

Treatment of acute sickle cell pain in pediatrics: An ethical analysis from a high-altitude medical school. Sickle cell disease (SCD) is an inherited hemoglobinopathy which results in the polymerization of hemoglobin and is characterized by the severe acute pain of vaso-occlusive crises. SCD overwhelmingly affects people of color with the highest incidences in Black and Hispanic populations. While strides in treatment and understanding of the disease have been made in recent decades, data collection and reporting on the population level is inconsistent. Pediatric SCD patients represent a highly vulnerable population at the intersection of socioeconomic, race, and medicine. This ethical analysis provides context to the barriers which impede adequate care in this population and provides a recommendation for a supplemental ethics and humanities curriculum around SCD with particular focus on medical schools where students may have limited exposure to sickle cell disease.