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## **Structural Hemoglobin Variants: Mutation, Hematology and Its Application in Prenatal Diagnosis**

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**KEY WORDS** Hemoglobin variants; prenatal diagnosis; mutation; polymerase chain reaction; thalassemia; hematology.

**ABSTRACT** Referred cases of Genetics OPD, SGPGI between 1988-2000 were screened for cause of anemia. Out of which one hundred and ninety eight individuals were found as abnormal hemoglobin variants and associated with  $\beta$ -thalassemia mutations viz: E $\beta$ T, S $\beta$ T, D $\beta$ T. These phenotypes were of severe type. Hematology and mutation analysis were performed in these subjects by ARMS-PCR technique. Due to high prevalence of IVS I-5 (G-C) mutation, most of the structural variants (69%) were found associated with this mutation. Severity of the thalassemia syndromes (E $\beta$ T, S $\beta$ T, D $\beta$ T) emphasized the need of establishment of prenatal diagnosis for common structural hemoglobin variants along with beta thalassemia mutations.

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