

Table 1 Characteristics and blood measurements of the groups at baseline (randomization)

Variable	Group A (n = 45)	Group B (n = 44)	Group C (n = 42)	Test value	P-value
Age (years) [mean (SD)]	16.11 (0.89)	16.37 (0.78)	16.51 (0.89)	2.422 ^a	0.09
Grade (10th, 11th, 12th) [No.]	18, 12, 15	16, 10, 18	9, 15, 18	4.452 ^b	0.34
Region (NG, GC, MG, KH, RF) [No.]	10, 10, 10, 9, 6	4, 15, 14, 6, 5	12, 10, 10, 7, 3	7.915 ^b	0.44
Body mass index (kg/m ²) [mean (SD)]	21.74 (3.88)	22.63 (3.57)	22.49 (4.13)	20.405 ^a	0.50
Haemoglobin (g/dL) [mean (SD)]	11.52 (0.96)	11.45 (1.18)	11.73 (0.89)	0.800 ^a	0.41
Ferritin (µg/dL) [median (IQR)]	8.60 (4.0)	10.50 (4.5)	9.50 (6.0)	1.471 ^b	0.47
Malonyl dialdehyde (Pmol/mL) [median (IQR)]	83.0 (43.0)	92.0 (31.0)	83.50 (63.0)	1.076 ^b	0.58

^aOne-way ANOVA F-test. ^bKruskal-Wallis chi-squared test.

NG: North Gaza, GC: Gaza City, MG: Middle Governorate, KH: Khanyounis, RF: Rafah.

SD = standard deviation, IQR = interquartile range.