

Table 2 Haematology results of children with iron deficiency anaemia or alpha-thalassaemias

| Variable | Iron deficiency anaemia (n = 18) | Alpha-thalassaemias (n = 67) | P-value |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| | Mean (SD) | Mean (SD) | |
| RBC count (10 ¹² /L) | 4.8 (0.7) | 5.3 (0.5) | < 0.001 |
| Hb (g/dL) | 8.6 (2.7) | 11.0 (1.3) | < 0.001 |
| MCV (fL) | 60.6 (9.5) | 65.0 (6.6) | 0.03 |
| MCH (pg) | 19.2 (4.2) | 20.7 (2.6) | 0.06 |
| MCHC (g/dL) | 29.2 (2.7) | 31.3 (1.4) | 0.02 |
| RDW (%) | 19.2 (4.2) | 15.5 (3.9) | < 0.001 |
| RDW index | 224.8 (69.4) | 202.9 (91.4) | 0.3 |
| Mentzer index | 11.5 (2.4) | 12.4 (3.2) | 0.2 |
| England-Fraser index | 8.1 (8.9) | 0.5 (14.2) | 0.03 |
| Shine-Lal index | 630.3 (314.8) | 927.3 (316.8) | < 0.001 |
| MCV/MCH ratio | 3.3 (0.48) | 3.0 (0.50) | 0.03 |
| MCH/RBC ratio | 11.5 (2.4) | 12.5 (3.2) | 0.2 |
| RDW/RBC ratio | 4.0 (1.3) | 3.2 (1.3) | 0.02 |
| Green-King index | 84.2 (34.2) | 62.5 (31.4) | 0.01 |
| Srivastava index | 4.0 (1.0) | 4.2 (2.2) | 0.8 |

SD = standard deviation; *RBC* = red blood cell count; *Hb* = haemoglobin; *MCV* = mean cell volume; *MCH* = mean cell haemoglobin; *MCHC* = mean cell haemoglobin concentration; *RDW* = red cell distribution width.