

Table 1 Baseline characteristics of beta thalassaemia major patients and their response to ribavirin/interferon combination therapy

Case ^a	Age (years)	Transfusion duration (years)	Chelation	Ferritin level (µg/L)		ALT level (IU/L)		HCV-RNA response ^b			Blood consumption (mL/year)	
				Pre Rx	Post Rx	Pre Rx	Post Rx	During Rx		Post Rx	Pre Rx	During Rx
								4 m	12 m	6 m		
1	25	21.0	DFO	1029	939	175	38	+	+	+	2850	4300
2	24	77.0	DFO	1871	976	75	68	+	-	+	2800	5200
3	18	13.0	DFO	2802	2300	140	34	+	-	-	3800	5600
4	25	21.0	DFO	1590	1210	61	26	-	-	+	4200	6100
5	23	21.5	DFO+L1	2380	1989	135	22	+	+	+	4500	6350
6	19	18.5	DFO	2522	2114	219	186	+	+	+	3500	5350
7	23	22.0	DFO	2242	960	213	23	+	-	-	3000	3100
8	34	29.0	DFO	1496	601	189	36	-	-	-	4200	8900
9	23	17.5	DFO	1028	1000	128	20	-	-	-	3100	5700
10	25	22.0	DFO	1753	1338	124	22	+	-	-	6500	7200
11	22	19.0	DFO	1149	1268	135	112	+	+	+	7000	7600
12	25	21.0	DFO+L1	3100	2580	84	32	-	-	-	3100	6100
13	23	19.0	DFO	2186	1496	60	84	+	+	+	4700	6200
14	23	21.0	DFO+L1	1038	2200	124	22	-	-	-	5050	5300
15	17	15.5	DFO	1690	801	68	21	-	-	-	5650	6600
16	23	19.5	DFO	1330	1300	112	32	-	-	-	5650	5900
17	21	19.5	DFO	1110	980	86	28	-	-	-	4400	5600

^aPatient 1–10 were hepatitis C virus-infected beta thalassaemia major cases without response to interferon-2α monotherapy (1–5 nonresponders, 6–10 relapsers) and patients no. 11–17 were naive to treatment.

^bAt 4 months during treatment, at 12 months during treatment and 6 months after treatment.

Rx = treatment; DFO = desferrioxamine; L1 = deferiprone; ALT = alanine aminotransferase; HCV-RNA = hepatitis C virus ribonucleic acid test result.