Correspondence

Journal of Medical Genetics (1973). 10, 97-98.

Sir,

I have read with interest the article by Kattamis *et al* in your issue of June 1972. Among other well documented data they have included haematological changes in seven patients with iron-deficiency anaemia during treatment, about which I would like to ask questions. If one estimates the percent of Hb A₂ synthesis from the corresponding Hb A₂ and haemoglobin increments, then the percentage Hb A₂ synthesis in cases 1, 2, and 5 is considerably higher than the rest of the patients (Table). In these cases, percentage Hb A₂ synthesis is also considerably different in the first six days than in the second six days without seemingly being related to reticulocyte counts. What would be the explanation for these dif-

ferences? Did these three patients have thalassaemia trait associated with iron deficiency?

Yours, etc,

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REFERENCE

Kattamis, C., Lagos, P., Metaxotou-Mavromati, A., and Matsaniotis, N. (1972). Serum iron and unsaturated iron-binding capacity in the β -thalassaemia trait: their relation to the level of haemoglobins A, A₂ and F. *Journal of Medical Genetics*, 9, 154-159.

TABLE
HbA₂ SYNTHESIS, CALCULATED FROM Hb AND Hb A₂ DETERMINATIONS DURING IRON TREATMENT

Case No.	Days of Treatment	Reticulocytes	Hb (g%)	Hb A ₂ (%)	Total Hb A ₂ (mg)	Increment of Hb A ₂ (mg)	Increment of Hb (mg)	Hb A ₂ Synthesis (g%)
1	0	1.8	7	1.2	84			
	6	8	7.8	1.5	117	33	800	4.125
	12	3	8.5	2.3	195	78	700	11.143
2	0	1.1	8	1.4	112			
	6	7	8.5	1.8	153	41	500	8.2
	12	4	9.8	2	196	43	1300	3.3
3	0	1.9	6	1.6	96			
	6	8	7	1.8	126	30	1000	3
	12	4	9.1	2.2	200.2	74.2	2100	3.53
4	0	1.5	7.3	1.7	124.1			
	6	6	7.8	2	156	31.9	500	6.38
	12	3	9.9	2.6	257.4	101.4	2100	4.83
5	0	1.8	7.3	1.9	138.7			
	6	8	8	2.76	220	81.3	700	11.61
	12	4	10	3.2	320	100	2000	5
	20	3	11	3.5	385	65	1000	6.5
6	0	1.2	7.5	2	150			
	6	6	8.2	2.25	184.5	34.5	700	4.93
	12	4	10	2.5	250	65.5	1800	3.64
7	0	0.9	6	2.2	132			
	6	1	7	2.5	175	43	1000	4.3
	12	5	8.2	2.7	221.4	46.4	1200	3.87
	20	3	11.1	3	333	111.6	2900	3.85