



HYDROPS FETALIS SYNDROME

APICHAT PHOTI-A, MD.

PHRAMONGKUTKLAO HOSPITAL

Outlines

Part I

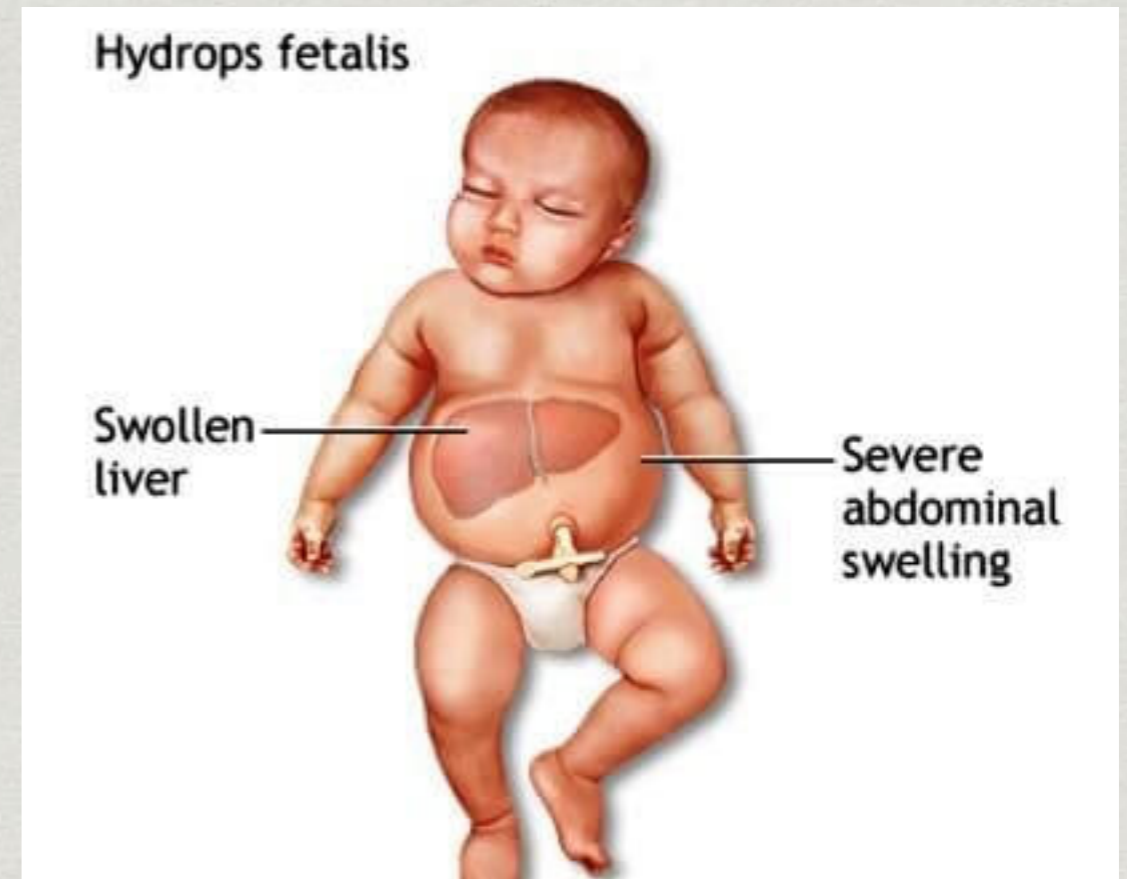
- Basic background of hydrops fetalis
- Pathophysiology

Part II

- An international registry of survivors with Hb Bart's hydrops fetalis syndrome

Hydrops Fetalis

- First described in 1892
- Latin for “**edema of the fetus**”
- found in about 1 per 2,000 births
- Characterized by an abnormal collection of fluid with at **least two of the following**:
 - Edema
(fluid more than 5 mm)
 - Ascites
 - Pleural effusion
 - Pericardial effusion



Etiology

Immune Hydrops

**Anemia from
red cell alloimmunization**

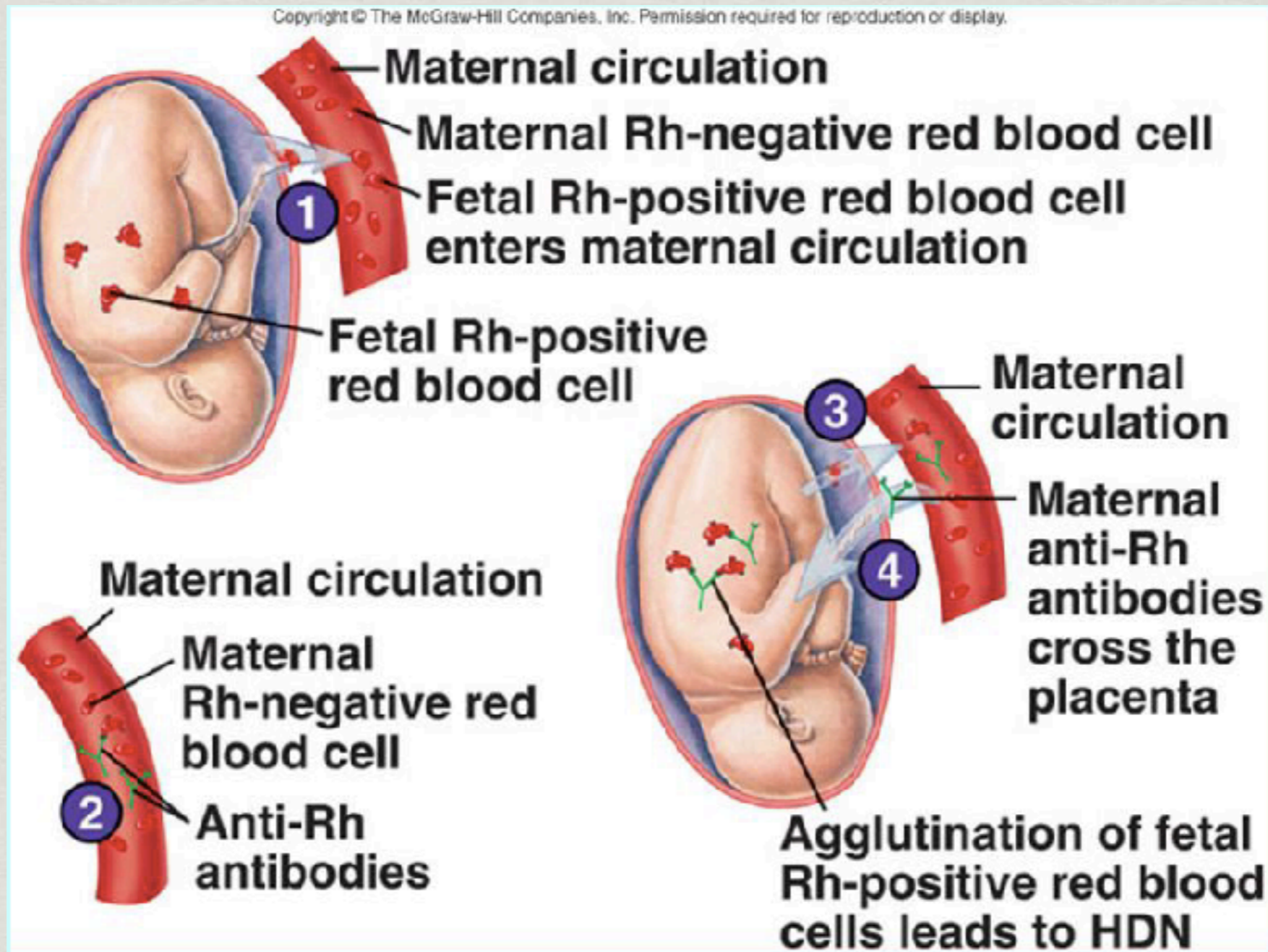
10-20% of cases

Nonimmune Hydrops

**No evidence of
red cell alloimmunization**

80-90% of cases

Immune Hydrops



Nonimmune Hydrops

- Causes can be grouped in 6 broad categories
 - Cardiovascular
 - Genetic abnormalities
 - Intrathoracic malformations
 - Hematological disorders
 - Infectious conditions
 - Idiopathic forms



