

Sickle Cell Trait May Skew HbA1c Results in Black Patients

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Highlight: Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) measurements may be less accurate in black people who have sickle cell trait (SCT)

Body

HealthDay News - Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) measurements may be less accurate in black people who have sickle cell trait (SCT), according to a study published online February 7 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The research included 4,620 patients (average age, 52.3) - 1,572 from the ***CARDIA study***, and 3,048 from the Jackson Heart Study. Both groups were evaluated to determine the association between SCT and HbA1c for given levels of fasting or two-hour glucose levels. [HMICMS RELATED ARTICLES]

When assessing only HbA1c, the researchers found that 29.2% of blacks with SCT were diagnosed with prediabetes versus 48.6% of blacks without SCT. The corresponding numbers for diabetes were 3.8 and 7.3%. In unadjusted generalized estimating equations analyses, for a given fasting glucose, HbA1c values were lower in those with versus those without SCT (5.72 and 6.01%, respectively).

"These findings suggest that HbA1c may systematically underestimate past glycemia in black patients with SCT and may require further evaluation," the authors conclude.

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