

Why is he named the IRONMAN?



The child with Thalassaemia Major will only live with blood transfusions every month. He also needs to receive iron-removal medication by a needle for 10 hours every night to improve his survival.

What is Thalassaemia?

Thalassaemia is a common hereditary blood disorder in Hong Kong.

Thalassaemia is a hereditary blood disorder. It affects mainly people of Mediterranean, Middle-East and Asia. There are two types of Thalassaemia: namely Minor (Carriers) and Major.

What is Thalassaemia Minor?

People with Thalassaemia Minor are carriers of the Thalassaemia genes. Most of them do not have symptoms and usually no treatment is needed. Only a few have mild anaemia.

ONE IN EVERY EIGHT PEOPLE carries the genes of Thalassaemia in Hong Kong.

What is Thalassaemia Major?

Children who have inherited thalassaemia major suffer from severe anaemia. They produce defective red blood cells; they need blood transfusions and medical treatment to sustain life. People with Thalassaemia minor will not become Thalassaemia Major.

There are 500,000 babies born with Thalassaemia Major every year in the world.

How is the Thalassaemia inherited?

If both parents are carriers of the same type of Thalassaemia, their baby will have chance to becoming a Thalassaemia Major.

If both parents are not carriers, their children definitely will be "normal".

If one of the parents is a carrier and the other is "normal", each of their children will have 50% of chance to become a Thalassaemia carrier (Thalassaemia minor).

If both parents are carriers of the same type of Thalassaemia, each child will have 25% of chance to be "normal", 50% of chance of becoming a Thalassaemia carrier, and 25% of chance becoming a Thalassaemia Major.

Treatment of Thalassaemia Major

Blood transfusions every month and administration of iron-removing drugs are the standard treatment for this disease nowadays.

Repeated blood transfusions will result in excessive iron deposition in the body which causes organ failures especially in liver, spleen and heart. It also delays growth, causes diabetes and other illnesses. Therefore, removal of the excessive iron must be instituted for these patients.

Currently, the iron removal drug (desferal, a chelating agent) is injected into the body over 10-12 hours everyday. It causes pain and inconvenience to the patients and their families. More research are needed to seek for newer forms of chelating therapy, to avoid prolonged needle injection wherever possible.

Thalassaemia Major can only be cured by bone marrow or umbilical cord blood transplantation.

Prevention of Thalassaemia Major

All that is needed is a simple blood test to identify whether the couple are carriers. If the couples are both Thalassaemia carriers, amniocentesis is recommended when the woman becomes pregnant to check if the embryo carries any Thalassaemia genes.

Normal Thal-minor Thal-major



The Children's Thalassaemia Foundation

Background

A group of doctors, parents and caring members of the society formed the "Children's Thalassaemia Foundation" in 1993.

Aims

- i. To improve the quality of life of children and their families with thalassaemia
- ii. To ultimately eradicate thalassaemia major in Hong Kong.

Our works:

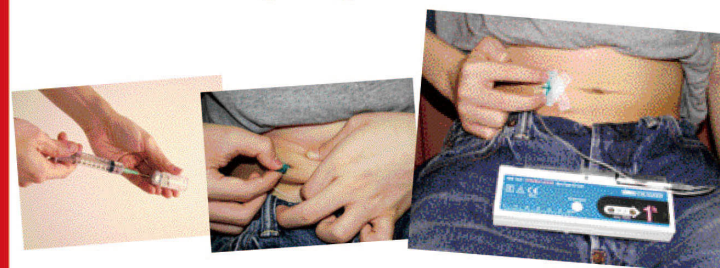
- To arouse awareness and acceptance of people with Thalassaemia major in our society.
- To provide psychological support and counseling to patients and their families
- To furnish new medical equipment to improve the treatment for the patients.
- To invite renowned medical experts to seminars in Hong Kong to enhance the professionalism and knowledge of medical practitioners and parents.
- To support research for improving patient care.
- To support self-help organizations of Thalassaemia.
- To support the patients in buying iron-removal equipment and accessories.
- To provide trainings to patients for employment development.

Just imagine...

A new born child is going to suffer from severe anaemia all his life. He will be pale, thin, weak and stunted. He can only survive with blood transfusions and daily injection of chelating medication over 10-12 hours everyday.



We need your helping hand. Join us to fight against Thalassaemia!



Donation Form

Yes, I would like to help children suffering from Thalassaemia.

Enclosed is my donation : HK\$ _____ Monthly One-off

By Cheque * Payable to "Children's Thalassaemia Foundation"

Direct Deposit * HSBC : 004-511-024-341-001
* BEA : 015-514-68-01220-2 (CUR)
* Please return the deposit slip to our office

Debit my credit card account :
 Master Visa American Express

Card No. : _____

Expiry date : _____ (MM) / _____ (YY)

Cardholder's name : _____

Cardholder's signature : _____

24 HOURS ONE-STOP DONATION CHANNEL
Bring the following barcode to any 7-ELEVEN Store and make a cash donation.



Information of donator

Name : _____ Mr. Ms.

Tel : _____

E-Mail : _____

Address : _____

Donations are tax deductible with official receipts.

Please mail form / cheque to :

Children's Thalassaemia Foundation
Room 1102 SUP Tower, 75-83 King's Road,
North Point, Hong Kong
Hotline : 2986-3311 Fax : 2818-0636
Website : www.thalassaemia.org.hk
E-mail : ctfhk@biznetvigator.com



If you would like to know more about Thalassaemia, please contact:

Children's Thalassaemia Foundation:
Tel: 2986-3311

The Thalassaemia Association of Hong Kong:
Tel: 2889-8399