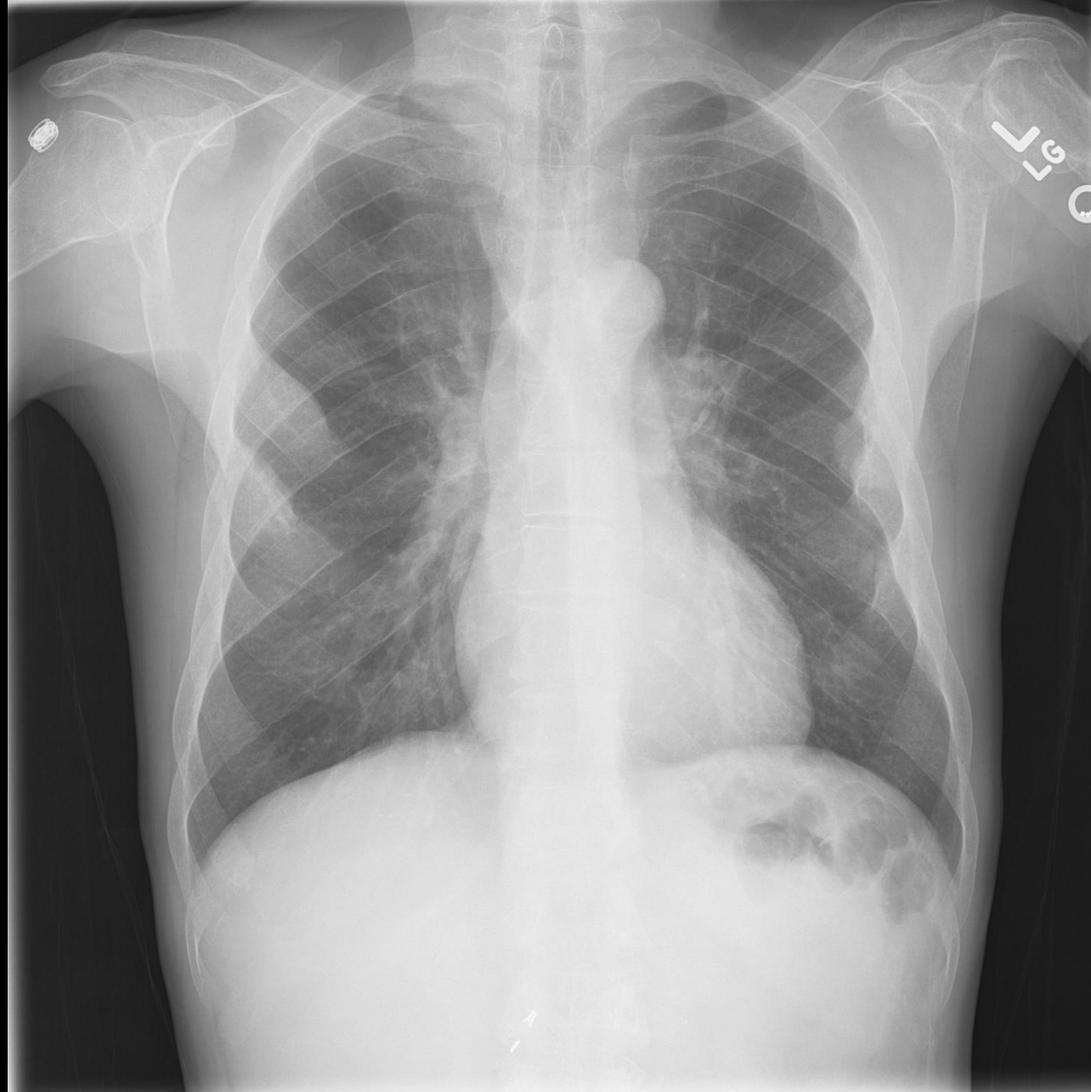


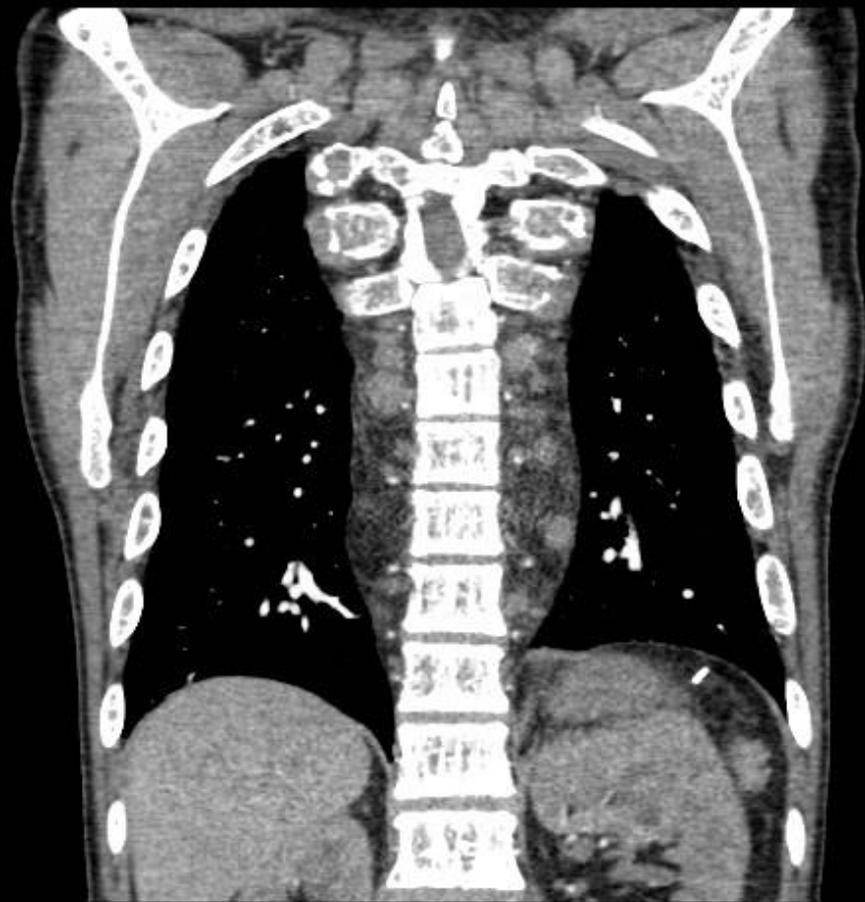


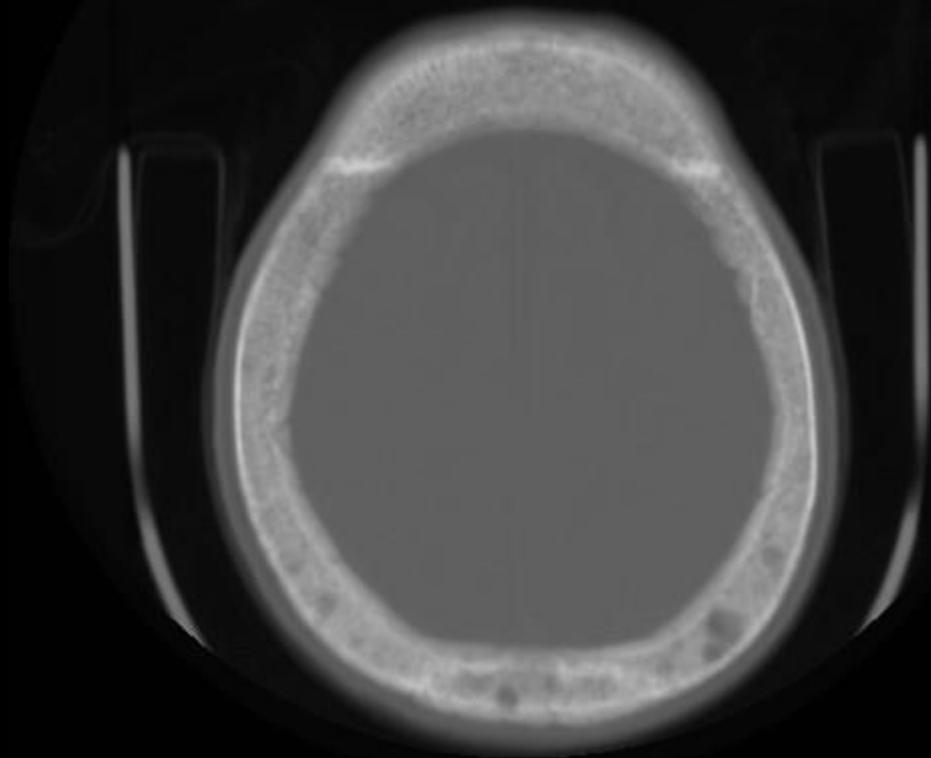
