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Thesis Title	Assessment of Thyroid function among patients with Beta thalassemia major in Basrah					
Year						
Abstract	This study was carried out to estimate the prevalence of thyroid disorders among patients suffering from Beta-Thalassaemia major in Basrah and to find out patients the risk factors associated with the development of hypothyroidism among these patients .The present study was across-sectional study involving thalassemic patients attending the hereditary blood diseases center in Basrah, over the period extending between the 1st of April and the end of December, 2014. A total number of 70 patients (10-34) years old, were included in the study (38 males and 32 females). Thyroid function was tested by quantitative measurement of thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) and thyroxine (T4) in patient's serum. Overall 25 of the studied thalassaemic patients showed abnormal thyroid function tests, 20 (28.6%) had subclinical hypothyroidism, 2 (2.8%) had overt hypothyroidism, giving a prevalence rate of hypothyroidism of 31.4%. Two patients (2.8%) showed subclinical hyperthyroidism and 1 patient (1.4%) had sick euthyroid condition. The prevalence of hypothyroidism was higher among females, older patients (>20 years), those with long duration of the disease (>10 years),splenectomised patients, and those who required more frequent blood transfusion (2-4times/month). Furthermore, the study showed that the prevalence of hypothyroidism was 30% among patients with serum ferritin level ≥2000 (μg/L) while 31.7% among those with serum ferritin level ≥2000 (μg/L). The prevalence of hypothyroidism among patients who did not comply with iron chelator drug therapy was higher than that among those who complied with the treatment. Screening for hypothyroidism for all thalassemic patients starting at the age of 10 years is one of the recommendations made by the study.					