Author’s response to reviews

Title: Molecular characterization of β-thalassemia intermedia in the West Bank, Palestine

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

The comments of Reviewer #3 have now been addressed. Where the correct gene name BCL11A has been used and relevant typo errors were corrected at 4 locations: page 21/last line; page 22/lines 6, 15 and 17.

A new declarations’ section with its sub-sections have now been added at end of the manuscript per the instruction of the journal Guidelines.

Regards

Mahmoud A. Srour

Corresponding author

Editor Comments:

1. Please address the comments from Reviewer 3, shown below.

Answer: Yes, corrected, see below.

2. Please include a statement on ethics approval and consent to participate in the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section of the Declarations.
Answer: a new declaration section plus all subsections are now added.

Please include the full name of the ethics committee (and the institute to which it belongs to) that approved the study.

If you did not need formal ethics approval please confirm that this complies with national guidelines and provide a reference which supports this. Alternatively, supply a statement that says that a local ethics committee ruled that no formal ethics approval was required in this particular case.

3. Please clarify in the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section whether the informed consent obtained was written or verbal.

If verbal, please indicate the reason for obtaining verbal rather than written consent and whether the ethics committee approved this form of consent.

4. Please include a "Consent for publication” statement in the “Declarations” section. Please find guidance on our website at: https://bmchematol.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/research-article

5. Please add a statement to your “Authors’ contributions” confirming that all authors read and approved the final manuscript.

6. The Availability of data and materials section refers to the raw data used in your study and presenting tables is not sufficient to state that all data is contained within the manuscript. Please only use this statement if you have indeed provided all raw data on which your study is based. We strongly encourage all authors to share their raw data, either by providing it in a supplementary file or depositing it in a public repository and providing the details on how to access it in this section. If you do not wish to share your data, please clearly state this in this section along with a justification. We suggest using one of the following statements in this section:

   • The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study are available in the [NAME] repository, [PERSISTENT WEB LINK TO DATASETS]

   • The datasets used and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

   • The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study are not publicly available due [REASON WHY DATA ARE NOT PUBLIC] but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.
• The data that support the findings of this study are available from [third party name] but restrictions apply to the availability of these data, which were used under license for the current study, and so are not publicly available. Data are however available from the authors upon reasonable request and with permission of [third party name].

7. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Reviewer reports:

Valentina Brancaloni (Reviewer 3): The authors provided a revised version of the paper, fully answering to all criticism and requests, fulfilling the gaps.

It can be accepted now in this form.

Little minor revisions: there are some typo errors in the last two paragraphs: please check and correct HBCL11A or HCL11A with the correct name of the gene BCL11A.

Answer: These typo errors have now been corrected at 4 locations in the manuscript: page 21 (last line) and page 22 (lines, 6, 15 and 17).