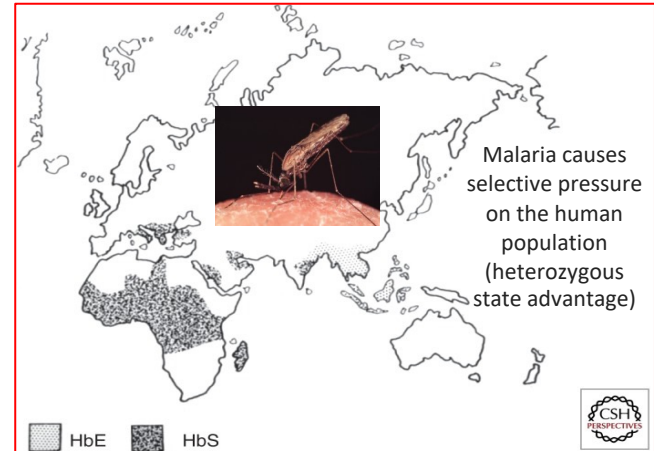
Friso S, Pizzolo F, Ferrarini I, Krampera M  
Cap. VI – Ematologia  
Ettore Bartoli – Medicina Interna  
Chirone Moderno Editore di Maria Rassa  
2024 (ISBN 9791298521902)

**PATHOGENESIS:** autosomal recessive genetic disease due to a point mutation in the beta-globin gene → GLU replacement with VAL in  $\beta^6$

→ Precipitation of Hb alpha2/betaS2 tetramers at low O<sub>2</sub> concentration → sickle cells → obstruction of tissue microcirculation and hemocatheretic processes

**PREVALENCE WORLDWIDE:** >13 million people (40.000 of them in Europe)

**INCIDENCE:** 300-400,000 newborns/year (+30% increase in 2050)



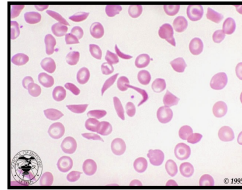


## SICKLE CELL DISEASE (SCD)

### Why discussing about it?

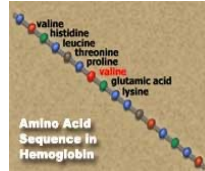
#### I. Epidemiology: Sickle Cell Trait (A/S) Incidence

- A. Americans of African Descent: 1 in 12
- B. Also Seen in Greeks, Italians, Turks, Saudi Arabians



#### II. Pathophysiology

- A. Normal Hemoglobin A replaced by Hemoglobin S (Hb S)
- B. Substitution of Valine for glutamic acid
- 1. Occurs at the 6th position of the beta-chain



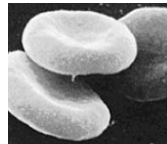
#### III. Types

##### A. Sickle Cell Trait (A/S)

- 1. No Anemia
- 2. Hemoglobin S represents 25-40% of their Hemoglobin
- 3. Under normal circumstances, RBCs do not hemolyze

##### B. Sickle Cell Anemia (S/S)

- 1. Initially infant's RBCs mainly contain fetal Hb F
- 2. Within months the abnormal Hb S replaces the Hb F



Normal Red Blood Cells



Sickled Red Blood Cells

#### IV. Precipitating Factors for acute crises

- A. Preceded by infection 25% of the time
- B. Cold Weather due to reflex vasospasm
- C. Dehydration in warm weather

#### V. Symptoms: Acute Vaso-Occlusive Episode

- A. Child under age 18 years
- B. Recurrent painful crises
- C. Sudden onset pain in abdomen, chest, back and joints

#### VI. Lab: Sickle Cell Crisis

- A. Profound Anemia
- B. Reticulocyte Count <1%

#### VII. Course

- A. Acute Crisis usually resolves spontaneously 7-10 days

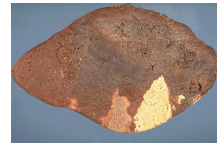
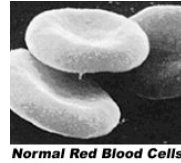
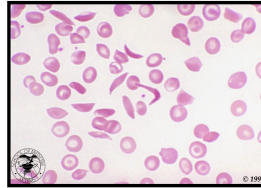
Severe illness  
compromising  
the quality of life



## Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)

### VIII. Complications

- A. Hematuria in Sickle Cell Anemia
  1. Most common Sickle Cell Anemia complication
- B. Priapism in Sickle Cell Anemia
- C. Cerebrovascular Accident in Sickle Cell Anemia
- D. Avascular Necrosis of Femoral Head
- E. Splenic Sequestration and Infarct
  1. See Asplenic
- F. Chronic organ damage
  1. Lung
  2. Kidney (Chronic Renal Failure)
  3. Liver
  4. Skin (Chronic skin ulcers)
- G. Congestive Heart Failure
- H. Eye complications
  1. Proliferative retinopathy
  2. Retinal Infarcts
  3. Retinal Detachment
  4. Vitreous Hemorrhage
- I. Jaundice (Unconjugated Hyperbilirubinemia)
- L. Cholelithiasis



### IX. Management

- A. Blood Transfusions (up to erythro-exchange)
- B. Nutritional Supplements
  1. Folic Acid 1 mg/day
- C. Prophylactic Antibiotics
  1. See Asplenic
  2. Penicillin V 150 mg bid up to age 3
- D. Pain control for acute crisis
  1. Requires aggressive Narcotic Analgesia
  2. Consider Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA Pump)
  3. Morphine is preferred over Meperidine (Seizure risk)
- E. Intravenous fluids
- F. Immunizations (In addition to standard CDC)
  1. See Asplenic
  2. Haemophilus influenzae B Vaccine
  3. Pneumococcal Vaccine
  4. Hepatitis B Vaccine
- G. Hydroxyurea
  1. Increases production of fetal Hemoglobin
  2. Indicated for 3 or more crises per year, over age 18

**Severe illness  
compromising  
the quality of life**

**H. Gene therapy ?**

**Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) still remains a major high-impact health problem in developing countries**

**ASH 2024 San Diego: >500 abstracts concerning Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)**



## Prof. Mariane de Montalembert, MD, PhD



- **MD degree and PhD in Ethics** at the Paris Descartes Medical School;
- **Specialization** in Pediatrics, Statistics (option clinical research), Red cell diseases (hemoglobinopathies in children), and Transfusion.
- **Paediatrician** at the Necker-Enfants Malades Hôpital in Paris, France since 1985;
- **Responsible** for the Centre for Haemoglobinopathies in Necker-Enfants Malades Hôpital since 1994 (Therapeutic Education Unit for 700 children and families);
- **Responsible** for the French Register of Sickle Cell Disease children treated with hydroxyurea;
- **P.I.** of several researches in clinical pediatrics about Sickle Cell Disease and Thalassemia;
- **Member** of the French Society of Pediatrics, chairing the Ethic Committee for more than 10 years;
- **Member** of the **French Society of Hematology**, the European Reference Network in rare Haematological Diseases (**EuroBloodNet**), the European Hematology Association (**EHA**), and the American Society of Hematology (**ASH**);
- **Member** of the EHA Board (2020-2024) and **Member** of the Blood Editorial Board (2021-2024);
- **Member** of the Cochrane Commission since 2014.
- **Coordinator** of the EHA Topic in Focus group on hemoglobinopathies since 2023;
- **Teaching activity** for the European School of Hematology (**ESH**) and **online course in French** covering the care of adults and children with sickle cell disease (70 hours) and offering validated training in therapeutic education (40 hours). Around **300 healthcare professionals** from France, Africa and the French West Indies have taken this course and graduated from the University of Paris.

**Current affiliation:** Department of General Pediatrics and Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Sickle Cell Center, Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital, Assistance Publique – Hôpitaux de Paris (AP-HP), Université Paris Cité, Paris, France, and Laboratory of Excellence GR-Ex, Paris, France.



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# **Prof. Mariane de Montalembert**

**Lecture on «Sickle Cell Disease»**