



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***FLOWCYTOMETRIC ASSESSMENT OF PLATELET MICROPARTICLES
CD41 AND CD62P IN E/BETA-THALASSEMIA PATIENTS IN PUBLIC
HOSPITALS IN SELANGOR, MALAYSIA***

BAHAA HADI JABER ALMHANAWI

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By

BAHAA HADI JABER ALMHANAWI

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

November 2016

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DEDICATION

To my Family



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Science

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November 2016

Chairman : Bahariah Binti Khalid, PhD
Faculty : Medicine and Health Science

The hypercoagulability complications and an increase in thrombosis risk have been reported in B-thalassemia patients. Despite the fact that the life expectancy of B-thalassemia has been improved, thalassemic patients still suffer from many complications including thrombotic risk. High level of platelet microparticles (PMPs) in the circulation of B-thalassemia patients is believed to be responsible for the presence of hypercoagulability state in B-thalassemia patients. The main objective of this research was to assess the level of platelet microparticles in Hb E/B-thalassemia patients and normal individuals in the Malaysian population. The specific objectives were to determine the level of platelet microparticles CD41 and CD62P in Hb E/B-thalassemia and normal individuals, determine the Annexin-5 level in both, Hb E/B-thalassemia and normal individuals, and to correlate the levels of platelet microparticles with the blood parameters. A case-control study was carried out to assess the level of platelet microparticles in Hb E/beta-thalassemia patients (cases) and normal individuals (control) in the Malaysian population. A convenience sample of 37 patients with Hb E/beta-thalassemia (12 paediatrics and 25 adults) were investigated and compared with 28 normal individuals (3 paediatrics and 25 adults) who were studied in the same period. The samples were analyzed using immunophenotyping application in flow cytometer platform. PMPs were processed and analyzed directly after labeling by BD FACS-CantoII™ flow cytometer (Becton Dickinson, USA), using FlowJo software (version 10.1r1). Platelet microparticles defined as MPs that were smaller than 1.0 µm, had a positive staining for A-5, and exposed platelet-specific markers namely, CD41 and/or CD62P. However, in this research, the mean event of CD62P Vs. A-5 were significantly higher in Hb E/B-thalassemia compared to the normal individuals in the adults group ($p= 0.006$) respectively. There was a strong association between the phospholipid (PS) and platelet activation markers CD41 and CD62P on the activated platelet cells. In conclusion, platelet microparticles are significantly increased in Hb E/B-thalassemia patients compared to the normal individuals, and there is a strong association between platelet microparticle and some blood parameters.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Master Sains

**PENILAIAN ALIRAN SITOMETRIK MIKROPARTIKAL PLATLET CD41
DAN CD62P DALAM KALANGAN PESAKIT HB E/B-THALASSEMIA DI
HOSPITAL AWAM SELANGOR, MALAYSIA**

