



An Essay on Thalassemia

by Aiden Singh

My parents are in the Cooley's Anemia Foundation. This foundation is based on the person who discovered thalassemia. This person's name is Dr. Thomas Benton Cooley. Dr. Cooley was a hematologist. His dedication for children's health grew over the years. He discovered thalassemia in 1924. He noticed that the conditions of a Greek descent and an Italian descent were very similar. His discovery helped kids throughout the world. Before it was called Cooley's Anemia Dr. Cooley named it erythroblastic anemia. Now you know who discovered thalassemia but you might be wondering what it exactly is. checked

Thalassemia is a type of blood disorder. Many kids all over the world have this disorder. I will try to explain what thalassemia is as simple as learning to ride a bike. So basically my body can not make proper healthy blood. I will explain how this works. Now we all lose a little bit of blood over time. The difference between me and you is that you can make that blood that you lost I can't. Although I can't make proper blood I can still use the blood normally. Although this is the simplest I could explain it, thalassemia is much more complicated than this and I don't know everything about this. Everything I am telling you is all from my parents. So now you know what thalassemia is but the question is can it be cured.

There is no complete cure yet. The main way to treat this disorder is by getting blood transfusions. You might have seen that I miss quite a bit of days that I am absent. It is almost like I am here and not here since I am not here every day. The reason I miss quite a bit of days is because of this. I have to go to the hospital every three weeks. A transfusion is where I go to the hospital and they put a needle in my vein. After that they get a bag of blood from people who have donated it. An advantage I have is that my blood type is AB+ so I can take any type of blood. Anyways after they get the blood they attach it to a medical pump that also beeps a lot like it is talking to me. The pump slowly pumps the blood into the needle which is attached to me. A full day at the hospital takes about 6 hours since the blood itself takes about 3. I have been going to the hospital for most of my life so I am not bothered at all by the needle. I hope this wasn't so confusing.