

## Behavior of red blood cells indices in iron deficiency anemia and $\beta$ -thalassemia trait

Dear Editor,

I read the article of "Behavior of red blood cells indices in iron deficiency anemia and  $\beta$ -thalassemia trait."<sup>[1]</sup> Jassim noted that "red blood cell count, hemoglobin, hematocrit, mean corpuscular hemoglobin, and mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration were significantly lower in iron deficiency anemia (IDA) participants than in  $\beta$ -thalassemia trait (TT) participants, whereas red blood cell distribution width was significantly higher in IDA participants than in  $\beta$ -TT participants. There was no significant difference regarding mean corpuscular volume between IDA participants and  $\beta$ -TT participants."<sup>[1]</sup> We would like to share ideas and experience with this observation. In our area, Southeast Asia, the prevalence of both IDA and  $\beta$ -TT is extremely high. The point that should not be forgotten is the complex case with concurrence of both IDA and  $\beta$ -TT. In those cases, the clinical hematology parameters will be difficult to interpret. In addition, if there is also other additional abnormalities such as anemia due to chronic disease or other nutritional deficiency anemia (such as folate deficiency), the interpretation of the hematological parameters will be more complex. In the report by Jassim, the interesting point is the lack of ruling out of those mentioned possible concurrent disorders.

### Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

### Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

**Beuy Joob, Viroj Wiwanitkit<sup>1</sup>**

Medical Center, Medical Academic Center, Bangkok, Thailand,

<sup>1</sup>Department of Tropical Medicine, Hainan Medical University, Hainan Sheng, China

### Address for correspondence:

Dr. Beuy Joob,  
Medical University, Bangkok, Thailand.  
E-mail: beuyjoob@hotmail.com

### Reference

1. Jassim AN. Comparative behavior of red blood cells indices in iron deficiency anemia and  $\beta$ -thalassemia trait. *Iraqi J Hematol* 2016;5:183-6.

This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as the author is credited and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

| Access this article online   |  |
|--|--|
| Quick Response Code:   | Website:<br><a href="http://www.ijhonline.org">www.ijhonline.org</a> |
|  | DOI:<br>10.4103/ijh.ijh_12_17  |

**How to cite this article:** Joob B, Wiwanitkit V. Behavior of red blood cells indices in iron deficiency anemia and  $\beta$ -thalassemia trait. *Iraqi J Hematol* 2017;6:97.

© 2017 Iraqi Journal of Hematology | Published by Wolters Kluwer - Medknow