Oleh

BAHAA HADI JABER ALMHANAWI

November 2016

Pengerusi : Bahariah Binti Khalid, PhD
Fakulti : Perubatan dan Sains Kesihatan

Komplikasi hypergumpalan dan peningkatan risiko thrombosis telah dilaporkan berlaku kepada pesakit thalassemia. Meskipun terbukti bahawa jangka hayat pesakit B-thalassemia telah bertambah baik, namun pesakit thalassemia masih menghadapi banyak komplikasi lain seperti risiko thrombotic. Peningkatan jumlah mikropartikel platlet (PMPs) yang tinggi dikalangan pesakit B-thalassemia adalah dipercayai berpunca daripada kewujudan hypergumpalan pada pesakit B-thalassemia. Objektif utama kajian ini adalah untuk mengetahui tahap mikroplatlet pesakit Hb E/B-thalassemia dan individu normal dalam populasi di Malaysia. Kajian ini lebih mengfokuskan bagi mengenalpasti tahap mikropartikel platlet mikropartikel CD41 dan CD62P dalam Hb E/B-thalassemia dan individu normal, mengenalpasti tahap Annexin-5 pada Hb E/B-thalassemia dan individu normal, dan untuk mengetahui hubungan tahap mikropartikel dengan parameter klinikal dan faktor lain yang berkait. Satu kajian kes-kontrol telah dijalankan untuk mengukur tahap mikropartikel platlet pada pesakit Hb E/beta-thalassemia (kes) dan individu normal(kontrol) dalam kalangan populasi masyarakat Malaysia. Sampel yang mudah didapati diambil daripada 37 orang pesakit yang menghidap Hb E/beta-thalassemia (12 pediatrik dan 25 dewasa) dan telah dijalankan ujikaji keatas sampel tersebut , dengan membandingkannya dengan 28 individu sihat (3 pediatrik dan 25 orang dewasa) yang dikaji serentak. Analisis sampel dilakukan dengan menggunakan aplikasi immunophenotyping dalam dataran aliran sitometer. PMPs terus dianalisis selepas di tanda oleh BD FACS-CantoII™ aliran sitometer (Becton Dickinson, Amerika syarikat), menggunakan perisian FlowJo (versi 10.1r1). Mikropartikel platlet didefinisikan sebagai MP adalah lebih kecil daripada 1.0 µm, mempunyai lekatan tanda positif untuk A-5, dan menanda platlet-spesifik terdedah dinamakan CD41 dan/atau CD62P. Meskipun begitu, min acara bagi kedua-dua CD62P dan A-5 adalah ketara lebih tinggi pada Hb E/B-thalassemia berbanding individu normal dalam kalangan golongan kumpulan orang dewasa ($p= 0.006$) secara respektif. Terdapat jalinan yang kuat antara phospholipid (PS) dan mengaktifkan petanda platlet CD41 dan CD62P pada sel platlet yang telah diaktifkan. Sebagai konklusi, mikropartikel platlet

meningkat secara ketara pada pesakit Hb E/B-thalassemia berbanding individu normal, dan terdapat jalinan yang kuat antara mikropartikel platlet and beberapa parameter darah.



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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of the Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

Bahariah Binti Khalid, PhD

Medical Lecturer
Faculty of Medicine and Health Science
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Elizabeth George, PhD

Professor (Medicine)
Faculty of Medicine and Health Science
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

Eusni Rahayu Mohd Tohit, PhD

Medical Lecturer
Faculty of Medicine and Health Science
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

Zainina Seman, PhD

Medical Lecturer
Faculty of Medicine and Health Science
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

Salmiah Md. Said, PhD

Medical Lecturer
Faculty of Medicine and Health Science
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

ROBIAH BINTI YUNUS, PhD

Professor and Dean
School of Graduate Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:

Declaration by Members of Supervisory Committee

This is to confirm that:

- the research conducted and the writing of this thesis was under our supervision;
- supervision responsibilities as stated in the Universiti Putra Malaysia (Graduate Studies) Rules 2003 (Revision 2012-2013) were adhered to.

Signature: _____
Name of Chairman
of Supervisory
Committee: Dr. Bahariah Binti Khalid

Signature: _____
Name of Member
of Supervisory
Committee: Professor Dr. Elizabeth George

Signature: _____
Name of Member
of Supervisory
Committee: Dr. Eusni Rahayu Mohd Tohit

