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Present Status of Hemoglobinopathies in India

The recent editorial(1) on this subject was very informative but the table showing the distribution of abnormal hemoglobins in India has left out Karnataka completely. I can not give an exact figure in this context as I don't think a survey of the disease has been conducted but we do have a large number of cases of β -thalassemia major as well as sickle cell anemia in Karnataka. The Billigiri Ranga Hills in the Malnad area of Karnataka is one of the pockets of sickle cell anemia.

In St John's Medical College Hospital we are following about 20 cases of β -thalassemia major and about 10 cases of sickle cell anemia and every year about 3-5 new cases are added on. The other hospitals in Bangalore and other major cities in Karnataka must be having a similar number of cases.

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Propranolol in Supraventricular Tachycardia

With reference to the article on the "Management of Supraventricular Tachycardia (SVT) in Infancy and Childhood"(1), we would like to add other pharmacotherapy used for SVT by

presenting our experience of treating a newborn with SVT who required propranolol in addition to cardioversion and digoxin.

A 10 day old baby boy was admitted with a history of poor feeding, lethargy, rapid respiration and grunting since age of 5 days. It was a full term infant born to a primigravida mother by spontaneous vaginal delivery. His birth weight