Etiology

Current Pediatric Reviews, 2005, 1, 63-72

Aetiology, Diagnosis and Treatment of Hydrops Foetalis

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Etiology

Anemic Hydrops

Hematological

Infection

**Feto-Maternal
hemorrhage**

Nonanemic Hydrops

Metabolic

Cardiac

Endocrine

Genetic

Thoracic disease

Intestinal disease

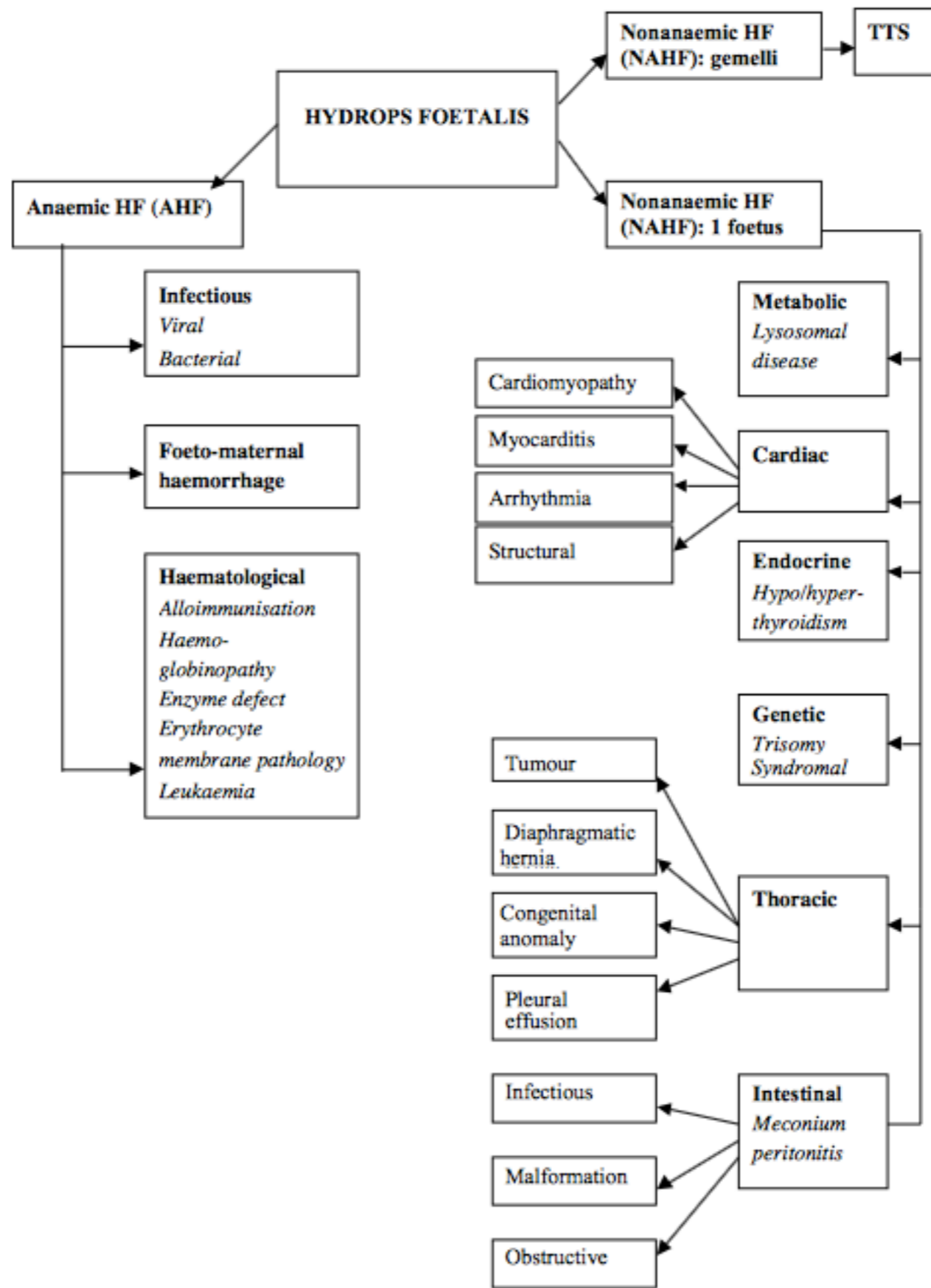


Fig. (1). Flow sheet for prenatal diagnosis of hydrops foetalis.

Pathophysiology

- The precise pathophysiology of hydrops remains ***unknown***
- Theories includes
 - ***Heart failure*** form profound anemia and hypoxia
 - ***Portal hypertension*** due to hepatic parenchymal disruption caused by extramedullary hemopoiesis
 - ***Decreased colloid oncotic pressure*** resulting from liver dysfunction and hypoproteinaemia

Pathophysiology

- ***The degree and duration of anemia*** is the major factor causing and influencing the severity of ascites
- Secondary factors include ***hypoproteinemias*** caused by liver dysfunction and ***capillary endothelial leakage*** resulting from tissue hypoxia
- Both of these lead to ***protein loss and decreased colloid oncotic pressure***

Pathophysiology

Severe anemia

Congestive heart failure

Severe tissue hypoxia

**Hepatic
extramedullary
hematopoiesis
&
Decreased
production of
plasma proteins**

**Increased central
venous pressure**

**Endothelial cell
damage**

**Decreased
plasma COP**

**Increased capillary
hydrostatic pressure**

**Capillary leak of fluid
& protein**

Pathophysiology

**Decreased
plasma COP**

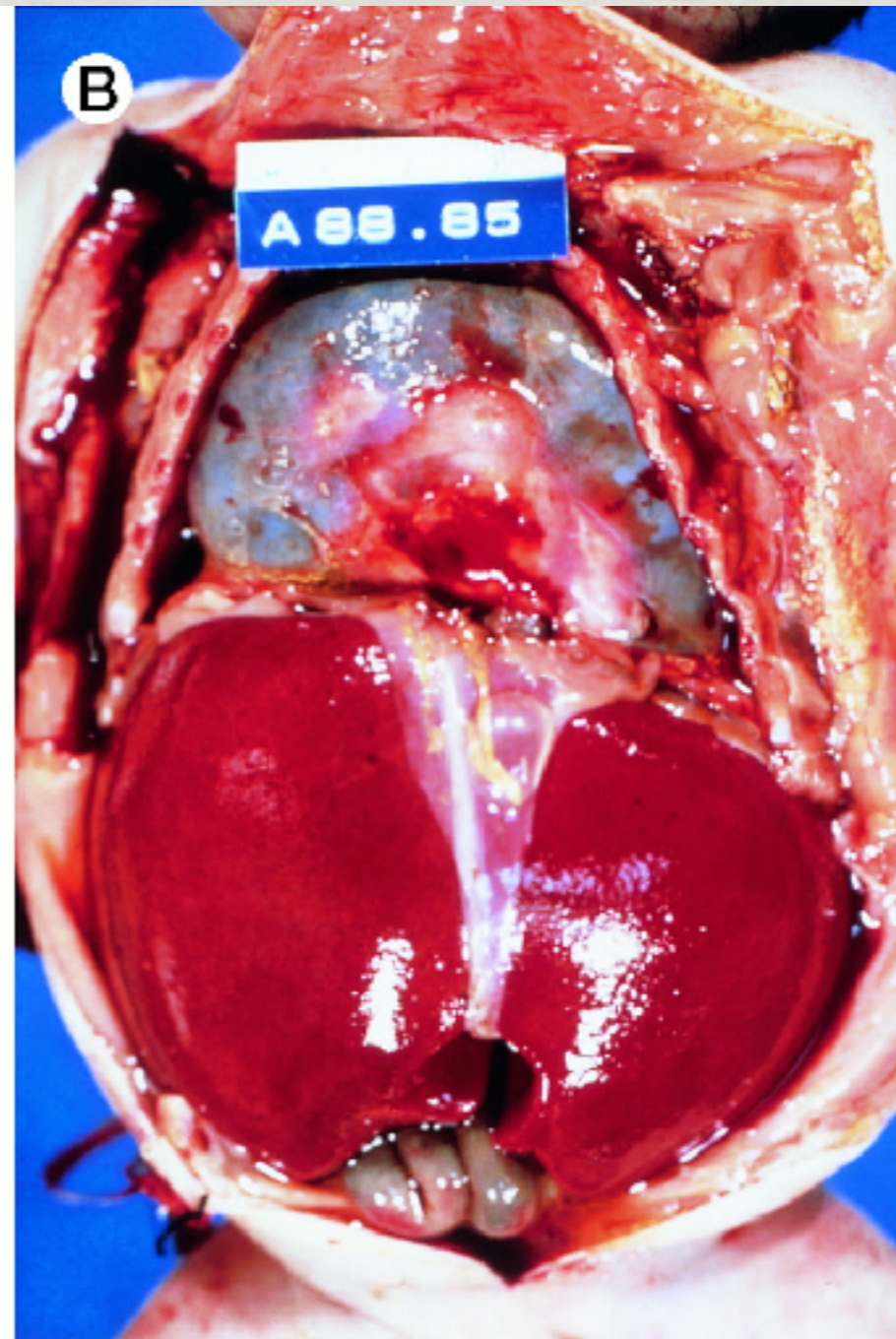
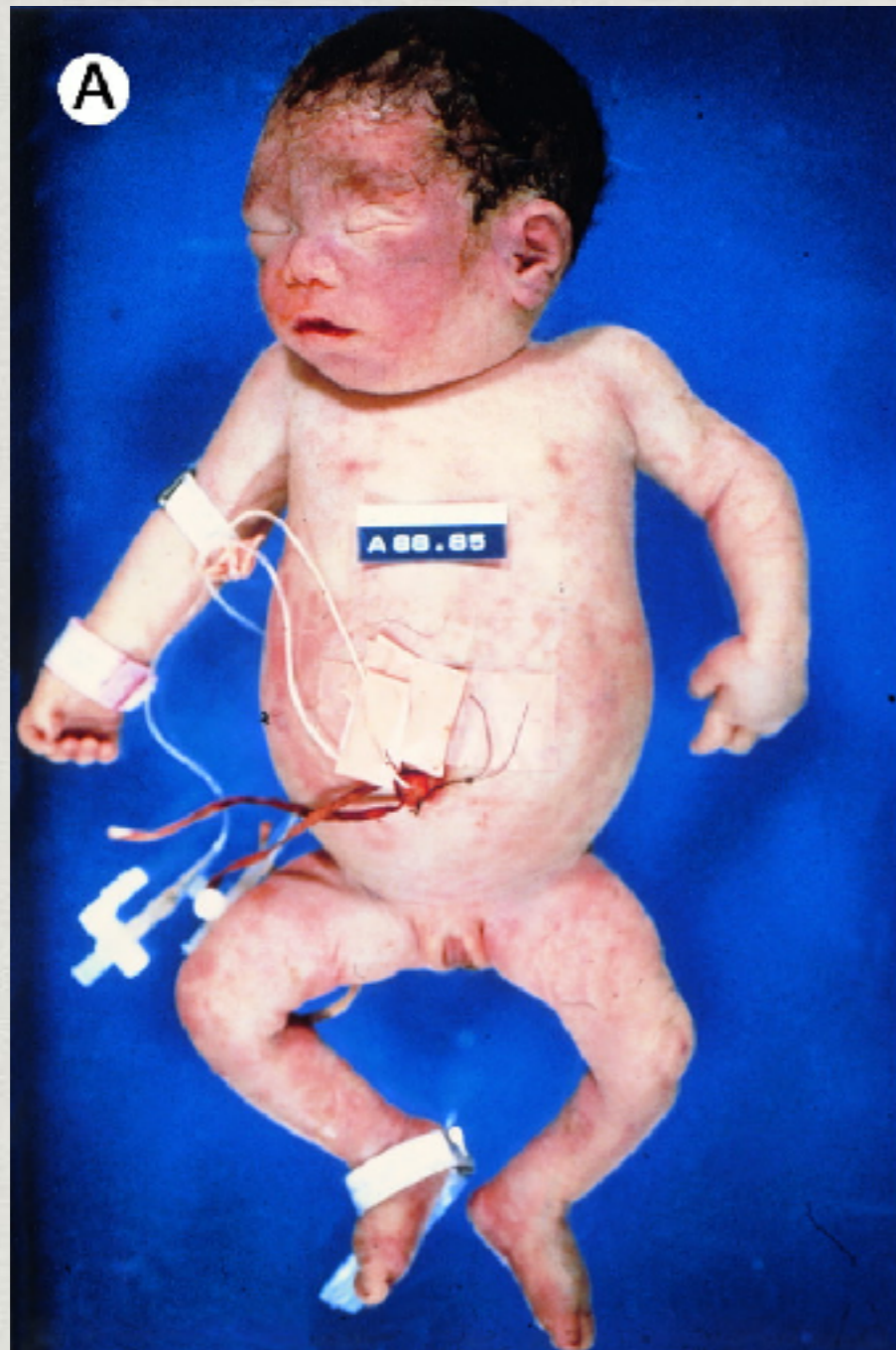
**Increased capillary
hydrostatic pressure**

