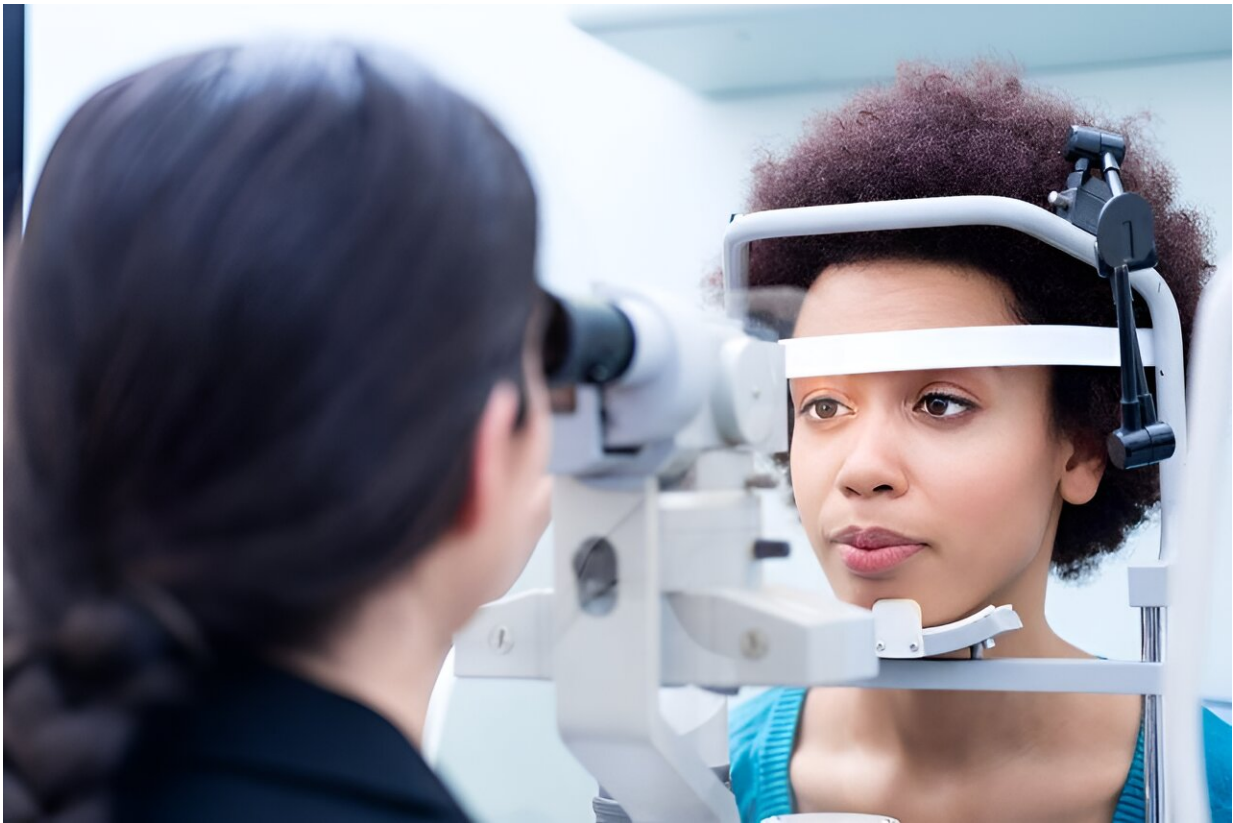


## AAO: Research highlights vision issues seen in pediatric sickle cell disease

November 9 2023, by Elana Gotkine

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For pediatric patients with sickle cell disease (SCD), ophthalmologic complications include nonproliferative retinopathy (NPR) and proliferative retinopathy (PR), which occur in 33 and 6 percent,

respectively, according to a study presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, held from Nov. 3 to 6 in San Francisco.

Barbara Smith, M.D., and Mary Ellen Hoehn, M.D., from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, describe ophthalmologic manifestations among [pediatric patients](#) with SCD who had a dilated eye exam from October 2010 to September 2022. A total of 652 patients were included who underwent eye exams during 2,240 visits.

The researchers found that 33 percent of the patients had NPR and 6 percent had PR. Panretinal photocoagulation was received by 33 eyes, most commonly for PR stage 3 (43 percent). Five eyes, all with PR, received intravitreal anti-vascular endothelial growth factor therapy. Retinal detachment and retinal artery occlusion occurred in two patients each. Following complications from SCD, [vision loss](#) (final best corrected visual acuity 20/60) was seen in one patient with a central retinal artery occlusion.

"Our data underscores the need for patients—including pediatric patients—with [sickle cell disease](#) to get routine ophthalmic screenings along with appropriate systemic and ophthalmic treatment," Hoehn said in a statement.

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