To the Editor

Sir,

In the discussion part of their interesting paper on ‘β-Thalassemia in Sicily’, Schilirò et al. [Acta haemat. 60: 193 (1978)] stated that Friedman et al. [1], have recently described patients with genetic, clinical and hematological pictures identical to those of our patients with Rietti-Greppi-Micheli disease (RGMD), in whom imbalance of β-globin chain synthesis is similar to our subjects.’ Although genetic and clinical pictures of RGMD in the patients referred to in the article, are similar to the patients studied by us [1], the following points should be brought to attention: In our cases the globin ratios (β/α) in the peripheral blood were not different from those of heterozygous β-thalassemia, but in the patients of Schilirò et al. with RGMD they were significantly different (p < 0.01). In addition, bone marrow globin chain ratios of our cases were studied and they were found to be different from those of homozygous and heterozygous β-thalassemias and the free α-chain pools in the marrow were found elevated; these studies were not done in their patients with RGMD. Peripheral blood globin chain ratios alone are enough to indicate that RGMD is neither identical nor similar to the patients described by us.

Reference


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