Adult sickle cell disease and SARS-CoV-2: an increasingly common comorbidity for a rare disease

Michaela Boggan,^{1,2,3} Christopher L. Edwards,^{1,2,3} Jordan Meek,^{1,2,3} Mary Wood,⁴ W. Jeff Bryson,⁵ John J. Sollers,^{1,2,3} Debra O. Parker,^{1,2,3} Camela S. Barker,^{2,5} Jessica Miller,^{2,6} Brianna Downey,^{2,5} Asha Lockett,^{2,5} Jazmin Rosales,^{1,2,3} Courtney Munroe, Jr.,² Noa Wax,^{2,5} Sharena Scott^{1,2,3}

¹North Carolina Central University; ²NCCU Psychoneuroendocrine and Rare Diseases Laboratory; ³NCCU Debra O. Parker Research Incubator; ⁴Duke University Medical Center; ⁵Fielding Graduate University; ⁶Bridges Point Sickle Cell Foundation, United States

Correspondence: Christopher L. Edwards, Psychoneuroendocrine and Rare Diseases Laboratory 1801 Fayetteville St., Durham, NC 27707, United States. Tel.: +01.9195307465. E-mail: <u>cedwards@nccu.edu</u>

Key words: SARS-CoV-2; COVID-19; sickle cell disease; anemia.

Conflict of interest: the authors declare no potential conflict of interest.

Funding: none.

Availability of data and material: data and materials are available by the authors.

Reference	History	Current medications	Presenting symptoms	Hemoglobin	Hemoglobin F/hemoglobin S
Chen <i>et al.</i> , ⁵⁹ 30-year-old, M	-HbSS -Recurrent VOCs -11-year history of cigarette smoking -Sepsis with acute hypoxic respiratory failure -Cholecystectomy	 -Cyclobenzaprine 10 mg as needed -Hydroxyurea 1000 mg/ daily -Oxycodone 30 mg every four hours as needed for pain -Oxycodone 80 mg extended release every 12 hours 	In ER: -Right lower extremity pain following vehicle collision <u>On admission:</u> -Continued right lower extremity pain -Suspected COVID- 19 -Reported decreased oxygen saturation	<u>In ER:</u> -8.9 g/dL <u>On admission:</u> -8.9 g/dL <u>Day two of</u> <u>hospitalization:</u> -6.7 g/dL	<u>In ER:</u> -N/S <u>On admission:</u> -N/S <u>Day two of</u> <u>hospitalization:</u> -N/S
Chen <i>et al.</i> , ⁵⁹ 49-year-old, F	-HbSC -Avascular necrosis of right hip -Rheumatoid arthritis -Daily chronic musculoskeletal pain -Bilateral retinopathy	-One lifetime blood transfusion -Baclofen 5 mg orally every 8 hours as needed for muscle spasm -Ergocalciferol 1.25 mg/weekly -Folic acid 1 mg/daily -Hydrocodone- Acetaminophen 10 to 325 mg every 8 hours as needed for pain -Promethazine HCl 25 mg twice daily as needed for nausea/vomiting	One week prior to <u>telehealth</u> <u>appointment:</u> -Fever, 38.1°C -Diarrhea -Loss of taste and smell -Cough -10/10 pain severity in both arms, both legs, and chest wall -Advised to go to ER <u>In ER:</u> -Cough -Fever -Pain in the arms	<u>In ER:</u> -N/S	<u>In ER:</u> -N/S

Table S1. Medical history, current medications, presenting symptoms, and hemoglobin values.

