Treatment of Thalassaemic Patients

- Patients need monthly blood transfusions for their entire life.
- Frequent blood transfusions will result in iron accumulating in major organs such as the liver, spleen, heart and endocrine glands. This eventually results in multiple organ malfunction.
- Treatment to remove excess iron in the body has to be carried out 5 times a week.
- Bone marrow transplant is an option if there is a suitable donor in the family.

Thalassaemia Major Can be Prevented!

- Get tested if you:
  1. are a teenager
  2. have a family history of Thalassaemia
  3. are planning to get married
- If you are a thalassaemia carrier, avoid marrying another carrier.

Your child’s future is in your hands.
Get tested for Thalassaemia.

For further information:
Please contact the nearest hospital, clinic or Thalassaemia Association

Thalassaemia
What every Malaysian needs to know!
What is Thalassaemia?
Thalassaemia is a genetic disorder of the red blood cells. Thalassaemia is inherited from either or both parents and can occur in males and females.

There are two types of thalassaemia
1. Thalassaemia carrier (Thalassaemia minor)
2. Thalassaemia patient (Thalassaemia major)

Thalassaemia Carrier
A thalassaemia carrier does not have any symptoms or health problems. The condition can only be detected through a special blood test. Carriers can pass on the thalassaemia gene to their children.

If either parent is a thalassaemia carrier, the following can occur:

If both parents are thalassaemia carriers, there is a high chance that in every pregnancy, the child can get the thalassaemia disease - a life threatening condition.

Signs & Symptoms of a Thalassaemic Patient (Thalassaemia major)
- Children with Thalassaemia major appear normal at birth. However they start to suffer from serious anaemia between 3 to 18 months of age.
- Increasingly visible paleness, accompanied by constant fatigue and lethargy
- Difficulty in breathing due to severe anaemia
- Jaundice
- Distended abdomen due to swelling of the liver and spleen
- Stunted growth
- As the child grows changes occur in the facial bone structures

Do you carry the thalassaemia gene?
1 in 20 Malaysians are carriers!