A questionnaire survey was undertaken among patients with \( \beta \)-thalassemia major by the way of Family APGAR and COOP/WONGA. According to the scores gained from family APGAR index questionnaire, the patients were divided into two groups: family dysfunction group with scores between 0 and 6 and better family function group with scores between 7 and 10. The scores of each item gained from COOP/WONGA were further compared between the two groups and the correlations of the results were analyzed.

**RESULTS**

29.5 percent of the patients had good functioning families and 70.5 percent of them had defective functioning families. The differences between the two type families in the total healthy state, emotion, social communication and daily activity had statistical significance \( (p < 0.05) \). The family functioning had positive relation with the health state in patients with \( \beta \)-thalassemia major \( (r = 0.903, P < 0.01) \). The adaptability, cooperation, growth, emotion and intimacy (\( P < 0.05, P < 0.01 \)) in Family APGAR questionnaire survey and ten items in COOP/WONGA had positive relations \( (r = 0.723 - 0.935, P < 0.05, P < 0.01) \).

**CONCLUSIONS**

The relation between the family functioning and the health state of patients with \( \beta \)-thalassemia major is close. Medical workers should pay attention to the desirable effects of the good family functioning on these patients.