Signature: _____
Name of Member
of Supervisory
Committee: Dr. Zainina Seman

Signature: _____
Name of Member
of Supervisory
Committee: Dr. Salmiah Md. Said

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	i
ABSTRAK	ii
AKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
APPROVAL	v
DECLARATION	vii
LIST OF TABLES	xiii
LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xvii
 CHAPTER	
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Introduction to the Chapter	1
1.2 Thalassemias	1
1.3 β -thalassaemia	1
1.4 Hb E/ β -thalassemia	1
1.5 Hb E/ β -thalassemia in Malaysian Population	2
1.6 Hypercoagulable State in Thalassemia Patients	2
1.7 Platelet Microparticles and Hypercoagulability	2
1.8 Problem Statement	2
1.9 Research Significance	3
1.10 Research Hypothesis	3
1.10.1 Alternative Hypothesis	3
1.10.2 Null Hypothesis	3
1.11 Research Objectives	3
1.11.1 General Objective	3
1.11.2 Specific Objectives	3
1.12 Research Question	4
1.13 Conceptual Framework	4
 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	 6
2.1 Introduction	6
2.2 Thalassemia as Prothrombotic State	6
2.3 Hypercoagulable State in Thalassemia Patients	6
2.4 Hypercoagulable State in Non-Transfusion-Dependent Thalassemia	8
2.5 Platelet-Derived Microparticles	10
2.5.1 Platelet Microparticle Structure	11
2.5.1.1 Size	11
2.5.1.2 Phospholipids	11
2.5.1.3 Glycoproteins	11
2.5.2 Formation of Platelet Microparticles	14
2.5.2.1 Platelet Activation	14
2.5.2.2 Platelet activation markers	14
2.5.2.3 Platelet Destruction	17
2.6 Model of PMPs Formation	17

2.7	Clearance of PMPs from Circulation	20
2.8	Microparticle Function	20
2.8.1	Coagulation	20
2.8.2	Inhibition of Coagulation	20
2.8.3	Adhesion	21
2.8.4	Carrier Function and Cell Activation	21
2.8.5	Clinical Disorders Associated with Microparticles	22
2.8.5.1	Inherited Disorders	22
2.8.5.1.1	Scott Syndrome and Castaman Syndrome	22
2.8.5.1.2	Wiskott–Aldrich Syndrome (WAS)	22
2.8.5.2	Acquired Disorders	22
2.8.5.2.1	Immune Mediated	22
2.8.5.2.1.1	Primary Immune Thrombocytopenia (ITP)	22
2.8.5.2.1.2	Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia (HIT)	23
2.8.5.2.1.3	GPIIb-IIIa Antagonist-Induced Thrombocytopenia.	23
2.8.5.2.2	Non-Immune Mediated	23
2.8.5.2.2.1	Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria (PNH)	23
2.9	Detection of Microparticles	24
2.10	Conventional Detection Technique (Flow Cytometry)	24
2.11	Summary	25
3	MATERIALS AND METHODS	28
3.1	Introduction to the Chapter	28
3.2	Research Design	28
3.3	Research Location	28
3.4	Sampling	28
3.4.1	Research Population	28
3.4.2	Health Assessment of Normal Respondents	28
3.4.3	Inclusion Criteria	29
3.4.4	Exclusion Criteria	29
3.4.5	Sampling Frame	29
3.4.6	Sampling Unit	30
3.4.7	Sample Size	30
3.4.8	Sampling Method	33
3.5	The Variables of the Research	34
3.5.1	Dependent Variables	34
3.5.2	Independent Variables	34
3.6	Research Ethical Issues	34

3.6.1	Informed Consent	34
3.6.2	Process of Informed Consent	35
3.6.3	Respondents Confidentiality	35
3.6.4	Respondents Privacy	35
3.6.5	Respect and Responsibility	35
3.7	Data and Sample Collection	36
3.7.1	Collection of Respondents Information	36
3.7.2	Blood Sample Collection Technique	36
3.7.2.1	Blood Sample Collection from Infants and Children	36
3.7.2.2	Blood Sample Collection from Teens and Adults	37
3.7.3	Blood Sample Transportation	37
3.7.4	Sample Processing and PMPs Preparation	37
3.7.4.1	Centrifugation	37
3.7.4.2	Storage and Thawing Conditions	40
3.8	Staining and Labeling of PMPs	40
3.9	Instrument of the Research	42
3.9.1	Flow Cytometer Standardization Tools in PMPs Analysis	42
3.9.1.1	Size Calibration Beads	42
3.9.2	Antibodies Titration	45
3.9.3	CountBright™ Absolute Counting Beads	47
3.9.4	Negative Controls	49
3.9.4.1	Isotype controls	49
3.9.4.2	Fluorescent Minus One (FMO) Controls	50
3.9.5	Flow Cytometry Analysis	52
3.10	Statistical Analysis	53
4	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	54
4.1	Introduction to the Chapter	54
4.2	Response Rate in Hb E/B-thalassemia and Normal individuals	54
4.3	General Socio-demographics of Respondents	56
4.3.1	Age	56
4.3.2	Gender	56
4.3.3	Ethnicity	56
4.4	Demographic factors of Hb E/B-thalassemia patients	57
4.5	Complete Blood Count Parameters in Hb E/B-thalassemia and Normal individuals	57
4.6	Flow Cytometry Data (Immunophenotyping)	59
4.7	Expression of Studied markers (CD41, CD62P, and A-5)	61
4.7.1	Adults Group	61
4.7.2	Hb E/B-thalassemia (Paediatrics group)	63
4.8	Subpopulations of Platelet Microparticles	65
4.9	Factors Associated with PMPs	68
4.10	Post-hoc power test	69

