

## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL STUDY OF CHILDREN DIAGNOSED WITH THALASSEMIA FROM CONSTANTA, ROMANIA

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**The aim of the study:** Epidemiological and clinical study of children diagnosed with thalassemia trait admitted in Pediatric Department of the County Hospital of Constanta.

**Material and methods:** Study on 204 children diagnosed with thalassemia trait, ranged from 6 months and 18 years, from 1999-2008 admitted in Pediatric Department of the County Hospital of Constanta.

**Discussion:** The cumulative incidence of heterozygote beta-thalassemia during the study performed (1999-2008) in Constanta County was 0.32%. The clinical signs in heterozygote beta-thalassemia were mostly unspecific, the pallor (rarely associated with scleral subicterus: 18.62%) being the only constantly evidenced sign. Mild splenomegaly was diagnosed in 15.19% of the cases. The minor thalassemia associated pathology was diverse: an important number of children showed low weight (65 cases), associated iron deficiency anemia (40 cases), common rickets (22 cases), allergic rhinitis (23 cases), infantile recurrent wheezing (12 cases), atopic dermatitis (16 cases), asthma (7 cases). Particularly, we discovered within our group of children one case of Wilson disease, one case of Silver-Russell syndrome and one with diabetes mellitus.

**Conclusion:** The data of the present study allow issuing the hypothesis of the existence of an iceberg phenomenon, assuming that the real incidence and prevalence in Constanta is much higher and that these epidemiologic indexes will increase during the next years.