**Capillary leak of fluid
& protein**

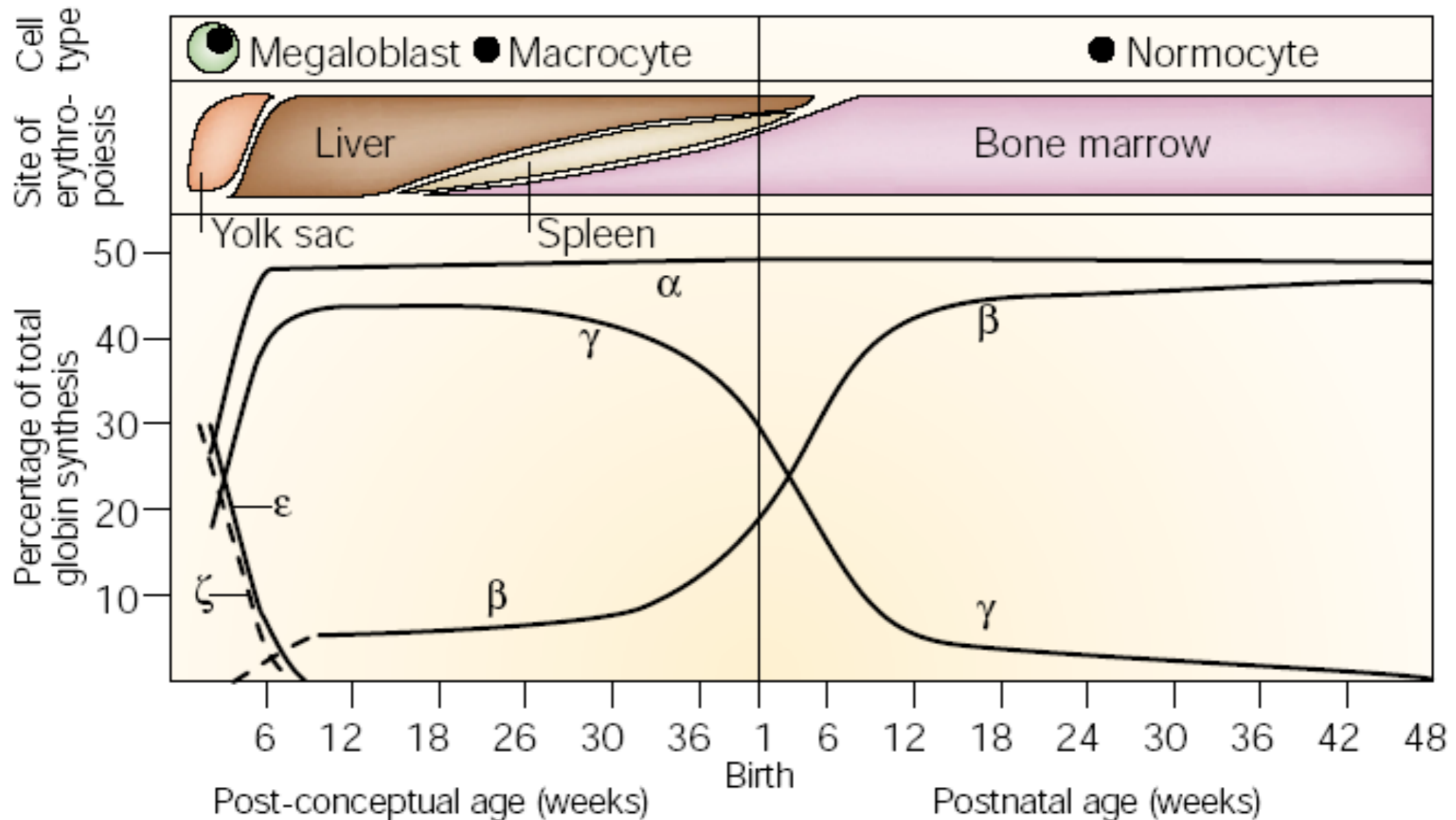


**Increased fluid efflux
from intravascular space**

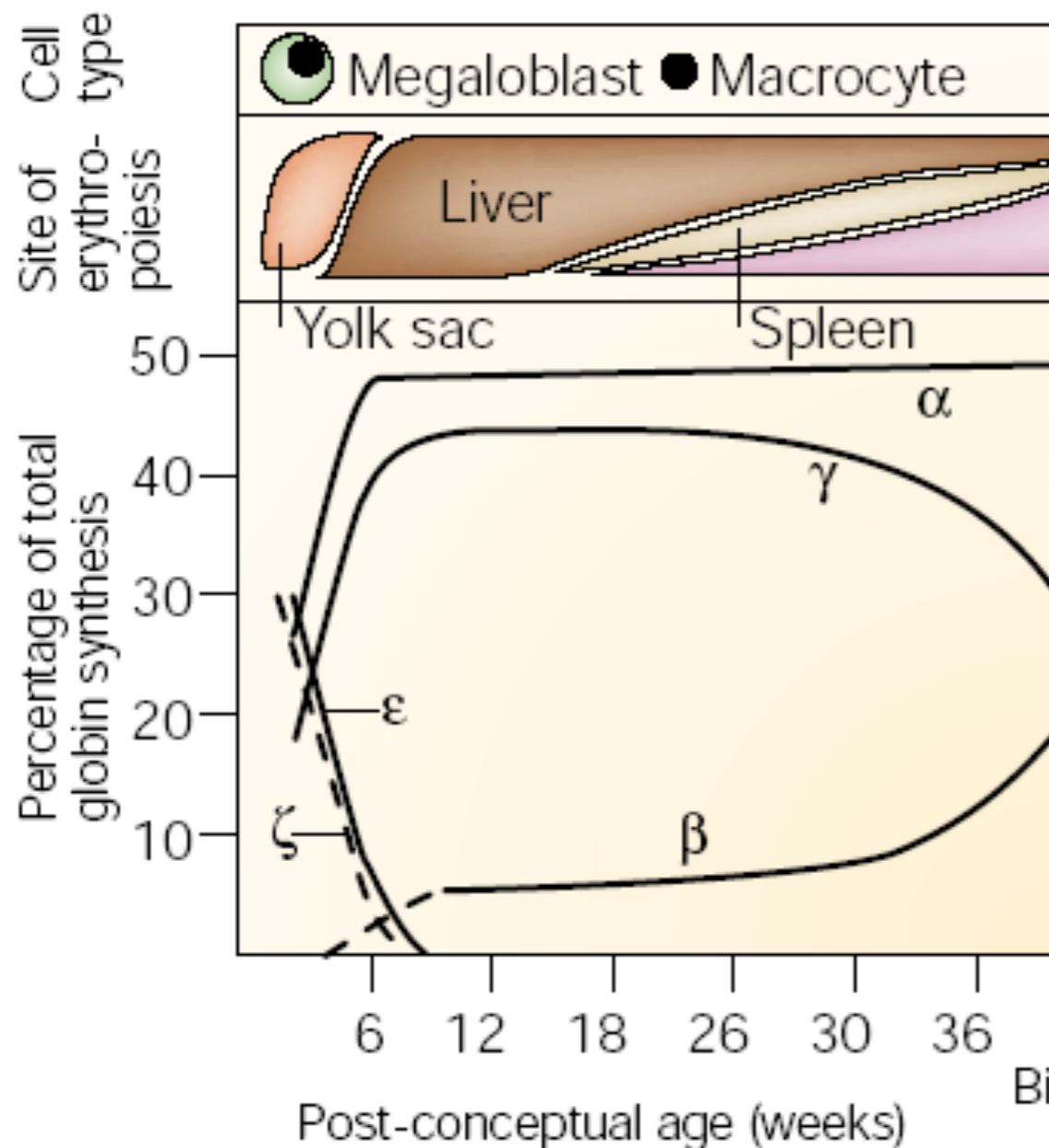
Hb Bart's Hydrop Fetalis Syndrome (BHFS)



