

Acute pain related to tissue anoxia (vasoocclusive episode or crisis)

Nursing Interventions and Rationales

What are the most appropriate nursing interventions for a child with SCD experiencing pain?

Nursing Interventions	Rationales
Discuss schedule of medication around the clock with parents.	To control pain
Encourage high level of fluid intake.	To ensure hydration
Recognize that various analgesics, including opioids and medication schedules, may need to be tried.	To ensure satisfactory pain relief
Reassure child and family that analgesics, including opioids, are medically indicated, that high doses may be needed, and that children rarely become addicted.	To avoid needless suffering because of unfounded fears
Apply heat application or massage to affected area. Avoid applying cold compresses.	To prevent vasoconstriction that may enhance sickling

Case Study (Continued)

Donny's pain is not being controlled by oral pain medications, and the plan is to begin intravenous (IV) pain medications to control his pain. What is the most appropriate IV medication for Donny at this time?

A dose of morphine (0.1 to 0.2 mg/kg/dose) is given every 10 minutes for three doses.

What important nursing interventions should be implemented at this time?

Give both the morphine and ketorolac. If pain is still not relieved after three doses of morphine, then switch to patient-controlled analgesia (PCA) and admit. Give ketorolac 1mg/kg for first dose, then 0.5 mg/kg /dose IV every 6 hours; not to exceed 5 days (maximum of 30 mg/dose).

Nursing Interventions	Rationales
Administer morphine and ketorolac safely.	To prevent adverse effects and overdose
Monitor for side effects of morphine; assess respiratory	To prevent discomfort and adverse