		-Tofacitinib XR 11 mg/daily	and chest wall		
Chen <i>et al.</i> , ⁵⁹ 23-year-old, M	-HbSS -3-4 VOCs per year requiring hospitalization -Multiple episodes of ACS -Priapism -Bilateral avascular necrosis of the humeral heads -Hypertension -MDD	 -Hydroxyurea 1500 mg/daily -Lisinopril 10 mg/daily -Duloxetine 60 mg/daily -Naproxen 500 mg every 8 hours for pain -Hydromorphone HCl 4 mg orally every 6 hours as needed for severe pain 	 <u>5 days prior to ER</u> <u>visit:</u> -Chronic back pain -pain in both arms -Icteric sclera In ER: -Pain severity 9/10 -SOB and cough -Dry mucosal membranes -Rales bilaterally with normal respiratory effort Day two of hospitalization: -Cough -SOB Day three of hospitalization: -Cough -Cough -Cough -Cough -Cough -Cough 	In ER: -7.8 g/dL Day one of hospitalization/ following transfusion: -8.8 g/dL Day three of hospitalization: -9.2 g/dL	In ER: -N/S Day one of hospitalization: -N/S Day three of hospitalization: -N/S
Chen <i>et al.</i> , ⁵⁹ 25-year-old, F	-HbSS -Appendectomy -Cholecystectomy -Pain crises -Migraine headaches -Benign cyst in left breast	-Hydroxyurea 1000 mg/daily	-Nasal congestion -Loss of taste -Intermittent frontal headache -Intermittent musculoskeletal pain	<u>Telehealth</u> <u>appointment</u> <u>with</u> <u>Hematology:</u> -N/S	<u>Telehealth</u> <u>appointment with</u> <u>Hematology:</u> -N/S

Teulier <i>et al.</i> , ⁶⁰	-HbSS	N/S	<u>In ER:</u>	Baseline:	Baseline:
33-year-old, M	-Mild episodes of VOC -2 episodes of ACS -Goldberg's stage III retinopathy -GFR 120 mL/min -Microalbuminuria 0.75 g/L		-Febrile dyspnea -Cough -Headache -Fever, 39°C -Acute respiratory distress	-11.5 g/dL	-HbF: 2.5% -HbS: 87%

HbSS, hemoglobin SS; VOC, vaso-occlusive crises; ER, emergency room; N/S, not specified; ACS, acute chest syndrome; MDD, major depressive disorder; SOB, shortness of breath; XR, extended release; GFR, glomerular filtration rate.

Table S2. Vital signs.

Reference	Pulse oximetry (SpO2)	Blood pressure	Heart rate	Respiratory rate
Chen et al., ⁵⁹	In ER:	In ER:	In ER:	In ER:
30-year-old, M	89% on room air	106/61 mmHg	100 bpm	18 breaths per minute
	On admission:	On admission:	On admission:	On admission:
	-96%	-106/55 mmHg	-77 bpm	-18 breaths per minute
Chen et al., ⁵⁹	In ER:	In ER:	<u>In ER:</u>	In ER:
49-year-old, F	-98%	-N/S	-N/S	-N/S
Chen <i>et al.</i> , ⁵⁹	In ER:	In ER:	In ER:	In ER:
23-year-old, M	-88% on room air	-N/S	-124 bpm	-26 breaths per minute
	<u>Day one of</u> hospitalization:	Day one of <u>hospitalization:</u>	<u>Day one of</u> hospitalization:	Day one of <u>hospitalization:</u>
	-94%	-N/S	-N/S	-N/S
Chen <i>et al.</i> , ⁵⁹ 25-year-old, F	<u>Telehealth appointment</u> with hematology: -N/S	<u>Telehealth</u> appointment with hematology: -N/S	<u>Telehealth</u> appointment with <u>hematology:</u> -N/S	<u>Telehealth</u> appointment with hematology: -N/S
Teulier <i>et al.</i> , ⁶⁰	<u>In ER:</u>	In ER:	<u>In ER:</u>	<u>In ER:</u>
33-year-old, M	-88%	-134/82 mmHg	-106 bpm	-36 breaths per minute

ER, emergency room; bpm, beats per minute; N/S, not specified.

