

**BLOOD TRANSFUSION COMPLICATIONS PREVALENCE  
PARAMETRIC CAUSES FOR STRESS OF DISEASE AND  
MANAGEMENT OF TRANSFUSION DEPENDENT THALASSEMIA: A  
NARRATIVE REVIEW**

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**ABSTRACT**

Thalassemia are genetically transmitted disorder which is autosomal recessive form by defect of globin chains. This hemoglobinopathy disorder lies from asymptotic to severity to death in uterus of child forming various forms of thalassemia. Prevalence of 3-4% of death annually in India. Thalassemia children suffers many stressful life with disease apart from blood transfusions like Iron Overload, Complications of blood and chelation therapy like Splenomegaly, Hepatomegaly, Growth Retardation, Heart Failure. Better Transfusion therapy assist the severity of complications and standardized care of patient by day care hospitals provides proper transfusion according to guidelines and helps to reduce severity of complications by providing

quality of life to patients.

**KEYWORDS:** Thalassemia, Cooley's Anemia, Hemoglobinopathy, Complications of Thalassemia.

**INTRODUCTION**

Thalassemia syndromes are genetically transmitted autosomal recessive hemoglobinopathy characterized by reduced rate of synthesis of 1 or more of the globin polypeptides chains of haemoglobin.<sup>[1]</sup> This clinical spectrum of this disease can vary in severity from asymptomatic laboratory abnormalities to death in utero.<sup>[2]</sup> Haemoglobin (Hb) disorders are the foremost

common inherited blood disorders globally and account for about 3.4% of deaths in children under 5 years aged.<sup>[3]</sup> An estimated 1–5% of the worldwide population are carriers for a genetic thalassaemia mutation.<sup>[4]</sup> Thalassaemia's which are caused by defective globin production.<sup>[5][6]</sup> Carrier numbers of >270 million and quite 300 thousand children born annually with one of the thalassaemia syndromes or one of the structural haemoglobin variants are estimated.<sup>[5][6]</sup> The human haemoglobin are encoded in two gene clusters:  $\alpha$ -like globin genes present on chromosome 11 and  $\beta$ -like globin genes on chromosome 16. Normally a person inherits two  $\beta$ -globin genes and 2- $\alpha$  globin genes from each parent.<sup>[2][6]</sup> The term "thalassaemia" called as gaggle of blood diseases characterised by decreased or absent synthesis of normal globin protein chains according to the chain whose synthesis is impaired, the thalassaemia's are called  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ -,  $\gamma$ -,  $\delta$  -,  $\delta\beta$ -, or  $\epsilon\gamma\delta\beta$ -thalassaemia's. Most thalassaemia's are inherited as recessive traits. These primary quantitative defects aren't any more rigidly differentiated by the structural variants produced at reduced rate.<sup>[5]</sup> In recent years, the foremost critical change in clinical diagnosis could also be a replacement classification that has been simplified and help guiding clinical management from thalassemia intermedia (TI) into non-transfusion-dependent thalassemia (NTDT) and Cooley's anemia (Thalassemia major) into transfusion-dependent thalassemia (TDT) supported their requirement of normal blood transfusions to survive.<sup>[8]</sup> In thalassemia syndromes, this regulation is impaired resulting in overproduction of either  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$  chain and underproduction of other. This mismatch results in accumulation of unpaired chains and hence insolubility and precipitation of such globin chains. the most adult haemoglobin A (HbA) has two  $\alpha$  and two  $\beta$  chains ( $\alpha_2\beta_2$ ), minor adult haemoglobin has two  $\alpha$  and two  $\delta$  chains ( $\alpha_2\delta_2$ ) and foetal haemoglobin has two  $\alpha$  and two  $\gamma$  chains ( $\alpha_2\gamma_2$ ).<sup>[2]</sup> Abnormalities within the structure and synthesis of the  $\alpha$ -like and  $\beta$ -like globin chains that form tetramers of haemoglobin ( $\alpha_2\beta_2$ ) cause the foremost common kinds of inherited anaemias. In thalassaemia, there are defects within the assembly of either the  $\alpha$ -like ( $\alpha$ -thalassaemia<sup>2</sup>) or the  $\beta$ -like ( $\beta$ -thalassaemia<sup>3</sup>) globin chains.<sup>[7]</sup> Patients with thalassemia don't produce enough haemoglobin (Hb) A ( $\alpha_2\beta_2$ ) because their cells cannot manufacture either the alpha or beta polypeptide chain of human haemoglobin. Alpha-thalassemia depresses only the assembly of the alpha chains, and beta-thalassemia depresses only the assembly of the beta globin chains. Clinically, both alpha- and beta-thalassemia may occur within the main (homozygous), intermediate, and minor (heterozygous) genetic forms and may also interact with the presence of abnormal haemoglobin within an equivalent people.<sup>[9]</sup>

## GENETIC BASIS CLINICAL CLASSIFICATION OF THALASSEMIA

ALPHA THALASSEMIA				BETA THALASSEMIA				
Phenotype	Hb Bart's/still born	Neonatal/TDT Alpha thalassemia	Mild anemia TDT	Asymptotic	Severe anemia beyond infancy	Anemia moderate infancy	Asymptotic	HbE disease
Genotype	Alpha chain --/-- homozygous	--/-a --/aTa heterozygous	-a/-a --/aa Homo/hetero	-a/aa	B'/B'	B+/B'	B+-	Hb E disease
Classify	Alpha thalassemia major	HbH disease	Alpha minor	Carrier stage	B Thala major	B Thala Intermediate	B Thala minor	Mild anemia

**β-Thalassaemia:-** β-thalassaemia includes three main forms: Cooley's anemia variably mentioned as "Cooley's Anaemia" and "Mediterranean Anaemia", Thalassaemia Intermedia and Thalassaemia Minor also called "β-thalassaemia carrier", "β-thalassaemia trait" or "heterozygous β-thalassaemia". apart from the rare dominant forms, subjects with β-thalassaemia major are homozygotes or compound heterozygotes for β<sup>0</sup> or β<sup>+</sup> genes, subjects with thalassaemia intermedia are mostly homozygotes or compound heterozygotes and subjects with thalassaemia minor are mostly heterozygotes.<sup>[5][10]</sup> Beta-Thalassemia is caused by any of quite 200 point mutations and, rarely, by deletions<sup>[11][4][6]</sup>, in rate of silent mutations (silent β), to mild mutations that cause a relative reduction in β-globin chain production (β<sup>+</sup>), to severe mutations that end in complete absence of β-globin chain synthesis (β<sup>0</sup>), with deletions of the gene being uncommon. β-Thalassaemia minor (trait or carrier) represents the heterozygous inheritance of a β-thalassaemia mutation, with patients often having clinically asymptomatic microcytic anemia, although others can have no identified haematological abnormalities—so-called silent carriers. Patients with β-thalassaemia major usually present with severe anaemia in infancy and become transfusion dependent for all times, whereas patients with β-thalassaemia intermedia can present later in life with mild to moderate anaemia and variable transfusion requirements.<sup>[4]</sup> In patients homozygous or compound heterozygous for two β-thalassaemia alleles, the phenotype generally depends on the severity of the β-thalassaemia allele involved (β<sup>0</sup>/β<sup>0</sup> or β<sup>+</sup>/β<sup>+</sup> or β<sup>0</sup>/β<sup>+</sup>).<sup>[6][12]</sup> Individuals with Cooley's anemia usually come to medical attention within the first 2 years and wish regular transfusion to survive. Those presenting later don't require transfusion and receive a diagnosis of thalassemia intermedia<sup>[10]</sup>, affected individuals are in peril of developing severe complications related to post transfusion hemochromatosis, relying on their compliance with

chelation therapy.<sup>[10]</sup> Patients with TI usually present to medical attention in later childhood or even adulthood. They show mild to moderate anaemia and a haemoglobin level ranging between 7 and 10 g/dL, which is sustainable without the need for normal transfusion therapy.<sup>[13]</sup>