5	SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	72
5.1	Summary	72
5.2	Conclusion	72
5.3	Recommendations	72
5.4	Limitations	73
	REFERENCES	74
	APPENDICES	87
	BIODATA OF STUDENT	106



LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
2.1 Surface Antigens Markers (CDs) of platelet and other circulating cells shows the common and unique surface antigens	15
2.2 Surface Antigens Markers (CDs) of platelet and other circulating cells shows the common and unique surface antigens	16
4.1 Distribution of subject's demographics in Hb E/ β -thalassemia	56
4.2 Distribution of subject's demographics in Normal individuals	57
4.3 Mean differences of Complete blood count (CBC) parameters between Thalassemic patients and normal individuals (Adults group).	58
4.4 Mean differences in Complete blood count (CBC) parameters between Thalassemic patients and normal individuals (Paediatrics group)	59
4.5 Comparison of Platelet Activation Markers in the adults group among Hb E/B-thalassemia and normal individuals	63
4.6 Description of CD41, CD62P, and A-5 expression level in the Hb E/B-thalassemia paediatrics group	63
4.7 Comparison of Platelet Activation Markers in Hb E/B-thalassemia among paediatrics and adults groups	65
4.8 Comparison of PMPs Subpopulations in the adults group among Hb E/B-thalassemia patients and normal individuals	66
4.9 Description of Paediatrics	67
4.10 Correlation of platelet activation markers with the blood parameters in adults Hb E/B-thalassemia(N=25)	68
4.11 Correlation of platelet activation markers with the blood parameters in Paediatrics Hb E/B-thalassemia (N=12)	69

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1.1	Flow chart of Conceptual Framework.	5
2.1	Hypercoagulability Contributing Factors in Thalassemia. (Ali T. Taher, 2008.)	9
2.2	Cells, MPs, and Exosomes. (Julie C. Williams, 2011)	10
2.3	Vesiculation of MPs from the Cell Membrane, transfer to recipient cell, and MPs composition (Yáñez-Mó et al., 2015)	13
2.4	Schematic Representation of the Resting Cytoskeleton. Ca^{++} is stored in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER). Scramblase is inactive while Translocase is active. (Piccin et al., 2007.)	18
2.5	Cellular activation. Calcium is released by ER leading to activation of calpain and gelsolin. Calpain cleaves long actin filaments. Gelsolin cleaves the actin capping proteins. The raised cytoplasmic Ca^{2+} also activates scramblase and inactivates translocase. Phospholipid asymmetry begins to be compromised. (Piccin et al., 2007.)	18
2.6	Cytoskeletal disruption following cellular activation. Spectrin and actin are cleaved. At this stage protein, anchorage to the cytoskeleton is disrupted allowing membrane budding. (Piccin et al., 2007.)	19
2.7	Generated microparticle is exposing increased phosphatidylserine on the external surface. (Piccin et al., 2007.)	19
2.8	Technical Approaches for microparticle detection. The combination of these methods is most frequently used for vesicle characterization. (Jean-Daniel Tissot, 2013.)	25
2.9	Thin section of normal platelet reveals intact cell membrane and some cell organelles. Magnification is 30 000x. The black arrow in the down right corner represents 0.5 μm . The platelet structure indicated by black arrows (1) alpha granules, (2) dense bodies, (3) filaments extended dense bodies. (B.H. Almhanawi et al., 2016.)	26

