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June 1996

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CORRECTION

In the March 1996 issue of the Mayo Clinic Proceedings in the Residents’ Contribution entitled “57-Year-Old Woman With Anemia and Rash” by Farraj and Colville (Mayo Clin Proc 1996; 71:303-306), the first sentence after question 1 on page 303 needs clarification. Only hydrops fetalis, the most severe form of a-thalassemia, is fatal at an early age. Less severe varieties of α-thalassemia are common causes of hypochromic microcytic anemia but are more prevalent in population groups other than that of this patient, who was of Norwegian descent.

In addition, in the discussion about ferritin and α-thalassemia trait, in the next paragraph, it should be noted that iron deficiency can mask the compensatory increase of hemoglobin A2 characteristic of β-thalassemia trait.