| **Characteristic** | **N = 340***1* |
| --- | --- |
| Diagnosis |  |
| Beta thalassemia major | 104 (31%) |
| E-beta-thalassaemia | 230 (68%) |
| Hemoglobin H | 3 (0.9%) |
| Others | 3 (0.9%) |
| Age at onset of anemia (years) | 5.3±6.8 |
| Having a severe condition at the time of diagnosis? |  |
| Yes | 181 (53%) |
| No | 159 (47%) |
| Transfusion dependent or independent? |  |
| Transfusion dependent | 309 (91%) |
| Transfusion independent | 31 (9.1%) |
| Age at first transfusion (years) | 12±110 |
| Frequency of blood transfusion |  |
| High (13-22 times/year) | 116 (34%) |
| Low (6-12 times/year) | 148 (44%) |
| None | 16 (4.7%) |
| Occasional (1-5 times/year) | 60 (18%) |
| Receiving a blood transfusion during the previous 3 months |  |
| Yes | 292 (86%) |
| No | 48 (14%) |
| Did you had splenectomy |  |
| Yes | 103 (30%) |
| No | 237 (70%) |
| Do you have comorbidities |  |
| Cardiological disorders | 6 (1.8%) |
| Diabetes mellitus | 6 (1.8%) |
| Hepatitis B or C | 42 (12%) |
| No comorbidity | 252 (74%) |
| Others | 34 (10%) |
| Iron-chelating therapy status |  |
| Good compliance | 323 (95%) |
| Poor compliance | 17 (5.0%) |
| Medical expenses per annum | 82,649±68,297 |
| *1*n (%); Mean±SD | |