Title: The Multi-Dimensional Characteristics of Chronic Pain in Adults with Sickle Cell Disease

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Synopsis:

Chronic pain in adults with SCD is a multi-factorial experience, which affects every area of the individual’s life. A review of the literature suggests that significant gaps exist in our knowledge of the occurrence and multiple dimensions of chronic pain in this population. Furthermore, to date, no studies have examined in a comprehensive manner the multiple dimensions of the chronic pain experience of adults with SCD. To address these gaps, this study will focus specifically on adults with SCD in order to determine the prevalence of chronic pain in this population. The association between chronic pain, mood, quality of life (QOL), and spirituality/religiosity will be investigated, as well as, the associations between demographic variables (e.g., socioeconomic status) and chronic pain.

The aims of this study are to:

1. Determine the occurrence and characteristics of chronic pain in this sample of adult outpatients with SCD.

2. Compare differences in demographic and clinical characteristics between adults with SCD with and without chronic pain.

3. Compare differences in anxiety, depression, and associated symptoms between adults with SCD with and without chronic pain.

4. Compare differences in spirituality/religiosity between patients with SCD with and without chronic pain.

5. Compare differences in QOL between adults with SCD with and without chronic pain.

The potential benefits to society include a greater understanding of the multidimensional nature of chronic pain and the chronic pain experience of adults with SCD, improved pain management, which may decrease healthcare costs.

The findings from this study may well provide a better understanding of the prevalence and multidimensional nature of chronic pain and the chronic pain experience of adults with SCD, improve pain assessment and treatment, and possibly decrease healthcare costs. Knowledge gained in this study may also be used to benefit persons with other types of chronic pain.