Who Should Take It?

Hydroxyurea (HU) has been proven to be safe for both adults and children as young as nine months old.

Sickle Cell Disease Association of America/Philadelphia Delaware Valley Chapter (SCDAA/PDVC) strongly supports that everyone eligible for HU should be on it. For additional information, questions, and next steps about hydroxyurea, contact the Community Health Worker or Medical Director at SCDAA/PDVC to find out if you're a candidate for HU.

Benefits vs Risks

For most patients, the risk of untreated sickle cell disease is far greater than the small number of risks associated with taking hydroxyurea.

Patients on hydroxyurea live longer and have a better **QUALITY OF LIFE** than patients not on hydroxyurea. They have more energy, fewer crises, fewer hospitalizations, and over time, less organ damage.

Additional Information

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgp5DsDI

Sickle Cell Disease Association of America /Philadelphia Delaware Valley Chapter (SCDAA/PDVC)
5070 Parkside Avenue, Suite 1404
Philadelphia, PA 19131
Tel: 215-471-8686
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www.sicklecelldisorder.com
https://facebook.com/scdaapdvc

Hydroxyurea Made My Life Better

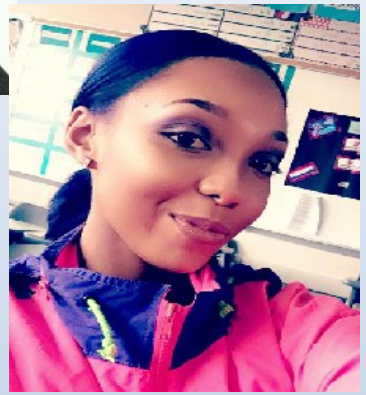
It Can Do The Same for You...

You owe it to yourself to find out more information about Hydroxyurea

"Living Well With Sickle Cell"

Age 5

Age 16



Age 27

Age 77

What Is Hydroxyurea (HU)?

HU is the only drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treating Sickle Cell Disease (SCD). HU is a disease-modifying drug that has been used for over 30 years to treat sickle cell disease.

HU was originally used to treat certain types of cancer where it was found to increase fetal hemoglobin* levels. Fetal hemoglobin* is the primary hemoglobin produced when we are born. It does a great job of carrying oxygen throughout the body.

HU is the only treatment shown to prolong the life expectancy of patients with sickle cell disease.

How Does Hydroxyurea Help?

HU is an oral medicine that has been shown to reduce several of the complications from sickle cell disease.

HU helps by increasing the number of fetal hemoglobin cells

HU helps by decreasing:

- **The number of pain crises**
- **The number of acute chest episodes**
- **Trips to the hospital – ER and In-patient**
- **The number and need for blood transfusions**

How Is Hydroxyurea Taken?

To work properly, hydroxyurea should be taken by mouth – daily, at the prescribed dose given by your doctor. When a person does not take it regularly, it will not work as well, or it won't work at all.

It can take several months before you can see results or feel the benefit from the medicine.

A person with SCD who is taking hydroxyurea needs careful monitoring. Monitoring includes: seeing your physician regularly, regular blood testing and dose adjustments.

It might look Different on the Outside…. But It Does the Same Thing Inside….

Is It Easy to Take?

Hydroxyurea comes in capsule or liquid form.. It only has to be taken once a day. It can be taken any time of day but must be taken at the same time each day

Pharmacists can flavor HU to make it easier for children to take

Hydroxyurea is given at low doses to children with sickle cell.

Are There Any Side Effects?

Hydroxyurea can cause a decrease in the white cell and platelet count. White blood cells help fight infection which is why it is very important to have your lab work done as your doctor prescribes. Dosage adjustments will be made according to weight .

Some reported side effects are:

- Nausea
- Headaches
- Skin rashes or darkening
- Hair loss

All drugs have side effects; not everyone experiences side effects. These side effects usually go away quickly if a person stops taking the medication. When a person restarts it, a doctor will adjust to a lower dosage and they usually go away.

Hydroxyurea is to be avoided by either partner seeking to have a child. It can increase the risk of miscarriage or birth defects.