**$\alpha$ -thalassemia:-**  $\alpha$ -thalassaemia are inherited disorders characterised by reduced or suppressed production of  $\alpha$ -globin chains. It is caused most ordinarily by deletions of huge DNA fragments that involve one or both  $\alpha$ -globin genes.<sup>[5]</sup> More than 100 genetic forms of  $\alpha$ -thalassemia have thus so far been identified, with phenotypes ranging from asymptomatic to lethal. Up to five of the world's population are carriers for these common gene mutations.<sup>[14][15]</sup> The  $\alpha$ -thalassemia, during which one of the linked pair of alpha genes is deleted ( $-a/aa$ ) and therefore, the  $\alpha^0$ -thalassemias, in which both are deleted ( $-/aa$ ). The heterozygous state for  $\alpha$ -thalassemia is clinically silent, while the heterozygous state for  $\alpha^0$ -thalassemia produces the  $\alpha$ -thalassemia trait, a condition that's haematologically almost like the  $\beta$ -thalassemia trait. The homozygous state for  $\alpha\beta$ -thalassemia leads to an identical phenotype. The inheritance of both  $\alpha$ -thalassemia and  $\alpha^0$ -thalassemia ( $-a/-$ ) leads to haemoglobin H disease. There also are non deletional sorts of  $\alpha$ -thalassemia ( $-aND/aa$ ) caused by various structural abnormalities of an  $\alpha$ -globin gene. When these are inherited alongside  $\alpha^0$ -thalassemia ( $-aND/-$ ), a more severe sort of haemoglobin H disease occurs. Haemoglobin H may be a tetramer of  $\beta$ -chains ( $\beta_4$ ), which is unstable and has a particularly high oxygen affinity and is thus unable to effectively deliver oxygen. It's also relatively unstable and causes ineffective.<sup>[9][13][15]</sup> This type of thalassemia has been found in higher rate in Chinese, East Asians and negroes.<sup>[16]</sup> The patients with  $\alpha$ -thalassemia may remain asymptomatic and are frequently suspected on the idea of a routine blood count.<sup>[2]</sup>  $\alpha$ Thalassaemia has two main forms,  $\alpha^+$ thalassaemia and  $\alpha^0$ thalassaemia, and their classifications depend upon whether one or both of the linked  $\alpha$ globin genes are deleted or reduced in activity by mutation.<sup>[4][6]</sup>

## DIAGNOSIS

***Thalassemia minor:*** It is known mild anaemia with haematocrit rarely <30-33%. There is profound microcytosis and hypochromia. Mean corpuscular volume (MCV) and mean corpuscular Hb (MCH) are reduced in this thalassemia. Haemoglobin electrophoresis shows high level of HbA<sub>2</sub>.<sup>[2]</sup>

**Thalassemia intermedia:** It is characterized by Hb level between 7 and 10 g/dl, MCV between 50 and 80 femtoliters and MCH between 16 and 24 picograms. They affected RBC's show microcytosis, hypochromia anisocytosis, poikilocytosis and nucleated RBC.<sup>[2]</sup>

**Thalassemia major:** Patients will belong to severe anaemia with low Hb level (<7 g/dl), MCV < 70 f femtoliters and MCH < 20 picograms. The peripheral smear shows profound microcytosis apart from features as in thalassemia intermedia. Both HbA2 and HbF levels are increase in this form.<sup>[4]</sup>

**$\alpha$ -thalassemia trait:** Haemoglobin is usually normal range and there may be mild microcytosis and hypochromia. HbA2 and HbF levels are normal.<sup>[2]</sup> HbH disease is very similar to thalassemia intermedia.<sup>[2]</sup>

**NESTROFT (Naked Eye Single Tube Red Cell Osmotic Fragility Test):-** The backbone of this system were employed as a diagnostic assay for the hereditary spherocytosis and it's also useful for screening of thalassemia. This easy technique utilizes osmosis, the movement of water from lower to higher salt concentration region, to check for the osmotic resistance of the red cells corpuscle. One hypotonic saline are often prepared from dilution of a Tyrode's solution, which consists of NaCl, KCl, CaCl<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O, MgCl<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O, NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, glucose and water. The simplest of one hypotonic saline are often prepared which consists of 0.45% glycerine and 0.36% sodium chlorine in phosphate buffer (pH7.4).<sup>[41]</sup>

### **Diagnostic test for thalassemia**

**Interpretation of the peripheral blood smear:** - An important diagnostic tool for thalassemia is that the interpretation of the peripheral blood smear. RBC morphology in thalassemia disease demonstrates microcytosis, hypochromia, apparent anisocytosis (variation in cell size), and poikilocytosis (variation in shape).<sup>[40]</sup> Normally, microcytes are often evaluated by comparing the dimensions of RBC with those of nucleus of small lymphocytes. Hypochromic RBCs are those with increased diameter of central pallor of RBCs, quite one-third of their diameter.<sup>[8]</sup>

**Haemoglobin analysis:-** Hb analysis is a crucial laboratory evaluation to supply a presumptive identification and diagnosis of thalassemia and/or Hb variants diagnosis. With an age-matched reference range, an Hb analysis might be performed at any age, even within

the time of life.<sup>[40]</sup> Also, RBC indices and peripheral blood smears are helpful for obtaining a far better interpretation of Hb analysis. There are several platforms of Hb analysers, including Hb electrophoresis using cellulose ester membrane (at pH 8.6), acid agarose (at pH 6.0) or citrate agar gel, isoelectric focusing, low-performance liquid chromatography, high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), and capillary electrophoresis.<sup>[8]</sup>

**DNA or molecular analysis:-** Because thalassemia and hemoglobinopathy are mainly caused by mutations in globin genes, the molecular analysis of DNA sequences is that the most definitive diagnosis modality for such conditions. at the present, there are several measures to review the molecular basis of globin disorders. in theory, molecular studies of thalassemia might be divided into 2 main categories: mutation-specific detection and genome scanning. Mutation-specific detection makes use the knowledge from any given population on their common profiles of both  $\alpha$ -globin and  $\beta$ -globin mutations (deletions, point mutations, or gene rearrangements) to get a panel of mutation. Detection, and uses different polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based methods to spot these known mutations. There are several molecular techniques wont to detect known mutations, including GAP-PCR using conventional<sup>63</sup> or real-time detection (for gene deletions or insertions), allele-related mutations specific PCR, reverse dot blot hybridization or array-based detection, mismatched-PCR fragment length polymorphism, and analyses of a high-resolution melting curve (for point or small nucleotide changes).<sup>[8]</sup>

**PREVALENCE OF THALASSEMIA:-** Thalassaemia is one of most widely seen genetic diseases worldwide, with at least 60 000 heavily affected individuals born every year. Thalassemia is one of the most common genetic disorders worldwide currently 4.83 percent of the world's population carry globin variants.<sup>[11]</sup> The prevalence of the  $\alpha$ -thalassaemia gene ranges from but I Chronicles in Spain to 80 you bored with some tribal populations in India. Also, the carrier frequency of  $\beta$ -thalassaemia ranges from a couple of percent to the maximum amount as V-J Day within the Mediterranean countries and is about 5 you bored with Iran and Iraq. If haemoglobin E is included, quite 50 you look after the population is affected in some regions of Southeast Asia.<sup>[6]</sup> Thalassemia's are prevalent in tropical and subtropical areas where malaria was and still is epidemic. The high frequency could also be thanks to carriers of hemoglobinopathies who have a survival advantage in malarial endemic areas. People carrying thalassemia variants are concentrated in Southeast Asia, the



