Sickle Cell Disease

Published On: 28-02-2023

Why is in news? Sickle Cell Disease is a multi-sectoral mission leveraging community mobilization and stakeholder collaboration: Dr. V K Paul

SCD is a **chronic single gene disorder** causing a debilitating systemic syndrome characterized by chronic anaemia, acute painful episodes, organ infarction and chronic organ damage and by a **significant reduction in life expectancy**.

Symptoms:

Symptoms of sickle cell disease can vary, but some common symptoms include:

Chronic Anaemia: leading to fatigue, weakness, and paleness.

Painful episodes (also known as sickle cell crisis): these can cause sudden and intense pain in the bones, chest, back, arms, and legs.

Delayed growth and puberty

Treatment:

Blood Transfusions: These can help relieve anaemia and reduce the risk of pain crises.

Hydroxyurea: This is a medication that can help reduce the frequency of painful episodes and prevent some of the long-term complications of the disease.

It can also be treated by bone marrow or stem cell transplantation

Government Initiatives to Tackle SCD:

Government has released **technical operational guidelines** for prevention and control of hemoglobinopathies in 2016 including sickle cell anaemia.

Integrated centers have also been established in 22 tribal districts for treatment and diagnosis.

The **State Haemoglobinopathy Mission** has been established in Madhya Pradesh to address the challenges in screening and management of the disease.