

Thalassemia

FACTS:

- **Thalassemia is a condition inherited from a child's birth parents.**
- **Thalassemia is a blood disorder which causes mild to severe anemia (a condition where a person has low red blood cells and a low amount of the protein which helps get oxygen to the body).**
- **A blood test can determine whether a person has thalassemia.**
- **Children with thalassemia are not contagious. They cannot spread this condition to another child.**
- **Most children with thalassemia appear healthy at birth, but during the first year or two of life they may become pale, listless and fussy and have a poor appetite. They grow slowly and often develop jaundice (yellowing of the skin). See a doctor immediately if any of these symptoms are present.**



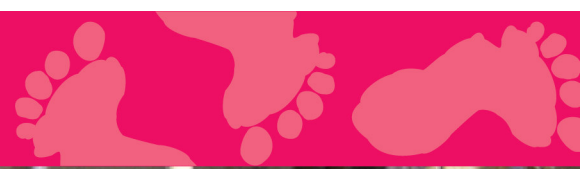
Thalassemia is not contagious. A child cannot pass it on to others.



Thalassemia is a common blood disorder in Asia.



Thalassemia



TREATMENT:

- **Minor forms of thalassemia often require no treatment. Many children have no other health problems except minor anemia.**
- **Major forms usually require blood transfusions and antibiotics. Typically the transfusions are every three to four weeks or according to a doctor's orders.**
- **People with thalassemia who get frequent transfusions will have iron build up in their bodies. They will need to take a daily drug to get rid of this iron to prevent damage to their heart, liver and other organs.**



Mild forms of thalassemia often require no treatment.



Kids with thalassemia can live happy lives!