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B-thalassemia and coronary artery disease

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Abstract

B-thalassemia belongs to the group of hemoglobinopathies, which is the most common monogenic disorder in the world population.

Homozygous B-thalassemia is the most sever presentation of the disease. It is estimated that there are at least 20000 individuals with this disorder in Iran; and despite tight screening control, around 400 affected infants are still born annually, which is a major burden on our health system.

Minor Beta-thalassemia is a disorder without any special symptoms, which only causes mild anemia. In thalassemia patients, accelerated erythropoiesis and enhanced cholesterol consumption have been suggested us a dominant mechanism of low level of lipoprotein. Hyperlipidemia is a risk factor for cardiovascular disease, although low level of serum lipids can act as a protective factor.

Several studies show low incidence of myocardial infarction and coronary artery disease in Beta-thalassemia patients.