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### Ministry of Health and Top Physicians join forces to improve the lives of thousands of thalassemia patients

The Egyptian Ministry of Health (MoH) is committed to the improvement of healthcare services in Egypt and to this effect held a thalassemia-patient-specific symposium in collaboration with Novartis Pharmaceuticals. The two-day symposium discussed new therapy developments and advanced treatments that have helped reduce patient suffering, as well as preventative measures for Egypt, where the disease has one of the highest global prevalence rates.

Dr Sherif Amin, Head of Oncology at Novartis in Egypt and Libya, emphasized that this symposium was part of joint efforts between the MoH and Novartis to improve the care thalassemia patients receive



and sought to help establish an integrative medical team of doctors, pharmacists, nursing staff and blood banks to care for thalassemia patients. Its objective was also to highlight thousands of patients' need for medical and psychological support with the help of haematology pro-

fessors at Cairo, Ain Shams and Alexandria universities and the Egyptian Thalassemia Association, so that patients may have access to top-quality, comprehensive treatment and lead normal lives.

Dr Al Beshlawy insisted that in spite of the dangers of the disease, it is highly controllable in light of recent haematology treatment breakthroughs, with numerous nations successfully preventing the disease from being transmitted from parents to children. "Scientific advances led to the development of new therapy options such as genetic therapies and bone marrow transplants, but it is difficult to find matching donors for successful transplants