

**Table 3 Characteristics of thalassaemia patients according to hepatitis C virus (HCV) antibody status, and univariate analysis of risk factors**

Characteristic	Total	Anti-HCV positive		Anti-HCV negative		OR (95% CI)
	No.	No.	%	No.	%	
<b>Total</b>	93	11	11.8	82	88.2	
<b>Sex</b>						
Female	45	5	11.1	40	88.9	1
Male	48	6	12.5	42	87.5	1.01 (0.32-4.04)
<b>Beta-thalassaemia</b>						
Major	88	10	11.4	78	88.6	1
Intermediate	5	1	20.0	4	80.0	1.95 (0.20-19.2)
<b>Duration of treatment (months)</b>						
≤ 144	53	1	1.9	52	98.1	1
≥ 145	40	10	25.0	30	75.0	17.3 (2.11-142)
<b>Total no. of transfusions (units)</b>						
≤ 200	65	3	4.6	62	95.4	1
≥ 201	28	8	28.6	20	71.4	8.27 (1.10-34.2)
<b>First blood transfusion</b>						
Before 1996	52	11	21.2	41	78.8	1
After 1996	41	0	0.0	41	100.0	23.0 (1.30-403)
<b>Age (years)</b>						
≤ 10	39	0	0.0	39	100.0	
11-20	38	7	18.4	31	81.6	
≥ 21	16	4	25.0	12	75.0	
	<b>Mean (SD)</b>	<b>Mean (SD)</b>		<b>Mean (SD)</b>		
Age (years)	13.7 (8.9)	19.7 (3.4)		12.8 (9.1)		
Duration of transfusion (months)	139 (85)	208 (54)		129 (110)		
No. of transfusions	171 (124)	308 (146)		152.8 (110)		

SD = standard deviation; OR = odds ratio; CI = confidence interval.