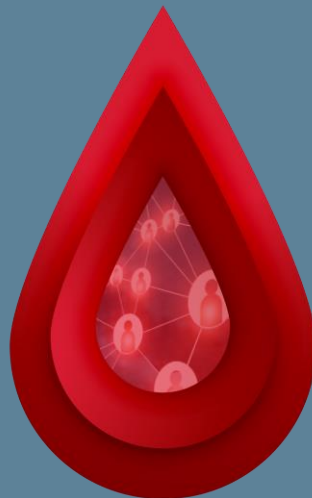


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# CURRENT PERSPECTIVES ON THE TREATMENT OF PRIMARY CHRONIC ITP IN ADULTS

AN INDEPENDENT, CME-ACCREDITED SYMPOSIUM

14 July 2020

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# THIS SYMPOSIUM IS ACCREDITED BY EBAC FOR 1 CME CREDIT\*

- The event **Current Perspectives on the Treatment of Primary Chronic ITP in Adults** is accredited by the European Board for Accreditation in Cardiology (EBAC) for **1** hour of External CME credits.
- Each participant should claim only those hours of credit that have actually been spent in the educational activity.





# WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

**Jerzy Windyga**

**Department of Haemostasis Disorders and Internal Medicine**

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**Institute of Haematology and Transfusion Medicine**

**Warsaw, Poland**

# DISCLOSURES

- **Research support:** Alexion, Alnylam, Baxalta, Bayer, CSL Behring, Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Novo Nordisk, Octapharma, Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Roche, Sanofi, Shire, Siemens, Sobi, Werfen
- **Stock ownership:** none

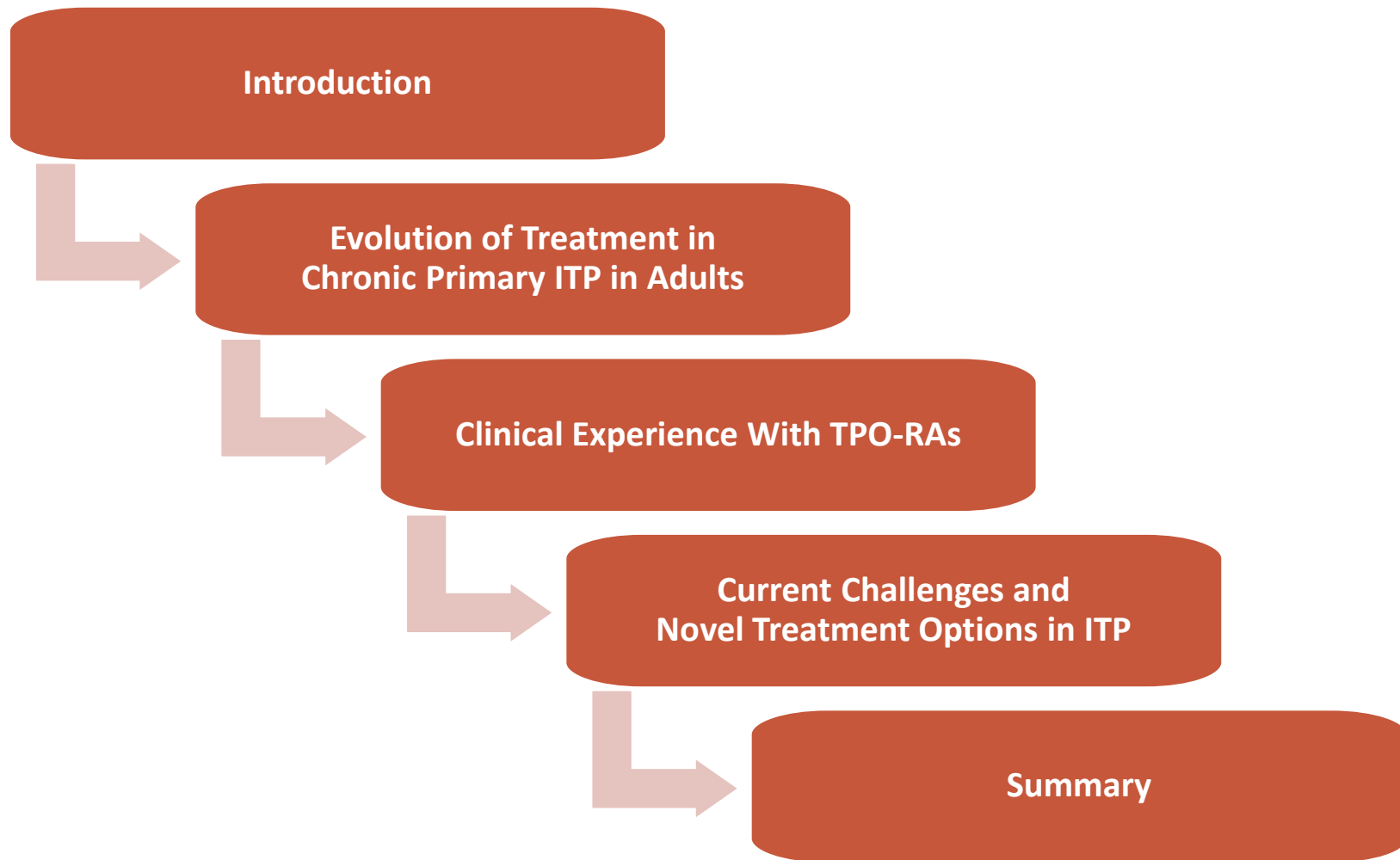
# EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES



Review of the **current standard** of care in ITP, detailing its **risk and benefit**

Explain the **mechanism of action** and **clinical data** of **potential new and innovative therapeutic options** in ITP

Comparison of standard of care **today** and **in the future**





# INTRODUCING THE FACULTY



**Chair**

**Prof Jerzy Windyga,**  
MD, PhD  
Poland



Head of the Department of Disorders of Haemostasis and Internal Medicine at the Institute of Haematology and Transfusion Medicine, Warsaw, Poland



**Prof David J. Kuter,**  
MD, DPhil  
United States



Chief of Hematology at Massachusetts General Hospital, and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA



**Prof Pål André Holme,**  
MD, PhD  
Norway



Professor of Haematology and Senior Haematologist at the Oslo University Hospital, Rikshospitalet, and Institute of Clinical Medicine, University of Oslo, Norway



**Dr Vickie McDonald,**  
MA, MRCP, FRCPath, PhD  
United Kingdom



Consultant Haematologist at the Royal London Hospital, UK; honorary senior lecturer at Queen Mary University of London; and National Chief Investigator for the UK ITP registry

# IMMUNE THROMBOCYTOPENIA (ITP)



Acquired autoimmune disorder characterised by a low platelet count resulting from platelet destruction and impaired platelet production



Incidence 2–5 per 100,000



Isolated primary condition or secondary to other conditions (e.g. concomitant autoimmune disease)



Heterogeneous disorder – variable clinical symptoms (mild to severe bleeds)

# THE IMPACT OF ITP



Severe bleeding is reported in 9.5% of adults and 20.2% of children<sup>1</sup>



Adults with ITP have a 1.3–2.2-fold higher mortality than the general population (due to cardiovascular disease, infection, and bleeding)<sup>2</sup>



Significant impact on health-related quality of life (HRQoL) (e.g. fatigue is reported in 22–45% of patients with ITP)<sup>1</sup>



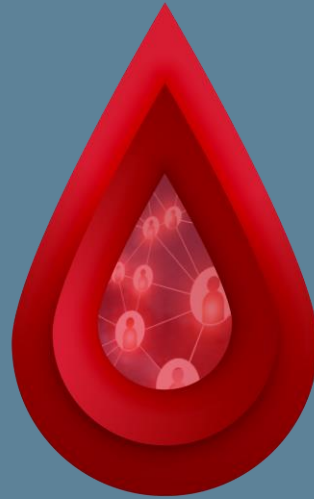
Many patients with ITP may require special attention and long-term treatment<sup>3,4</sup>



Optimal treatment decisions for each patient remain a challenge in many cases<sup>3,4</sup>

