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MATERNAL AWARENESS ABOUT THALASSEMIA MAJOR DISEASE OF THEIR CHILDREN

Abstract: *Objective: To determine knowledge of thalassemia major disease among mothers.*

Study design and duration: This is a cross sectional study. Study was started in January 2018 and completed in August 2018 comprising on total duration of 8 months.

Setting: Study was conducted in Pediatric medicine ward of a tertiary care hospital, Jinnah Hospital Lahore.

Patients and methods: A performa was designed in which all necessary relevant questions were mentioned. Questions were asked from patients and their response was documented. An inclusion and exclusion criteria was established. Cases falling in these criteria were included in the study and rest of the patients were excluded from the study. Consent was taken from all cases for including them in the study. All data collected was analyzed using Micrososft office and presented in tabular form. Questions in performa were about age of mothers, education status, socioeconomic status, number of transfusions given to their child, significance of transfusion to them and their knowledge about the disease and its inheritance.

Results: Total 200 cases were included in this study. There were 125 illiterate mothers, 55 matric pass and 20 were having education above matriculation. There were 40 mothers having no knowledge about inheritance of disease, 135 mothers having fare knowledge and 25 with reasonable knowledge. Only 30 mothers were aware of complications of blood transfusion, while 40 mothers having little knowledge and 130 mothers were not aware at all. There were 66 mothers who think prenatal testing for thalassemia disease is necessary while other 134 mothers did not considered it necessary.

Conclusion: Awareness of thalassemia disease is much better among educated mothers as compared to illiterate mothers with very little knowledge about the disease.

Key words: *Thalassaemia major, blood transfusion, prenatal screening*

Language: *English*

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Introduction

Thalassemia is a congenital disease in which abnormal red blood cells are formed causing anemia in patients. Such cases require blood transfusions with regular intervals. There is no definite treatment still for this disease although scientists are working on it. There is abnormality in bone marrow which produces abnormal erythrocytes. These cells have shorter life span and causing severe anemia in patients. A Performa was designed in which all necessary relevant questions were mentioned. Questions were asked from patients and their response was documented. An inclusion and exclusion criteria was established. Cases falling in these criteria were included in the study and rest of the patients were excluded from the study. Such cases require blood transfusions with regular intervals. There is no definite treatment still for this disease although scientists are working on it. There is abnormality in bone marrow which produces abnormal erythrocytes.

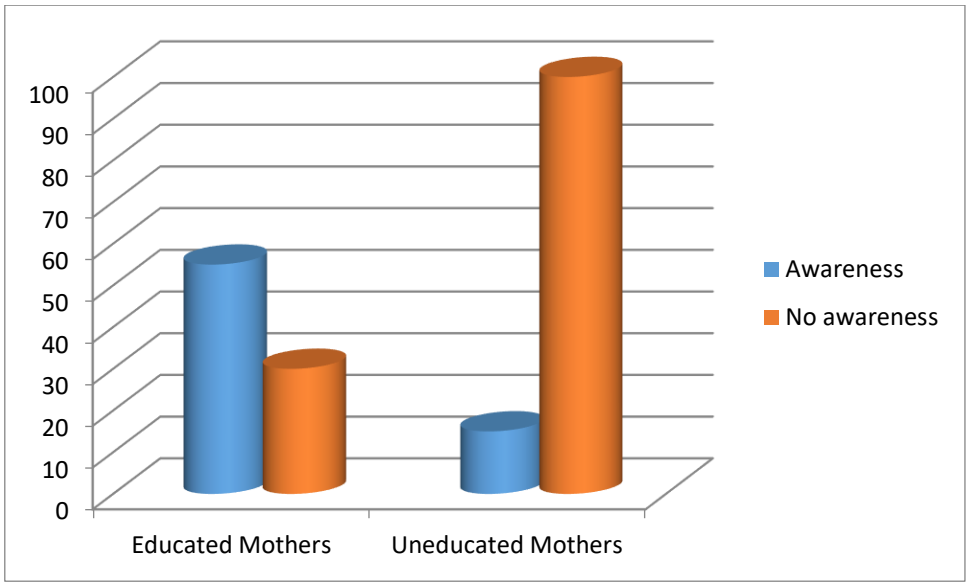
Patients and methods

This is a cross sectional study conducted in a tertiary care hospital of Lahore city. There were total 200 mothers included in this study. A Performa was designed in which all necessary relevant questions were mentioned. Questions were asked from patients and their response was documented. An inclusion and exclusion criteria was established. Cases falling in these criteria were included in the study and rest of the patients were excluded from the study. Consent

was taken from all cases for including them in the study. All data collected was analyzed using Microsoft office and presented in tabular form. Questions in Performa were about age of mothers, education status, socioeconomic status, number of transfusions given to their child, significance of transfusion to them and their knowledge about the disease and its inheritance. P-value less than 0.05 was considered significant. Which mothers did not give consent were not included in this study. Privacy of data was maintained.

Result

Mothers of children reported in out door of pediatric medicine having child with thalassemia major disease were included in this study Total 200 cases were included in this study. There were 125 illiterate mothers, 55 matric pass and 20 were having education above matriculation. There were 40 mothers having no knowledge about inheritance of disease, 135 mothers having fare knowledge and 25 with reasonable knowledge. Only 30 mothers were aware of complications of blood transfusion, while 40 mothers having little knowledge and 130 mothers were not aware at all. There were 66 mothers who think prenatal testing for thalassemia disease is necessary while other 134 mothers did not considered it necessary. Questions were asked from patients and their response was documented. An inclusion and exclusion criteria was established. Cases falling in these criteria were included in the study and rest of the patients were excluded from the study. Consent was taken from all cases for including them in the study.



Picture 1.

Discussion

Thalassemia is a genetical disease which is present by birth. Such cases require blood transfusions with regular intervals. There is no definite treatment still for this disease although scientists are working on it. There is abnormality in bone marrow which produces abnormal erythrocytes. These cells have shorter life span and causing severe anemia in patients. A Performa was designed in which all necessary relevant questions were mentioned. Questions were asked from patients and their response was documented. An inclusion and exclusion criteria was established. Cases falling in these criteria were included in the study and rest of the patients were excluded from the study. This is a cross sectional study conducted in a tertiary care hospital of Lahore city. There were total 200 mothers included in this study. A Performa was designed in which all necessary relevant questions were mentioned. Questions were asked from patients and their response was documented. An inclusion and exclusion criteria was established. Cases falling in these criteria were included in the study and rest of the patients were excluded from the study. Consent was taken from all cases for including them in the study. All data collected was analyzed using Microsoft office and presented in tabular form. Mothers of children reported in out door of pediatric medicine having child with thalassemia major disease were included in this study Total 200 cases were included in this study. There were 125 illiterate mothers, 55 matric pass and 20 were having

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