55 M

Melanie Chang









# Thalassemia

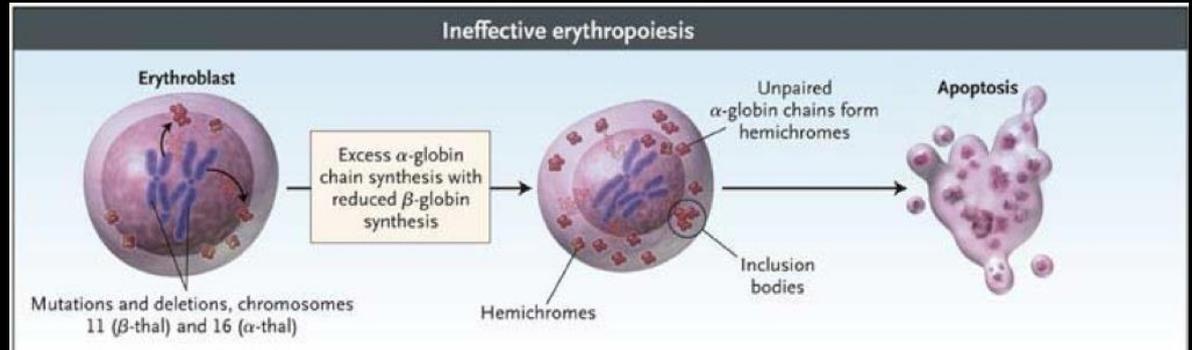
Described by Cooley in 1927

Autosomal recessive microcytic anemia

Decreased production of globin chain synthesis (alpha or beta)

