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High prevalence of consanguineous marriage in a hot foci of hemoglobin Constant Spring in Vietnam

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To the editor,

Sir, the problem of hemoglobin Constant Spring (Hb Constant Spring) is still a big problem in tropical Indochina. The high prevalence can be seen in this area. According to a recent study by Nguyen VH *et al.*, the very prevalence on Hb Constant Spring can be seen in the minorities in remote villages of Nam Dong in Central Vietnam^[1]. The observed rate is about 26.2%^[1], which is significant higher than previous reports among other populations in Indochina^[2,3]. The cause of the high prevalence among these minorities is very interesting. As a genetic disease, the problem might be due to the consanguineous marriage. In Central Vietnam, the rate of consanguineous marriage among the Co–Tu is 1.8%, according to manual report in Vietnamese (2012) from Department of Population And Family Planning, Thua Thien Hue health service. However, in the Nam Dong, the prevalence of consanguineous marriage in the communes in the previous indexed study is about 5% (data at 5 communes were collected for this study^[1]). As a remote communities of the minorities, the high prevalence of consanguineous marriage might be a factor contributing to high prevalence of Hb Constant Spring in this area. Another interesting information is most of the local Co–Tu people who live in Co–Tu at present have marriages with Laosian during Vietnam

War and come back after the war (year 1975). Hence, this might be a clear picture reflecting that the high prevalence can be seen in the remote communities without cross marriage to the people from other areas.

Conflict of interest statement

We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

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