2.10	Thin section of platelet illustrates an advance activation stage (normal platelet-induced with EDTA) in which the cell membrane is damaged and release of PMPs and other cell organelles. Magnification is 30 000x. The black arrow in the down right corner represents 1 μ m. The platelet structure indicated by black arrows (1) released platelet microparticles, (2) dense bodies and (3) alpha granules. (B.H. Almhanawi et al.,2016.)	27
3.1	Altman nomogram, Published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the British Journal of Anaesthesia	33
3.2	Work Flow of Sample collection and PMPs preparation	39
3.3	Workflow of antibody labeling	41
3.4	Flowcytometry machine (BD FACS Canto II).	42
3.5	Histogram plot of size calibration beads in FSC and SSC (a and b), Dot-plot of filtered (c) and unfiltered sheath fluid in (d)	44
3.6	An example of serial dilution of CD62P stock solution	46
3.7	Representative line graph shows the titration curves of selected antibodies (CD41 and CD62P) and A-5	47
3.8	(A) Representative flow cytometry dot plot of absolute count beads FSC vs SSC (A) linear scale, (B) log scale	49
3.9	Shows CD41-FITC FMO Controls.	50
3.10	Shows A-5-PE FMO Controls.	51
3.11	Shows CD62P-APC FMO Controls.	51
3.12	Shows gating strategy of platelet microparticles.	52
4.1	Flow Chart of Respondent Response Rate	55
4.2	Flow cytometry of platelet derived microparticles. A: PMPs gate set up using size calibration beads according to the manufacturer instructions. B: Isotype control as a negative control using FITC Vs. APC. C: double fluorescent dot plot shows PMP-CD41 population. D: double fluorescent dot plot shows PMPs-CD62P population. E: double fluorescent dot plot shows PMP-CD41-CD62P population	60

4.3	Comparison of CD41, CD62P, and A-5 levels in the adults group between normal individuals (n=25), and Hb E/B-thalassemia (n=25). The bars represent the mean, and the small black bars represent the error bars (95% CI). The mean of CD41, CD62P, and A-5 in normal individuals were (1671, 1439, and 1609 events/ μ l) respectively, while in Hb E/B-thalassemia were (1940, 1802, and 1949 events/ μ l), respectively. Only CD62P and A-5 were significantly higher in Hb E/B-thalassemia when it compared to normal individuals. Statistics performed with independent sample Student t-test, $p < 0.05$	62
4.4	Comparison of PMPs subpopulations in the adults group between normal individuals (N=25), and Hb E/B-thalassemia (N=25). The bars represent the mean, and the small black bars represent the error bars (95% CI). Statistics performed with independent sample Student t-test, $p < 0.05$.	67
4.5	Altman nomogram, Shows the post hoc test for the desired power of the study. Published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the British Journal of Anaesthesia.	71

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

α	Alpha
A-5	Annxin-5
ATP	Adenosine Triphosphate
APC	Activated Protein C
APC*	Allophycocyanin
β	Beta
CBC	Complete Blood Count
Ca ⁺	Calcium
CD	Clusters Of Differentiation
CRF	Clinical Report Form
DVT	Deep Venous Thrombosis
DLS	Dynamic Light Scatter
ER	Endoplasmic Reticulum
ELISA	Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay
EM	Electron Microscopy
FITC	Fluorescein Isothiocyanate
FSC	Forward Scatter
FMO	Fluorescent Minus One
GP	Glycoprotein
GCP	Good Clinical Practice
Hb	Hemoglobin
HIT	Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia
HCT	Hematocrit
ITP	Primary Immune Thrombocytopenia

MPs	Microparticles
mAbs	Monoclonal Antibodies
MFI	Mean Fluorescence Intensity
MCV	Mean Cell Volume
MCH	Mean Cell Hemoglobin
MCHC	Mean Cell Hemoglobin Concentration
PMPs	Platelets Microparticles
PE	Pulmonary Embolism
PVT	Portal Vein Thrombosis
PRP	Platelet Rich Plasma
PPP	Platelet Poor Plasma
PFP	Platelet-Free Plasma
PS	Phosphatidylserine
PE	Phosphatidylethanolamine
PC	Phosphatidylcholine
PKC	Protein Kinase C
PNH	Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria
PE	Phycoerythrins
Plt	Platelets
RBCs	Red Blood Cells
RT	Room Temperature
RDW	Red Cell Distribution Width
SM	Sphingomyelin
SSC	Side Scatter
SPSS	Statistical Package For Social Sciences

