



for Hemoglobinopathies

GPO-L-ON

Suthat Fucharoen M.D.

Thalassemia Research Center Institute of Molecular Biosciences Mahidol University, Thailand (suthat.fuc@mahidol.ac.th)

















THALASSEMIA CENTER







Outline of my talk:

- 1) TIF recommendation
- 2) Thalassemia Center, Torino, Italy (Antonio Piga)
- 3) Thalassemia prevention, Guagxi, China

"Nanning Declaration"

4) SEARO/WHO



Aims of Management

Long Survival

Good Quality of Life

Survival of patients

- Optimum treatment required for survival and quality of life.
- No treatment means early death
- Less treatment means poor quality of life and early death



Factors affecting survival

- The treatment protocol
- Adherence to it
- Family support
- Psychosocial support
- Quality of follow-up
- Early recognition and intervention of complications



Quality of life

- Good clinical condition
- Psychosocial support
- Endocrinological monitoring of growth, puberty, hypogonadism, amenorrhoea, reproduction
- Complications e.g. diabetes, heart
- Bone pains
- Employment, marriage





- Voluntary blood donation
- Safe blood
- Provision of essential drugs, chelating agents
- Free medical treatment
- **Expert Reference Centers. Quality of care.**
- Psychosocial support
- National registers



Patients must also cope with:

- The disease, its complications and chronicity
- Demanding treatment, especially chelation
- Family: supportive but may increase stress
- Caregivers (doctors/nurses) overprotective, or figures of authority
- Society: peer relationships, stigmatisation, education, career, marriage



Survival of thalassemia patients in Cyprus by birth cohort







- Treating the whole person and the family, through continuous supervision of all the medical and psychosocial aspects...
- Every facet of the person physical, emotional, psychological, educational, financial and vocational factors are addressed



Comprehensive care?



- In a European survey (Enerca) 20.5% of thalassaemia patients wait for more than 2 hours for the blood transfusion.
- 61.7% are transfused in the mornings to suit the hospital without considering the educational (50% attend school or university) or employment (13% work full time) commitments of the patients



Patient needs – rarely satisfied

• 271 hours per month are spent on blood transfusions, chelation, other medical appointments, travel time, phoning' Compagno LM et al Ann NY Acad Sci, 2005

- Transfusion times to suite education and work
- Shortening waiting time
- Increasing communication time



Time

Average time doctor spends with a patient in the US: 18.7 minutes

- Average time doctor spends with a patient in Germany: 15 minutes
- What about patients with chronic disorders?
- What about Thailand? Medical Center vs Provincial hospital

The need for expert centres



- A centre where the quality of comprehensive, patient centred, care is assured
- The capacity to provide expert diagnosis or confirmation of diagnosis, including genetic tests and genetic counselling
- Laboratory as well as clinical capacity
- Training and education of stakeholders and service providers





Adapted from the EU Task Force Criteria

- A centre where the quality of comprehensive care is assured
- Where there is the capacity to provide expert diagnosis
- Well qualified staff with experience
- Supporting- self management
- Networking with secondary centres but also with other expert centres



Expert thalassaemia centre

The capacity to provide expert case management:

- Good practice guidelines and protocols
- Expert advice & information to patients
- Multidisciplinary team- coordinated
- Psychosocial support
- Staff/patient ratio



Patient-friendly services

Staff willing to spend time and to listen

Privacy and confidentiality

Discuss sexuality, contraception, puberty, diet, risky behaviour, school problems, etc.

Convenient appointment times – consider school and work

Patients feel welcome and safe

Clinical information systems



- Using technology to organise data
- Monitoring patient health status
- Electronic patient records
- Identifying patient sub-groups for pro-active interventions
- Rights of patients to the contents of their records
- Electronic patient registries
- Networking between centres nationally and internationally



Decision support in thalassaemia centres

- Evidence-based guidelines (updated)
- National standards for optimal care
- Regular training of staff in using protocols
- Sharing information with patients
- Electronic infrastructure, telemedicine, videoconferencing between doctors, etc.