Globin gene synthesis



Globin gene synthesis



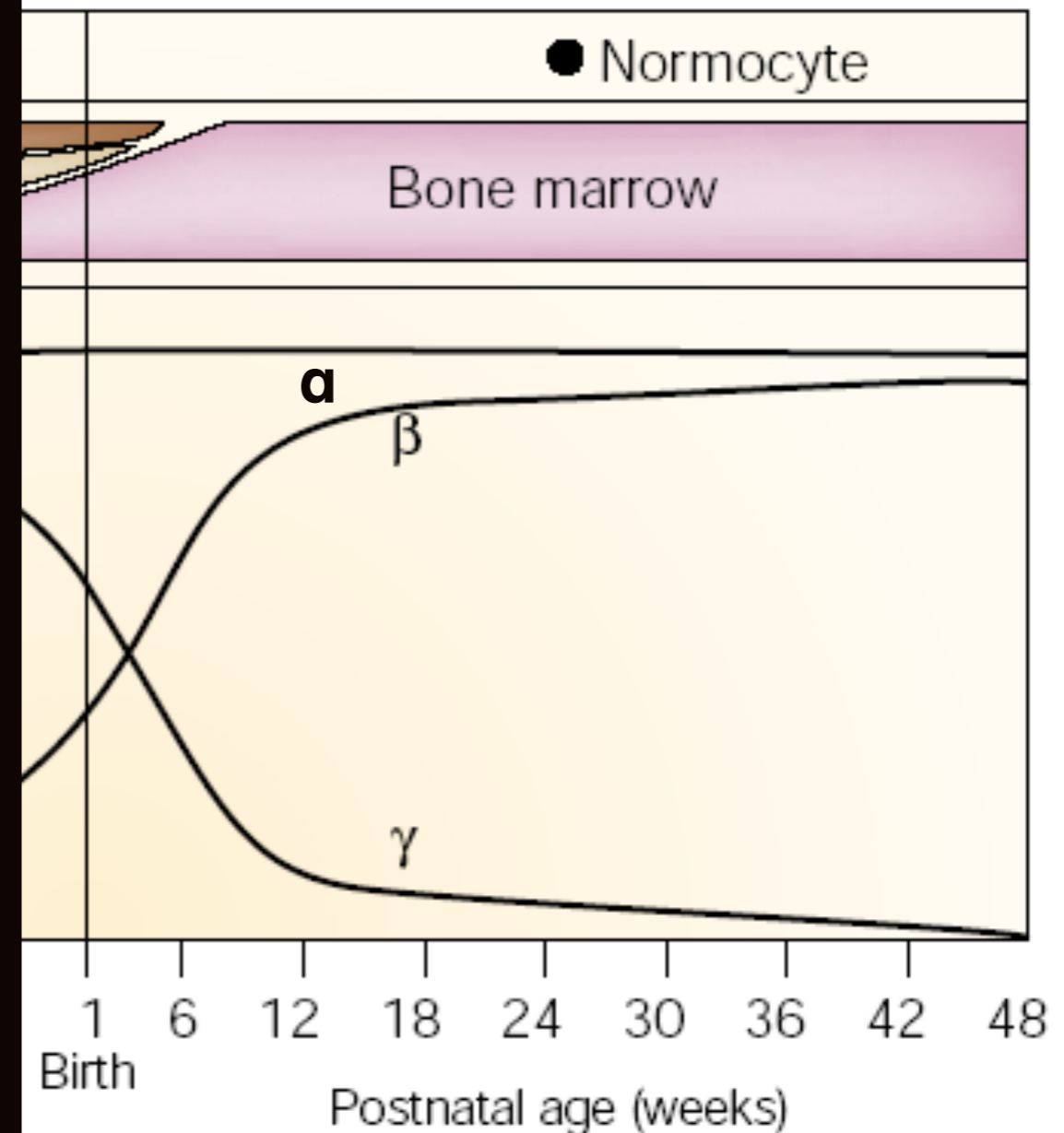
Embryonic Hemoglobin

- ***Hb Gower I*** : $\zeta_2 \epsilon_2$
- ***Hb Gower II*** : $\alpha_2 \epsilon_2$
- ***Hb Portland*** : $\zeta_2 \gamma_2$

Globin gene synthesis

Fetal Hemoglobin

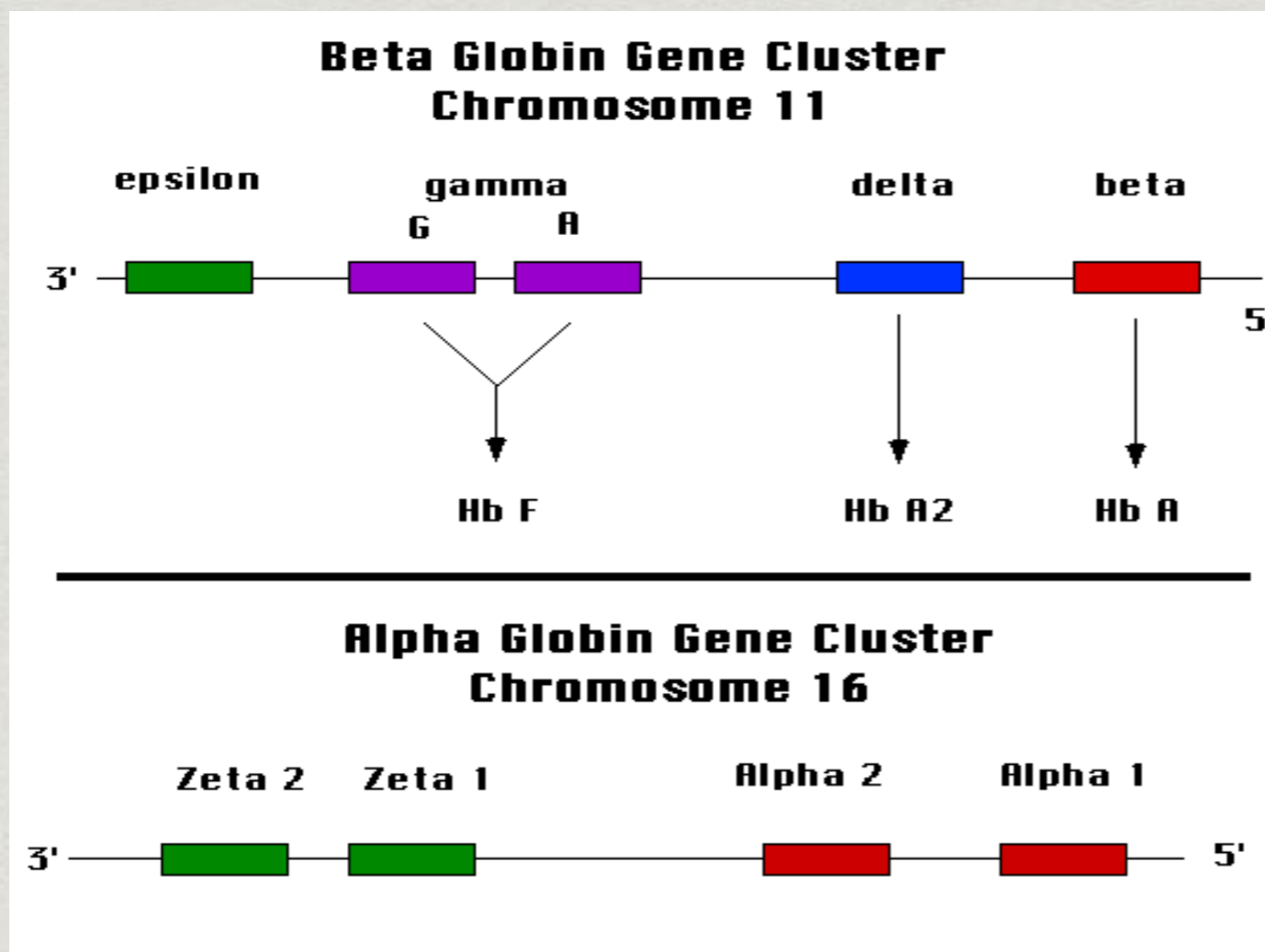
- **Hb F** : $\alpha_2 \gamma_2$
- **Hb A** : $\alpha_2 \beta_2$
- **Hb A₂** : $\alpha_2 \delta_2$



