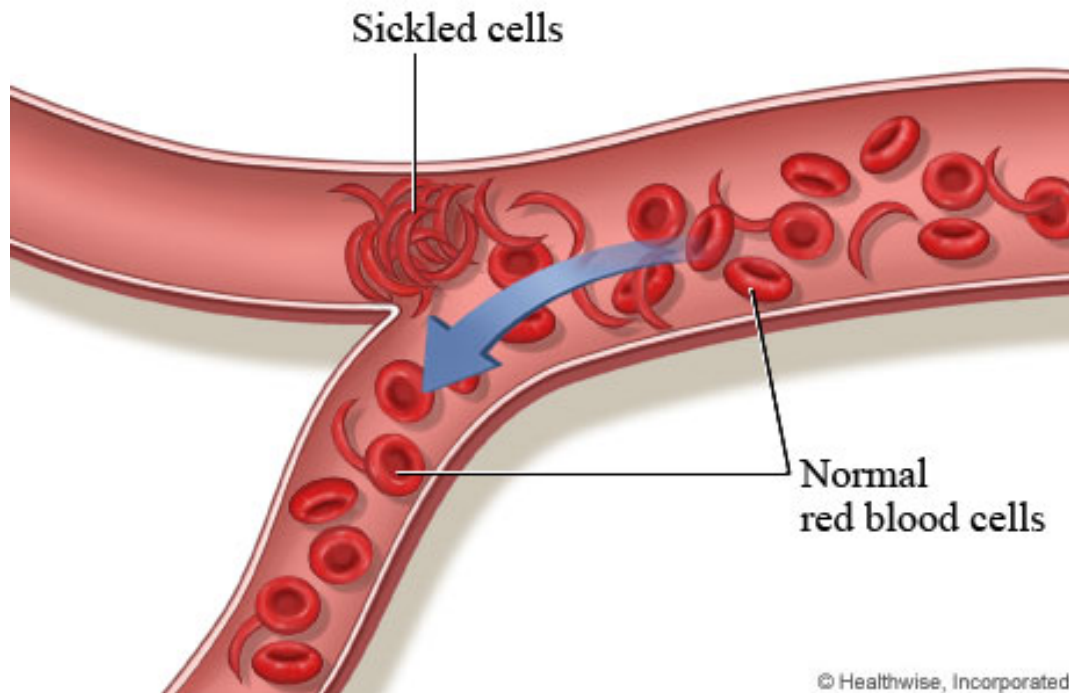


What is Sickle Cell Disease?

- Sickle Cell **Anemia** is a **hereditary** disease that causes malformation of red blood cells causing them to turn into a crescent shape
 - **Anemia**- A low level of red blood cells or hemoglobin in the circulatory system. Hemoglobin is a protein in red blood cells that binds to oxygen so the red blood cells can transport it through the body.
 - **Hereditary**- A trait that is passed down through your family.



- Since sickled cells aren't capable of efficiently transporting oxygen throughout the body, patients often experience organ damage and fatigue.
- Sickle Cell disease is most common among African Americans. There are about 100,000 cases in the United States. 1 in 13 African American babies are born with the Sickle Cell trait. This means that they aren't necessarily born with the disease but they have the capability to pass it down to their children.