Mediterranean area, the Indian subcontinent, the centre East, and Africa. Moreover, it's noteworthy that as a consequence of recent massive population migrations, thalassemia isn't restricted to traditional high-incidence regions and is now a comparatively common clinical problem in North America, North Europe, and Australia.<sup>[3]</sup> The thalassaemia syndromes inherited as Mendelian recessives, and that they are the foremost common monogenic disorders in humans. It's been estimated that about 3 you look after the world's population are heterozygous for b-thalassaemia, and globally about 270 million people are carriers of mutant b-globin genes, including thalassemia's and haemoglobin variants, with the most of burden living in Southeast Asia.<sup>[6]</sup> Beta-Thalassemia usually a highly prevalent major monogenic single gene autosomal recessive disorder characterized by the reduced or absent expression of the beta-globin gene, resulting in an imbalance of alpha and beta-globin chains and it's estimated that around 300,000 to 400,000 babies with a severe haemoglobin disorder are born annually of all haemoglobinopathies.<sup>[17]</sup> The frequency observed of b-thal ranges from 51.0 to 16.0% worldwide, being 0.4% in Mexico, 1.5–3.0% in Morocco, 2.21% in Tunisia, 5.3 to 9.0% in Egypt, 4.0–8.0% in Iran, 1.0–11.0% in almost all Arab countries, 3.0– 4.0% in India, 5.0–7.0% in Pakistan and 16.0% in the Maldives.<sup>[18]</sup> More over 300,000 children in the world are born with severe b-globin gene disorders annually, and high a-thalassaemia. (HbH, HbH-Constant Spring, and homozygous a-thalassaemia) impacts on a minimum of 1,000,000 people.<sup>[6]</sup> The prevalence of  $\beta$ -thalassemia for India is 3-4% with an estimate that around 10,000-12,000 children are born annually with  $\beta$ -thalassemia major. A recent study in India showed that the general prevalence of  $\beta$ -thalassemia trait was 2.78% attempt to varied from 1.48% to 3.64% in several states, whereas the prevalence of  $\beta$ -thalassemia trait in 59 ethnic groups varied from 0% to 9.3% in range.<sup>[3]</sup>  $\alpha$ -thalassemia's is prevalent in peoples of Western African and South Asian descent. About 15% of yank blacks are silent carriers for  $\alpha$ -thalassemia. In India, the prevalence of  $\alpha$ -thalassemia is estimated to be around 12.9%. Region-wise also caste-wise analysis showed the large value prevalence of  $\alpha$ -thalassemia among the Punjabi population originating from the northern region of India. The Maldives has the popular incidence of thalassemia within the world with a carrier rate of 18% of the population.<sup>[2]</sup> In view of this, the Indian Council of Medical Research(ICMR) Advisory Committee on Hematology recommended the formation of a Task Force to get information on the prevalence of  $\beta$ -thalassemia and other hemoglobinopathies in several regions within the country. In metro cities, with an outsized population and well-equipped laboratory facilities like Mumbai, Delhi, and Kolkata were selected because they

represent three different zones of the country. The population studied included school children from these cities. Prevalence of  $\beta$ -thalassemia trait the general frequency of  $\beta$ TT within the school children was 4.05% being 2.68% and 5.49% in class children in Mumbai and Delhi each.<sup>[19]</sup>

**PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF THALASSEMIA:-** According to Thalassemia International Federation (TIF) through a panel of experts has published guidelines both for transfusion dependent thalassaemia and non-transfusion dependent thalassaemia. this is often one of the foremost objectives of the creation of the Thalassaemia International Federation, which was established in 1987 with the target to plug care which may end in improved survival and an honest quality of life. Through these guidelines' quality, evidence-based information is obtainable for the clinicians to review in their effort to provide the only possible care, during a chronic disease that becomes more complex because the patient grows in years. Well treated thalassaemia will lead the patient beyond childhood, to an age where there's multiple organ involvement. The results, mainly of hemochromatosis, cannot be totally prevented even by present day iron chelation treatment. this means that health professionals at several levels and different specialties got to be expert with all aspects in patient care. For this reason, these guidelines target health care provider of various disciplines.<sup>[5]</sup> Thus, it forms four structural events in thalassemia.

## 1. HAEMICHROMES FORMATION

Excess of one among hemoglobin chain causes accumulation of another chain results in denaturing or oxidation of  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ -, or  $\gamma$ -hemoglobin subunits leads to the formation of hemichromes, whose rate of formation determines the speed of the hemolysis.<sup>[3]</sup> Because a sequence dissociates into monomers more readily than compare to  $\beta$  chains, they form hemichromes at a faster rate, which explains why  $\beta$ -thalassemia is clinically much more severe than  $\alpha$ -thalassemia. Beta thalassemia has inclusions of  $\alpha$  chains, and hemoglobin H has  $\beta$  chains. Alpha chains are mainly monomeric and denature more easily than  $\beta$  chains. Heinz bodies in  $\beta$  Cooley's anemia (post splenectomy) have increased potassium, sodium flux's increased glycolysis, and activation of the hexose monophosphate shunt.<sup>[4]</sup> Precipitates of unpaired  $\beta$  chains form single large inclusions mentioned as Heinz bodies. the surplus  $\alpha$  globin chains in  $\beta$ -thalassemia precipitate the cell membrane and cause oxidative membrane damage and premature necrobiosis by apoptosis results in sever hemolysis.<sup>[1][11][20]</sup>



## 2. DEGRADATION OF IRON

It starts with formation of free morpheme of iron ferric reactive sort of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ . Starts of degradation of reactive forms with oxygen. The resulting free morpheme of iron which catalyzes the formation of reactive oxygen species.<sup>[4][6][20]</sup> Pathological mechanisms and consequences of hemochromatosis. In hemochromatosis resulting from repeated blood transfusions or long-term increased iron absorption, iron that's unsure to present molecules like transferrin, or ferritin or to therapeutic iron chelators, generates a selection of reactive oxygen species (ROS), most notably hydroxyl radicals.<sup>[5][20]</sup> Iron-dependent oxidation of membrane proteins and results in form red-cell "senescence" antigens like phosphatidylserine cause thalassaemic red cells to be rigid and deformed and to aggregate, resulting in premature cell removal. These observations suggest that administration of hepcidin or agents that increase hepcidin expression could even be therapeutically useful for the inhibition of inappropriate iron absorption.<sup>[11]</sup> Hepcidin is that the regulator of iron absorption and produced by liver cells. It regulates the expression of ferroprotein, a protein which directly facilitates enterocytic iron absorption within the gut. Independently of the cause, in severe anemia, hepcidin production is suppressed which finishes up in increased iron absorption.<sup>[4]</sup> This contributes to hemochromatosis, especially in patients who aren't regularly transfused.<sup>[11]</sup> This causes iron mediated toxicity to the cell's degradation of cells thanks to iron loading in body

## 3. PRE-MATURE ERYTHROID PRECRUSOR

The kidneys increase secretion of erythropoietin (EPO). EPO are often cytokine which targets red cell precursors in response to the oxygen requirement of tissues. EPO secretion results in an increased red cell production, but thanks to the defect of erythroblast maturation this might forms the ineffective erythropoiesis worse.<sup>[1]</sup> this is often a vicious circle that results in expansion of hematopoietic tissue within the bone marrow and thus the destruction of bone architecture, thus contributing to bone disease and fragility. In some patients, extramedullary hematopoietic masses develop within the liver, the spleen.<sup>[1]</sup> The anemia results in increased output of erythropoietin, resulting intense proliferation and expansion of the erythropoietic (albeit still ineffective) bone marrow activity, which successively creates a selection of skeletal abnormalities, like osteopenia, osteoporosis, thinning of compacta and bone hypertrophy, and deformities of the face and skull.<sup>[6]</sup> Premature death of precursor of results in increase EPO production in kidneys causing a marked erythroid hyperplasia, which, in turn, may produce skeletal deformities,

osteoporosis, and sometimes extramedullary masses, and contributes to spleen enlargement.<sup>[5]</sup>

#### 4. HAEMOSIDEROSIS OF BODY IRON

The elevated iron within the serum is haunted by hepatocytes forming ferritin within the lysosomes. Ferritin accumulates since it isn't affected by the lysosomal enzymes. Ferritin is converted to hemosiderin, an insoluble iron-containing protein. In Cooley's anemia, these are abnormal deposits of ferritin and hemosiderin within the lysosomes. there's increased absorption of dietary iron with hemosiderosis of the gastric and intestinal mucosa. Increased iron stores are manifested by myocardial, hepatic, pancreatic, adrenal, thyroid, and pituitary hemosiderosis. The myocardial hemosiderosis has been associated with heart failure and arrhythmias. Hepatic dysfunction and coagulation factor deficiencies could even be present with frequent bleeding of nose.<sup>[21]</sup>

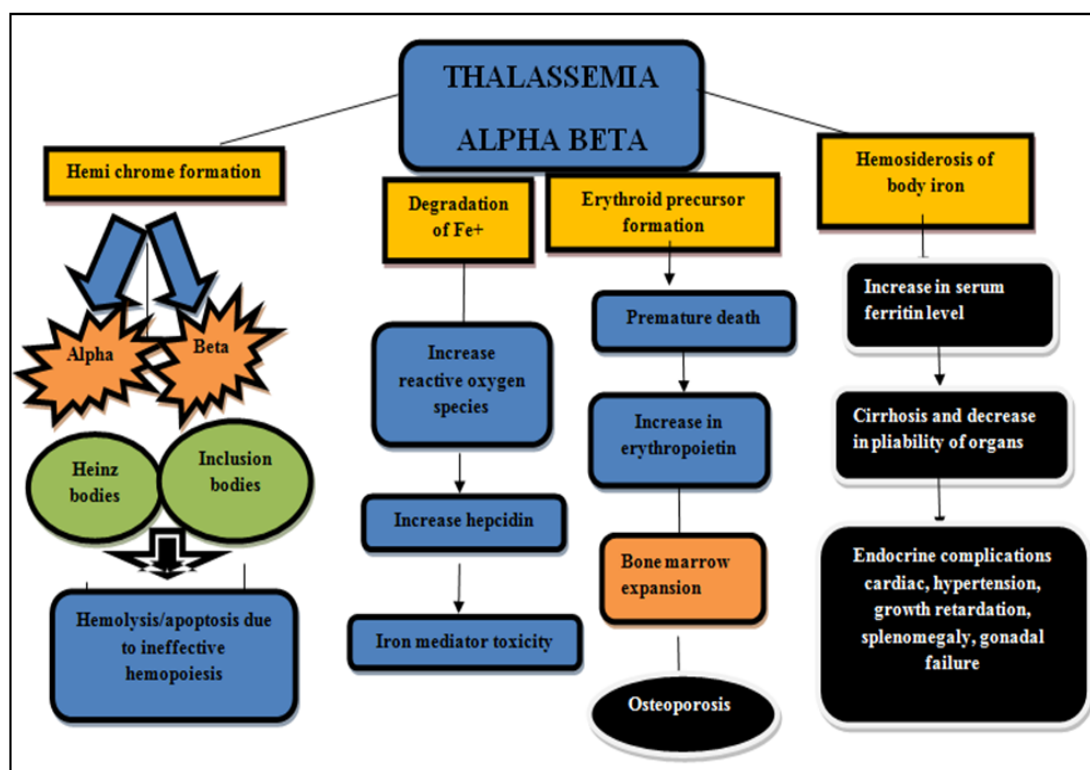


Figure 1.1

#### PARAMETRIC CAUSE FOR STRESS AND BURDEN OF DISEASE OF THALASSEMIA

**IRON OVERLOAD:** - Hemochromatosis (IOL) occurs when iron intake is increased over a sustained period of some time, either as a results of red blood cell transfusions or

increased absorption of iron through the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. Both of these occur in thalassaemia's, with transfusion therapy being the most explanation for hemochromatosis in Cooley's anemia and increased GI absorption being more important in non-transfusion dependent thalassaemia (NTDT).<sup>[5]</sup> the foremost common secondary complications are those related to transfusional hemochromatosis, which can be prevented by adequate iron chelation.<sup>[23]</sup> Iron overload continues to end/cell death in significant morbidity and mortality in patients with thalassemia.<sup>[6][11][22]</sup> When Cooley's anemia patients receive regular transfusion, hemochromatosis is inevitable because the human body lacks a mechanism to excrete excess iron. Iron accumulation is toxic to many tissues, causing heart failure, cirrhosis, cancer of the liver, growth retardation and multiple endocrine abnormalities.<sup>[5][11]</sup> Even non transfused patients develop iron loading secondary to increased intestinal absorption of dietary iron. hemochromatosis is that the main explanation for death and organ injury. Iron overload occurs very rapidly in patients who are on future transfusion programs. Since humans haven't any mechanism aside from sloughing of the mucosa of their gastrointestinal tracts or menstruation to excrete excess iron, patients who are being transfused every three or four weeks gain 0.5 mg/kg per day of iron in more than natural losses. Patients who aren't on a transfusion regimen also are vulnerable to hemochromatosis thanks to majorly increased intestinal absorption of iron secondary to ineffective erythropoiesis.<sup>[24]</sup> Among genetic factors, the foremost common explanation for hemochromatosis is that the presence of two main mutations (C282Y and H63D) within the HFE gene, mainly responsible for hereditary hemochromatosis (HH). Although the role of the H63D mutation isn't as clear because the role of the C282Y mutation, different studies claim H63D confers an increased risk of hemochromatosis and thus genetic susceptibility to developing HH or aggravating other diseases. Therefore, the presence of mutations within the HFE gene may adversely affect iron loading in  $\beta$ -thal carriers and explain the variability in hemochromatosis observed in these patients. The role of the HFE mutation on iron status in  $\beta$ -thal trait is controversial. The homozygous state for the C282Y mutation has been described as an aggravating factor ( yet the results of co-inheritance of  $\beta$ -thal and H63D homozygosity haven't been clearly elucidated, some authors claiming this genotype shows no effect on iron loading while others claim it could induce hemochromatosis in  $\beta$ -thal minor.<sup>[25]</sup> Although the build-up of iron in patients with Thalassemia intermedia [TI] is slower than that seen in regularly transfused patients with TM, it's nonetheless an ongoing process that needs regular assessment and management.

the build-up of iron in TI patients has been shown to be age related, reflecting increased iron accumulation over time, even within the absence of transfusion therapy.<sup>[26]</sup> The role of iron within the formation of reactive oxygen species (ROS), including free radicals in biologic systems that end in human diseases, is documented. The harmful effects of ROS on the sperm membrane, structural components, and nucleus have also been reported. Previous studies have demonstrated oligoasthenospermia and sperm DNA damage in male patients with transfusion-dependent beta-thalassemia.<sup>[27]</sup>

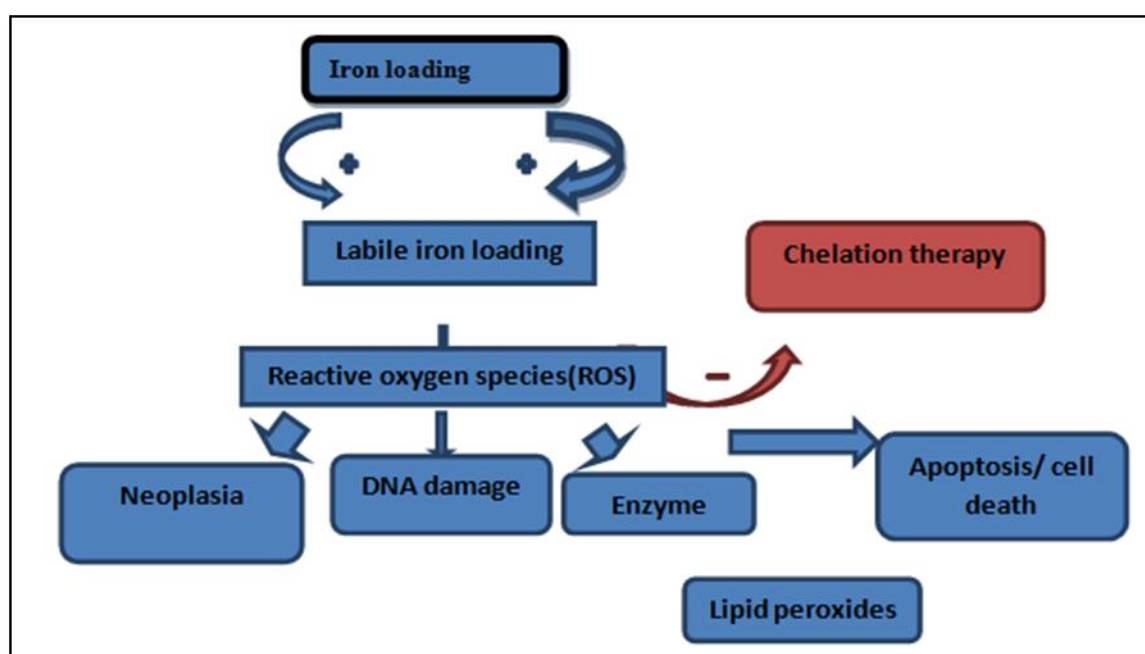


Figure 1.2

### MONITORING IRON OVERLOAD

**1. Serum Ferritin:-** Serum ferritin (SF) generally correlates with body iron stores, and is relatively easy and cheap to figure out repeatedly. Serum ferritin is most useful in identifying trends. A decreasing trend in SF is nice evidence of decreasing body iron burden but absence of a decreasing trend doesn't exclude a decreasing iron burden. However, an increasing SF trend implies an increasing iron burden but also can be due to inflammation or tissue damage, so clinical judgment must be used to interpret these trends. Future control of SF is additionally a useful guide to the danger of complications from hemochromatosis. Studies have shown that a really low risk of cardiac disease and death during a minimum of two-thirds of cases where serum ferritin levels are maintained below 2,500 µg/L (with Deferoxamine, or DFO) over a period of a decade or more. Observations with larger patient numbers show that maintenance of an

honest lower serum ferritin of 1,000 µg/L could even be associated with additional clinical advantages. SF measures don't always predict body iron or trends in body iron accurately. In TM, variation in body iron stores accounts for fewer than 57% of the variability in plasma ferritin. a scarcity of fall in SF with chelation doesn't therefore necessarily prove that the patient could also be a 'non responder' to the chelation regime. Below 3000 µg/L SF values are influenced mainly by iron stores within the macrophage system, whereas above 3000 µg/L they're determined increasingly by ferritin leakage from hepatocytes. Below 3000 µg/L SF values are influenced mainly by iron stores within the macrophage system, whereas above 3000 µg/L they're determined increasingly by ferritin leakage from hepatocytes.<sup>[5]</sup>

