Ensuring equal access to care for all sickle cell sufferers, this is the ongoing commitment of the CRLD

The reduction of pain caused by sickle cell disease is the daily struggle fought by the CRLD staff

THE CENTRE IS OPEN EVERY DAY FROM 7.30 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

SICKLE CELL DISEASE RESEARCH AND CONTROL CENTRE (CRLD)
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Sickle cell disease, the world's number 1 genetic disease, is treated through prevention and appropriate medical care

SICKLE CELL DISEASE RESEARCH AND CONTROL CENTER (CRLD)

BAMAKO - MALI

What is sickle cell disease?

Sickle cell disease is an inherited haemoglobin disorder, recognised as a public health priority worldwide. However, the disease is still little known.

Every year in Mali, 5,000 to 6,000 children are born with a major form of sickle cell disorder (sickle cell anaemia) and will need specific treatment.

What are the characteristics of the disease?

The disease begins relatively early in life with repeated bouts of bone and/or abdominal pain and a drop in the level of red blood cells (anaemia). It is a chronic disease, which can lead insidiously to various complications (stroke, kidney failure, infection...)

Under-fives sickle cell anæmia patient is highly exposed to lethal splenic sequestration crises (enlargement of the spleen with a severe drop in the level of haemoglobin) as well as mild or severe infections, which can be avoided through prevention: pneumonia, meningitis, septicaemia, etc.

The toll of certain acute complications (respiratory distress, priapism, ocular and bone complications) weighs heavily on adolescents and young adults.

What triggers the repeated bouts of pain?

A drop in blood oxygen levels, dehydration, acidosis (an increase in blood acidity), vasoconstriction (narrowing of the blood vessels) and fever all contribute to pain crises and complications.

What provokes the situations that trigger a crisis?

Exposition to cold humidity or heat, massive fluid loss from diarrhoea, vomiting or perspiration, water restriction (e.g. fasting) intense physical effort, the consumption of cigarettes, alcohol or drug, prolonged inactivity, very high altitudes and stress.

What can be done?

A sickle cell anæmia patient who is diagnosed and treated as soon as he/she is born, in most cases, has the same life expectancy as non-sufferers of the same age.

The appropriate medical treatment will bring relief and prevent crises in patients for whom the disease is detected at a later stage.

SICKLE CELL DISEASE RESEARCH AND CONTROL CENTRE(CRLD) IN BAMAKO

The CRLD is run by Professor Dapa Diallo from the University of Bamako. Its Scientific Committee is presided over by Professor Gil Tchemia from the University of Paris XI.

The CRLD is a Public Institution of a Scientific and Technological nature (EPST) placed under the supervision of the Malian Ministry of Health.

It operates as part of a network with other healthcare facilities in Bamako.

ITS MISSION

- To offer a medical pathway adapted to each sickle cell patient (consultation, screening, treatment, hospitalisation, follow-up).
- To promote early diagnosis of the disease.
- To implement IEC/CC campaigns (awareness, genetic counselling).
- To conduct research on the disease.
- To educate about sickle cell disease.

ITS FUNCTION

- To enable access to healthcare for all sickle cell anæmia patients.

Each patient arriving at the CRLD get an appropriate treatment. In case of acute complication, the patient is immediately hospitalised and the pain relieved within the hour. When a long term hospitalisation is necessary, the patient is transferred to one of Bamako's reference university hospitals.

The patient is asked to pay a flat yearly rate representing 40% of the cost of the services offered at the centre, once he/she has been given care. This may be paid in several monthly instalments.

The amount includes consultations, laboratory tests, medication and vaccines, as well as a transcranial Doppler for the under-fifteens...

- To carry out clinical and basic research.

- To provide initial and continued training on sickle cell disease.

THE TEAM

The team consists of professionals specifically trained in combating sickle cell disease:

- 8 doctors (paediatricians, haematologists, general practitioners)
- 10 nurses
- 1 pharmacist
- 2 pharmacist-biologists
- 3 laboratory technicians
- administrative staff