



Thalassemia

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A critical shortage of **Desferal (deferoxamine)** in Delhi government hospitals has put **thalassemia patients at risk of severe complications** from **iron overload**, as the drug is essential for those unable to tolerate oral chelators.

- **Thalassemia** is an inherited blood disorder that **reduces the body's ability** to produce normal hemoglobin, leading to fewer healthy **red blood cells** and **anemia**.
- **Symptoms** range from growth issues, **delayed puberty**, and bone abnormalities in mild cases to poor appetite, **jaundice, dark urine, and facial bone irregularities** in severe cases.
- **Types of Thalassemia:**
 - **Alpha Thalassemia:** Caused by defective alpha-globin genes inherited from both parents.
 - Severity depends on the number of defective genes.
 - **Beta Thalassemia:** Caused by defects in **beta-globin genes**.
 - Symptoms range from mild to severe, depending on the number and type of defective genes.
- Approximately 280 million people worldwide are affected by thalassemia, with an estimated 4.4 out of every 10,000 live births impacted by the **disorder globally**.

Read more: [Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna](#)

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