Overview
Cells in tissues need a steady supply of oxygen to work well. Normally, hemoglobin in red blood cells takes up oxygen in the lungs and carries it to all the tissues of the body. Red blood cells that contain normal hemoglobin are disc-shaped (like a doughnut without a hole). This shape allows the cells to be flexible so that they can move through large and small blood vessels to deliver oxygen. Sickle hemoglobin is not like normal hemoglobin. It can form stiff rods within the red cell, changing it into a crescent, or sickle shape. Sickle-shaped cells are not flexible and can stick to vessel walls, causing a blockage that slows or stops the flow of blood. When this happens, oxygen can’t reach nearby tissues. The lack of tissue oxygen can cause attacks of sudden, severe pain, called pain crises. These pain attacks can occur without warning, and a person often needs to go to the hospital for effective treatment. Most children with SCD are pain free between painful crises, but adolescents and adults may also suffer with chronic ongoing pain. The red cell sickling and poor oxygen delivery can also cause organ damage. Over a lifetime, SCD can harm a person’s spleen, brain, eyes, lungs, liver, heart, kidneys, penis, joints, bones, or skin. Sickle cells can’t change shape easily, so they tend to burst apart or hemolyze. Normal red blood cells live about 90 to 120 days, but sickle cells last only 10 to 20 days. Sickle cell disease is a life-long illness. The severity of the disease varies widely from person to person. At the present time, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) is the only cure for SCD. Unfortunately, most people with SCD are either too old for a transplant or don’t have a relative who is a good enough genetic match for them to act as a donor. A well-matched donor is needed to have the best chance for a successful transplant. Source: NIH-08/20/2017

“Together We Can Fight this Disease”
What is Sickle Cell Disease?
The term sickle cell disease (SCD) describes a group of inherited red blood cell disorders. People with SCD have abnormal hemoglobin, called hemoglobin S or sickle hemoglobin, in their red blood cells. Hemoglobin is a protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen throughout the body.

“Inherited” means that the disease is passed by genes from parents to their children. SCD is not contagious. A person cannot catch it, like a cold or infection, from someone else. People who have SCD inherit two abnormal hemoglobin genes, one from each parent. In all forms of SCD, at least one of the two abnormal genes causes a person’s body to make hemoglobin S. When a person has two hemoglobin S genes, Hemoglobin SS, the disease is called sickle cell anemia. This is the most common and most severe kind of SCD. Hemoglobin SC disease and hemoglobin Sβ thalassemia (thal-uh-SEE-me-uh) are two other common forms of SCD.

Some Forms of Sickle Cell Disease
- Hemoglobin SS
- Hemoglobin SC
- Hemoglobin Sβ thalassemia
- Hemoglobin Sβ+ thalassemia
- Hemoglobin SD
- Hemoglobin SE

Nature of Activities and Finance
The American Sickle Cell Anemia Association, Inc. (ASCAA) provides Sickle Cell testing to at risk populations and provides educational information to the public about Sickle Cell disease. Approximately, 64%, 5%, 6%, and 25% of the ASCAA’s support for the year ended December 31, 2016 come from allocations from the Ohio Department of Health, the United Way Services, and the City of Cleveland Community Development Block Grant Program, Cleveland Clinic (In-Kind), corporate and general public donors. As result, ASCAA concluded the Year 2016 with a surplus of $1,389 which is better than $41,151 deficit in Year 2015.

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Dear Friends:
The American Sickle Cell Anemia Association was incorporated in 1971 as a nonprofit organization. The mission of the organization is to provide comprehensive education, testing, counseling and supportive services to the population at risk for sickle cell anemia and its variants. Further, its intent is to ensure quality and quantitative care in the provision of comprehensive service to affected individuals and families.

In 2016 ASCAA’s five regional counties (Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga, Lorain and Medina) continued to place a high emphasis on the delivery of services culturally proficient, family centered and community based. During this period more than 30,000 individual received services from ASCAA. By sustaining its community-based partnership with the Ohio Department of Health, Cleveland Clinic, United Way Services, Cleveland Community Block Grant, individual and private donors all regional programs have again received the education, testing, counseling and supportive crisis intervention services that make up our ASCAA continuum. ASCAA also continues to provide educational information requests throughout the world.

On behalf of the Board and staff of the American Sickle Cell Anemia Association, we encourage you to continue supporting this organization in its efforts to eventually eliminate this chronic illness. Please visit our website and Facebook. You may also contact us with your questions and comments.

Sincerely,
Pamela Bradford, L.I.S.W., B.C.D., C.S.W.M
Board Chair

What is a hemoglobin electrophoresis test?
A hemoglobin electrophoresis test is a blood test used to measure and identify the different types of hemoglobin in your bloodstream. Hemoglobin is a protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen throughout your tissues and organs.

Genetic mutations can cause your body to produce hemoglobin that is formed incorrectly. This abnormal hemoglobin can cause too little oxygen to reach your tissues and organs.

A hemoglobin electrophoresis will indicate if there are any abnormal types of hemoglobin caused by genetic disorders such as sickle anemia.

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