Supplementary material

Supplementary Table S1. Comparison of complication prevalence between two β-thalassaemia cohorts from Cyprus and Greece.

Complication	**Cyprus**	**Greece**
N	647	433
Mean age, years	43	33.3
Bone disease	33.7%	6.4% *
Hypogonadism	28.4%	21.6%
Diabetes	14.7%	7.3%
Hypothyroidism	13%	20.7%
Heart disease	8.8%	8.6%

* only clinically significant osteoporosis

Supplementary Table S2. Comparison of serum ferritin concentration distribution in transfusion-dependent β-thalassaemia (TDT) patients between Cyprus and Egypt

Serum Ferritin ng/dl	**Cyprus TDT**	**Egypt [17] [aged 6-20 years (mean, 13.0)]**
<1000	48.9%	0
1-2500	25.9%	47.5%
>2500	25.2%	52.5%

Supplementary Table S3. Comparison of cardiac T2* value and estimated liver iron concentration (LIC) in transfusion-dependent β-thalassaemia (TDT) population in different countries (NR, not reported)

Cardiac T2* (ms)	**Cyprus TDT**	**Greece TDT [18]**	**Australia TDT [19]**	**Indonesia TDT [20]**
N	267	1078	81	238
Median age, years	44	41	>18	NR
>20ms	85.4%	86.5%	77.7%	82.7%
10-19ms	10.1%	7.4%	11.8%	11.4%
<9ms	4.5%	6.1%	10.5%	5.9%
LIC (mg/g dry weight)				
<3	51%	52.1%		13.4%
3-7	22.5%	18.5%		20.6%
7-15	13%	14.6%		29%
>15	13.5%	14.8%		37%

Supplementary Table S4. Comparison of education level in β-thalassaemia patients in different countries

Level of education	**Cyprus**	**Greece [23]**	**Iran [24]**
N	251	119	3601
Age, years	44 (median)	39.7±8.5	21.6±10.3
None	1.2%		27%
Primary	6%	8.4%	39.7%
Secondary	63.7%	41.2%	18.1%
Tertiary	29.1%	50.4%	15.2%
Totals	100%	100%	100%