Pathophysiology

Globin genes

Globin Proteins



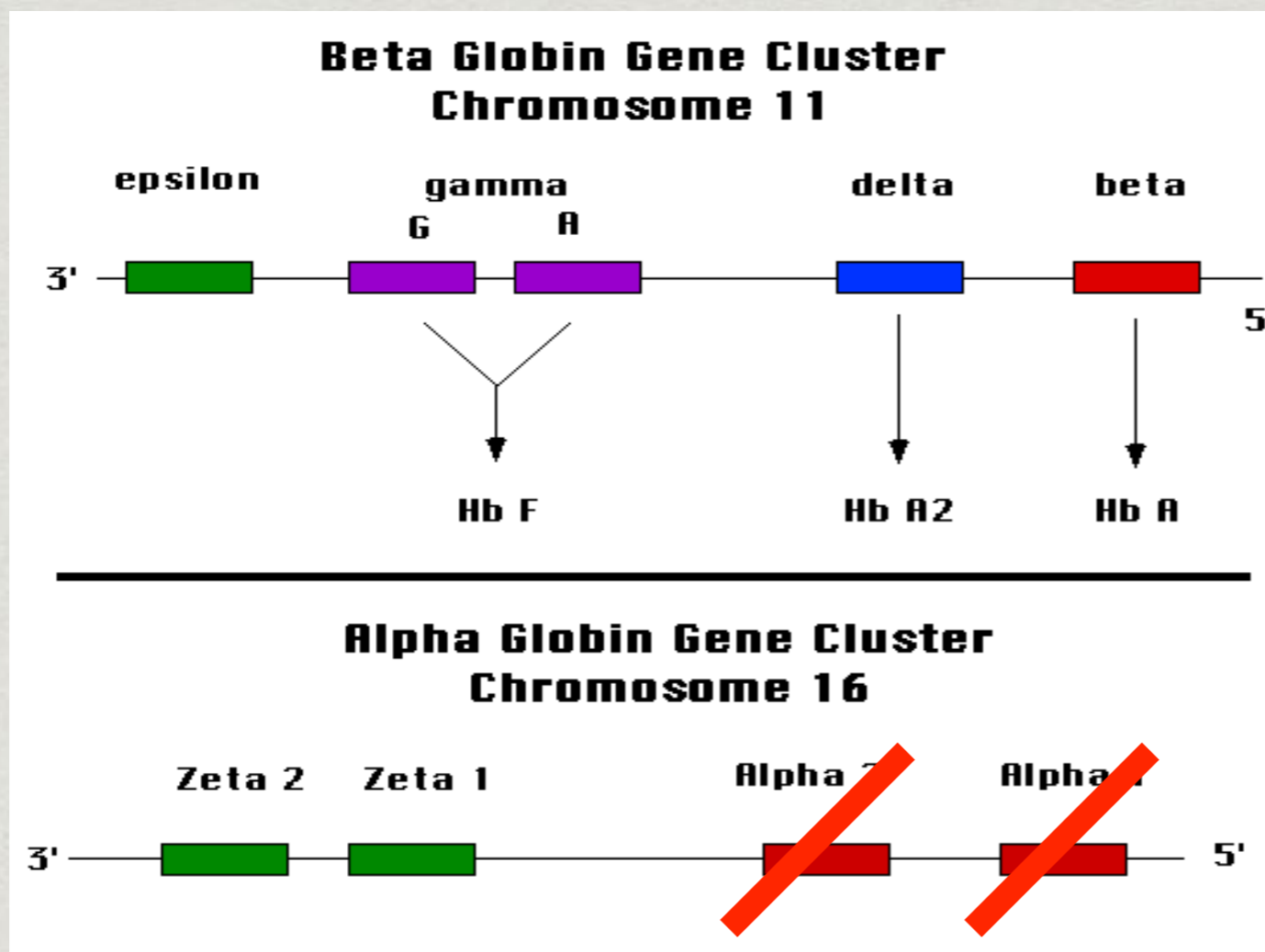
β (Beta)
 γ (Gamma)
 δ (Delta)
 ϵ (Epsilon)

α (Alpha)
 ζ (Zeta)

Pathophysiology

Globin genes

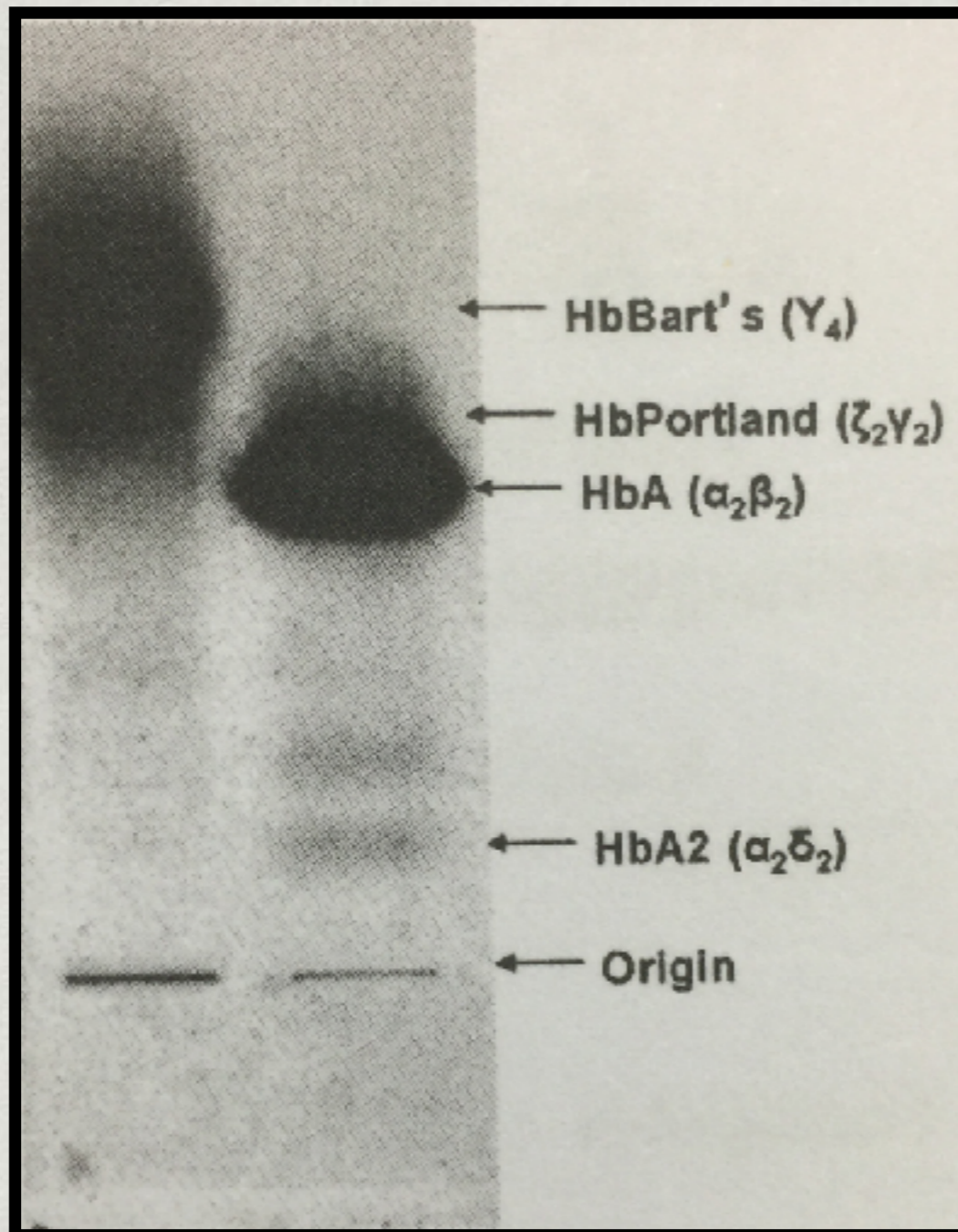
Globin Proteins



β (Beta)
 γ (Gamma)
 δ (Delta)
 ϵ (Epsilon)

~~α (Alpha)~~
 ζ (Zeta)

Pathophysiology



Globin Proteins

β (Beta)
 γ (Gamma)
 δ (Delta)
 ϵ (Epsilon)

~~α (Alpha)~~
 ζ (Zeta)

Review literature

An international registry of survivors with Hb Bart's hydrops fetalis syndrome

Duantida Songdej,^{1,2} Christian Babbs,¹ and Douglas R. Higgs,¹ in collaboration with the BHFS International Consortium

¹Medical Research Council Molecular Haematology Unit, Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom; and

²Division of Hematology/Oncology, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand

Table 1. Hb types present during development

Developmental stages	Normal	BHFS
Embryonic	Hb Gower I ($\zeta_2\varepsilon_2$)	Hb Gower I ($\zeta_2\varepsilon_2$)
	Hb Gower II ($\alpha_2\varepsilon_2$)	Hb Portland I ($\zeta_2\gamma_2$)
	Hb Portland I ($\zeta_2\gamma_2$)	
Fetal	Hb F ($\alpha_2\gamma_2$)	Hb Bart's (γ_4) Hb Portland I ($\zeta_2\gamma_2$)
Postnatal/adult	Hb A ($\alpha_2\beta_2$)	Hb H (β_4)
	Hb A ₂ ($\alpha_2\delta_2$)	Hb Portland II ($\zeta_2\beta_2$)

