

Reticulin fibrosis was evident in all cases; however, it was marked in 22 patients (Table 3).

Table 3: Subjective evaluation of reticulin fibrosis

Reticulin fibrosis	Number	Percentage (%)
Slight increase	3	10
Moderate increase	5	16.66
Marked increase	22	73.34

One third of patients showed iron deficient erythropoiesis with six patients showed no demonstratable iron in stores (Table 4).

Table 4: Semi quantitative evaluation of iron pigment

Marrow iron grade	Number of cases	Percentage
0	6	20
+	4	13.34
++	14	46.66
+++	6	20

The results of quantitative evaluation of trephine biopsies in patients with IMF are shown in table 5, which also compares the results with that of control.

Table 5: Comparison between quantitative evaluation of IMF patients and controls

	Patient mean	Control mean	P value
Hemopoietic tissue	44.32	50.93	<0.01
Fatty tissue	5.99	49.01	<0.001
Megakaryocytes (MKC)	43.60	19.09	<0.001
Osteoblastic index (OBI)	0.66	0.35	<0.001
Blood vessels (BV)	4021	2613	<0.001
Trabecular bone width (TBW)	116	78	<0.001

A correlation between quantitative evaluation of bone marrow biopsy & the degree of fibrosis was obtained and is shown in table 6.

Table 6: Correlation between degree of reticulin fibrosis & quantitative evaluation of bone marrow biopsy

Reticulin fibrosis	No. (%)	Hemopoietic. Tissue	Fatty*** tissue	Fibrous tissue	TBW	MKC	OBI	BV
Slight increase	3(10)	92.68	3.81	7.32	80.03	35.62	0.612	3025.5
Moderate increase	5(16.34)	80.06	7.79	33.67	102.12	37.15	0.635	3712.3
Marked increase	22(73.66)	31.53	10.60	45.05	116.88	46.37	0.676	4101.08
p value		<0.01	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001