

Table 1 Demographic and medical characteristics of the thalassaemia patients

Variable	Value
Number of patients	156
Sex, M/F (M %)	84/72 (53.8)
Age (years)	
Mean (SD)	24.1 (5.4)
Median (Range)	24 (21 to 27)
Transfusion duration (years)	
Mean (SD)	22.3 (5.1)
Median (Range)	22.5 (18.5 to 25.5)
Duration of chelation therapy (years) [Mean (SD)]	20 (7.5)
Splenectomy, No. (%)	77 (49.1)

M = male; F = female; SD = standard deviation.