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Hemoglobin Pakse: prevalence and geographical distribution

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To the editor,

Hemoglobinopathy is a common genetic disorder that can be seen around the world. In tropical southeast Asia, there are many kinds of hemoglobinopathies. Of several hemoglobinopathies, hemoglobin Pakse (Hb Pakse) (codon 142, TAA>TAT, $\alpha 2$) is an interesting hemoglobin disorder with abnormal elongation of the globin chain[1]. It was firstly described in a case from Pakse (a city in Southern Laos) and it has been continuously reported in the Indochina region. Prevalence of hemoglobin Hb Pakse in this region is very interesting. There are few reports on this issue. According to a report from Thailand[2], the prevalence of HbPakse is about 0.51%. According to another recent report from Central Vietnam, Nguyen, *et al.* found the prevalence equal to 0.34%[3]. Based on the recent publication on concept of migration of hemoglobinopathy in the Southeast Asia by Wiwanitkit[4], the pattern of geographical distribution of Hb Pakse in China might be a) trend of shift from Western (Thailand) to Eastern (Vietnam) or b) hot foci in Southern Laos and spread to left (Vietnam) and right (Thailand). In fact, the second possibility is very interesting since there are many migration of Laos from Southern Laos to the nearby Thai provinces (in northeastern region). Nevertheless, there is still no official report on the prevalence of Hb Pakse in Southern Laos, which can be an important jigsaw for answering the question. The dynamicity of

the Hb Pakse across Indochina is the topic for further research.

Conflict of interest statement

The authors report no conflict of interest.

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