

Hemoglobin E Variants

I have read with interest the manuscript entitled 'Haemoglobin E variants; a clinical, haematological and biosynthetic study of four South African families' of Bird et al. in the August issue of the Journal [1]. I would like to bring to the authors' attention that double heterozygosity for HbS and HbE was first reported from Turkey by Aksoy and Lehman [2], and its frequency was found to be 0.36 in an Eti-Turk village [3]. Although the level of HbE in persons with this trait ranges from 27 to 32%, in general, as stated by the authors, if the level is higher HbE-Saskatoon ($\alpha_2\beta_{22} \text{Glu} \rightarrow \text{Lys}$) should be remembered, as in 1 of our cases [4].

References

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- 2 Aksoy, M.; Lehman, H.: The first observation of sickle cell HbE disease. *Nature* 179: 1248 (1957).
- 3 Özsoylu, S.; Sahinoğlu, M.: Haemoglobinopathy survey in an Eti-Turk village. *Hum. Hered.* 25: 50-59 (1975).
- 4 Prozorova-Zamani, V.; Özsoylu, S.; Aksoy, M.; Hedlee, M.G.; Lam, H.; Wilson, J.B.; Altay, C.; Huisman, T.H.J.: HbE and HbE-like variants in individuals from Turkey. *Hemoglobin* 5: 743-748 (1981).

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