

New FerriScan® offers breakthrough technology for thalassaemia community

A new regulated MRI liver iron test called FerriScan is now available in the UK which offers patients a highly accurate reading of iron levels throughout the liver. The new non-invasive technology will help people with different forms of thalassaemia not only in early diagnosis of iron overload, caused by transfusions, but also in monitoring effectiveness of treatment such as chelation therapy.

FerriScan, which is being hailed by clinicians throughout the world as a breakthrough technology, is anticipated to replace the need for liver biopsy and help millions of people at risk from iron overload.

The FerriScan test is simple, patients take a 20 minute MRI scan, which is painless and safe, then a colour coded report showing the iron concentration throughout the liver is sent to the MRI centre within 2 business days.

Teresa Alvaro, president of the Thalassaemia Association of Western Australia, where the technology was pioneered, was involved in the FerriScan research in the early stages. Teresa who suffers from thalassaemia major explained

the benefits of the new technology:

'I believe it is of great importance to all thalassaemia majors to know their liver iron levels as it is vital for maintaining quality of life and good health. When I saw the FerriScan image of my liver, and my liver iron levels, it made me more aware of what I needed to do to improve my health.

'I believe a liver biopsy is too much of a risk to the patient as it is an invasive form of testing for liver iron and it does not provide an accurate reading. FerriScan testing for determining liver iron levels enables patients like myself to take action against further damage to their liver, thus lowering the risk of future health problems and further damage to the vital organs of the body due to iron overload.'

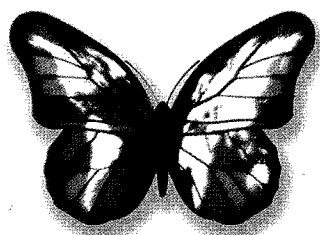
FerriScan has European regulatory clearance (CE mark) and has been clinically validated against liver biopsy. FerriScan is being used in global research in thalassaemia and has been independently validated recently in top medical publications such as the 'Blood' journal. Leading Haematologist Joy Ho in Australia, who has been using FerriScan to assist in treating thalassaemia patients, said:

'The FerriScan provides a clinically useful method of measuring iron load in patients with thalassaemia, who suffer from the adverse consequences of iron overload in the major organs of the liver, heart and the hormonal glands. This enables more accurate assessment of the efficacy of iron chelation treatment and adjustment of therapy.'

Not including the MRI component, which may be reimbursable through the NHS on certain scanners, the cost of the actual FerriScan analysis is currently £200 and provides the most accurate non-invasive liver iron concentration readings currently available.

Already set up at 36 locations throughout the world, FerriScan is now available at Kings College Hospital MRI in Hambleden and MedTel City of London Medical Centre. It is anticipated that FerriScan will be set up at further MRI sites in the UK this year.

For more information on FerriScan, cost, availability and how to access the test, please visit www.resonancehealth.com, ask your clinician, or e-mail specific queries to andrewh@ferriscan.com



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