TM	Thalassemia Major
TI	Thalassemia Intermedia
TEE	Thromboembolic Events
TEM	Transmission Electron Microscope
TBV	Total Blood Volume
TMPs	Total Microparticles
VTE	Venous Thromboembolism
WAS	Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome
WBCs	White Blood Cells

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction to the Chapter

This research is about the platelets microparticles (PMPs) and their role in hypercoagulability status in Hb E/ β -thalassemia in comparison with normal individuals. The current chapter presents the general study background, describes problem statement, research significance, hypothesis, objectives, and research questions. Moreover, the chapter summary represented in the conceptual framework of the study which is provided at the end of this chapter.

1.2 Thalassemias

Thalassemias are groups of heterogenic inherited disorders which occur as a result of, reduced or absence of globin chain synthesis, which is a protein molecule that is responsible for carrying the oxygen in the red blood cells (RBCs). There are two types of thalassemia disorder around the world: alpha (α) thalassemia and beta (β) thalassemia. Epidemiological studies show that α -thalassemia is more dominant in the Far East region while β -thalassaemia is more common in the Mediterranean region (Hoffbrand, V., & Moss, P. A. 2011).

1.3 β -thalassaemia

β -thalassemia has two main classes: β^+ thalassemia, in which there is a variable reduction in the synthesis of β globin chain and β^0 thalassemia, in which there is an absence of β globin chain production. β -thalassemia causes a variable anemia range from minor symptoms to life-threatening anemia. It can be classified based on the clinical symptoms into two phenotypes: thalassemia major (TM) or Cooley's anemia in which the patient suffer from severe and life-threatening anemia that occurs within months after birth, and thalassemia intermedia (TI) which manifested less clinical severity than TM (Provan, D., & Gribben, J. Eds. 2010).

1.4 Hb E/ β -thalassemia

The homozygote of Hb E/ β -thalassemia has the phenotype of β thalassemia trait due to abnormal hemoglobin production, and thalassemia, because of the generation of the alternative splicing site by the mutation. The populations in the joint borders of Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos have the highest incidence of Hb E/ β -thalassemia. Patients who inherit Hb E and β -thalassemia trait manifest TM or TI (Provan, D., & Gribben, J. Eds. 2010).

1.5 Hb E/ β -thalassemia in Malaysian Population

Hb E represents the most common Hb variant in the Southeast Asia with the frequency of 50% in many different areas (Fucharoen, S., & Winichagoon, P. 1997). In Malaysia, the Hb E is quite common in Malays with 5% carrier rate and the Orang Asli of Peninsular Malaysia manifest higher rate of Hb E disorder (Traeger, J., Wood, W. G., J. B., D. J., & Wasi, P. 1980). Hb E/ β -thalassemia is an extreme clinical condition that results from the interaction of Hb E with β -thalassemia. It is considered a public health problem in the Malaysian population and the most frequent type of thalassemia in Malays (George, E. 2013).

1.6 Hypercoagulable State in Thalassemia Patients

The chronic hypercoagulability state in Hb E/ Beta-thalassemia has been observed in these patients. The disturbance in the circulatory of the thalassemia patients can be manifested by peripheral arterial and venous thrombosis, transient ischemic attacks, and microcirculatory obstruction (Grisaru, D., & Rachmilewitz, E. A. 1992). The presence of PMPs in the circulation has been showed to support the procoagulant activity (Mallat, Z., Benamer, H., Hugel, B., Benessiano, J., Steg, P. G., Freyssinet, J. M., & Tedgui, A. 2000). Importantly, the procoagulant activity was corroborated by clinical research manifesting increased level of MPs in patients with risk of thromboembolic events (TEE) (VanWijk, M. J., VanBavel, E., Sturk, A., & Nieuwland, R. 2003).

