

Table 2 Laboratory data of children with beta-thalassaemia and controls

Laboratory data	Patients (n = 61) Mean (SD)	Controls (n = 51) Mean (SD)	Difference
Haemoglobin (g/dL)	7.03 (0.84)	11.56 (0.91)	P < 0.005
Serum ferritin (ng/mL)	1112.56 (627.12)	16.29 (4.66)	P < 0.001
Fasting blood sugar (mg/dL)	98 (9.43)	95 (11.24)	NS
Serum total bilirubin (mg/dL)	1.81 (0.46)	0.77 (0.23)	P < 0.01
Direct bilirubin (mg/dL)	0.23 (0.15)	0.18 (0.07)	NS
Prothrombin time (s)	12.61 (1.76)	12.93 (1.84)	NS
Prothrombin concentration (%)	89.41 (10.17)	85.97 (12.31)	NS
Serum albumin (g/dL)	4.23 (0.81)	4.46 (1.62)	NS
ALT (U/L)	42.17 (13.43)	39.36 (9.63)	NS
AST (U/L)	31.21 (11.25)	29.78 (10.52)	NS

ALT = alanine aminotransferase; AST = aspartate aminotransferase.