Alpha thal- Southeast Asia, Middle East, China, African

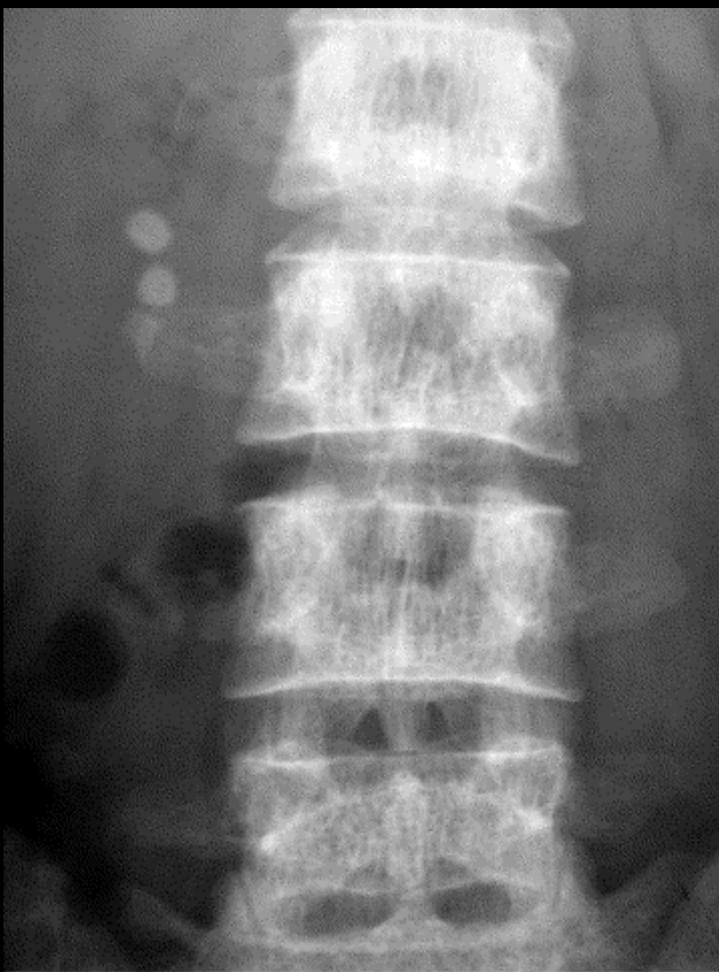
Beta thal- Mediterranean



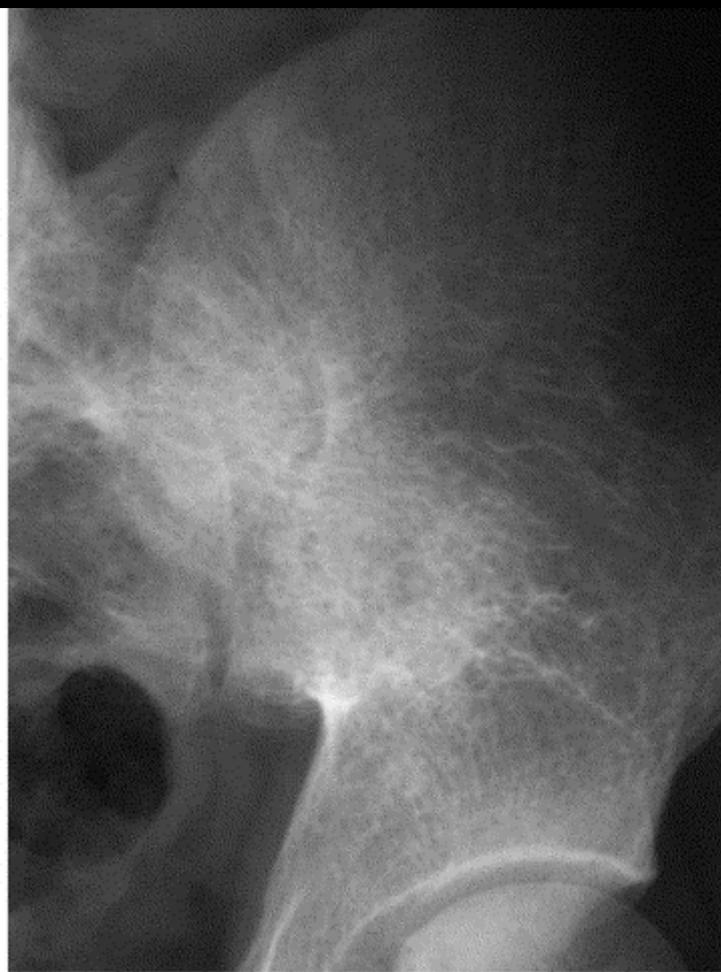
# Imaging features

Skeletal: osteoporosis, marked bone marrow expansion, premature fusion of growth plates, predisposition to vertebral compression fractures

Non-skeletal: extramedullary hematopoiesis, cholelithiasis, hepatosplenomegaly



(a)

