

## THE PERCEPTION OF MARRIED COUPLES IN BANYUMAS FOR THALASSEMIA SCREENING: A QUALITATIVE STUDY

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<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Thalassemia is the most common genetic disease in Indonesia. The purpose of this study was to determine the response of couples who will get married to the premarital screening policy. The study used qualitative research with a phenomenological approach using semi-structured in-depth interviews with ten informants aged 20-30 years in Banyumas. The results of the study illustrated that most of the informants claimed to have heard and known of thalassemia from various media. Most informants know the consequences of thalassemia and how the life and treatment of thalassemia children. The informant's understanding varied from very understanding to not understanding. The group of informants who responded positively to premarital thalassemia screening claimed to want to conduct premarital thalassemia screening with various considerations, including the potential for diseases that would burden life in the future. In the negative group, premarital screening can inhibit ongoing relationships. In general, the informants will follow and obey if the government will apply the premarital screening policy. Informants differed on the continuation of the relationship after knowing the positivity of the screening results.</p>
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