

Let's Eradicate **Thalassemia ...**



Thalassemia Major is a genetic blood disorder, where patient can not produce normal hemoglobin. Red cells are unable to transport oxygen. This disease is more prevalent in Sindhi, Punjabi, Gujarati & Lohana cast.

In India, at every 10,000 birth one child born with Thalassemia Major. There is almost 1000 Thalassemia Major Patients in Ahmedabad and this is on increase.

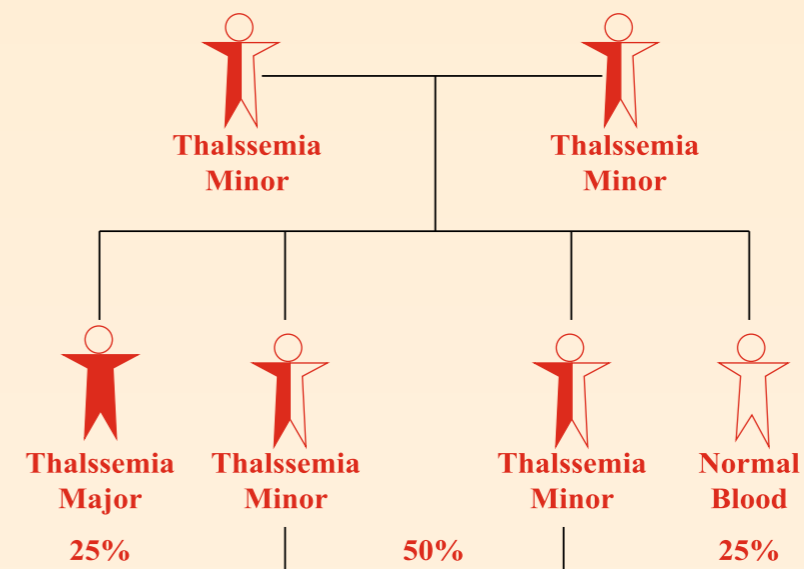
Thalassemia Minor / Trait

A pair of genes, one inherited from each parent is responsible for formation of normal hemoglobin. Normal persons have inherited normal genes and thus normal hemoglobin is produced. Thalassemia Minor have one normal and another abnormal gene. They are usually normal because the normal gene masks the effect of abnormal gene. Most Thalassemia Minor people do not suffer from any ailment. They live a healthy life and would not know about his/her Thalassemia carrier state unless a test is done to detect it.

Thalassemia Major

If both the parents are Thalassemia Minor, then there are 25% chances of having a Thalassemia Major baby, 50% chances of having Thalassemia Minor kids and only 25% chances of having absolute normal child. Thalassemia Major kids are unable to produce healthy and effective Red cells. Hence they have problem of pallor, weakness, growth retardation, bone deformities etc.

Thalassemia Major is an incurable disease. For survival, they need repeated Red



cells transfusion at two to three weeks interval. Due to repeated transfusions, there is an iron overload in the body, which gets deposited in heart, liver & pancreas. Excess iron has to be removed with chelator drug which is injected under the skin or given orally. This drug is expensive and difficult to administer. They are at increased risk of blood borne infections like HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. Family of Thalassemic child undergoes huge sufferings, pain and expenses.

Can We Prevent Thalassemia?

Yes, it requires awareness and sensitivity about this subject. All young people should go for Thalassemia screening test before marriage. **A Thalassemia Minor person should not marry another Thalassemia Minor person.** If both married partners are found Thalassemia Minor, the birth of a Thalassemia Major child can be prevented by pre-birth check up. But this procedure is expensive, risky and painful.

Role Of Prathama Blood Centre

1. Prathama Blood centre is committed to provide safe & quality blood to Thalassemia Major children.
2. 'Thalassemia Adoption Program' is started to provide financial help to economically compromised families.
3. 'Thalassemia Eradication Program' is launched to prevent birth of new Thalassemia major children. This test is conducted in three phases. In primary screening CBC and NESTROFT are performed by which normal population will be screened out. If either of or both tests are abnormal then the possibility of iron deficiency anemia is ruled out by serum iron / ferritin study. In last phase, Thalassemia minor status will be confirmed by capillary electrophoreses.

We request all that anyone getting married should screen themselves for Thalassemia minor. Any body carrying Thalassemia trait must avoid marring another Thalassemia minor. This is the only solution to eradicate this deadly disease. A country like Italy has eradicated Thalassemia and now it is our turn.

Thalassemia Screening Test @ Rs. 100 / -



Dr. C.V. Raman Marg, B/h Jivraj Mehta Hospital, Vasna, Ahmedabad-380007.
Phone : +91-79-26600101, Fax : +91-26611850, Web Side : www.prathama.org