

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Presentation by

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Idiopathic (Autoimmune) Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP)

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- The **most common cause** of acute onset of thrombocytopenia in an otherwise well child
- Estimated about 1 in 20,000 children
- A **recent history of viral illness** is described in 50-65% of cases of childhood ITP

ITP (cont.)



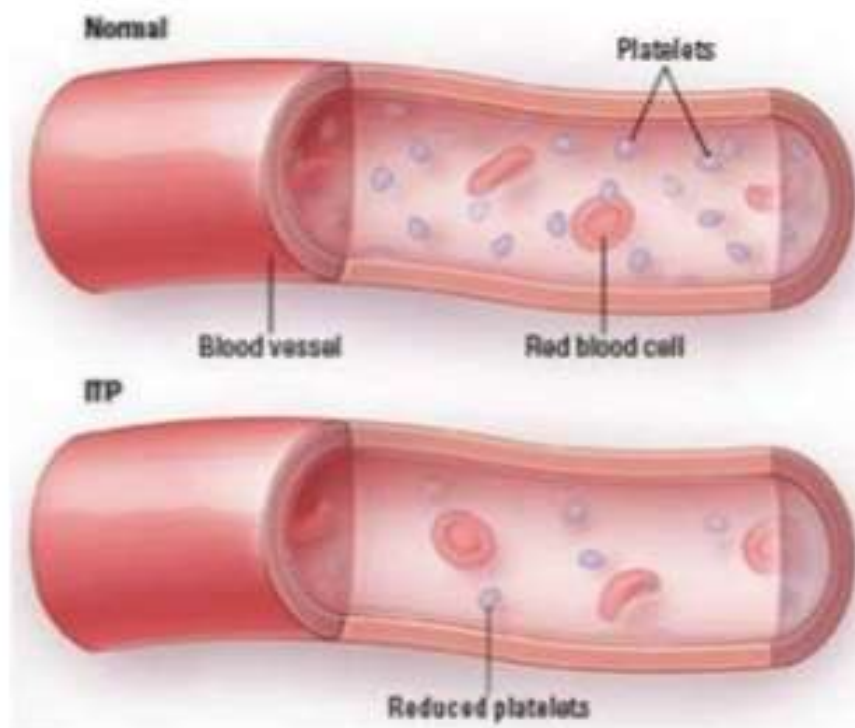
- One - 4 wk after exposure to a common viral infection
- The peak age is 1-4 yr.
- ITP seems to occur more often in late winter and spring after the peak season of viral respiratory illness.

ITP (Pathophysiology)



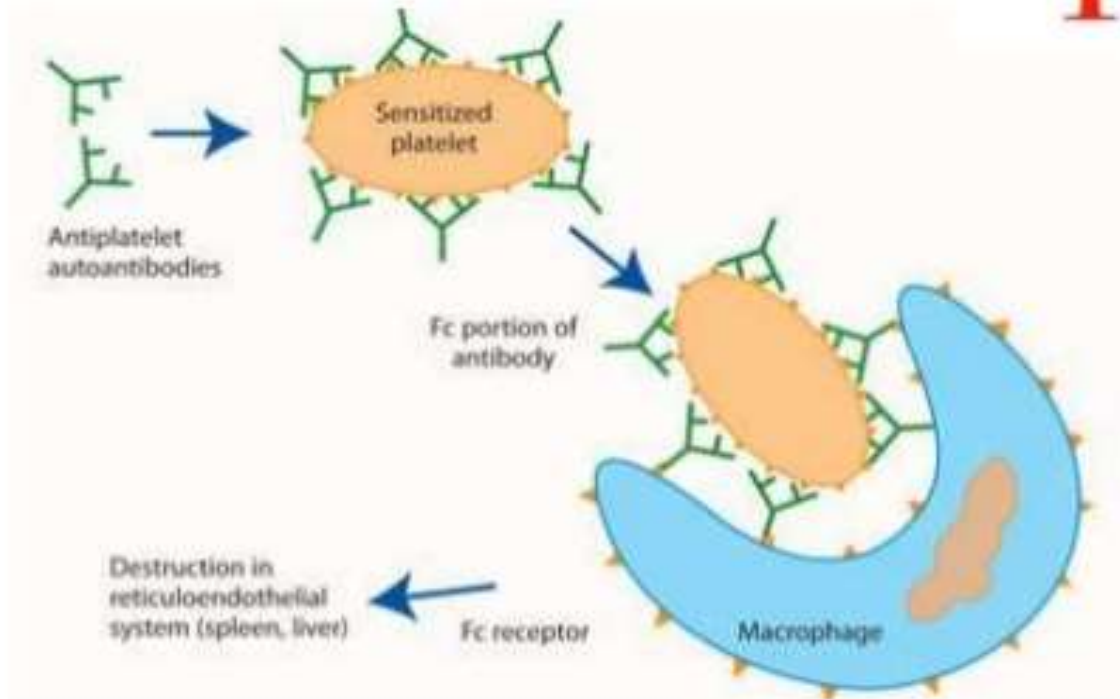
- An **autoantibody** directed against the platelet surface develops with resultant sudden onset of thrombocytopenia
- After binding of the antibody to the platelet surface, circulating antibody-coated platelets are **recognized** by the **Fc receptor on splenic macrophages**, **ingested**, and **destroyed**