Hb Gower I : $\zeta_2\varepsilon_2$

Hb Portland I : $\zeta_2\gamma_2$

Hb Bart's : γ_4

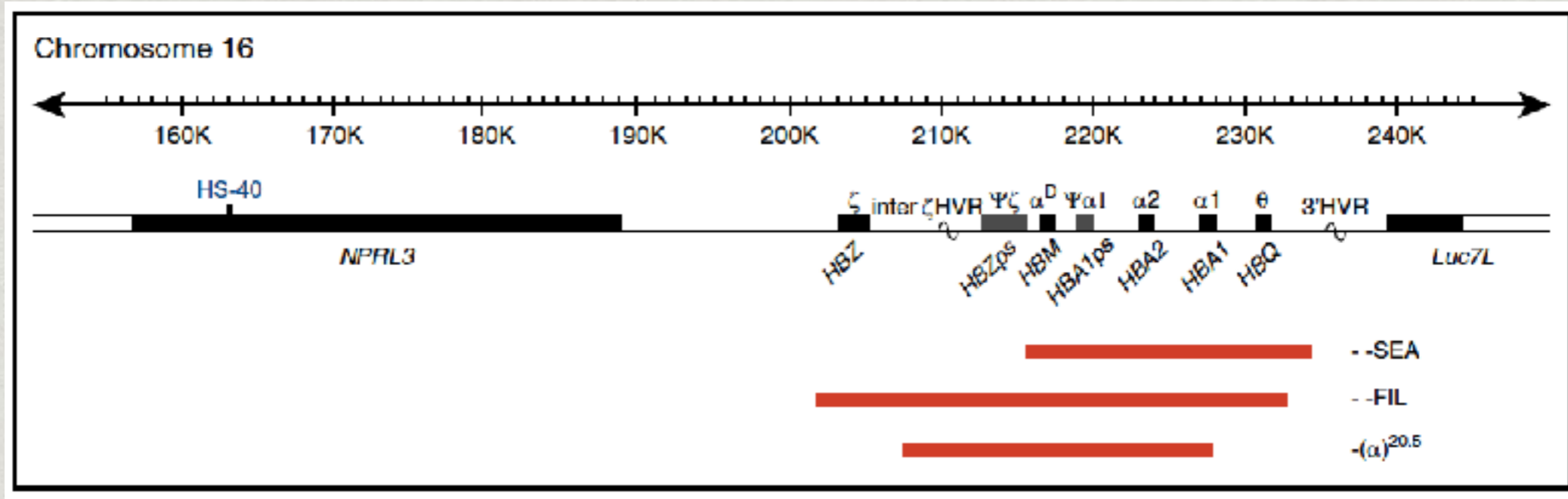
Hb Portland I : $\zeta_2\gamma_2$

Hb H : β_4

Hb Portland II : $\zeta_2\beta_2$

Ref : SONGDEJ et al., An international registry of survivors with Hb Bart's hydrops fetalis syndrome, **Blood**, 2017; 129: 1251-1259

Geographic distribution



69 cases

Genotype

50 cases

Homozygous SEA deletion

($-\text{SEA}/-\text{SEA}$)

2 cases

Heterozygous SEA and Filipino deletion

($-\text{SEA}/-\text{FIL}$)

1 cases

Homozygous $\alpha^{20.5}$ deletion

($-\alpha^{20.5}/-\alpha^{20.5}$)

14 cases

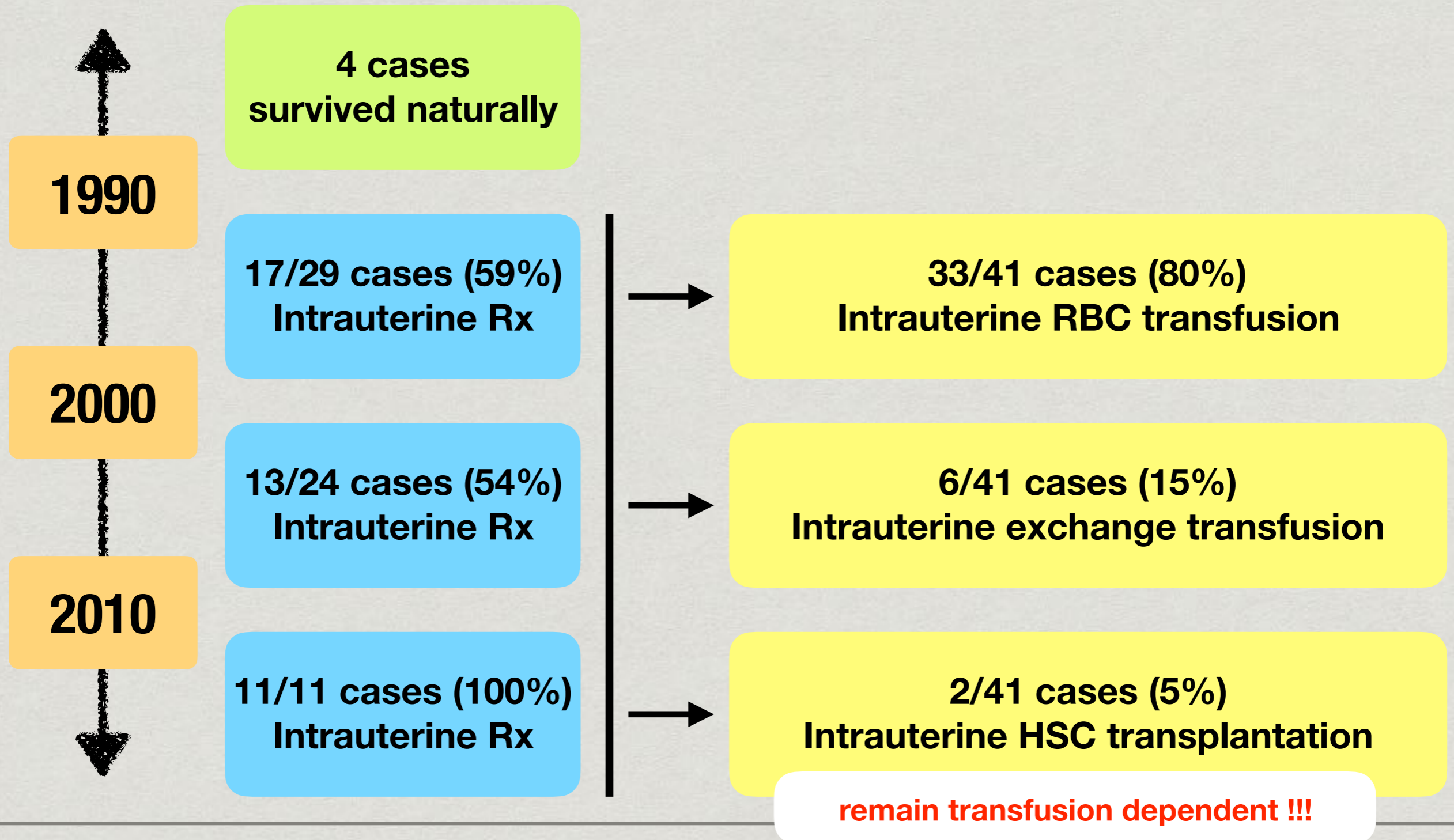
Deletion of all 4 α -globin genes

($---/---$)

2 cases

Hb Bart's as the major globin present

Prenatal diagnosis and intrauterine management



Maternal complications

- Most common :
Preterm delivery (47/66 : 71%)
- Antenatal period, the majority of problems arise in the ***3rd trimester*** with the median GA at detection being ***29 weeks (range 22-34 wks)***

