Table 2: Clinical characteristics of the study population

| **Characteristic** | **N = 356***1* |
| --- | --- |
| Diagnosis |  |
| Beta thalassemia major | 105 (29%) |
| E-beta-thalassaemia | 242 (68%) |
| Hemoglobin H | 3 (0.8%) |
| Others | 6 (1.7%) |
| Severity |  |
| No | 163 (46%) |
| Yes | 193 (54%) |
| Transfusion Status |  |
| Transfusion dependent | 323 (91%) |
| Transfusion independent | 33 (9.3%) |
| Frequency of Blood Transfusion |  |
| High (13-22 times/year) | 118 (33%) |
| Low (6-12 times/year) | 156 (44%) |
| None | 18 (5.1%) |
| Occasional (1-5 times/year) | 64 (18%) |
| Previous 3Months Transfution |  |
| No | 53 (15%) |
| Yes | 303 (85%) |
| Splenectomy Status |  |
| No | 250 (70%) |
| Yes | 106 (30%) |
| Comorbidities Status |  |
| Cardiological disorders | 6 (1.7%) |
| Diabetes mellitus | 6 (1.7%) |
| Hepatitis B or C | 44 (12%) |
| No comorbidity | 263 (74%) |
| Others | 37 (10%) |
| Ironchelating Therapy Status |  |
| Good compliance | 337 (95%) |
| Poor compliance | 19 (5.3%) |
| Medical Expense | 84,410 (70,446) |
| *1*n (%); Mean (SD) | |