

## **Controversy: Best curative option for thalassemia in 2019? Gene therapy**

**Sarah Markt**, Italy

“In recent years new curative options for thalassemia have completely changed the treatment paradigm and have challenged physicians caring for patients with this chronic illness with difficult decisions. Bone marrow transplantation offers to date the best chance of cure even though treatment related morbidity and mortality restrains enthusiasm in the majority of patients and physicians. Gene therapy has moved from hope to reality although success is not guaranteed, long term efficacy remains to be proven and costs appear prohibitive. A balanced view on pros and cons will be given, in the context of a widespread genetic disorder that leaves the vast majority of affected individuals without access to curative options.”