Reference	Hematocrit	Reticulocytes	Lymphocytes	Platelets	Total bilirubin	D-dimer levels
Chen et al., ⁵⁹	In ER:	In ER:	In ER:	In ER:	In ER:	In ER:
30-year-old, M	-N/S	-9.5%	-N/S	-N/S	-N/S	-N/S
	On admission:	On admission:	On admission:	On admission:	On admission:	On admission:
	-24.9%	-N/S	-10.4 K/CMM	-369 K/CMM	-5.4 mg/dL	-N/S
	Day two of hospitalization: -17.6%	<u>Day two of</u> <u>hospitalization</u> <u>:</u> -N/S	Day two of hospitalization : -12.7 K/CMM	Day two of hospitalization : -309 K/CMM	<u>Day two of</u> <u>hospitalization:</u> -N/S	<u>Day two of</u> <u>hospitalization:</u> -N/S
Chen et al., ⁵⁹	In ER:	In ER:	In ER:	In ER:	In ER:	In ER:
49-year-old, F	-N/S	-N/S	-N/S	-N/S	-N/S	-N/S
Chen <i>et al.</i> , ⁵⁹	In ER:	In ER:	In ER:	In ER:	In ER:	In ER:
23-year-old, M	-N/S	-N/S	-3.8 K/CMM	-237 K/CMM	-7.3 mg/dL	-10.12 μg/mL
	Day one of hospitalization: -25.5% Day three of hospitalization: -N/S	Day one of hospitalization : -N/S Day three of hospitalization : -N/S	Day one of hospitalization : -2.2 K/CMM Day three of hospitalization : -2.4 K/CMM	Day one of hospitalization : -267 K/CMM Day three of hospitalization : -278 K/CMM	Day one of hospitalization: -N/S Day three of hospitalization: -N/S	Day one of hospitalization: -N/S Day three of hospitalization: -3 µg/mL
Chen <i>et al.</i> , ⁵⁹	<u>Telehealth</u>	Telehealth	Telehealth	<u>Telehealth</u>	<u>Telehealth</u>	<u>Telehealth</u>
25-year-old, F	appointment with Hematology: -N/S	appointment with Hematology: -N/S	appointment with Hematology: -N/S	appointment with Hematology: -N/S	appointment with Hematology: -N/S	appointment with Hematology: -N/S
Teulier <i>et al.</i> , ⁶⁰ 33-year-old, M	<u>In ER:</u> -N/S	<u>In ER:</u> -N/S	<u>In ER:</u> -N/S	<u>In ER:</u> -N/S	<u>In ER:</u> -N/S	<u>In ER:</u> -N/S

Table S3. Relevant hematologic values, D-dimer levels, and total bilirubin.

ER, emergency room; N/S, not specified.

Reference	Chest X-ray results	CT results	Other imaging/testing results	SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR test (positive/negative)
Chen <i>et al.</i> , ⁵⁹ 30-year-old, M	In ER: -No acute cardiopulmonary findings <u>On admission:</u> -No acute cardiopulmonary findings	On admission: -Showed basilar atelectasis bilaterally with some plate-like atelectasis in the bases without consolidation or cardiomegaly	<u>On admission:</u> -Ventilation/ perfusion scan showed no evidence of pulmonary embolism -Ultrasound of leg was negative for deep vein thrombosis	-Positive on final day of hospitalization
Chen <i>et al.</i> , ⁵⁹ 49-year-old, F	<u>In ER:</u> -N/S	<u>In ER:</u> -N/S	<u>In ER:</u> -N/S	-Positive one week prior to ER visit
Chen et al., ⁵⁹	<u>In ER:</u>	<u>In ER:</u>	<u>In ER:</u>	<u>In ER:</u>
23-year-old, M	-Consistent with ACS -Multifocal airspace opacities most consistent with pneumonia	-N/S	-N/S	-Positive
Chen <i>et al.</i> , ⁵⁹ 25-year-old, F	<u>Telehealth</u> appointment with <u>Hematology:</u> -N/S	<u>Telehealth</u> appointment with <u>Hematology:</u> -N/S	<u>Telehealth appointment with</u> <u>Hematology:</u> -N/S	-Positive
Teulier <i>et al.</i> , ⁶⁰ 33-year-old, M	In ER: -Bilateral alveolar and interstitial infiltrates predominating in the middle lobe	<u>In ER:</u> -N/S	<u>Blood analysis:</u> -Moderate anemia -Reticulocytopenia -Moderate hemolysis -Lymphocytopenia -Major inflammatory	<u>Day one of</u> <u>Hospitalization:</u> -Positive

Table S4. Imaging and testing results and SARS-CoV-2 reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction testing results.

syndrome
Day three of hospitalization:
-Bone marrow aspiration revealed normal structure and cytology without bone marrow necrosis
Day four of hospitalization:
-Cardiac ultrasound revealed a thrombus of the inferior vena cava
Day 19 of hospitalization:
-Thoracic angioscanner no longer revealed this thrombus
Day 16 of hospitalization:
-BAL performed, showing lymphocytic alveolitis
Due to increased inflammatory markers and clinical deterioration, a protected distal sampling allowed for the diagnosis of pneumopathy acquired under
late mechanical ventilation

CT, computed tomography; RT-PCR, reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction; ER, emergency room; ACS, acute chest syndrome; BAL, bronchoalveolar lavage; N/S, not specified.

