

## What is Thalassaemia?

Thalassaemia is an inherited blood disorder caused by a defect in a gene. The condition causes the body to produce abnormal haemoglobin red blood cells, which in turn causes anaemia. The symptoms are; tiredness, weakness, loss of breathe and poor growth. It most commonly affects people of Greek, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, African, Mediterranean and Chinese origin.

Testing for Thalassaemia is done by a simple blood test that takes only a few minutes—just ask your GP. Knowing if both you and your partner have Thalassaemia trait will allow you to make Informed choices. You can discuss it with your GP.

For further information or OSCAR and the support, counselling and advice we can offer, please contact us. OSCAR operates a strictly confidential service. Please visit our website at:

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