

Preventive Medicines for Sickle Cell Disease: What Is Best for Me?

Your doctor may recommend one or more medicines to prevent problems from sickle cell disease. Use this chart to compare your options. Work with your care team to find the best choice for you.

Preventive Medicines for Sickle Cell Disease

Generic name	Hydroxyurea	L-glutamine	Crizanlizumab
Brand name	Droxia [®] , Hydrea [®] or Siklos [®]	Endari [®]	Adakveo [®]
What age can a person start it?	9 months	5 years	16 years
How can it help? <i>(The benefits shown have scientific proof. More benefits may still be discovered.)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ pain ↓ acute chest ↓ blood transfusions ↓ ER visits ↓ hospital stays ↑ lifespan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ pain ↓ acute chest ↓ ER visits ↓ hospital stays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ pain
How does a person take it?	By mouth (liquid or capsule)	By mouth (powder mixed in liquid)	By IV infusion (at a clinic or hospital)
How often does a person take it?	1x/day	2x/day	1x/month
What side effects can happen? <i>(Some people have no side effects.)</i>	<p>Decreased white blood cells</p> <p>(Less common: dark fingernails, headaches)</p>	<p>Constipation</p> <p>Nausea</p> <p>Headache</p> <p>Belly pain</p> <p>Cough</p> <p>(Less common: pain in back, chest, legs, arms)</p>	<p>Nausea, fever, or pain, during or just after getting the medicine</p> <p>(Less common: diarrhea, itching, tiredness)</p>
How long has it been used for sickle cell disease?	Since 1998	Since 2017	Since 2019