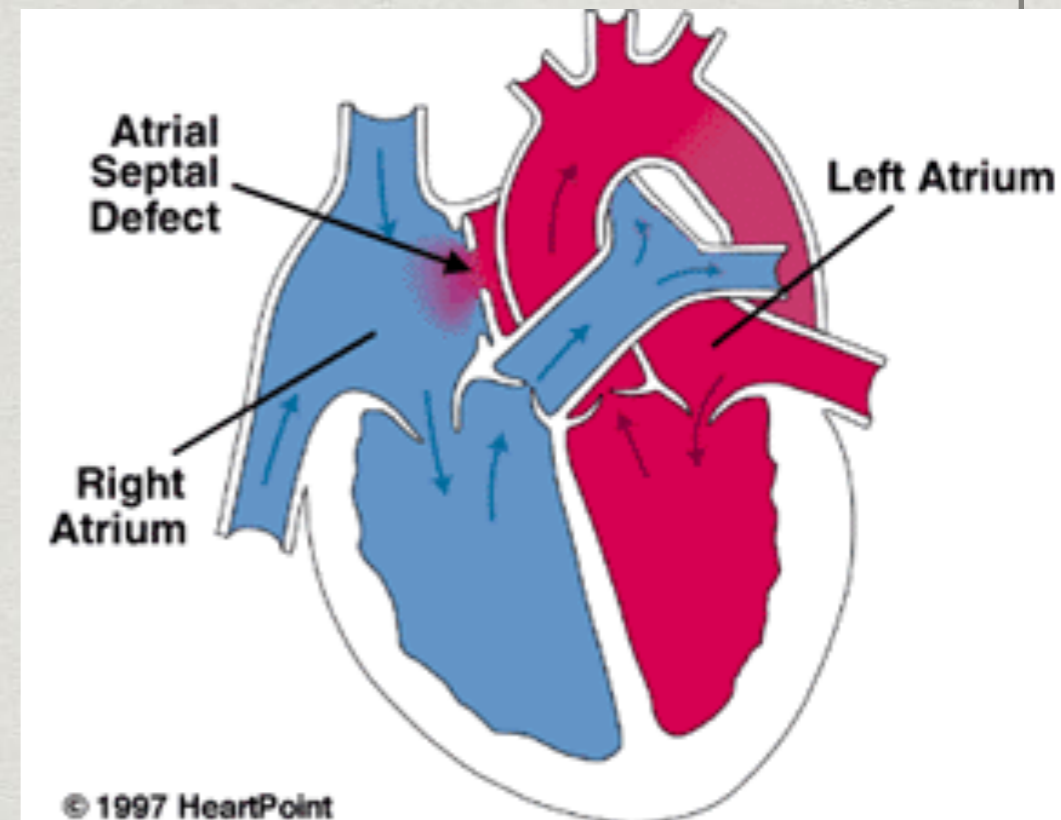
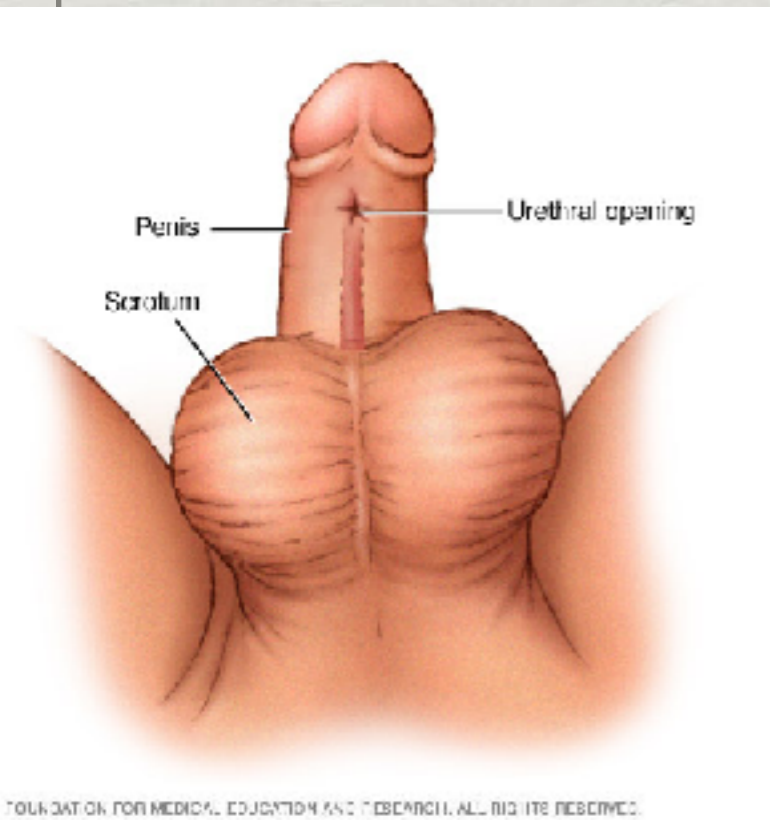
Table 4. Maternal complications

	BHFS survivor cases (%)	Non hydroptic, % ^a
Previous pregnancies (n = 35)		
Abortion†	6 (17)	
Still birth/neonatal death	14 (40)	
Antepartum (n = 41)		
Polyhydramnios	6 (15)	<1
Oligohydramnios	3 (7)	
Intrauterine infection	2‡ (5)	
Preeclampsia	5 (12)	7
Abruptio placenta	1 (2)	
Delivery		
Preterm delivery (n = 66)	47 (71)	5-10
GA <30 wk	9 (14)	
GA ≥30-36+ wk	38 (57)	
Birth presentation (n = 41)		
Malpresentation	4 (10)	<5
Mode of delivery (n = 54)		
Assisted vaginal delivery	2 (4)	5
Caesarean section	31 (57)	2-3
Postpartum (n = 41)		
Postpartum hemorrhage	2 (5)	5

Neonatal course

- BHFS was diagnosed by ***Hb electrophoresis***, showing ***Hb Bart's (γ_4)*** to be the major Hb at birth
- Benefits of intrauterine treatment
 - less neonatal course
 - Improve APGAR score at 1,5 mins
 - Decrease fetal distress
 - Better response to initial resuscitation
 - less chance of severe birth asphyxia
 - Decrease duration of requirement of neonatal ventilation support

Congenital abnormalities



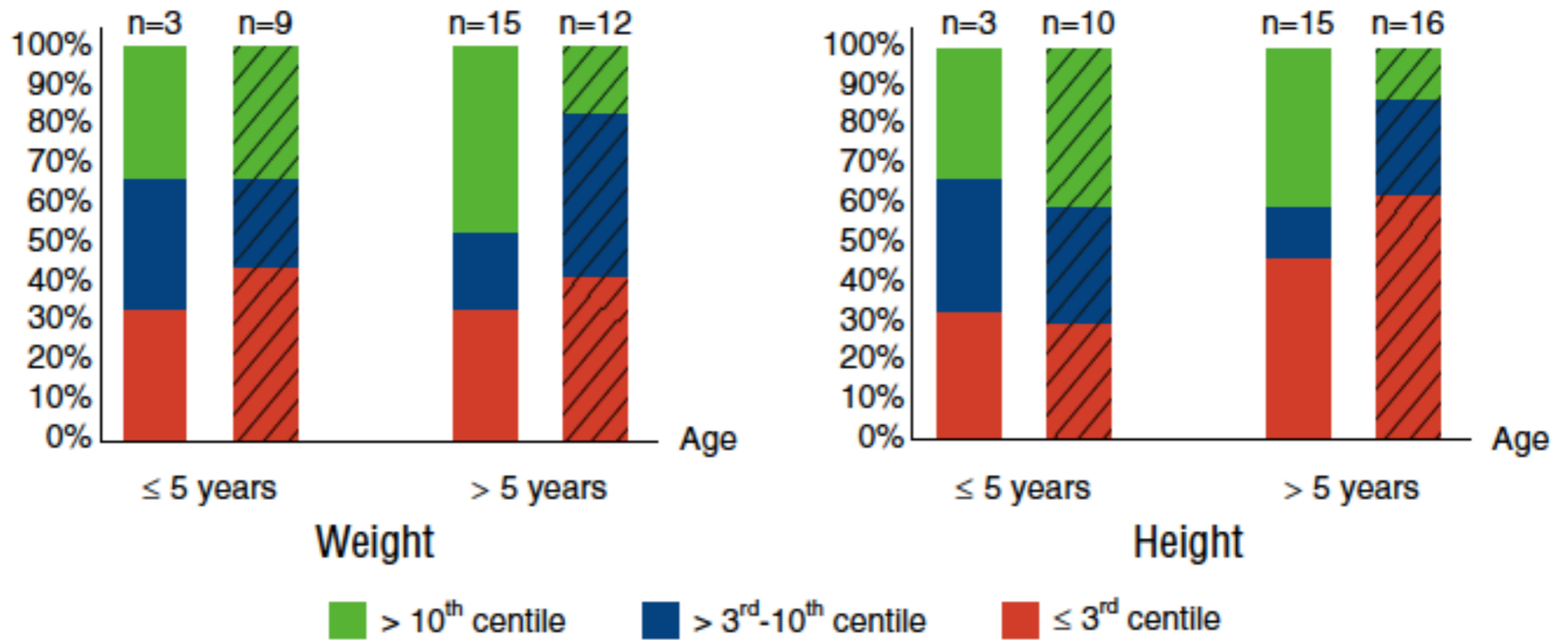
Hypospadias
21/37 males (57%)

Limb deformities
9/58 (16%)

Atrial septal defect
6/58 (10%)