1.7 Platelet Microparticles and Hypercoagulability

The exposure of PS on the PMPs surface led to binding of the coagulation factors via Ca^{2+} ions; that enable the formation of prothrombinase and tenase complex. PMPs are enriched in binding sites for activated factor Va, factor VIIIa, and factor IXa and provide the surface for thrombin formation (Sims, P. J., Faioni, E. M., Wiedmer, T., & Shattil, S. J. 1988).

1.8 Problem Statement

Increased in the level of CD41 and CD62P in thalassemic patients has been proven by recent studies in regard to thrombus formation. Studies have shown that CD41 and CD62P are increased in thrombotic patients at a significant rate. CD62P is exclusively expressed by platelet in contrast to other microparticles. CD41 has been studied on its clinical relevance in certain thrombogenic conditions. However, much mysterious about the role of these microparticles still unknown about clot formation. To our best knowledge, CD62P, and CD41 which is derived from platelet have not been studied in E/beta-thalassemic patients in Malaysia. To date, there have been efforts of risk stratification of hypercoagulable state in cancer by using CD62P that is a cell adhesion molecule found in platelet and appears to be playing a key role in response to tissue injury and inflammation and subsequently thrombus formation. However, the platelet microparticles formation will be affected by two main factors, namely serum calcium as the enzymes that responsible for the release of platelet microparticles are calcium-

dependent enzymes and the platelet number that is essential for platelet microparticles formation.

1.9 Research Significance

There were hardly any studies conducted to assess the platelet microparticles CD41 and CD62P in Hb E/ β thalassemic patients and normal individuals in Southeast Asia countries, particularly in Malaysia. Very few studies have been conducted in the Middle East countries on thalassemic patients that have shown an increase in their level of platelet microparticles. It is known that thalassemia has a high prevalence in Malaysian population namely E/beta thalassemia 4.5% (George, 2001) and they are at risk to develop hypercoagulability state because they manifest a high incidence of blood clotting. Thus, this research is necessary to prove whether the platelet microparticles CD41 and CD62P are significantly increased in selected groups (cases and controls) of Malaysian patients. Moreover, to establish a new data for platelet microparticles level in thalassemic patients in Malaysia population.

1.10 Research Hypothesis

1.10.1 Alternative Hypothesis

The level of platelet microparticles, namely CD41 and CD62P are significantly increased in Hb E/ β -thalassemia patients.

1.10.2 Null Hypothesis

The level of platelet microparticles, namely CD41 and CD62P are not significantly increased in patients with Hb E/ β -thalassemia.

1.11 Research Objectives

1.11.1 General Objective

To evaluate the level of platelet microparticles (CD41 and CD62P) in Hb E/ β -thalassemia patients and normal individuals.

1.11.2 Specific Objectives

- i. To determine the level of platelet microparticles CD41 and CD62P in Hb E/ β -thalassemia and normal individuals in the Malaysian population.
- ii. To determine the phospholipid level in both, normal and Hb E/ β -thalassemic subjects.
- iii. To correlate the levels of platelet microparticles CD41 and CD62P, and Annexin-5 with complete blood count parameters.

1.12 Research Question

Is there any association between CD41, CD62P, and A-5 with Hb E/ β -thalassemia?

1.13 Conceptual Framework

Figure 1:1. Provides a detailed description of the conceptual framework of the research. Two groups were chosen to be investigated regard to platelet microparticles(CD41 and CD62P) level in this research. The first group is Hb E/ β thalassemia patients and the second is normal individuals. Platelet-derived microparticles (CD41 and CD62P) were set as dependent variables. And the other factors that may affect the level of platelet-derived microparticle in these two groups which are demographic factors(age, gender and ethnicity), patients characteristics(splenectomy status, and Iron chelation status), clinical severity (Blood transfusion status) and other factors(Complete blood count (CBC)) were set as independent variables . Importantly, CD41 and CD62P are platelet-derived microparticles that are blebbing from activated platelets. Sources provide that patients with thalassemia and thrombosis have thrombotic complication combined with a notable augmentation in the level of platelet microparticles.