ITP, immune thrombocytopenia

1. Neunert C, et al. *Blood Adv.* 2019;3:3829–66. 2. Fredriksen H, et al. *Br J Haematol.* 2014;166:260–7. 3. Depré F, et al. *PLoS One.* 2018;13:e0198184. 4. Provan D, et al. *Blood Adv.* 2019;3:3780–817



# EVOLUTION OF TREATMENT IN ITP

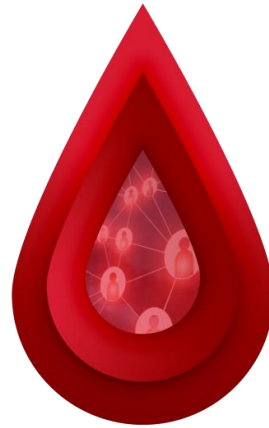
**PÅL ANDRÈ HOLME, MD, PhD**

**Professor of Haematology**

**Department of Haematology and**

**Institute of Clinical Medicine, Oslo University Hospital**

**University of Oslo, Norway**



# WHAT ARE THE CURRENT TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR CHRONIC ITP IN ADULTS?

# DISCLOSURES

- **Consultant:** Bayer, CSL, Novo Nordisk, Octapharma, Pfizer, Shire, Sobi

# MANAGEMENT OF **NEWLY DIAGNOSED ITP** IN ADULTS WHO ARE ASYMPTOMATIC OR HAVE MINOR MUCOCUTANEOUS BLEEDING

## Treatment

### Platelet count $\geq 30 \times 10^9/L$

- Observation

### Platelet count $< 30 \times 10^9/L$

- Corticosteroids (without rituximab)
  - Prednisone (0.5–2.0 mg/kg per day) or dexamethasone (40 mg/day for 4 days) as initial therapy
  - Short course ( $\leq 6$  weeks) of prednisone

## Admission or outpatient management

### Platelet count $< 20 \times 10^9/L$

- Hospital admission (in case of bleeds)

### Platelet count $\geq 20 \times 10^9/L$

- Outpatient management

# ITP TREATMENT OPTIONS

Clinical situation	Therapeutic option	
<b>Initial treatment of newly diagnosed ITP</b>	Corticosteroids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>dexamethasone</li> <li>methylprednisolone</li> <li>prednis(ol)one</li> </ul>
	Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg)	
	Anti-D (licensed and available for ITP in only a few countries)	
<b>Subsequent treatment</b>	Medical therapies with robust evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>rituximab</li> <li>thrombopoietin receptor agonists (TPO-RAs: eltrombopag, avatrombopag, romiplostim)</li> <li>fostamatinib</li> </ul>
	Medical therapies with less robust evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>azathioprine</li> <li>cyclophosphamide</li> <li>cyclosporine A</li> <li>danazol</li> <li>dapsone</li> <li>mycophenolate mofetil</li> <li>TPO-RA switch</li> <li>vinca alkaloids</li> </ul>
	Surgical therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Splenectomy</li> </ul>
<b>Treatment after failure of multiple therapies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessory splenectomy</li> <li>alemtuzumab</li> <li>Combination of initial and subsequent therapies</li> <li>Combination chemotherapy</li> <li>Clinical trials</li> <li>Haematopoietic stem cell transplantation</li> <li>Splenectomy, if not already performed</li> <li>Supportive care</li> </ul>	

ITP, immune thrombocytopenia

Provan D, et al. Blood Adv. 2019;3:3780–817



# RECOMMENDED ITP TREATMENT GOALS

Treatment goals should be individualised to the patient and the phase of the disease



Treatment should **prevent severe bleeding episodes**



Treatment should maintain a target platelet count **> 20–30 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L**

At least for symptomatic patients, because the risk of major bleeding increases below this level