**2. Liver iron concentration (LIC) measurement:** - Adequate control of LIC is linked to the danger of hepatic damage also because the danger of extrahepatic damage. Normal LIC values are up to 1.8 mg/g dry wt., with levels of up to 7 mg/g dry wt. seen in some non-thalassaemic populations without apparent adverse effects. Sustained high LIC (above 15-20 mg/g dry wt) are lined to worsening prognosis, liver fibrosis progression. within the absence of prior iron chelation therapy, the danger of myocardial iron loading increases with the quantity of blood units transfused and hence with hemochromatosis. the connection between LIC and extrahepatic iron is complicated by chelation therapy as iron tends to be accumulate initially within the liver and later within the centre but is additionally removed sooner from the liver than the guts by chelation therapy. Thus, in patients receiving chelation therapy, whilst high LIC increases the danger of cardiac hemochromatosis, the measurement of LIC won't predict myocardial iron and hence cardiac risk reliably, and myocardial iron could even be found in some patients despite currently well controlled LIC. it's the foremost reliable indicator of body iron load, which can be derived from the next formula: Total body iron stores in mg iron /kg body wt. = 10.6 x the LIC (in mg/g dry w). Sequential measurement of LIC is that the simplest because of determine whether body iron is increasing or decreasing with time (iron balance). While serum ferritin is simple, relatively inexpensive and should be repeated frequently, LIC determination should be considered for those patients whose serum ferritin levels deviate from expected trends (i.e. those with suspected co-existing hepatitis, or patients on chelation regimens with variable or uncertain responses), as this might reduce the danger of giving either inadequate or excessive doses of chelation therapy. Since the connection of SF to hemochromatosis and iron balance has not yet

been established, assessment of LIC could even be particularly useful when new chelating regimes are becoming used. At high levels of SF ( $>4000 \mu\text{g/L}$ ), the connection to LIC isn't linear and patients may show fall in LIC (negative iron balance) without a transparent trend in SF within the primary 6-12 months. When a patient fails to means a fall in SF over several months the change in LIC can identify whether this regime is adequate or need to be modified (increased frequency or adherence, increased dose, or change in regime).<sup>[5]</sup>

**COMPLICATIONS OF THALASSEMIA:** - Study shown that complications in thalassemia patients during various treatments for survival of patients as

#### **A. Chelation therapy complications**

**1. Growth retardation and skeletal changes:-** Growth retardation may occur if DFO is administered at too high dosage/over chelation. Other risk factor is belonging to low age of starting treatment ( $<3$  years). Growth progress resumes rapidly when the dose is redacted to  $<40 \text{ mg/kg day}$ , while it does not respond to hormonal treatment. Therefore, it should be recommended that doses do not exceed  $40 \text{ mg/kg}$  until growth has ceased. Skeletal changes are more often in cases of excessive dosage of DFO, where patients have a low level of iron overloading.<sup>[5][22]</sup>

**2. Hearing and visual problems:-** High frequency sensory neural loss, tinnitus and deafness may occur when DFO is given in high doses, particularly to young children whose iron burden is low, and when the therapeutic index is exceeded ( $>0.025$ ). Minor sensory neural deficit has been reversible in some cases, but significant deafness is typically permanent. Tinnitus can also occur. It's therefore advisable to watch audiometry yearly, bearing in mind that audiometric changes thanks to excessive DFO. Visual disturbances are rare if dosage guidelines aren't exceeded, and should include retinal effects and cataracts. Retinal effects were first noted when very high doses ( $>100 \text{ mg/kg/day}$ ) got. Symptoms may include night-blindness, impaired colour vision, impaired visual fields and reduced acuity. Severe cases may show signs of retinitis pigmentosa on fundoscopy, whereas milder cases are only demonstrable with electro-retinography. Treatment with DFO should be temporarily suspended in patients who develop complications, to be reintroduced at lower doses once investigations indicate resolution of the matter.<sup>[1][22]</sup>



**3. Local and allergic reactions:** - Local reactions at the deferoxamine injection site that are urticarial in nature will usually answer increased dilution of the deferoxamine by 25 to 30 percent. Hydrocortisone should be used only in severe cases and under the direction of the consulting haematologist. In some cases, treatment with antihistamines could also be helpful.<sup>[11]</sup>

**4. Neutropenia, agranulocytosis and thrombocytopenia:-** The labelled DFP includes a warning signs of stating that the drug can cause agranulocytosis (absolute neutrophil count or ANC <500/mm<sup>3</sup>), which can lead to serious infections and death as a consequence of infection. This agranulocytosis may be preceded by neutropenia. The rate at which incidence are reported approximately 1.7% of patients. Each patient's absolute neutrophil count should be measured before starting DFP therapy and weekly during treatment.<sup>[5][22]</sup>

**5. Gastrointestinal effects:-** Gastrointestinal events are relatively frequent with DFX therapy but are typically mild to moderate and include diarrhoea, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting, occurring in approximately 15-26% of patients. it's unclear to what extent the lactose component of the DFX formulation affects gastrointestinal tolerability in lactose-intolerant patients but this needs clarification, as lactase deficiency is common - particularly in South-East Asia. The role of co-administration of acidophilus or lactobacillus probiotic yoghurt to assist lactose has not been systematically studied.<sup>[5]</sup>

**6. General tolerability and frequency of adverse effects:** - The unwanted effects of DFO are seen mainly when doses are as long as are too high in reference to the extent of hemochromatosis, and typically take weeks or months to develop (over chelation). Some effects are largely independent of the dose given, however, limited data on the frequency of adverse effects at currently recommended doses are available. during a 1 year randomised clinical test comparing DFO with DFX, abnormalities of hearing were reported as adverse events regardless of drug relationship in 2.4% on DFO. Cataracts or lenticular opacities were reported as adverse events regardless of drug relationship in 1.7% on DFO. an identical percentage of patients receiving DFX and DFO experienced cardiac adverse events (DFX 5.1%, DFO 6.9%).<sup>[5]</sup>

**B. Transfusion complications:** - Transfusion therapy transformed the disease from a severe, fatal anaemia into a chronic illness where complications from transfusions are

now the main explanation for morbidity and mortality.<sup>[28]</sup> The aim of study was to watch number of youngsters receiving blood and complications arising in them thanks to the blood treatment itself. It had been of utter amusement that even after careful blood administration practices, the patient experience many complications both immediate and long-term.<sup>[29]</sup> Regular transfusion has improved the prognosis of thalassemia, but the build-up of iron contained within the transfused red cells is liable for damage to the tissues. To this additionally, to the iron administered with blood, the hyperactive bone marrow favours increased intestinal iron absorption, mediated through the decreased production of hepcidin, a peptide produced by the liver whose role in regulating iron metabolism has recently been elucidated. Instead of the supply of transfusion and iron-chelating drugs, the prevalence of complications of thalassemia remains high and increases with the age of the patients.<sup>[30]</sup> Transfusion practices and complications are critical to quality of life and survival, but there's a scarcity of standardized care.<sup>[28]</sup>

