C17. **DEATH CAUSES IN ROUMANIAN MAJOR THALASSAEMIA PATIENTS BEFORE AND DURING IRON CHELATION THERAPY**

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Introduction Major thalassaemia is a hereditary disease, manifested as a very severe anemia depending of regular blood transfusions therapy. As a consequence of those transfusions, patients with thalassaemia major becomes iron overloaded. With multiple organ failure and death. Iron chelation therapy prevents iron accumulation and is mandatory when serum ferritin levels reached 1000ng/ml.

Material and method Our study group includes patients with major β thalassaemia registered at NITH level in chronic transfusion and iron chelation therapy, more then 50% of Romanian patients. New oral chelation and hyper transfusion regime leads to some changes in medical aspects of disease.

Results and discutions: Before the end of 1995, the main death causes was cardiac failure (75.7%), followed by hepatic and infectious mortality. Introduction of National Programme for treatment of hemophilia and thalassaemia in 1997 and new oral chelator in 2008 leads to significant decrease of number cardiac death to 33%.

Conclusions: a correct and sustained iron chelation therapy reduced very much cardiac causes death. Cardiac, infectious and liver complications still remains the main death causes in major thalassaemia in Romania, as all over the world.