Table 1: Characteristics and blood measurements of the groups at baseline (randomization)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Group A (n = 45)</th>
<th>Group B (n = 44)</th>
<th>Group C (n = 42)</th>
<th>Test value</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years) [mean (SD)]</td>
<td>16.11 (0.89)</td>
<td>16.37 (0.78)</td>
<td>16.51 (0.89)</td>
<td>2.422(^a)</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade (10th, 11th, 12th) [No.]</td>
<td>18, 12, 15</td>
<td>16, 10, 18</td>
<td>9, 15, 18</td>
<td>4.452(^b)</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region (NG, GC, MG, KH, RF) [No.]</td>
<td>10, 10, 10, 9, 6</td>
<td>4, 15, 14, 6, 5</td>
<td>12, 10, 10, 7, 3</td>
<td>7.915(^b)</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body mass index (kg/m(^2)) [mean (SD)]</td>
<td>21.74 (3.88)</td>
<td>22.63 (3.57)</td>
<td>22.49 (4.13)</td>
<td>20.405(^a)</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haemoglobin (g/dL) [mean (SD)]</td>
<td>11.52 (0.96)</td>
<td>11.45 (1.18)</td>
<td>11.73 (0.89)</td>
<td>0.800(^a)</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferritin (μg/dL) [median (IQR)]</td>
<td>8.60 (4.0)</td>
<td>10.50 (4.5)</td>
<td>9.50 (6.0)</td>
<td>1.471(^b)</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malonyl dialdehyde (Pmol/mL) [median (IQR)]</td>
<td>83.0 (43.0)</td>
<td>92.0 (31.0)</td>
<td>83.50 (63.0)</td>
<td>1.076(^b)</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\) One-way ANOVA F-test. \(^b\) Kruskal–Wallis chi-squared test.

NG: North Gaza, GC: Gaza City, MG: Middle Governorate, KH: Khanyounis, RF: Rafah.
SD = standard deviation, IQR = interquartile range.