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β-Thalassemia intermedia: morbidity uncovered

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STELLINGEN

1. Amelioration of disease severity in transfusion-independent β-thalassemia intermedia patients can be attained by increasing fetal hemoglobin levels or decreasing the severity of ineffective erythropoiesis. *This thesis*
2. Iron overload in patients with β-thalassemia intermedia is associated with vascular, endocrine, and bone morbidity. *This thesis*
3. Silent cerebrovascular disease is common in splenectomized patients with β-thalassemia intermedia especially as they advance in age, and characteristically in nontransfused patients who have evidence of iron overload. *This thesis*
4. Multiorgan involvement in β-thalassemia intermedia has a negative impact on patients' quality of life. *This thesis*
5. Single nucleotide polymorphisms can explain the milder disease course in patients with β-thalassemia intermedia compared with β-thalassemia major.
6. β-thalassemia intermedia is a model for the dynamic regulation between erythropoiesis and iron metabolism.
7. Advances in iron overload assessment have led to improved outcomes in patients with thalassemia.
8. Silent strokes are associated with increased risk of neurocognitive deficits and subsequent overt strokes in children and adults with sickle cell disease.
9. As far as the laws of mathematics refer to reality, they are not certain; and as far as they are certain, they do not refer to reality. *Albert Einstein (1879-1955)*
10. All things are subject to interpretation; whichever interpretation prevails at a given time is a function of power and not truth. *Friedrich Nietzche (1844-1900)*
11. Appeals to the past are among the commonest of strategies in interpretations of the present. *Edward Said (1935-2003)*
12. The human mind is not yet sufficiently evolved to understand existence. Until then, life remains meaningless, and that's why it's so beautiful.

Khaled M. Musallam, 21 juni 2012