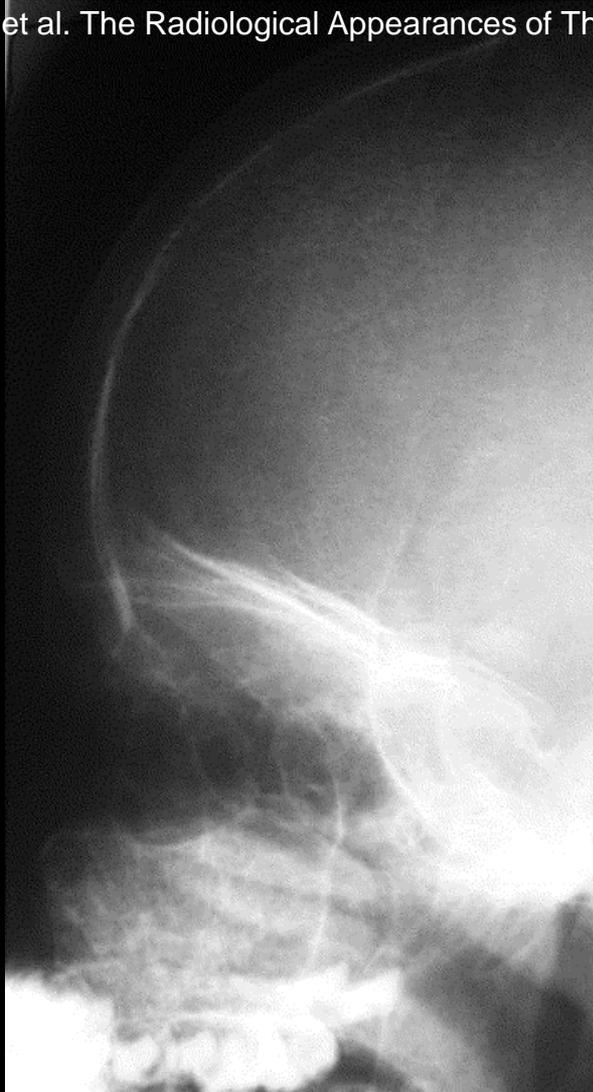


(b)

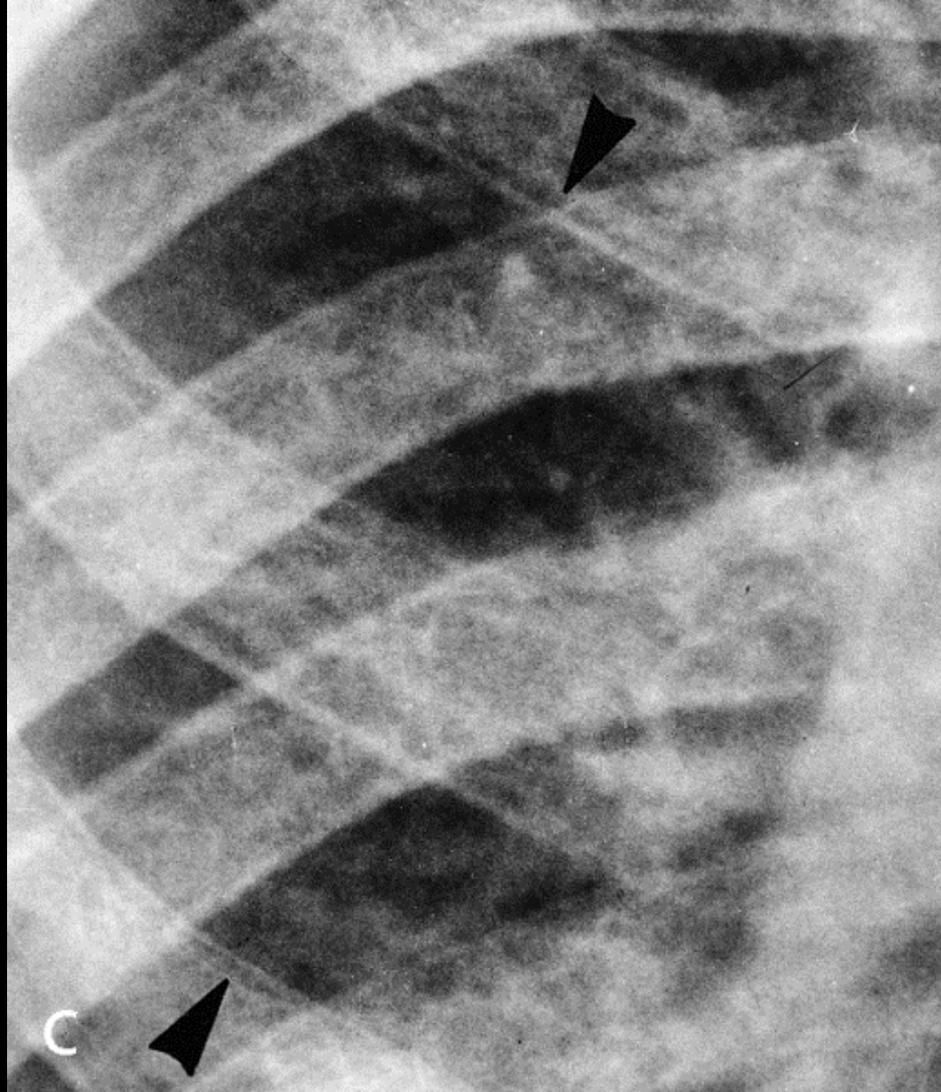
Tyler PA, et al. The Radiological Appearances of Thalassaemia. *Clinical Radiology* 2006.



