

The Incidence of Alpha-Thalassemia in Iraqi Turks

Irak'lı Türklerde Alfa-Talassemi Sıklığı

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To the Editor,

I read the article on the “**The incidence of alpha-thalassemia in Iraqi Turks**”. Esmale et al showed that 8 of the 83 participants were diagnosed with alpha-thalassemia an incidence rate of 9.6% and particularly 3.7 kb deletion in Iraqi Turkmen [1].

Although the incidence studies of alpha thalassemia in Turkey are rare, more frequently hemoglobin H disease has been observed in south of Turkey, The molecular basis of Hb H disease was studied and mutations - α 3.7, - α 4.2, -MED-I and - α 20.5 were found to be responsible for the disease [2,3].

The frequency of alpha-thalassemia was 3.6% among Turkish newborns in a study that employed globin gene mapping analysis of DNA [4]. In our study, in 13 out of 205 cord blood samples alpha-thalassemia was found 6.3%. There was mistake at incidence so hat we improved with erratum [5]. The incidence of β -thalassemia trait was very high level, the incidence of α -thalassemia trait was also found high level (6.3%) in Antalya district.

We are observing a lot of uncertain couples with alpha thalassemia in premarital screening tests in hemoglobinopathy diagnosis center of in Antalya, it needs molecular diagnostic test to all of them.

As conclusion, the incidence of alpha-thalassemia was much higher in the Iraqi Turks in the present study than that reported in studies from Turkey. It needs more molecular diagnostic studies in especially adults in Turkey.

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.

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