Delivery system design

- Coordinating the multidisciplinary team
- Defining roles in the team
- Regular follow up of patients
- Communicating with the patient at home
- Collaboration with primary care services and supporting local physicians

Self-management support



Patient empowerment- improving autonomy

- Patient / caregiver partnership in setting goals, action plans, presenting solutions
- Patient information person to person to acquire skills and confidence in self-care
- Health workers' time
- Changing physicians' attitudes: paternalistic to partnership



Community resources

- Supporting patients needs
- Educational needs of young patients
- Patient support groups and assistance from without the reference centre
- Links between the Centre and community agencies social assistance
- Health education and information to the public

Additional standards



Links to primary/secondary services:

- Patients with poor access to the reference centre distance, poverty
- Ethnic minorities/immigrant groups scattered geographically
- Private/public sector relationship (does referral to the centre cancel the role of the private or primary care provider?)



Other duties of the thalassaemia service

Epidemiological surveillance

- Collaboration/links with other national and international centres
- Close links with patient organisations



Conclusion: Expert centres

Sufficient activity and capacity to provide services, gain experience, and sustain quality:

What is the minimum throughput for each service?



Survival – treatment in specialised centres



Fig. 1. Kaplan–Meier overall survival curves of patients referred to specialized centers (IC) versus patients referred to nonspecialized centers (OC). Log-rank *P*-value < 0.0001; hazard ratio of OC versus IC adjusted for sex (Cox model): 18.1, 95% confidence interval = 4.7-69.0; *P* < 0.001.

12TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THALASSAEMIA AND THE HAEMOGLOBINOPATHIES 14TH INTERNATIONAL TIF CONFERENCE FOR THALASSAEMIA PATIENTS AND PARENTS ANTALYA, TURKEY, 11-14 MAY, 2011

The Ideal Centre for Haemoglobinopathies

ANTONIO PIGA

THALASSEMIA & HEMOGLOBINOPATHIES CENTRE DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND HOSPITAL S. LUIGI GONZAGA, UNIVERSITY OF TORINO antonio.piga@unito.it

CENTER CHARACTERISTICS

- Responsibility with a single doctor, remaining the same as long as possible
- Dedicated Centre
- Dedicated staff
 - Staff stability
 - Institutional setting
 - Adequate staff/patients ratio



CENTRE CHARACTERISTICS

Adequate staff/patients ratio

- 1 nurse / 33 patients
- 1 doctor /50 patients
- 1 psychologist /100 patients
- 1 secretary /100 patients

from: WHO, Hereditary Diseases Program, 1994



Thalassemia Centre University of Torino

CENTER CHARACTERISTICS

- Responsibility with a single doctor, remaining the same as long as possible
- Dedicated Centre
- Dedicated staff
 - Trained in Hbpaties
 - Career development
 - The quality as a target
 - Active care



"ACTIVE" CLINICAL CARE

- Set the appointment
- Plan tests
- Book tests
- Visit the patient
- Set case review
- Set patient-doctor conversation











ASSESSMENT OF IRON-RELATED COMPLICATIONS IN TM

	1	2	3		
	COMPLICATIONS	TESTS (diagnosis)	TESTS (risk)		
 Heart Disease 		• EKG, Echocardio, Holter	 Cardiac Iron (MR) 		
• Liver Disease		● 个ALT, AST, 个fibroscan	• Liver Iron (MR, SQUID)		
 Diabetes 		● OGTT	Pancreas MR ¹⁻⁴		
 Hypothyroidism 		◎ 个TSH, ↓fT3, ↓f T4	• Liver Iron?		
 Hypoparathyroidism 		● ↓PTH, ↓Ca, ↓1,25(OH) ₂ VitD3	• Liver Iron?		
• Adrenal Insufficiency		● ↓ACTH test	• Liver Iron? ⁵		
• Hypogonadism, Infertility		● ↓LH, ↓FSH, ↓sex hormones	• Pituitary Iron & Volume ⁶		
• Growth Hormone Defic.		● ↓GH, ↓IGF-I	• Liver Iron?		
 Osteoporosis 		● ↓ DEXA	• Liver Iron?		

