

Phase II Randomized, Double Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial comparing the Effect of Deferoxamine with or without Oral Deferiprone (L1) on Cardiac Left Ventricular Function Assessed by MRI in Adults with Transfusion-Dependent Beta-Thalassemia

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Synopsis:

Excess iron (iron overload) is harmful to the heart and other tissues. One of the things that causes iron overload is frequent blood transfusions. Treatment is needed because the body cannot get rid of the iron which stays in organs such as the liver or the heart. Iron chelation therapy (such as Deferoxamine) helps prevent the problems caused by iron staying in these organs but sometimes the heart is injured even when patients are using Deferoxamine (DFO).

The use of an iron chelating medicine, Deferiprone (L1) in Europe has suggested that this medicine may help remove iron from the heart and prevent or heal injury to the heart better than DFO does, but this has not yet been proven. There is also some information that suggests that the combination of DFO and L1 will remove iron and heal the heart more effectively than either medicine alone but this, too, has not yet been proven.

The purpose of this study is to determine whether heart function improves faster with the combined treatment of DFO and L1 than with DFO alone.