**1. Alloimmunization reactions:-** Alloimmunization may or may not be a regular problem are often prevented by transfusing blood matched for the patient's extended red blood corpuscle phenotype (not just the ABO and RhD antigens). An alloantibody test must be performed prior to every transfusion. An alloantibody is an antibody made by the patient against itself, an antigen present on the transfused red cell. Once alloimmunized, patients could also be in danger for developing an antibody against their own red cells (an autoantibody). Up to 10 percent of patients who can develop alloantibodies will develop an autoantibody.<sup>[24]</sup> There are limited informative source on the transfusion complications during this population including alloimmunization rates. Pilot data suggest that this diverse population in North America could also be at greater risk for alloimmunization. Knowledge of other transfusion complications like anaphylaxis and haemolytic reactions is additionally incomplete because these events are rarely compiled and reported.<sup>[28]</sup>

**2. Cardiac complications:-** Cardiac disease are the major cause of death in patients due to iron loading by blood transfusion. The two crucial organs liver and heart have different standards and mechanisms of iron uptake and elimination. This proves that the measurements of ferritin and liver iron don't completely predict cardiac risk; high values are related to further cardiac iron accumulation, but low values might not necessarily be reassuring.<sup>[24]</sup> High serum ferritin levels (12,500  $\mu$ g/l) and enlarged hepatic iron stores

(115 mg of iron/g of liver, dry weight) are related to an increased risk of heart condition in thalassaemic patients.<sup>[31]</sup> An equivalent study clearly indicated that iron-chelating therapy with deferoxamine can successfully extend survival freed from cardiac disease. Cardiac complications are considered to be a consequence of hemochromatosis, mediated by labile iron induced peroxidative injury to the phospholipids of lysosomes and mitochondria.<sup>[31]</sup> Patients should tend continuous deferoxamine therapy at 50 mg/kg/day as long because the patient has adequate urine output. Deferiprone at 75 mg/kg/d, divided TID, should be added as soon because the patient is capable of tolerating oral medications.<sup>[5][42]</sup>

**3. Endocrine complications:-** Endocrine dysfunction due to iron load by large transfusion and toxicity to the endocrine tissue and pituitary gland is a common complication of iron overload, causing significant morbidity.<sup>[24]</sup> Studying ubiquity of endocrine complications is burdensome because of considerable differences within the age of first revelation to chelation therapy, the degree and sort of chelation, the haemoglobin level attained before transfusion, and therefore the continuing improvement in survival in well-chelated patients.<sup>[5]</sup> Iron deposition and structural damage to the pancreas, the pituitary, parathyroid, thyroid and adrenal glands and to the gonads are demonstrated histologically and by MRI.<sup>[30]</sup> Proper blood transfusion to maintain pre-transfusion haemoglobin level > 9 g/dl. Proper chelation to attain serum ferritin < 1000 ng/ml. Use of new iron-chelators with lower toxicity on the skeleton and with better patient compliance.<sup>[5]</sup>

**4. Osteoporosis:-** In osteoporotic patients the bone mineral density (BMD) is decrease, bone basic structural shape is disrupted and therefore the amount and sort of non-collagenous proteins in bone is modified.<sup>[5]</sup> Osteoporosis has been found to affect 51% of thalassemia patients, with a further 45% suffering from osteopenia. Reduced mineral density and consequent susceptibility to fractures in older patients has been attributed, additionally to hyperactivity of the bone marrow, hemochromatosis, endocrine dysfunction, adverse effects of DFO and lack of workout.<sup>[30]</sup> The cut-off of two 5 standard deviations below the traditional mean in bone mineral density (BMD) for the respective age is employed for the definition of osteoporosis, whereas the decrease of BMD between 1.5 and 2.5 standard deviations below the traditional mean for the respective age is defined as osteopenia.<sup>[5]</sup> Therefore, the osteopenia and osteoporosis

regarded as majorly reasons for morbidity in youngster of both genders with TM or thalassaemia intermedia and thus the incidence of osteopenia or osteoporosis is well treated. TM patients has been found to be approximately 40–50%. Bone mineral density (BMD) may be a widely used and well-established measure of skeletal health. DXA is that the gold standard for the measurement of BMD. it's a non-invasive technique and may be performed at the hip, lumbar spine, and distal radius.<sup>[5]</sup>

**5. Splenomegaly:-** The common pathophysiology bedrock is an increased destruction of red blood cells by reticulo-endothelial system, especially by the spleen, leading to its enlargement (splenomegaly). Many patients with thalassaemia require splenectomy. the most therapeutic rationale for splenectomy in transfusion-dependent patients with  $\beta$ -thalassaemia major (TM) is to decrease blood consumption and transfusion requirement with the last word goal of reducing hemochromatosis.<sup>[5]</sup> Splenomegaly thanks to periods of under-transfusion with blood of inappropriately low haemoglobin could also be reversible. Before considering splenectomy during this situation, the patient should be placed on an adequate transfusion program for several months then re-evaluated.<sup>[5]</sup> The splenectomy operations in thalassemia were been declined in past few years. The moto is to slackening the prevalence of hypersplenism in adequately transfused patients. There is also an escalate appreciation of the adverse effects of splenectomy on blood coagulation. In widespread the splenectomy should be circumvented unless absolutely indicated. Splenectomy is indicated because the transfusion-dependent patient when hypersplenism rises the transfusion regimen and intercepts to adequate control of body iron with chelation therapy. An enlarged spleen—without an associated increase in transfusion requirement—is not necessarily an indication for surgery.<sup>[24]</sup> Yearly transfusion volume boosted by 225 to 250 mL/kg annually with packed red blood cells (haematocrit 75 percent) may indicate the presence of hypersplenism. The volume calculation should be corrected if the average haematocrit is less than 75 percent.<sup>[24]</sup> There are currently 4 approaches to splenectomy; open and laparoscopic total splenectomy, partial splenectomy and reduction of splenic tissue by embolization. Splenectomy is that the recommended intervention to scale back excessive blood consumption and consequent severe hemochromatosis. the 2 surgical techniques most ordinarily employed for total splenectomy are the Open Splenectomy (OS) and Laparoscopic Splenectomy (LS) approaches.<sup>[5]</sup>

**6. The liver disease:-** Liver toxicity can occur as a direct consequence of iron toxicity, from transfusion-acquired hepatitis, and/or from other causes of disease such as medications, liver toxins, autoimmune reactions, or metabolic disease. Liver function and hepatitis serology should be routinely screened in thalassemia patients on chronic transfusion.<sup>[24]</sup> Among the different organs susceptible to damage in thalassaemia patients, the liver shows a major target. Iron overload is the main causative factor by regular blood transfusion.<sup>[5]</sup> The main risk of chronic disease is that the development of cirrhosis with its risk of hepatoma complications which are becoming more frequent thanks to overall improvements in thalassaemia outcomes. The diagnosis of both type and severity of hepatic disease in thalassaemia has benefited from the supply of non-invasive techniques. Repeated transfusions represent the main explanation for hemochromatosis in Cooley's anaemia. Each packed red cell bag consist of averagely 200-250 mg of iron. Considering that total body iron stores are approximately 4 g, which normal daily iron losses are of the order of 1-2 mg (with a really limited capacity for the body to manage these losses), one can understand that, when a given individual needs as an example one unit of blood every 2 weeks, body hemochromatosis develops rapidly. Since red blood cells are degraded within the reticulo-endothelial system (macrophages, essentially within the spleen), hemochromatosis will primarily affect the spleen and, to a lesser degree, hepatic macrophages (called Kupffer cells) which are much less numerous than the parenchymal cells (hepatocytes) within the liver.<sup>[5]</sup>

## MANAGEMENT OF THALASSEMIA AND TREATMENT RELATED TO DISEASE

Disease management of thalassemia patient based on five major ways to treat patients as well as to provide better life with less burden of stress of disease as;

**A) SUPPORTIVE THEARPHY:-** for support of life of patient

**1) Blood transfusion:-** Blood transfusion is the necessity of care for individuals with thalassemia major and many with intermedia patients.<sup>[24]</sup> Transfusion therapy have 2 main purpose: supplying normal erythrocytes so as decrease chance of anemia and suppressing ineffective erythropoiesis, essentially controlling all downstream pathophysiological mechanisms in thalassemia.<sup>[4][24][32]</sup> Thalassemic patients care in many countries has achieved survival chances of Thalassemia patients well into adult life mainly by adopting good transfusion and chelation practices but also by adopting follow up protocols which aim to detect early and stop if possible, complications to vital organs.<sup>[5]</sup> Adherence to the directives from the ecu Union (EU), World Health Organization

(WHO), American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) and other or other international groups, with additional consideration of national needs, resources and prevalence of infectious agents, should safeguard the standard of transfusion services.<sup>[5]</sup> Mainly transfusion dependent thalassemia (TDT) patients require regular blood supply, include patients with  $\beta$ -thalassemia major, severe HbE/ $\beta$ -thalassemia, transfusion dependent HbH disease or HbH hydrops and surviving HbBart's hydrops.<sup>[5]</sup> Currently related guidelines recommend that regular blood transfusions administered every 2–5 weeks with an aim to take care of the pretransfusion Hb of 9–10.5 g/dL.<sup>[5][4][11][24][32]</sup> The currently accepted mean target Hb is 12 g/dL with a posttransfusion Hb of 14–15 g/dL. Higher posttransfusion Hb values risk hyper viscosity and stroke, whereas lower posttransfusion Hb values would require decreased intervals between transfusions.

