

Molecular characterisation and frequency of γ Xmn I polymorphism in Egyptian β -thalassaemia patients and its correlation to the HbF Level and clinical severity of the disease.

Thesis

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Abstract

Clinical severity of β -thalassaemia depends on the types of β -gene mutations involved. It can also be influenced by genetic factors like concomitant α -thalassaemia and increased γ -chain production. Several loci are implicated in higher production of HbF. The *Xmn* I restriction site at -158 position of the $G\gamma$ -gene is associated with increased expression of the $G\gamma$ -globin gene and higher production of HbF. This study aims to determine the frequency of the $G\gamma$ *Xmn* I polymorphism in β -thalassaemia patients in Egypt and its correlation to the HbF Level and clinical severity of the disease. we investigated the *Xmn* I polymorphism in 100 children with β -thalassaemia major using polymerase chain reaction (PCR-RFLP)-restriction fragment length polymorphism. we found that ninety four children had *Xmn*I (-/-)genotype (94%) and six children had *Xmn*I (+/-) genotype. On the other hand the study found that the presence of this polymorphism influences Hb F concentration and ameliorate the clinical severity of the disease .

Keywords : β -thalassaemia , Hb F, $G\gamma$ *Xmn* I, PCR-RFLP.