Reference	Complications during hospitalization	Treatment	
Chen <i>et al.</i> , ⁵⁹ 30-year-old, M	No significant complications during hospitalizations	-Started on prophylactic enoxaparin to prevent DVT	
50-year-old, 1vi		-Simple transfusion of 1 unit of packed red blood cells for treatment of hypoxia and pain	
		-Advised to self-quarantine following positive COVID-19 test	
Chen et al., ⁵⁹	No significant complications during	-Albuterol MDI	
49-year-old, F	hospitalizations	-Dextromethorphan 20 mg every 4 hours as needed for cough	
		-Lidocaine patch as needed for pain	
Chen et al., ⁵⁹	No significant complications during	In ER:	
23-year-old, M	hospitalizations other than VOC pain fluctuations	-4 L O2 via nasal cannula	
		-Azithromycin	
		-Ceftriaxone	
		-I.V. Morphine	
		-Dexamethasone	
		-Enoxaparin 80 mg for 12 hours for thrombosis prophylaxis because of high D-dimer levels	
		Day one of hospitalization:	
		-Transfusion of 1 unit packed red blood cells	
		-Switched from I.V. morphine to home regimen of oral morphine IR 15 mg every four hours and ibuprofen 600 mg every 8 hours	
		Day two of hospitalization:	
		-Pain levels increased, switched back to I.V. morphine	
		Day three of hospitalization:	
		-decreased to 1 L of O2 via nasal cannula	

Table S5. Complications during hospitalization and treatment.

		-Returned to home oral pain management regimen
		-Prophylactic dose of enoxaparin 40 mg subcutaneous injection daily
		Final day of hospitalization:
		-Weaned to oral acetaminophen 325 mg/ hydrocodone 10 mg every 8 hours as needed for pain
		-Morphine IR 15 mg by mouth every 4 hours as needed for severe pain
		-Enoxaparin 40 mg/0.4 mL subcutaneous injection
Chen et al., ⁵⁹	Never hospitalized	-Pain management with OTC analgesics
25-year-old, F		
Teulier <i>et al.</i> , ⁶⁰	Day one of hospitalization:	Day one of hospitalization:
33-year-old, M	-Respiratory condition worsened, requiring ICU admission and intubation with mechanical ventilation	-Hemolysis worsened, prompting blood exchange transfusions (3 sessions) to maintain HbS below 40%
	Day three of hospitalization:	Day four of hospitalization:
	-Bone marrow aspiration performed because of severe ACS associated with a drop in reticulocytes and mild thrombocytopenia suggesting a spinal	-Anticoagulation was switched from prophylactic to therapeutic dose (I.V. unfractionated heparin with a ratio of activated partial thromboplastin time target between 2 and 2.5)
	thrombosis	Day five of hospitalization:
	-Bone marrow aspiration revealed normal structure and cytology without bone	-ECMO was installed and removed 10 days later
	marrow necrosis	Day 16 of hospitalization:
	Day four of hospitalization:	-Treated with antibiotics
	-D-dimer levels increased markedly	Day 25 of hospitalization:
	Day 19 of hospitalization:	-Patient was extubated and treated with corticosteroid aerosol due to laryngeal edema
	-Respiratory condition worsened, progressed to severe COVID-19 with ARDS	Day 27 of hospitalization:
	-Worsening pulmonary infiltrates and	-Patient was discharged from ICU

major hypoxemia	Day 34 of hospitalization:
Day 25 of hospitalization:	-Patient was discharged from hospital
-Laryngeal edema complicated extubation	

DVT, deep vein thrombosis; VOC, vaso-occlusive crises; ER, emergency room; MDI, metered-dose inhaler; I.V., intravenous; IR, immediate release; ICU, intensive care unit; ACS, acute chest syndrome; ECMO, venovenous extracorporeal membrane oxygenation; ARDS, acute respiratory distress syndrome; OTC, over the counter; N/S, not specified.