Hollar MA. Signs in Imaging: The Hair-on-End Sign. *Radiology* 2001.



Surgical reconstruction of the maxilla in severe thalassaemia. Jurkiewicz MJ, et al. *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* 1967; 39(5): 459-464.



The Hemoglobinopathies:  
Sickle cell Disease and  
Thalassemia  
[www.isradiology.org/tropical\\_diseases/tmcr/chapter31/radiological9.htm](http://www.isradiology.org/tropical_diseases/tmcr/chapter31/radiological9.htm)

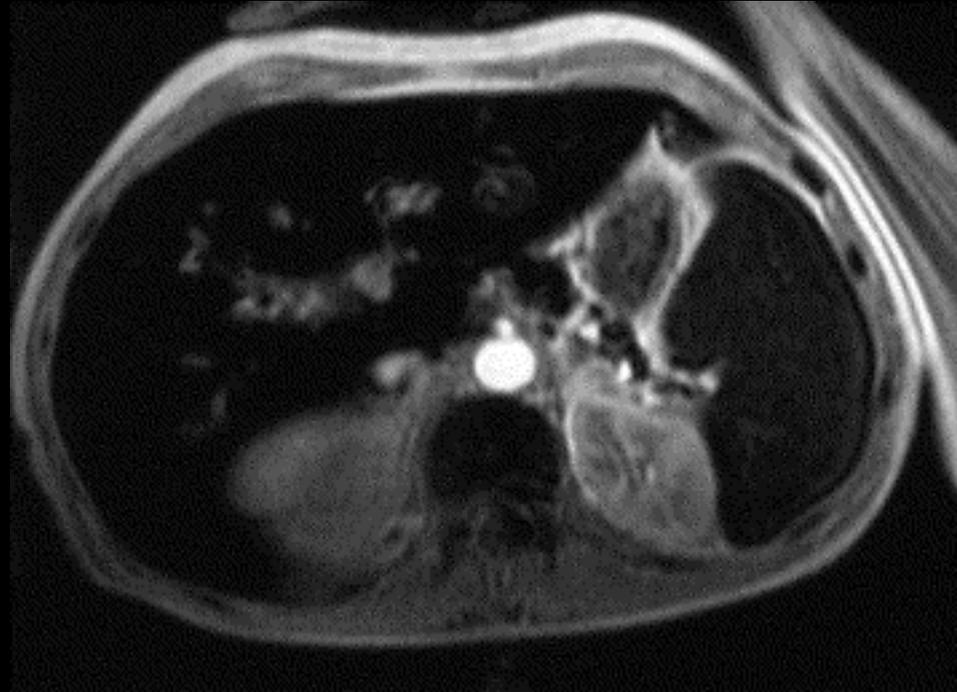
# Treatment: Hypertransfusion

Reduces the extent of marrow expansion

Iron overload and hyperuricemia are potential consequences

High serum iron levels → synovium and articular cartilage abnormalities

Occasionally chondrocalcinosis



Tyler PA, et al. The Radiological Appearances of Thalassaemia. *Clinical Radiology* 2006.

# Treatment: Iron-chelation therapy- Deferoxamine

Dysplasia in  $\sim\frac{1}{3}$  of patients affecting growing long bones

Toxic effects on bone from ?zinc chelation, antiproliferative effect

Impaired metaphyseal collagen synthesis and inhibition of osteoblasts  $\rightarrow$  growth retardation

Metaphyseal splaying, irregular widened physis





El Dien H, et al. Deferoxamine-induced dysplasia-like skeletal abnormalities at radiography and MRI. *Pediatric Radiology* 2013.

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Tunaci M, Tunaci A, Engin G, Ozkorkmaz B, Dincol G, Acunas G, Acunas B. Imaging features of thalassemia. *European Radiology*. 1999; 9: 1804-1809.

El Dien H, Esmail R, Magdy R, Lotfy H. Deferoxamine-induced dysplasia-like skeletal abnormalities at radiography and MRI. *Pediatric Radiology*. 2013; 43(9):1159-1165.