**Who needs blood:-** Regular transfusion of patients of TDT, patients with Hb below 7g/dl with facial changes poor growth, fractures<sup>[5]</sup> occurs mostly after 2 years of life.<sup>[5][32]</sup>

**Recommended product:-** Patients with Cooley's anemia should receive leuco-reduced packed red blood cells with a minimum hemoglobin content of 40g.

Reduction to  $1 \times 10^6$  or less leucocytes per unit is taken into account the critical threshold for eliminating adverse reactions attributed to contaminating white cells like NHFTR, TTI, Alloimmunization reactions.<sup>[5]</sup>

**Specialized blood for patients;-** a) Washed red cells: For allergic reactions of IgA in patients

b) Cryopreserved frozen cells: For patients having red cell antibodies reaction.<sup>[5]</sup>

**Amount of blood to be transfused:-** It is calculated on a formula as~ (Desired – actual Hb) x weight x 3/hematocrit of transfused unit = ml to be transfused. Most transfusions of 2 or 3 donor units are administered over 3-4 hours.<sup>[5]</sup>

**Table 1.3**

Target Hb	haemocratic 50%	60%	70%	80%
2g/dl	12ml/kg	10ml/kg	8ml/kg	7.5ml/kg
3g/dl	18ml/kg	15ml/kg	12ml/kg	11.2ml/kg
4g/dl	24ml/kg	20ml/kg	16ml/kg	15ml/kg



For e.g., to raise hemoglobin level by 4 g/dl in a patient weighing 40 kg and receiving AS1 blood with a hematocrit of 60% would require 800 ml. This calculation assumes a blood volume of 70 ml/kg body weight.

**2. Chelation therapy:-** Iron overload is the leading cause of death for thalassemia patients. Even non transfused patients develop hemochromatosis secondary to increased intestinal absorption of dietary iron. Iron overload is contributing major part in mortality and organ injury.<sup>[32]</sup> Treatment of iron overload is done by chelators use type of chelation in use aims as 1. Prevention therapy 2. Rescue therapy 3. Emergency therapy 4. Dose adjustment of therapy 5. Adherence therapy.<sup>[5]</sup> The moto of iron chelation therapy related to: hold of toxic non-transferrin bound iron in the plasma and the removal of iron from the body. Detoxifying the excess iron is probably utmost important role of chelation therapy. It has clarified that certain symptoms of iron overload, such as cardiac arrhythmia and heart failure, can be improved well before local tissue levels of iron have decreased by uninterrupted presence of a chelator in the plasma.<sup>[32]</sup>

**Table 1.2**

Compound	Desferrioxamine (DFO)	Deferasirox (DFX)	Deferiprone (DFP)
Route	SC/IV 8-12hrs 5days a week	Once orally	Orally once
Iron log binding capacity	26.6	22.5	19.9
Lipid solubilty	Low	High	Intermediate
Half life	20-30 min	12-16 hrs	3-4 hrs
Max plasma level	7-10uM	80uM	90-450uM
Recommended dose(mg/kg/d)	30-60 5- 7 weeks	20-40 once daily	75-100 3 divided dose
Chelation efficacy	13	27	7
Therapy	First line for TM	If another chelator ineffective	First line for TM and NTDT

## **B) CURATIVE THEARPHY:-** for curing patient

**1. Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant:-** A HSCT remains the only widely available curative therapy in TDT patients worldwide for quite 30 years.<sup>[5][33]</sup> Hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT) is the only way of treatment that provides a positive cure for thalassemia at this time. HCT contingent to on high-dose chemotherapy to deteriorates the thalassemia-producing cells in the marrow and restores them with healthy donor cells from bone marrow or umbilical cord blood, conventionally taken from a human-

leukocyte antigen (HLA) match of an identical sibling.<sup>[24]</sup> The major steps within the generation of pluripotent hESC are the following: after 5 -- 7 days of in vitro cell culture, a blastocyst is generated showing a clearly visible and simply accessible inner cell mass (ICM). Pluripotent stem cells are often easily isolated from the ICM, giving rise to in vitro hESC lines. From these cell lines embryoid bodies are often developed to be used for further tissue-specific differentiation.<sup>[34]</sup> In studies, the young patients to 3 classes consistent with the absence or presence of 1, two or three risk factors before transplantation: hepatomegaly > 2 cm, portal fibrosis and irregular chelation history (class 1=no risk factor, class 2=one or two risk factors and sophistication 3 =three risk factors).<sup>[5][35]</sup> The optimistic transplantation results were obtained in patients with age younger than 14 years (overall survival; range 90–96% and thalassemia-free survival; 83–93%) compared to older age cohorts in whom overall survival has been 81% and thalassaemia-free survival 75%.<sup>[33]</sup> In recent years, the source of somatic cells are extended to incorporate peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC) and rope blood stem cells (CBSC) for transplantation.<sup>[36]</sup> The potential benefits of duct blood (UCB) treatment are the low risk of viral contamination from a graft, the decreased incidence of acute and chronic GVHD, and easier accessibility. The small size/small number of stem cells within the UCB collection relative to the amount required for engraftment are probably the most causes of failure of UCB transplantation.<sup>[5]</sup>

**2. Cord blood transplantation:-** The potential benefits of duct blood (UCB) treatment are the low risk of viral contamination from a graft, the decreased incidence of acute and chronic GVHD, and easier accessibility. The small size or small number of stem cells within the UCB collection relative to the amount required for engraftment are probably the most causes of failure of UCB transplantation; therefore, this procedure is getting used mainly in pediatric patients. The use of UCB from unrelated donors has resulted in only 77% survival and 65% event-free survival.<sup>[5]</sup>

**3. Bone marrow transplantation:-** Only definitive treatment for this disorder is allogenic bone marrow/vegetative cell transplantation. It requires HLA identical vegetative cell donor usually sibling or parents. the possibilities of getting full match with siblings are approximately 25% and there is 4-5% chance of parents being a full match with the child.<sup>[5]</sup> The perfect age of transplant for Cooley's anemia is 2-5 years aged, but it can alright be done till 20 years of age provided condition of the patient is fit transplant.<sup>[5]</sup>

Allogeneic bone marrow transplantation (alloBMT) is curative for thalassemia. Indeed, it has been performed since 1982, with continuous advances within the sector within the past decades.<sup>[35]</sup> The danger of BMT using an HLA-identical sibling donor could be predicted according to the presence or absence of only three criteria: hepatomegaly, evidence of portal fibrosis within the liver on biopsy, and inadequate iron chelation therapy.<sup>[36]</sup> All patients are heavily transfused leading to alloimmunization and a high risk of graft rejection.<sup>[35]</sup> AlloBMT is dear and has not been available in most developing countries for this and other technical reasons. However, recent efforts are made to foster international cooperation between industrialized and developing countries to increase the utilization of this therapy within the developing world.<sup>[35]</sup>