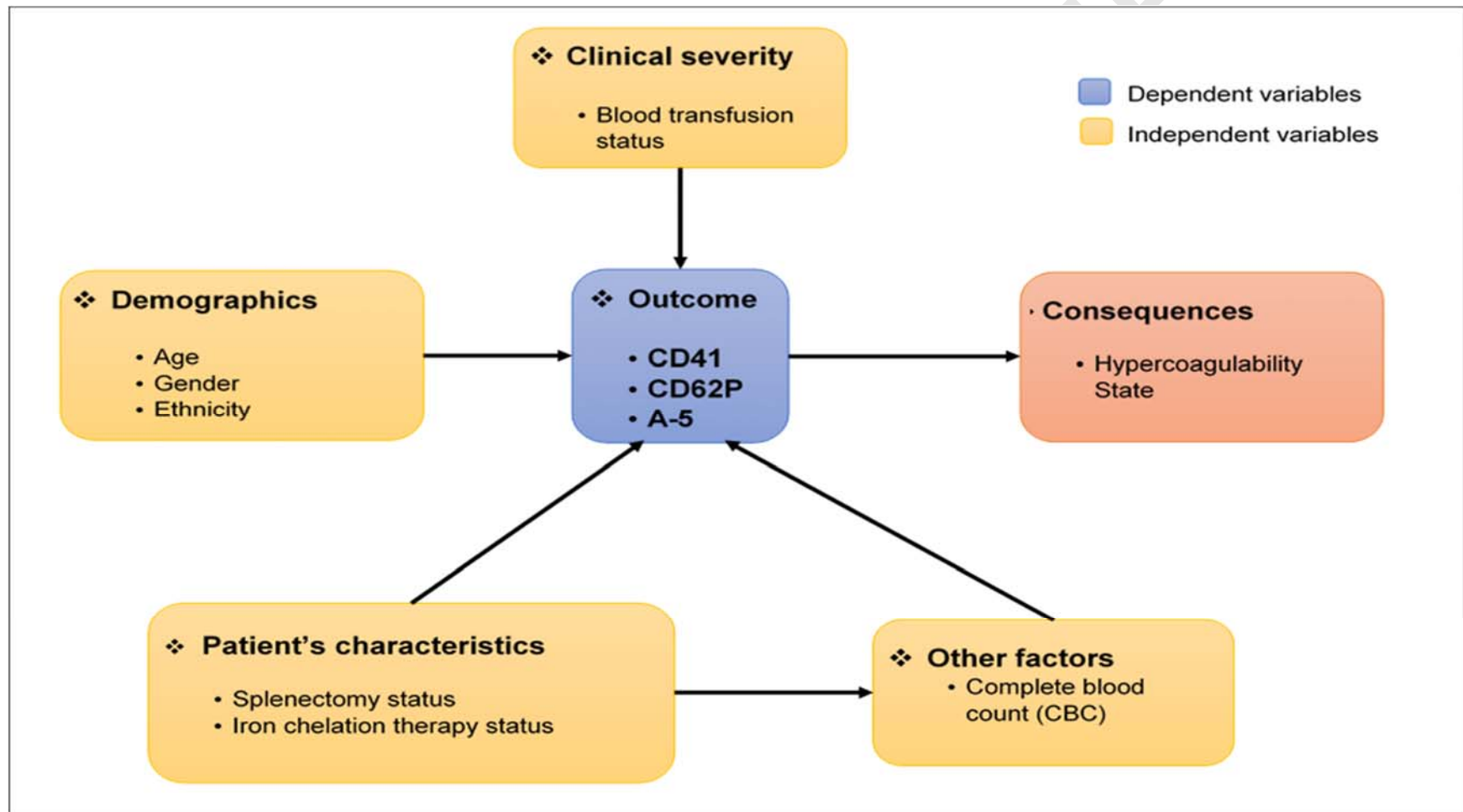


Figure 1.1 : Flow chartt of Conceptual Framework.

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