

Attitude toward prenatal diagnosis and difficulties of abortion for beta thalassaemia in Bangladesh



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Biography

Md. Abdul Aziz is a scientific officer in Dhaka Shishu (Children) Hospital that is the largest pediatric hospital in Bangladesh. He completed master of science from public university name Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University, Bangladesh. Now, he is a PhD student in University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. He has currently working with mutation analysis of CFTR gene and frequency of mutation of alpha thalassaemia from microcytic anemia. He is completed two projects as a principal investigator and one is running as a principal investigator as well as other three as a co-investigator. He has five publications. His lab is only dedicated to human diseases especially thalassaemia.

Abstract

β -thalassaemia is the most common genetic disorder among different ethnic groups in which majority are muslim in Bangladesh. The prevalence of β -thalassaemia trait and Hb-E b 4.1% and 6.1% respectively. It is estimated that about more than 14000 children are born annually with thalassaemia. This study, the first in Bangladesh, aims to evaluate the view of point of acceptability about prenatal diagnosis among parents who have a child or children with β -thalassaemia major or Hb-E β -thalassaemia as well as difficulties of abortion due to socio demographic factors. A pre-structured questionnaire was distributed to parents of children with beta thalassaemia major and Hb-E β thalassaemia. To complete this survey 95.7% respondent had given response. Out of 230 respondents, the majority (215/93.5 %) were agreeable for prenatal diagnosis, but only 171 (74.4 %) agreed to both prenatal diagnosis and abortion followed by termination of affected foetuses. The main reason of declined abortion was religious restriction 52.3% and economic problem 42.7% and their religious background and economical background were a significant factor ($p = 0.001$) and ($P=0.003$). Majority of the participants were Muslim (85.9%) compared to Hindus (12%), Christians and others (2.1%). Gender, age, highest education level and number of thalassemic children were non-significant predictors in decision-making regarding abortion. The acceptance rate for termination of foetuses with β -thalassaemia major and Hb-E β thalassaemia in Bangladesh is low especially among the Muslims due to religious non-permissibility, low economic situation and not getting support by gynecologists and obsticians for abortion especially if diagnosis is late. Therefore, strong counseling and economic support of authorities are needed among Muslim religious individuals as well as poor people to do successful prevention programme.

Publications

Prenatal Diagnosis and Screening of Thalassaemia Mutations in Bangladesh: Presence of Rare Mutations

Assessment of Hematological Characteristics among β -Trait & Hb-E Trait Individuals in Bangladesh

A Novel β -Thalassaemia Insertion/Frameshift Mutation Between Codons 77/78 (p.Leu78Profs*13 or HBB: c.235_236insC) Observed in a Family in Bangladesh

Molecular Analysis of Hb-E and Beta-Thalassaemia Major Patients among Bangladeshi Population

Prenatal diagnosis of thalassaemia in a tertiary level hospital by amplification refractory mutation system (ARMS) Method

