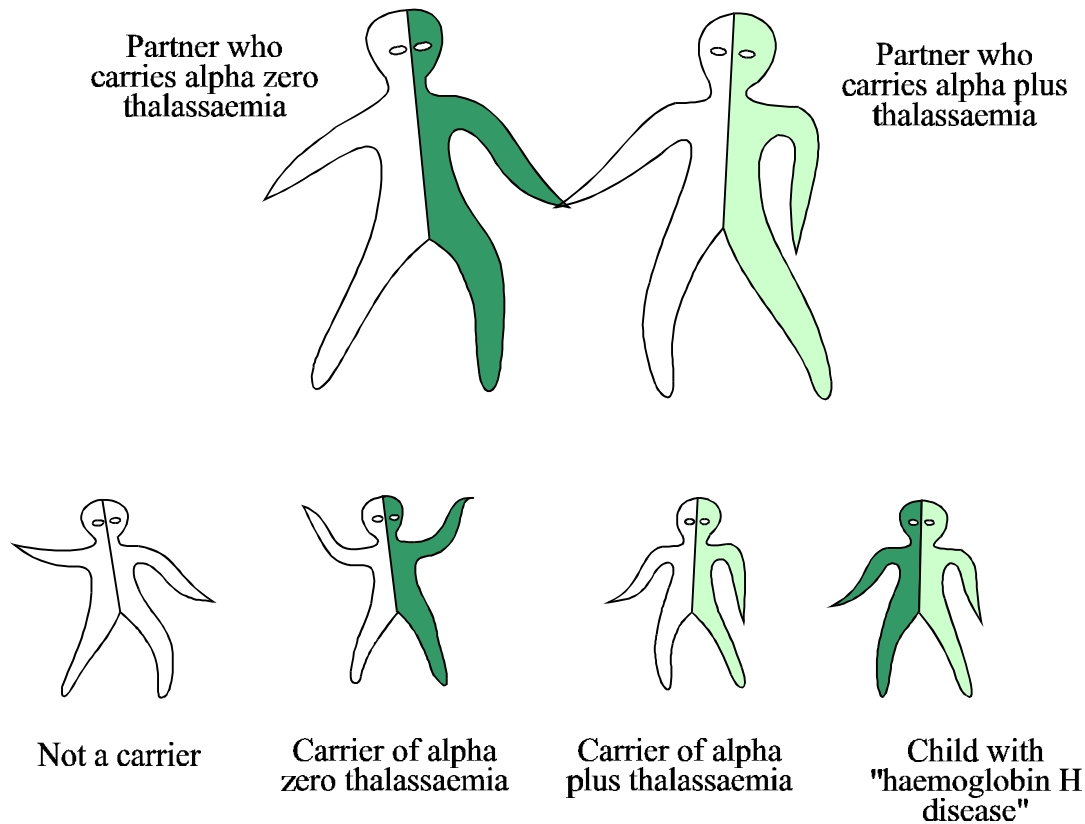


Implications for a Child when One Partner carries Alpha Zero Thalassaemia and the Other carries Alpha Plus Thalassaemia

*This couple could have a child with **haemoglobin H disease**.*



In each pregnancy, there are four possibilities:

- The child may not carry any haemoglobin disorder.
- The child may carry alpha plus thalassaemia. This is harmless.
- The child may carry alpha zero thalassaemia. This is harmless.
- The child may inherit alpha plus thalassaemia from one parent and alpha zero thalassaemia from the other. This child will have an inherited anaemia called **haemoglobin H disease**.

Haemoglobin H disease is a moderate form of anaemia. It is unfortunate that doctors call it a disease, because most people with haemoglobin H disease lead a normal life. They go to school, work and have children just like other people. They occasionally need additional medical treatment, and should see their GP or attend a *haematology clinic* every year for a check-up.

This couple should see a specialist in haemoglobin disorders for expert information. Once they have seen a specialist most couples are not worried about the possibility of having a child with haemoglobin H disease. They usually ask for the baby to be checked when it is born, to see if it has Haemoglobin H disease or not.

For more information about carrying haemoglobin disorders contact: