

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE S3. HEMATOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL PARAMETERS FOLLOWING DFP TREATMENT, EXPRESSED AS THE MEDIAN [1ST QUARTILE–3RD QUARTILE]

Patients' number (n, m)	Delayed-start group (month)			Early-start group (month)			p, months 6 vs. 12
	Baseline (n = 19)	(6) (n = 19)	(12) (n = 18)	Baseline (n = 21)	(6) (n = 20)	(12) (n = 19)	
Weight (kg)	80 [71–87]	79 [71–87]	82 [71–86]	81 [77–87]	83 [79–90]	83 [79–93]	0.30; 0.08
Blood cell profile							
Leukocytes ($10^9/L$)	5.9 [5.4–6.6]	6.1 [5.1–7]	5.2 [4.7–5.8]	6.4 [5.5–7.3]	5.6 [4.9–6.5]	5.2 [4.4–6.4]	0.10; 0.90
Neutrophil ($10^9/L$)	4 [3.1–4.9]	3.7 [3.1–4.6]	3.4 [2.8–3.8]	4.05 [3.6–4.9]	3.7 [2.9–4.3]	3.1 [2.7–4]	0.50; 0.80
Hemoglobin (g/dl)	14.5 [13.9–15.3]	14.8 [13.8–15]	14.4 [13.7–15.2]	14.3 [13.3–15.2]	13.7 [13.1–15.1]	14 [13–14.6]	0.20; 0.20
RBCs ($10^{12}/L$)	4.8 [4.6–4.9]	4.8 [4.6–4.9]	4.8 [4.5–5]	4.7 [4.5–5]	4.7 [4.5–4.9]	4.7 [4.6–4.9]	0.70; 0.30
Reticulocytes (%)	1 [0.74–1.27]	0.97 [0.78–1.08]	0.95 [0.73–1.2]	1.26 [1.04–1.45]	1.20 [0.99–1.49]	1.24 [0.9–1.52]	0.06; 0.7
MCV ($10^{15}/L$)	89.6 [88.2–93.4]	90 [88.4–93.5]	90.8 [87.9–93.5]	89.7 [88.5–90.7]	89.6 [86.7–91.3]	89.3 [86.9–91.5]	0.70; 0.20
MCHC (g/dl)	33.7 [33.5–34.2]	33.6 [33.2–34.1]	32.8 [32.5–33.9]	33.7 [33.2–34.3]	33.3 [32.6–33.9]	33.2 [33–33.5]	0.09; 0.90
MCH (pg/cell)	30.4 [29.6–31.2]	30.5 [29.8–31.1]	30.5 [29.3–30.9]	30.3 [29.3–30.7]	29.7 [28.5–31]	29.6 [28.8–30.4]	0.10; 0.40
Platelets ($10^9/L$)	239 [214–262]	237 [197–286]	212 [192–239]	223 [196–280]	227 [186–246]	228 [175–243]	0.06; 0.60
Hematocrit (%)	42.9 [41.4–44.7]	43.5 [41.5–44.7]	43.5 [42.2–44.6]	41.9 [40.4–45.4]	40.7 [39–43.2]	42 [39.7–43.8]	0.40; 0.051
Metal parameters							
Plasma	(n = 19)	(n = 19)	(n = 18)	(n = 21)	(n = 20)	(n = 19)	
Iron ($\mu g/L$)	105 [75–111]	87 [77–106]	93 [81–103]	93 [77–131]	104 [87–117]	86 [77–142]	0.2; 0.5
Tf sat. (%)	24 [16–29]	22 [18–27]	23 [17–31]	26 [23–31]	26 [23–33]	20 [17–33]	0.1; 0.4
Zinc ($\mu g/dl$)	70 [61–79]	79 [75–84]	75 [69–82]	75 [70–84]	75 [71–85]	77 [74–84]	0.2; 0.7
Copper ($\mu g/dl$)	95 [86–108]	101 [89–114]	98 [91–115]	108 [94–120]	114 [92–124]	114 [103–124]	0.9; 0.2
Urine ($\mu g/24 h$)	(n = 19)	(n = 19)	(n = 18)	(n = 21)	(n = 20)	(n = 19)	
Zinc	274 [184–469]	221 [121–370]	305 [221–362]	340 [228–430]	257 [142–634]	397 [247–453]	0.9; 0.9
Copper	13 [10–18]	11 [7–18]	12 [9–17]	17 [11.5–20]	11 [7–17]	12 [8–17]	0.2; 0.9
Iron	4 [3–7]	4 [3–7]	36 [21–58]	4 [3–7]	34 [21–56]	51 [19–78]	0.001; 0.2
CSF ($\mu g/L$)	(m = 10)	(m = 10)	—	(m = 10)	(m = 10)	—	
Iron	20 [18–24]	21 [18–25]	—	20.5 [18–25]	20 [18–22]	—	0.9; 0.3
Zinc	40.5 [39–43]	38.5 [35–40]	—	38 [35–44]	40.5 [36–43]	—	0.2;
Copper	21 [16–27.5]	19.5 [14.5–24]	—	20 [18–28]	19.5 [15–23]	—	0.2;

Ranges are indicated in brackets. Covariance analysis adjusted for baseline is given as *p*-values for month 6 and 12. An essentially similar picture was obtained for the DC group at 24 months (data not shown). In the early-start group (which was treated for 18 months with DFP), the mean \pm SD (*n* = 18) serum levels for aspartic transaminase (AST), alanine transaminase (ALT), alkaline phosphatase (AP), total bilirubin (BLR), and gamma glutamyl transferase (GGT) were not statistically different at entrance versus end of DFP treatment (18 months), respectively: ALT: 23.2 ± 4.6 versus 23.7 ± 4.2 ; AST 21.8 ± 7.6 versus 22.1 ± 7.0 ; ALP: 164 ± 40 versus 155 ± 54 ; BLR: 4.5 ± 1.3 ; and GGT: 27.6 ± 8.7 versus 31.2 ± 10.0 . DFP, deferrone; MCV, mean corpuscular volume; MCH, mean corpuscular hemoglobin (per cell); MCHC, mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration.