Newsbites

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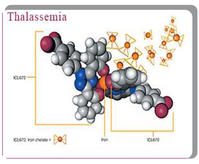
Say good bye to Thalassemia

Thalassemia is a blood disorder passed down through generations (inherited) in which the body makes an abnormal form of Haemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen.

Types of Thalassemia:

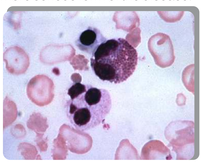


- Alpha Thalassemia - Occurs when a gene or genes related to the alpha globin protein are missing or changed (mutated).
- Beta Thalassemia - Occurs when a gene or genes related to the beta globin protein are missing or changed (mutated).

Causes: Haemoglobin is made of two proteins: Alpha globin and Beta globin. Thalassemia occurs when there is a defect in a gene that helps control production of one of these proteins.

If only one parent is a carrier for Thalassemia, it develops a "Thalassemia Minor." Some people with Thalassemia Minor may develop minor symptoms.

If both the parents are carriers of Thalassemia, child may have a 25% chance of inheriting a more serious form of the disease.



Incidence: World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that at least 6.5% of the world populations are carriers of different inherited disorders of haemoglobin. [1]

Globally in 2010 it resulted in about 18,000 deaths.

Symptoms: People with Thalassemia mainly have anemia-like symptoms.

Jaundice, fatigue, pale skin, shortness of breath, delayed growth, skeletal deformities, too much iron, greater susceptibility to infections and delayed puberty.

Treatment: The treatment for Thalassemia depends on the type and severity of disease involved. In general, treatments include:

- Blood transfusions - this is done to replenish haemoglobin and red blood cell levels. However, there are significant risks.
- Iron chelation - involves removing excess iron from the bloodstream. Gives temporary relief and symptoms reappear.
- Bone marrow transplant - also called a stem cell transplant. Bone marrow cells produce red and white blood cells, haemoglobin and platelets. But finding matched donor is very difficult.
- Possible surgery to remove the spleen and/or gallbladder.

There is new hope for permanent relief from Thalassemia with umbilical cord blood stem cell transplant

Umbilical cord blood is playing an important and growing role in the treatment of Thalassemia and other life-threatening blood diseases.

The use of cord blood transplants has grown for both children and adults. Cord blood is used more often in children because a cord blood unit has a limited amount of blood-forming cells. Smaller patients need fewer cells and larger patients need more cells.

"Ahmedabad doctors have carried out a rare successful stem cell transplant on a four-year-old girl suffering from Thalassemia major, relieving her of life-long blood transfusions. She underwent stem cell transplant procedure in April, 2011. The stem cells were from her younger brother." Isha is now on the road to recovery and will be transfusion free forever as her underlying Thalassemia major is now cured after stem cell transplant".

DNA, Indian Newspaper, Friday, May 6, 2011, 20:14 IST | Place: Ahmedabad

http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-4-year-old-cured-of-Thalassemia-major-with-stem-cell-transplant-1540248

Reasons to choose cord blood for stem cell transplant

- More tolerant matching.
- Faster and easier accessibility since it is banked exclusively for your usage.
- Less chance of graft-versus-host disease.

Centres performing umbilical cord blood transplant

- AIIMS, New Delhi
- Apollo Specialty Hospitals, Chennai
- Global Hospitals, Hyderabad
- Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai
- KDA hospital Mumbai
- Jaslok Hospital Mumbai
- Christian Medical College Hospital
- Sahyadri Speciality Hospital,Pune
- Ruby Hall Clinic, Pune
- Narayan Hrudayalaya, Banglore

Mother Care Forum

Take the first step in investing for your child – the day you hear the good news.

Preserve your love @ only ₹. 11,000/-

Babycell's new website on-roll

January 2014 will give Babycell customers a simplified and more user-friendly experience. Easy new tabs on website as mentioned will give insights to customers on every aspect.

- Your feedback counts.
- Latest updates on stem cell research.
- Doctor speaks.
- Happy Babycell families.
- Babycell club benefits for referring members.
- Babycell in the news.
- Take online presentation, skype calls, follow us on social media.
- Our exceptional services.

Mummy & Tummy program on weekends for moms-to-be

Reference:

1.Palit S, Bhuiyan RH, Aklima J, Emran TB, Dash R. A study of the prevalence of thalassemia and its correlation with liver function test in different age and sex group in the Chittagong district of Bangladesh . J Basic Clin Pharma 2012;3:352-7