Title: “Pregnancy in Thalassemia intermedia: challenging, enigmatic, unexplored…”

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Abstract:

Beta Thalassemia intermedia is a common problem in Lebanon. Up to one third of Thalassemia patients in our country suffer from this disease. This highlights the fact that management of pregnant patients with Thalassemia intermedia is a relatively common issue a practicing obstetrician might be faced with in Lebanon. Given the paucity of clear clinical guidelines and trials about the topic, it would be extremely useful for our obstetricians to be familiar with TI. We will be presenting real clinical cases pertaining to the topic at hand after which, we will be elaborating on the issue; talking about diagnosis, natural history and complications. Then, we will be presenting the latest data from our region and different countries as to what is the best management when faced with a pregnant lady suffering from that disease. We will mainly focus on diagnosis and management of deep venous thrombosis, extramedullary hematopoiesis, prevention of IUGR, and alloimmunization in these patients.

Objectives:

- Introducing Thalassemia intermedia as a separate disease entity in terms of:
  - Natural history
  - Complications
  - Available complications
  - Promising advances

- Expose Obstetricians to the complications pregnant patients with TI are prone to through real clinical cases.
- Promote awareness about the subject.
- Establish general principles of management in pregnant patients based on the most recent medical literature mainly answering the questions:
  - When should physicians transfuse pregnant patients with TI?
  - When should physicians anticoagulate patients with TI?
  - How should we treat extramedullary hematopoiesis in patients with TI?