

Star Tribune

NEWSPAPER OF THE TWIN CITIES

Dear Abby,

I am a carrier of sickle cell anemia. I inherited the disease from my parents, both of whom had the sickle cell trait. I have just found out that I am pregnant. The father does not know whether he is a carrier or not, but he does know that his mother was a carrier. Is there a way to find out whether he is affected?

If he is affected, what are the chances that our child will develop sickle cell anemia, or will carry the trait? If he finds out that he is a carrier, is there a chance that our child will develop sickle cell anemia, or carry the trait since it runs in both families?

If our child has sickle cell anemia, what types of symptoms will he or she have? Would the child die? Do you think I should have an abortion?

Please help me Abby.

Sincerely,

Confused about Genetics



Dear Abby

Instructions:

You are the editor of the advice columns for the Star Tribune.

- 1.) Write a reply to "Confused about Genetics".
- 2.) Make sure that you answer ALL of her questions, and give specific advice where asked. Your answers should be as specific and accurate as possible: this writer is asking some life and death questions!
- 3.) Show a Punnett Square to justify your answers.
- 4.) ****Hint:** Sickle cell is not sex-linked- but you do need to determine if it is dominant or recessive.
- 5.) Since the newspaper is short of space, your reply must not exceed one page in length. Good luck!!