

# Genetics

## Newborn screening for sickle cell anemia

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Early identification of sickle cell anemia (SCA) with newborn screening enables antibiotic prophylaxis for *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, which is one of the early life-threatening complications of untreated disease. Identifying newborns with SCA also facilitates the education of parents and caregivers about early treatment of crises and prevention of complications. Newborn screening might also detect other hemoglobin (Hb) variants in children, including HbC, HbD, and HbE; however, newborn screening does not test reliably for other hemoglobinopathies, such as  $\beta$ -thalassemia or HbH disease. Hemoglobinopathy screening should therefore still be offered to those parents from high-risk ethnic backgrounds, ideally before or early in pregnancy.

**Bottom line.** In some provinces, newborn screening for SCA is available, facilitating early interventions to prevent complications.

The complete *Gene Messenger—Newborn Screening for Sickle Cell Anemia* by the GenetiKit research team is available on **CFPlus**.<sup>\*</sup> Past Gene Messenger articles can be accessed on-line at [www.cfp.ca](http://www.cfp.ca). On the home page, click on **Collections** in the left-hand menu, then click on **Genetics**.

### Competing interests

None declared

The GenetiKit research team, a group of family physicians, genetic counselors and geneticists, designed the Gene Messenger series to provide practical information to help family physicians and their patients make informed choices about rapidly emerging genetic discoveries. The series is a collection of up-to-date, definitive, short reviews on genetics topics that have made headlines, and offers recommendations regarding referral for genetic services or testing.

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## GENE MESSENGER

For more information on genetics topics, see [www.mtsinai.on.ca/FamMedGen/](http://www.mtsinai.on.ca/FamMedGen/)



<sup>\*</sup>The Gene Messenger on newborn screening for sickle cell anemia is available at [www.cfp.ca](http://www.cfp.ca). Go to the full text of this article on-line, then click on **CFPlus** in the menu at the top right-hand side of the page.



# Dermacase



## Can you identify this condition?

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A 30-year-old man presents with monomorphic, discrete, smooth, dome-shaped, skin-coloured papules of 1 to 2 mm in length on the corona and sulcus of the glans penis. The lesions are asymptomatic and he thinks that they have increased in number over the past year. His medical history is unremarkable and he is not taking any medications. He is sexually active and occasionally wears condoms.

### The most likely diagnosis is

1. Condyloma acuminata
2. Lichen nitidus
3. Pearly penile papules
4. Ectopic sebaceous glands
5. Molluscum contagiosum

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