¹Au-2007; ²Noetzli-2009; ³Papakonstantinou-2009; ⁴Noetzli-2010; ⁵Scacchi-2010; ⁶Wood-2010;



ASSESSMENT OF IRON-RELATED COMPLICATIONS IN TM Recommended Monitoring

LIVER & HEART	At diagnosis	0-3 y	3—10 у	10-18 y	Adulthood	More often, if:
ALT, AST	Yes	At transf.	At transf.	At transf.	At transf.	
Serum Ferritin	Yes	1-3 months	1-3 months	1-3 months	1-3 months	
Liver/spleen US	Yes	yearly	yearly	yearly	yearly	High risk
Liver fibrosis (Fibroscan)	Yes		yearly	yearly	yearly	High risk
Electrocardiogram	Yes		yearly	yearly	yearly	Severe iron overload, palpitations
Ecocardiogram	Yes			yearly	yearly	Severe iron overload, cardiac failure
Holter	No		Specific indication	Specific indication	Specific indication	Arrhythmia
Liver Iron (MRI, SQUID)	Yes	yearly	yearly	yearly	yearly	Severe iron overload, Treatment changes
Heart Iron (MRI)	No			yearly	yearly	Severe iron overload, Treatment changes



CONTINUITY OF CARE

- Rapid access to specific care
- Centre doctor available for consultation or sharing the responsability of management in any condition like:
 - Emergency
 - In-patient
 - Infections
 - Heart failure
 - Splenectomy
 - Intensive chelation
 - Bone marrow transplant









Ideal Haemoglobinopathies Centre

THALASSEMIA-ORIENTED COMPUTERIZED CLINICAL RECORD

Row data from transfusion chelation tests Complications Therapies





ጷ Location: http://www.thalassemia.it/ -



Transfusional indexes
 Iron balance
 Appointments
 Print-outs
 Graphs
 Multicentre studies



💥 MOST doc

Applicazione Web-WTTO - (piga on 130.192.110.2) - Netscape

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Archive selection Archive: 3.Day Hospital



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TRANSFUSION

- High quality blood
- Comfortable setting
- Patient-oriented facility (day, night, holiday)













Built-in allergy tested adhesive

Siliconised three facet needle point provides virtually painless injections, even in children

Needle moulded directly in mount without glue - a common allergen

Translucent window for monitoring the injection site

PVC-free design reduces risk of



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Ideal Haemoglobinopathies Centre

PROCEDURES

- Hemovigilance
- Splenectomy
- Fever
- Growth monitoring
- Chelation efficacy monitoring
- Chelation tolerability monitoring
- Intravenous Desferal
- Combination therapy
- Monitoring iron-related complication
- Family planning
- Pregnancy (follow up)
- BMT





CENTRE CHARACTERISTICS

- Responsibility with a single doctor, remaining the same as long as possible
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- Dedicated clinical record & procedures
- Availability of mental health professionals experienced in chronic diseases



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- Psychosocial support integrated in the global management



GUIDELINES FOR PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

2 - Methods

- a Containment model:
- Listening to
- Accepting
- Sharing
- Understanding
- Communicating



GUIDELINES FOR PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

- 3 Methods Tools
- Individual conversations
- Group meetings
- Summer camps
- Chelation clinic
- Staff meetings
- Interventions from mental health professionals and social worker



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- Psychosocial support integrated in the global management
- Multidisciplinary team



MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM

WHO

- 'Thalassemologist'
- Cardiologist
- Pneumologist
- Endocrinologist
 - Diabetologist
 - Reproduction gynecologist
 - Andrologist
- Hepatologist
- Radiologist
- Transplant specialist
- Psychiatrist/psychologist
- Social worker



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HOW

- Doctor in charge: coordinating the team
- Doctor: sensitizing each specialist
- Nurse: organizing