ITP (Pathophysiology)(cont.)



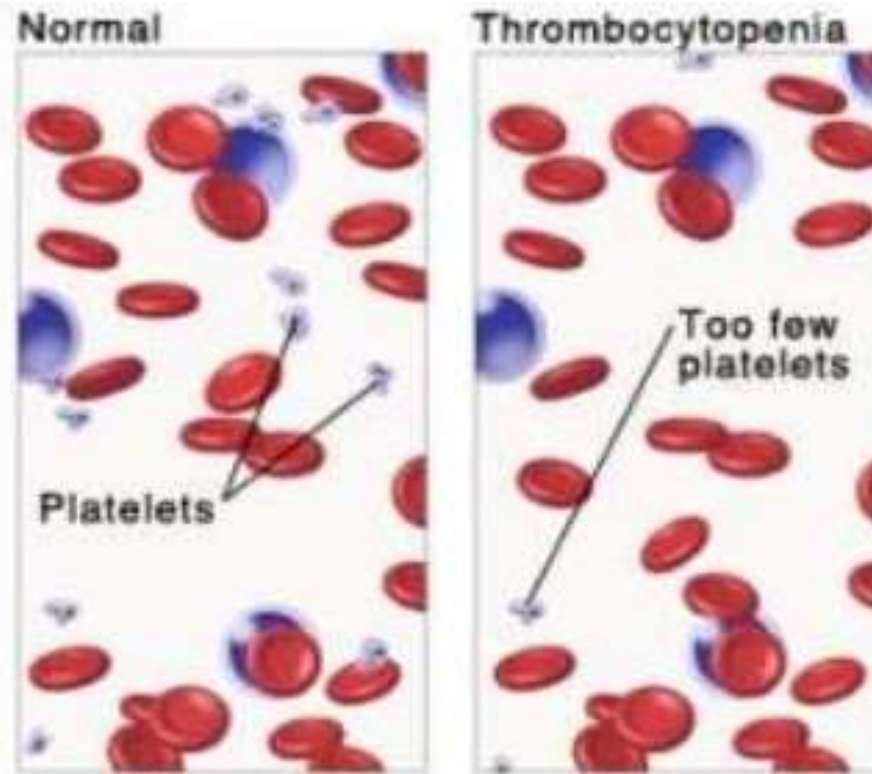
weishendopublications.com

ITP (Pathophysiology)(cont.)



clinicalstudiestoday.blogspot.com

ITP (Pathophysiology)(cont.)



skperdon.hubpages.com

ITP (Pathophysiology)(cont.)



- **Most common viruses** have been described in association with ITP, including **Epstein-Barr virus**
- In some patients ITP appears to arise in children infected with **Helicobacter pylori** or rarely following the **measles, mumps, rubella vaccine**

Clinical Manifestations (Cont.)



- The classic presentation of ITP is a previously healthy 1-4 yr old child who has sudden onset of generalized petechiae and purpura
- Often there is bleeding from the gums and mucous membranes, particularly with profound thrombocytopenia (platelet count $<10 \times 10^9/L$).

Clinical Manifestations_(cont.)



www.itriagehealth.com



Clinical Manifestations (cont.)



www.lookfordiagnosis.com

Clinical Manifestations (cont.)



en.wikipedia.org

Clinical Manifestations (cont.)



clinicalstudies.com.au

Clinical Manifestations (Cont.)



- There is a **history of a preceding viral infection** 1-4 wk before the onset of thrombocytopenia
- Findings on **physical examination** are **normal**, other than the finding of **petechiae and purpura**

Classification system



Depending on the basis of symptoms and signs, but not platelet count; ITP is classified as:

Class 1: No symptoms

Class 2. Mild symptoms:

- Bruising and petechiae
- Occasional minor epistaxis
- Very little interference with daily living

Classification system(cont.)



Class 3. **Moderate:**

- More severe skin and mucosal lesions
- More troublesome epistaxis and menorrhagia

Classification system(cont.)



