

Case Study (Continued)

Donny's parents ask you what you have found in your initial assessment. They ask why he has swollen hands and feet and how that causes pain from SCD. They are very worried and think it is their fault that this happened.

Assessment

What are the most important aspects of Donny's care to discuss with his parents at this time? What should be included regarding SCD in a young child?

Family's Knowledge of Illness: Defining Characteristics

Lack of understanding

Inability to identify signs and symptoms of painful crises

Inability to follow disease management guidelines

Difficulty describing treatment plan

Nursing Diagnosis

Readiness for enhanced knowledge related to parents' interest in Donny's health status.

Nursing Interventions and Rationales

What are the most appropriate nursing interventions to help a family manage a young child with SCD?

Nursing Interventions	Rationales
Explain signs of developing complications, such as fever, pallor, respiratory distress, persistent headaches, and pain. Discuss dactylitis in the young child.	To ensure prompt and appropriate treatment
Reinforce basic information regarding trait transmission and refer to genetic counseling services if appropriate.	To allow for informed decision making
Provide information on what to do when complications occur, such as fever, pallor, respiratory distress, persistent headaches, and pain.	To ensure prompt and appropriate treatment
Stress importance of adequate nutrition; routine immunizations, including pneumococcal and meningococcal vaccinations; protection from known sources of infection; and frequent health evaluation and regularly scheduled comprehensive evaluation.	To encourage preventive measures and decrease risk for infection exposure

Expected Outcome

Donny's parents will understand the signs and symptoms of SCD