CLINICAL PROBLEMS THAT REQUIRE SPECIFIC CARE

- Osteoporosis
- Hypoparathyroidism
- Infertility
- Biliary stones
- Kidney stones
- Leg ulcers









Bone deaformities in adult patients



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SPECIAL CARE AT SPECIAL MOMENTS

- Presentation
- Start of transfusion
- Start of chelation
- Non compliance
- Onset of a serious complications
- Conventional treatment versus SCT



THALASSEMIA AT PRESENTATION

- Set an accurate diagnosis
 - thal. genotype
 - RBC genotype
 - HLA genotype
- Support the parents
 - Information
 - serial conversations
 - genetic counselling







STEM CELLS TRANSPLANTATION

1 For each patient:

- Information
- HLA typing of siblings (+relatives if parents have the same ethnic background)
- Set level of risk (grouping)

2 For patient with HLA identical relative:

Detailed information (patient, donor, parents)

2aInformed consent=yes

Make low risk SCT available

2b Informed consent=no

Wait and update

3 For patient with no HLA identical relative:

Consider BMT in special cases

4 For perspective couples at risk of thalassemia:

- Information
- Save cord blood



CENTRE CHARACTERISTICS

- Responsibility with a single doctor, remaining the same as long as possible
- Dedicated Centre
- Dedicated staff
- Dedicated clinical record & procedures
- Availability of mental health professionals experienced in chronic diseases
- Psychosocial support integrated in the global management
- Multidisciplinary team
- Non invasive diagnostic tecniques



Haemoglobinopathies Centre





Thalassenia Centre University of Torino

AGE OF PATIENTS



CLINICAL PROBLEMS

- Pediatrics
- Adult Medicine



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TYPE OF UNIT

- Blood Bank
- Pediatric Unit
- Hematology Unit
- General Medicine Unit



2nd International Conference on Thalassemia & Birth Defects

October 11, 2014, Nanning, China

「二届地中海贫血・出生缺陷预防国际研讨会 he 2[™] International Conference on Thalassemia & Birth Defects

2014年10月11日 中国 南宁 October 11, 2014 Nanning, P. R. China

主办 Organizer

中华人民共和国国家卫生和计划生育委员会 National Health and Family Planning Commission of the People's Republic of China 国际地中海贫血联盟 Thalassemia International Federation

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承办 Co-Organizer 中国妇幼健康研究会 China Association for Maternal and Child Health Studies

广西壮族自治区卫生和计划生育委员会 Health and Family Planning Commission of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

广西医科大学 Guangxi Medical University

Nanning Declaration

第二届地中海贫血·出生缺陷预防 The 2nd International Conference on Thalassemia

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Nanning Declaration

Prevention and Control of Thalassemia and Birth Defects NANNING DECLARATION

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The 2nd International Conference on Thalassemia & Birth Defects, jointly organized by the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) of the People's Republic of China and the Thalassemia International Federation (TIF) has been taking place on 11 October 2014 in Nanning, China. 100 government officials and experts from China, Cyprus, Indonesia and Thailand, together with conference

Nanning Declaration

October, 11, 2014, Nanning, China

- **1. Government-led and shared responsibilities**
- 2. Raising awareness and encouraging social participation
- 3. Refocusing approaches to improve prevention
- 4. Extending research and health-promotion services
- 5. Collaborating actively and broadening exchange

Regional Office for South-East Asia

World Health House, Indraprastha Estate, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, New Delhi-110 002, India www.searo.who.int Tel: 91-11-2337 0804, 2337 0809–11 Fax: 91-11-2337 0197, 2337 9395, 2337 9507

Thematic Group Meeting on Management & Prevention of Thalassemia 7 to 8 August 2014, New Delhi, India

The objectives of the meeting are as follows:

- To learn from the experiences of the countries
- To review draft regional guidelines on management and prevention of Thalassemia

Thematic Group Meeting on Management & Prevention of Thalassemia

The Lalit Hotel Barakhamba Avenue, Connaught Place, New Delhi, India

August 7-8, 2014