Growth outcome

A

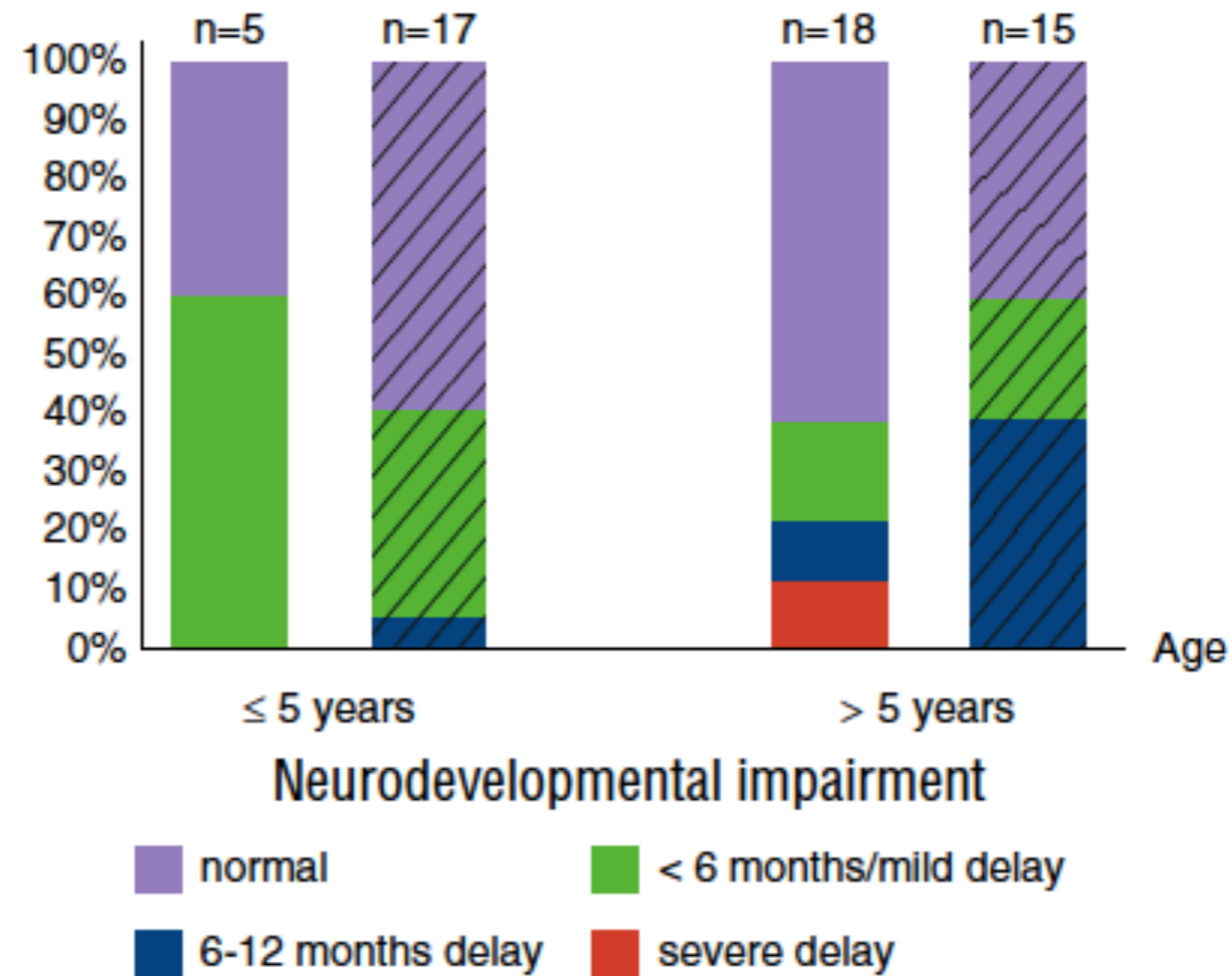


Growth outcome

- Patients who survived naturally until birth and who have long-term weight and height of >3 rd percentile (n=10), in any given age group, were born ***more prematurely (median GA at birth 29 weeks)***
- ***In Thailand***, The patients kept pretransfusional “functional” Hb (HbA, HbF) ***levels of 10 g/dL*** for ***at least 6 yrs*** at the time of last report.
- Of the 4 patients treated in this way, 3 have ***long-term normal growth*** and 1 has continuously ***improving growth***.

Neurodevelopmental outcome

B



Neurodevelopmental outcome

- Delay neurodevelopmental outcomes may had a ***difficult neonatal course***
- Significant neurodevelopmental delay remains in 3 of 10 patients “***transplanted***” at < 5 yrs of age who are ***transfusion independent***
- Three of the 4 patients hypertransfused for at least 6 years have ***normal neurodevelopment***
- Appropriate transfusion regimen - ***favorable*** longterm neurodevelopmental outcomes

Current treatment

HSCT

- 18/69 (26%) - Post natal HSCT
 - 14/18 - Transfusion Independent
 - 4/18 - Unsuccessful
 - 1 case - Death
 - 3 cases - Graft rejection

Regular transfusion

- Start regular blood transfusion, every 2-5 wks
- Keep pretransfusion Hb 7-10 g/dL
- *Functional Hb level*
Total Hb x (1- HbH/100)
 - if > 10 g/dL -> subsequent transfusion + exchange transfusion (remove HbH)
- Complication : *Iron overload*

Application and adaptation

- Largest study describing the *natural history and long-term outcomes* of individuals with BHFS
- *Molecular diagnosis for DNA analysis* obtains from CVS + less invasive procedure; ultrasound should perform in 1st trimester
- High carrier rate of α^0 -thalassemia deletions were found in *Hongkong, Thailand and China —“Public health policy”*

Application and adaptation

- Intrauterine intervention leads to ***prolonged gestation, improved APGAR scores*** and ***shortened*** require of ***neonatal mechanical ventilation***
- Intrauterine transfusion - ***less neonatal course*** but ***may not*** provide additional benefit in long-term growth and neurodevelopment
- Intrauterine HSC transplantation - ***still challenge !!!***

Application and adaptation

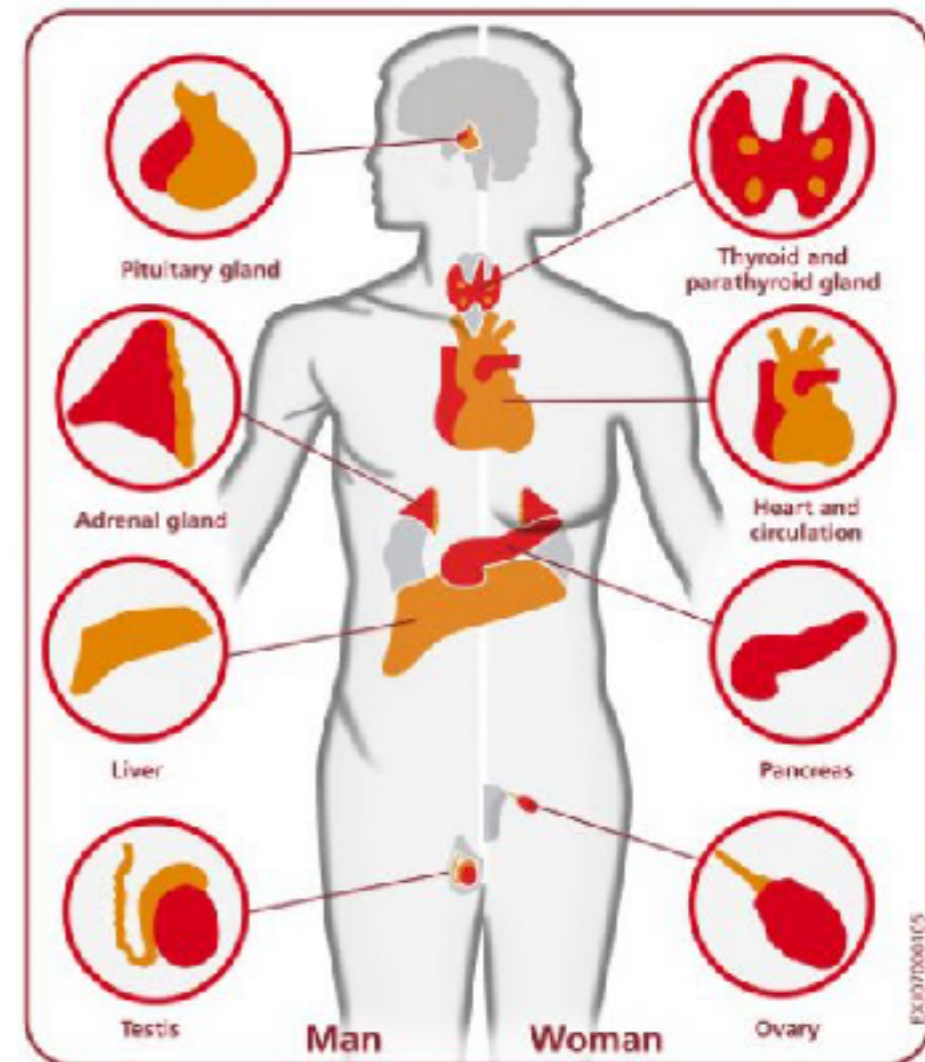
- 45% of untransfused in utero were born ***without hydropic features***
- Infants with no hydropic features ***have persistent expression of ζ (Zeta) globin*** (required further study)
- M/C cong. anomalies ; ***Urogenital defects and limb deformities, prenatal u/s*** can early detect this abnormalities
- Mother of hydropic fetus - increase risk of OB complications

Application and adaptation

Transfusion-related complications



Organs that may be affected by iron overload



Toxic iron builds up across the body and can cause serious damage to vital organs, including the heart and liver.

Literature review - abstract only

Management and Outcomes of Fetal Hydrops in a Tertiary Care Centre in Singapore

Xin Yi Thong, ^{1,2}MBBS (Singapore), Le Ye Lee, ^{1,3}MMed (Paeds), MRCPCH (UK), Dawn AK Chia, ⁴DCR(UK), DMU(UK), Yee Chee Wong, ⁴MBBS (Singapore),
MMKD (O&G, Singapore), FRCOG (UK), Arijit Biswas, ⁴MD, FRCOG, FAMS

- *Ann Acad Med Singapore 2017;46:4-10*
- Materials and Methods: A retrospective review of all cases of fetal hydrops diagnosed from 2006 to 2013
- Results: Out of the 30 cases of fetal hydrops diagnosed antenatally, 17 were cases of Bart's hydrops which were all terminated in-utero. Of the remaining 13 cases, **11 cases consisted of non-immune causes of hydrops.**
- **92%, of the cases survived** the perinatal period following a variable length of hospital stay ranging from a week to 3 months.

Take home message

- Bart's hydrops fetalis is fatal disease that requires early diagnosis and early treatment
- Couple of risks should perform prenatal diagnosis especially in *Hongkong, Thailand and China*
- Regular transfusion to keep *pretransfusion Hb 7-10 g/dL* had benefit in improvement in long-term outcomes
- International registry should continue to *develop guidelines for intrauterine intervention and postnatal transfusion*



ANY SUGGESTIONS ?