**Covering letter**

The Scientific Committee,

Second IAMRS Conference.

Submission of Abstract for the Conference

Dear Sirs,

We intend to present the attached article entitled **“ The awareness of patient's parents with beta Thalassemia Major and intermedia in Baghdad and Alnasyria in 2017 ”** in your Second IAMRS Conference. On behalf of all contributors, I will act as the corresponding author from this point onward. We have no conflict of interest in any substance or material mentioned in this manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

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**Abstract**

Title: **The awareness of patient's parents with beta Thalassemia Major and intermedia in Baghdad and Alnasyria in 2017**

Authors: Ali Al-Shammari, Mohammed Mutar, Mustafa Majid H, Ammar Jaleel Raad, Ali Aljabery and Hashmi Talib

Aim: This study aims to assess the awareness of parents/care givers of children with beta thalassemia major and intermedia, as education is the first and the most important step in all prevention programs, and to compare the level of awareness among Iraqis and other people

Methods: This study is a cross sectional study that was held in three Thalassemia centres (two in Baghdad and one in Nasiriya) from 20/7/2017 to 20/9/2017.  
 The study involved 193 parents/care givers of thalassemia children under the age of 15 who come to the centers frequently for blood transfusion. The awareness had been assessed by self-designed questionnaire which was tested for content validity. The questionnaire includes questions regarding sociodemographic and economic profile, mode of transition, complication, prevention…… etc, the data was analyzed using SPSS v.24.

Results: The mean awareness was found to be 57 ±13.1. The highest knowledge was for foods that thalassemic patients shouldn’t eat which is 94.8%. The lowest knowledge was for the chance of having an affected child in each pregnancy (which is 1/4) which is 11.9%. It seems there is no relation between the awareness level and the time since the diagnosis

Conclusion:The level of awareness was relatively acceptable and it seems there is a need to improve the continuous education among the caregivers.We should educate not only parents but also general public so that Thalassemia can be eradicated

Key words: thalassemia, awareness, parents

**N.B.** Please use Word 2016 format, English language, Time New Roman font, size 12.

Please use no more than 300 words.