

## *Supplementary Material*

### Supplementary Table

Characteristics	Sickle cell sub-types			P-value
	All N=303	HbSS N=170	HbSC & HbS/β-thalassemia N=133	
Autoimmune disease	14 (4.6)	8 (2.6)	6 (1.9)	0.93
Sarcoidosis	4 (1.3)	4 (1.3)	0	0.13
Rheumatoid arthritis	4 (1.3)	2 (0.6)	2 (0.6)	0.80
Lupus	4 (1.3)	2 (0.6)	2 (0.6)	0.80
Infections	12 (3.9)	7 (2.3)	5 (1.6)	0.87
Other hematological comorbidities	12 (3.9)	1 (0.3)	11 (4)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Splenomegaly & thrombocytopenia	6 (1.9)	0	6 (1.9)	0.87
Gastroenterological comorbidities*	11 (4)	3 (1)	8 (2.6)	<b>0.04</b>
Osteoarthritis	5 (1.6)	0	5 (1.6)	<b>0.01</b>
Endocrinological comorbidities*	5 (1.6)	1 (0.3)	4 (1.3)	0.10
Deafness	4 (1.3)	2 (0.6)	2 (0.6)	0.80
Cataracts	3 (1)	0	3 (1)	0.08
Glaucoma	2 (0.6)	0	2 (0.6)	0.19
Vitreous haemorrhage	3 (1)	0	3 (1)	0.08
Obstructive sleep apnoea	5 (1.6)	5 (1.6)	0	0.06

\* excluding gallstones. Percentages in the table are out of the whole group.