

Paediatric haematology

with Dr Susan Creary

Talking points

Knowledge

1. What is sickle cell disease?
2. What is sickle cell trait?
3. Approximately, how many Americans have sickle cell disease?
4. How many Americans have sickle cell trait? How many of these people do not know or understand their sickle cell trait status?

Comprehension

5. Why is it important for someone to know if they have sickle cell trait?
6. How does sickle cell disease affect a person's health?
7. How did Dr Creary and her team design the SCTaware programme to make it accessible?

Application

8. SCTaware was delivered in English via a videoconference to communities in Ohio. Imagine that you have been tasked with delivering SCTaware to a community in a different part of the world. What questions would you need to ask to learn more about your target community? How might you need to adapt the programme to make it accessible for this community? How would you explain it in the everyday words of that community? How would you make sure they understood?

Analysis

9. What motivates Dr Creary, Chase and Dr Abrams to do the work they do?

Synthesis

10. SCTaware was specifically designed to raise awareness around sickle cell trait. Which area of healthcare would you design a health literacy education programme for, and why?

Evaluation

11. There are many different aspects to paediatrics. Which area interests you the most, and why?
12. Which aspects of your own health would you like to learn more about? Which resources could you use or who could you talk to for more information?

Activities

1. Learn about health literacy

Health literacy plays a vital part in keeping communities healthy. Unfortunately, there are many barriers that make it hard for some people to find, understand and use information for their health.

Explore the links below to learn more about what health literacy is, what increases the risk of having limited health literacy, and what can be done to make sure that everyone can understand health information. The final link will take you to a quiz so that you can test your knowledge about health literacy.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

www.cdc.gov/healthliteracy/learn

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality:

www.ahrq.gov/health-literacy/about/index.html

www.ahrq.gov/health-literacy/improve/precautions/index.html

www.ahrq.gov/health-literacy/improve/precautions/tool3d.html

Write down a list of 'top tips' for people who might be trying to communicate about health issues.

2. Promote health literacy

Based on Dr Creary's article and any additional research you can do, design an information leaflet that informs people about sickle cell trait and its relationship with sickle cell disease. Use what you learnt in the first activity to help make your leaflet accessible and inclusive. Think about your audience and the knowledge barriers that might specifically relate to them. Be creative and use plain language, pictures, diagrams and colour to illustrate your message.

More resources

- Learn more about Dr Creary and her research:
www.nationwidechildrens.org/find-a-doctor/profiles/susan-e-creary
- Find out more about Nationwide Children's Hospital and its work:
www.nationwidechildrens.org