

**Supplementary Table S1** Demographic and disease characteristics of children diagnosed with thalassemia major (N = 117)

Demographic data		Number of children	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	62	53
	Female	55	47
Age (y)	08–10	24	21
	10–12	12	10
	12–14	13	11
	14–16	22	19
	16–18	46	39
Age of onset (y)	0–5	84	72
	5–10	22	19
	10–15	07	6
	Above 15	04	3
Age of first blood transfusion (y)	0–5	92	79
	5–10	17	15
	10–15	5	4
	After 15	3	3
Education status	Illiterate	15	13
	Primary education	33	28
	Secondary education	41	35
	Higher secondary education and above	28	24
Family income	Less than 10,000	15	13
	10,000–20,000	16	14
	20,000–30,000	33	28
	More than 30,000	53	45
Frequency of blood transfusion (wk)	2	65	56
	3	36	31
	4 or more	16	14
Iron chelator	Deferoxamin	41	35
	Deferasirox	65	56
	Deferiprone	11	9
Surgery	Splenectomy	23	20
	Other	23	20
	No any	71	61