

Appendix 1. Baseline Characteristics of Study Groups (unadjusted value) (0 months) and the measured outcomes at 2 and 6 months after the start of the treatment

	0 months - mean (SD)			
	liposomal iron	ferrous sulfate	mean diff	P value
Age	5.49 (0.57)	5.47 (0.75)	0.02	0.91
Weight	7.10 (0.61)	6.79 (0.74)	0.31	0.09
Birthweight	2.91 (0.32)	2.78 (0.41)	0.13	0.18
Hb	10.21 (0.75)	9.95 (0.71)	0.26	0.17
MCV	74.62 (10.65)	80.37 (8.57)	-5.75	0.02
MCH	28.27 (2.98)	30.33 (1.52)	-2.06	0.00
RDW	14.76 (1.08)	14.37 (0.93)	0.39	0.15
Ferritin	36.83 (13.76)	38.57 (13.63)	-1.74	0.63
Serum Iron	32.87 (9.59)	25.77 (6.41)	7.10	0.00
TIBC	243.53 (46.97)	204.27 (36.00)	39.26	0.00
	2months -mean (SD)			
	liposomal iron	ferrous sulfate	mean diff	P value
Hb	10.94 (0.68)	10.33 (0.66)	0.61	0.00
MCV	80.25 (11.36)	87.06 (7.04)	-6.81	0.01
MCH	30.08 (3.46)	31.21 (1.93)	-1.13	NA
RDW	18.18 (22.58)	13.94 (1.20)	4.24	0.31
Ferritin	65.33 (17.61)	63.90 (17.58)	1.43	0.75
Serum Iron	67.64 (16.79)	52.50 (13.89)	15.14	0.00
TIBC	206.80 (26.95)	194.13 (30.43)	12.67	0.09
	6 months -mean (SD)			
	liposomal iron	ferrous sulfate	mean diff	P value
Hb	11.62 (0.43)	10.85 (0.78)	0.77	0.00
MCV	85.82 (12.55)	92.63 (11.80)	-6.81	0.03
MCH	31.89 (3.86)	31.52 (1.97)	0.37	NA
RDW	12.40 (0.55)	13.73 (1.14)	-1.33	0.00
Ferritin	88.93 (16.63)	99.80 (55.33)	-10.87	0.31
Serum Iron	97.74 (19.45)	70.37 (21.53)	27.37	0.00
TIBC	180.30 (18.73)	176.20 (22.75)	4.10	0.45

*NA: either not applicable or not collected at these time, SD: Standard Deviation