Treatment should have **minimal toxicity**

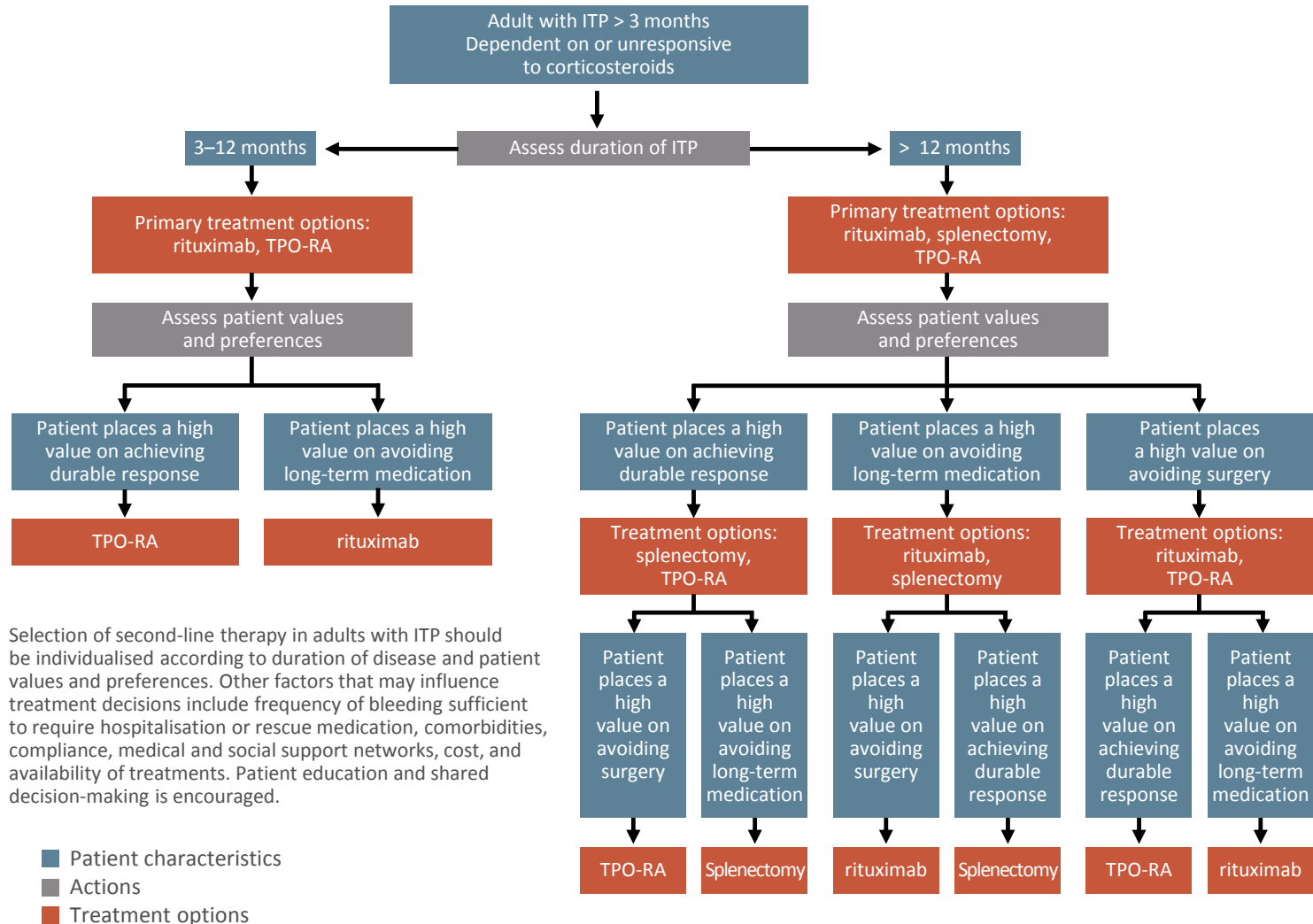


Treatment should **optimise HRQoL**

# RECOMMENDED STRATEGY FOR SUBSEQUENT ITP THERAPY

- There are **many medical treatment options** with few adverse events (AEs)<sup>1</sup>
  - Not all therapies are available in all countries
  - Therefore the recommendations should be modified on the basis of available resources and patient preference
- Some medical options may require **continued treatment**<sup>1</sup>
- Up to 1/3 of patients may **remit** in 1 year and up to 80% may remit in 5 years<sup>2</sup>
  - If possible, splenectomy should be deferred for  $\geq 1$  year to allow for remission