Class 4. **Severe:**

- Bleeding episodes—*menorrhagia*,
epistaxis, *melen*a—requiring
transfusion or hospitalization
- Symptoms interfering seriously with
the quality of life

Clinical Manifestations (Cont.)



- The presence of **abnormal findings** such as hepatosplenomegaly, bone or joint pain, or remarkable lymphadenopathy **suggests other diagnoses**

Prognosis



- Severe bleeding is rare (<3% of cases)
- In 70-80% of children who present with acute ITP, spontaneous resolution occurs within 6 mo
- Fewer than 1% of patients develop an intracranial hemorrhage.
- Approximately 20% of children who present with acute ITP go on to have chronic ITP

Prognosis(cont.)



- The outcome/prognosis may be related more to age, as:
 - ITP in younger children is more likely to resolve
 - The development of chronic ITP in adolescents approaches 50%.

Laboratory Findings



- Severe thrombocytopenia (platelet count $<20 \times 10^9/L$) is common, and platelet size is normal or increased, reflective of increased platelet turnover
- In acute ITP, the hemoglobin value, white blood cell (WBC) count, and differential count should be normal.

Laboratory Findings_(cont.)



- Bone marrow examination shows normal granulocytic and erythrocytic series, with characteristically normal or increased numbers of megakaryocytes

Laboratory Findings_(cont.)



- **Indications** for bone marrow aspiration/biopsy include:
 1. An abnormal WBC count or differential
 2. Unexplained anemia
 3. Findings on history and physical examination suggestive of a bone marrow failure syndrome or malignancy.
- **Other laboratory tests** should be performed as indicated by the history and physical examination

Laboratory Findings_(cont.)



- A **direct antiglobulin test (Coombs)** should be done
 1. If there is unexplained anemia to rule out Evans syndrome (autoimmune hemolytic anemia and thrombocytopenia)
 2. Before instituting therapy with IV anti-D.

Diagnosis/ Differential Diagnosis



- Autoimmune thrombocytopenia may be an initial manifestation of :
 1. SLE
 2. HIV infection
 3. Common variable immunodeficiency
 4. Lymphoma(rarely)

Treatment



- Platelet transfusion in ITP is usually contraindicated unless life-threatening bleeding is present (Antiplatelet antibodies bind to transfused platelets as well as they do to autologous platelets)

Treatment (cont.)



- Initial approaches to the management of ITP include the following:
 1. **No therapy** other than education and counseling of the family and patient for patients with **minimal**, **mild**, and **moderate symptoms**, as defined earlier.
- This approach is:
 - Far less costly
 - Side effects are minimal

Treatment_(cont.)



2. Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG).

- IVIG at a dose of 0.8- 1.0 g/kg/day for 1-2 days induces a rapid rise in platelet count (usually $>20 \times 10^9/L$) in **95%** of patients within 48 hr.
- IVIG appears to induce a response by **downregulating** Fc-mediated phagocytosis of antibody-coated platelets.

Treatment_(cont.)



2. Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG)._(cont.)

IVIG therapy is :

- Expensive
- Time-consuming to administer
- After infusion, there is a high frequency of headaches and vomiting, suggestive of **IVIG-induced aseptic meningitis.**

Treatment_(cont.)



3. Intravenous anti-D therapy.

For Rh positive patients:

IV anti-D at a dose of 50-75 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ causes a rise in platelet count to $>20 \times 10^9/\text{L}$ in 80-90% of patients within 48-72 hr.

Treatment_(cont.)



4. Prednisone.

- Doses of prednisone of 1-4 mg/kg/24 hr
- Corticosteroid therapy is usually continued for 2-3 wk or until a rise in platelet count to $>20 \times 10^9/L$ has been achieved, with a rapid taper
- long-term side effects of corticosteroid therapy:
 1. Growth failure
 2. Diabetes mellitus
 3. Osteoporosis

Treatment(Cont.)



Intracranial hemorrhage

Multiple modalities should be used, including:

1. Platelet transfusion
2. IVIG
3. High-dose corticosteroids
4. Prompt consultation by neurosurgery and surgery.



Treatment(Cont.)

- The role of splenectomy in ITP should be reserved for 1 of 2 circumstances.
 1. The older child (≥ 4 yr) with severe ITP that has lasted >1 yr (chronic ITP)
 2. Whose symptoms are not easily controlled with therapy
 3. Life-threatening hemorrhage (intracranial hemorrhage) complicates acute ITP
 4. Platelet count cannot be corrected rapidly with transfusion of platelets and administration of IVIG and corticosteroids

Treatment(Cont.)



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References

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