DETERMINATION OF ANTI-HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIBODY TITER IN VACCINATED B-TALASSEMIC PATIENTS,
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Background: Thalassemia patients are more susceptible to hepatitis than the normal population due to the frequent blood transfusions.

Objectives: To determine the immune response of children with major β-thalassemia, by measuring anti-hepatitis B surface antibody (anti-HBs Ab) following the last HBV vaccine injection.

Methods: This study was carried out on all (110) thalassemic patients of Jahrom 15.34 ± 5.99 year, who received three standard intramuscular recombinant HBV vaccines. Based on the serum levels of anti-HBs antibody, subjects were categorized as: good responders (anti-HBs >100 IU/Lit), low responders (anti-HBs 10-100 IU/Lit) and non-responders (anti-HBs < 10 IU/Lit).

Conclusions: In females, the mean antibody level was 133.69 ± 107.647 and in males it was 158.02 ± 109.640 IU/Lit (P=0.243). Out of 110 thalassemic patients of Jahrom 66 (60%) were good responders, 21 (19.1%) low responders and 23 (20.9%) non-responders. Standard HBV vaccination in thalassemic patients results in an immune response in about 60% of the subjects. Therefore, annually assessment of anti-HBs antibody level, after the last vaccination (booster), is recommended.