**Table 1 Study population**

| Characteristics | Total (n = 105) | Male (n = 55) | Female (n = 50) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Mean (SD)** | | |
| *Age (years)* | 22.9 ± 11.7 | 22.2 ± 9.7 | 21.9 ± 8.8 |
| *Serum ferritin (ng/mL)* | 3257.39 ± 2113.3 | 3194.67 ± 2119 | 3326.38 ± 2169 |
| | **N (%)** | | |
| *Education level (n = 105)* | | | |
| Illiterate | 12 (11.4%) | 7 (58.3%) | 5 (41.7%) |
| School | 81 (77.2%) | 41 (50.6%) | 40 (49.4%) |
| College graduate | 12 (11.4%) | 7 (58.3%) | 5 (41.7%) |
| *Employment status (n = 105)* | | | |
| Unemployed | 87 (82.9%) | 42 (47.7%) | 46 (52.3%) |
| Employed | 18 (17.1%) | 13 (76.5%) | 4 (23.5%) |
| *Diseased siblings (n = 105)* | | | |
| Yes | 76 (72.4%) | 41 (53.9%) | 35 (46.1%) |
| No | 29 (27.6%) | 14 (48.3%) | 15 (51.7%) |
| *Chronic pain (n = 105)* | | | |
| Yes | 94 (89.5%) | 53 (56.4%) | 41 (43.6%) |
| No | 11 (10.5%) | 2 (18.2%) | 9 (81.8%) |
| *Chelation (n = 105)* | | | |
| Yes | 2 (1.9%) | 2 (100%) | 0 (0%) |
| No | 103 (98.1%) | 53 (51.5%) | 50 (48.5%) |
| *Splenectomy (n = 105)* | | | |
| Yes | 64 (60.9%) | 33 (51.6%) | 31 (48.4%) |
| No | 41 (39.1%) | 22 (53.7%) | 19 (46.3%) |
| *Pretransfusion haemoglobin (n = 105)* | | | |
| $\geq$ 8.7 g/dL | 28 (26.7%) | 10 (35.7%) | 18 (64.3%) |
| $\leq$ 8.6 g/dL | 77 (73.3%) | 45 (58.4%) | 32 (41.6%) |
| *Tricuspid regurgitation (n = 76)* | | | |
| $\geq$ 2.5 m/s | 3 (3.9%) | 2 (66.7%) | 1 (33.3%) |
| < 2.5 m/s | 73 (96.1%) | 38 (52.1%) | 35 (47.9%) |

SD = standard deviation.