

ED/1893 /70.

March 16, 1970.

18 MAR 1970

Sir,

In continuation of the talk with Dr. S.M. Merchant, I wish to state that we have been investigating suspected cases of hereditary haemolytic anaemia referred by Pediatricians around this area for thalassemia and abnormal haemoglobins. Investigations carried out in our laboratories as well as by others show that thalassemia is not uncommon in this region.

Thalassemia, a genetic disorder of haemoglobin synthesis is mainly of two types (α and β). It is reasonable to assume that the commonly seen variety in this region is the β -type of thalassemia and that it is seen more common in certain communities. No systematic studies have been carried out so far to know the frequency of these gene in this area.

In the South-East Asian region, besides the common type of thalassemia (β -type), α -thalassemia is also found. The latter in homozygous state, being not compatible with life, results in intrauterine deaths, and many cases of abortions in that region are found to be due to this genetic entity. A few cases of $\alpha\alpha$ α -thalassemia along with other abnormal haemoglobins have recently been detected from this part of our country. With the recent advances in laboratory techniques it is rather easy to detect carriers of β -thalassemia gene, while it is extremely difficult to detect carrier-state of α -thalassemia in adults. Detection of this condition is rather easy in cord blood samples.

We are now engaged in a systematic study of the gene frequency of thalassemia in this region. We have a project at hand with the W.H.O. assistance, wherein we wish to study particularly cord blood samples. I would therefore request you to arrange to let us have samples of cord bloods (8-10 ml.) from your hospital patients. If you are kind enough to grant this permission, the details shall be worked out later.

Thanking you and with kind regards.

Yours truly,

PKS

P.K. Sukumaran,
Scientific Officer,
Epidemiology Division.

To

The Asst. Principal Medical Officer,
Nowrojee Wadia Maternity Hospital,
King Edward Road,
Parel, BOMBAY-12.

PKS/acc/

Nowrosjee Wadia Maternity Hospital

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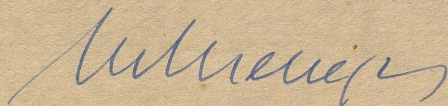
The Scientific Officer,
Epidemiology Division,
Cancer Research Institute,
Tata Memorial Centre,
Parel,
BOMBAY.

Dear Sir,

Ref: Your letter No. ED/1893/70 of 18-3-70.

The Hon. Principal Medical Officer
has given permission to collect the cord
blood from the hospital patients.

Yours faithfully,



Asst. to the Hon. P.M.O.

P. file

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