



# Low HbA2 Level in $\beta$ -Thalassemia Trait

## $\beta$ -Talasemi Taşıyıcıda HbA2 Düzeyi Düşüklüğü

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### To the Editor,

Dr. Köşeler and her colleagues reported the presence of  $\delta$ -thalassemia in 3 out of 12 patients carrying the  $\beta$ -thalassemia trait with low HbA2 in the recent issue of this journal without giving any explanations for the remaining 9 cases (2012; 29: 289-290) [1].

I wish that they would also look for the presence of  $\alpha$ -thalassemia, at least in those 9 cases, because this seems to be the more prevalent type of thalassemia in our country as first shown by us [2,3] and as further supported by Canatan et al. in this journal [4].

### Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors of this paper have no conflicts of interest, including specific financial interests, relationships, and/ or affiliations relevant to the subject matter or materials included.

### References

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2. Özsoylu Ş, Malik SA. Incidence of alpha-thalassemia in Turkey. Turk J Pediatr 1982;24:235-244.
3. Özsoylu Ş. The incidence of alpha-thalassemia in Antalya, Turkey. Turk J Hematol 2003;20:113.
4. Canatan D, Özdemir Z, et al. The studies of thalassemia. Turk J Hematol 2002; 19(3): 433-434.

### Reply

We are thankful for the valuable comments of Prof. Dr. Şinasi Özsoylu in regard to our letter entitled "HbA2-Yokoshima (delta 25(B7)Gly-Asp) and HbA2-Yialousa (delta 27(B9)Ala-Ser) in Turkey", published in the Turkish Journal of Hematology (2012; 29: 289-290).

We reported in our letter the presence of the abnormal hemoglobin variants known as HbA2-Yokoshima and HbA2-Yialousa in Denizli Province in Turkey. Our letter was not concerned with delta-thalassemia. Since these delta variants could affect the value of HbA2 in beta-thalassemia carriers in laboratory diagnosis, we emphasized the importance of that effect.

Unfortunately, we have neither the data nor the observation and concern for the possible effect of alpha-thalassemia on the laboratory value of HbA2 in our letter.

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