### C) ALTERNATIVE NOVEL APPROCHES

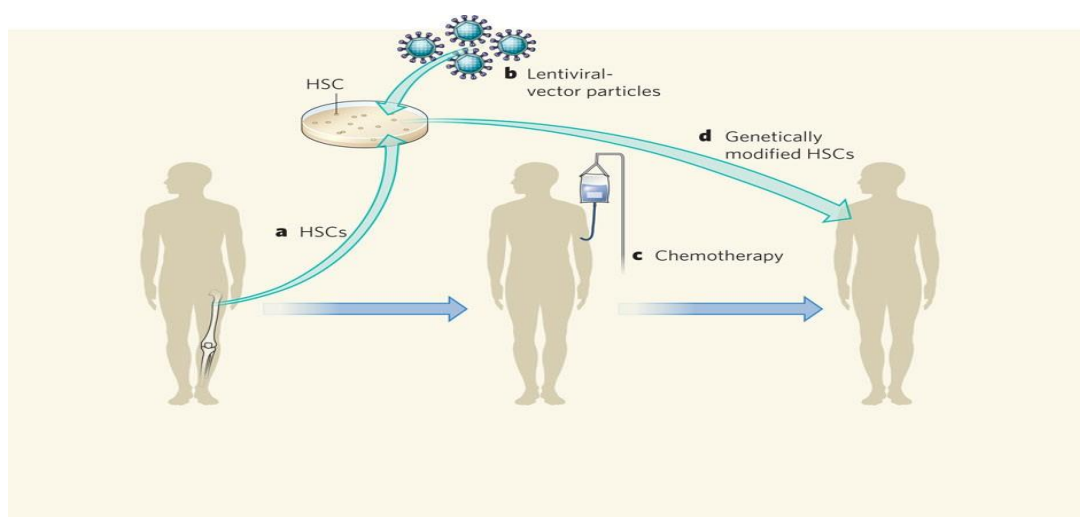
**1. DNA methylation inhibitors (5-azacytidine and decitibine):-** The earliest clinical studies of HbF inducers were through with 5-azacytidine. In short-term studies, there was a strong HbF induction observed in patients with  $\beta$ -thalassaemia.<sup>[5]</sup> The short-chain carboxylic acid butyrate was reported to decrease transfusion requirements in transfusion-dependent-thalassemia patients for 7 years.<sup>[20]</sup>

**2. Erythropoietin Stimulating and Other Agents:-** Inclusion of pharmacologic amounts of erythropoietin causes a reversion to fetal programs in maturing erythroid precursors, which involves a rise in gamma globin synthesis.<sup>[3]</sup> The use of recombinant human erythropoietin or the newer erythropoietic stimulating agent darbepoetin alfa in patients with  $\beta$ -thalassaemia is related to increases in total hemoglobin level.<sup>[5]</sup>

**3. Hydroxyurea:-** The humongous literature survey is done on HbF inducer use in  $\beta$ -thalassaemia stems to employ the drug hydroxyurea use as cytotoxic agent that inhibits ribonucleotide reductase and thus slows progression through the cell cycle.<sup>[5]</sup> Research work in sickle disease have proclaims that hydroxyurea, an inhibitor of ribonucleotide reductase, may emanates amelioration in HbF. The mechanism is not entirely clear, but hydroxyurea has been given to patients with beta Cooley's anaemia and intermedia, and to patients with beta thalassemia/HbE disease.<sup>[5][37]</sup> This includes a decreased need for transfusion, a rise in hemoglobin levels, decreased markers of ineffective erythropoiesis, and decreased morbidities.<sup>[5]</sup>

#### D) FUTURE SCOPE THEARPHY

**Gene Therapy:-** The goal of globin gene transfer is to revive the capacity of the thalassemic subject's own blood-forming stem cells to get RBCs with a traditional hemoglobin content. The goal of this therapy is thus to realize transfusion independence without incurring the risks of bone marrow transplantation from a sub-optimally matched donor.<sup>[5]</sup> For last many years, gene therapy has come out big hope for the cure of both alpha and beta thalassemia's.<sup>[37]</sup> Started as the gene therapy were directed against diseases of the b-globin gene. The following therapeutic strategy involves the addition of a normally working g-globin or b-globin gene into the patient's autologous hematopoietic stem cells.<sup>[11]</sup> The major problems with this sort of gene therapy are associated with vector construction. Additionally, the vector must be safe from recombination or mutagenesis. Oncoretroviral and adenoviral vectors are found to be unsuitable for various reasons.<sup>[4]</sup> Lentiviral vectors supported the genome of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) have several inherent advantages for stem cell-targeted gene transfer.<sup>[38]</sup> Several studies shows that lentiviral vector-mediated globin gene transfer will ameliorate the phenotype of murine in thalassemia intermedia patients.<sup>[38]</sup>



**Figure 1.3**

Along with this, they are used as transduce non-replicating cells, which confers to those viruses a special value for the event of clinically functional gene vectors. Compared to onco-retroviral vectors, the stabilization of the pro-viral mRNA genome by the interaction of the accessory protein Rev with its cognate motif Rev-responsive element (RRE) increases their range of application, since larger genomic elements are often introduced in their genome with limited or no sequence rearrangement.<sup>[39]</sup>

Lentiviral vectors also will correct the phenotype of  $\beta$ -thalassemia major in cultured erythroid cells derived from patients with this disorder. Production of normal amounts of  $\beta$ -globin has been achieved in erythroid cultures along with correction of ineffective erythropoiesis and a mass decrease in apoptosis of cells.<sup>[38]</sup> Therefore, lentiviral vectors are widely used as vectors of choice for the stable delivery of regulated transgenes in stem cell-based gene therapy.<sup>[39]</sup>

**E) NUTRITIONAL THERAPY:-** Some essential macro and micro nutrients required with therapy

**1. Zinc:-** Zinc is an important element which in thalassaemia are often either removed by iron chelating drugs. the standard dose is 125mg 1-3 times daily, although doses of 220mg 3 times daily are quoted for hemoglobin disorders.

**2. Iron:-** In regularly transfused Cooley's anaemia patients the contribution of dietary intake of iron isn't significant in comparison with trans-fusional iron intake . Iron absorption may get up to five g/dl/day.

**3. Calcium and Vitamin D:-** Calcium and vitamin D are the foremost commonly prescribed supplements for thalassaemia patients. Calcium homeostasis is intimately associated with vitamin D, and deficiency of this vitamin in thalassaemia ranges from 85%. vitamin D and Calcium supplementation is suggested for all patients at a dose of 2000IU/day.

**4. Vitamin E:-** Vitamin E may be a vitamin which is usually depleted in thalassemia patients. the most reason is that iron load within the liver, with the associated liver damage, leads to a decrease of serum lipid. Using 400 IU/day, were for somewhat for short spell of treatment and with nugatory patients' numbers.

**5. Vitamin C:-** Vitamin C has antioxidant properties, it is understood to market the absorption of dietary iron, it increases labile iron infusion at a dose not exceeding 2-3mg/kg given with desferrioxamine.

**6. Wheat grass:-** It is a well-liked food prepared as a juice from the leaf buds of the wheat grass plant. It contains chlorophyll, vitamins, minerals and a number of other enzymes. Wheat grass is well known to extend the assembly of red cells and increase the interval between transfusions.

## CONCLUSION

This review describes about the rapid increase in understanding of the pathophysiology of thalassemia diseases of the globin gene which provides the basic infrastructure for the cognizance of gene expression and regulation at the basic structural base and this knowledge forms the basis for therapeutic interventions, such as gene therapy and augmentation of abnormal hemoglobin levels. Clinical intercession for the treatment of thalassemia patients have also made headway to progress. We have gained a better knowledge of the most appropriate amount and method of treatment to provide (such as transfusions and chelation therapy), as well as of the hazards of these treatments. The following review describes about the burden of disease in patients with TDT, with the aim of establishing a proper but minimal health status for this community against which to assess future refinement in the primary care of patient. In last some even decades research resulted in improvements in positive outcomes, with fewer complications expected in the future, thus reducing disease burden and improving health-related quality of life. However, indefatigable disease and their treatment-related complications are provided with a difficult care regimen that requires rigorous adherence and monitoring for treatment and patient problems. This review explains about help to patient living with never ending pain which grows day by day to improve in life style and way of approaches to see the life and also built a better way to follow that path of well-being. Problems be with life but to see possibilities in being part of difficult life is explained by social message in this review. This review has explained a ray of hope with complete treatment of this disease explain in future scope of treating patient research says that the better answers are waiting in gene therapy which this review helps to say for better future a betterment to rely on genetics will help to get treat this disease.

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