

Disorders of the red blood cell

UMC Utrecht is an (Inter) National Center of Expertise for diagnostics and translational research on rare hereditary disorders of the red blood cell. These disorders can affect the structure (membrane), the metabolism, or the hemoglobin of the red cell, and thus the function and often also its survival. Our research group focuses on studying the pathophysiological processes that underlie hereditary red cell disorders, and the way in which this translates into the clinical picture of the patient. We use this knowledge to identify and validate clinically relevant biomarkers, for example for sickle cell disease and hereditary spherocytosis. These biomarkers can then be used to test new drugs in the laboratory ex vivo using red blood cells from affected patients.

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