# ALGORITHM FOR THE SELECTION OF SECOND-LINE THERAPY IN ADULTS WITH ITP

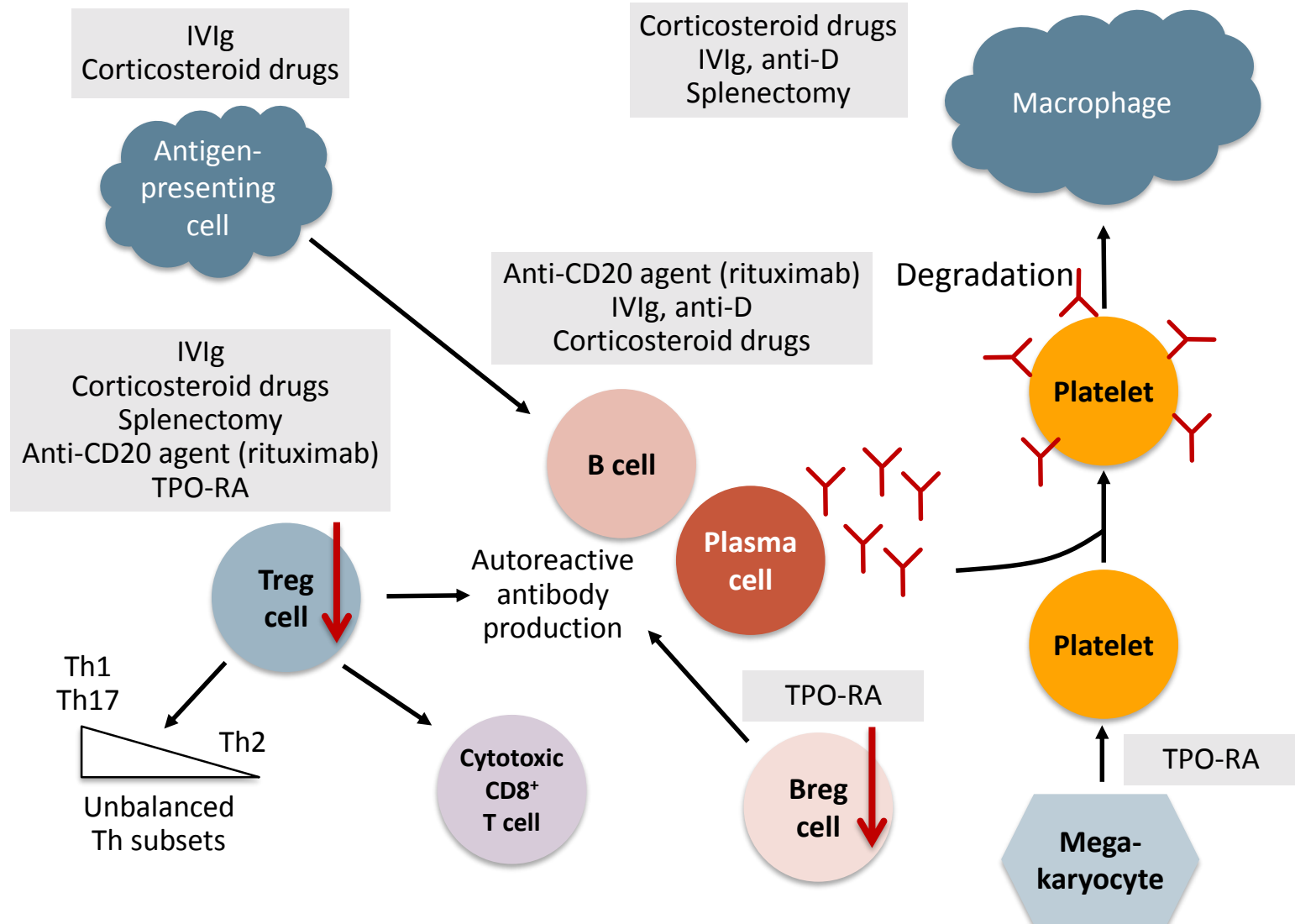


ITP, immune thrombocytopenia; TPO-RA, thrombopoietin receptor agonist

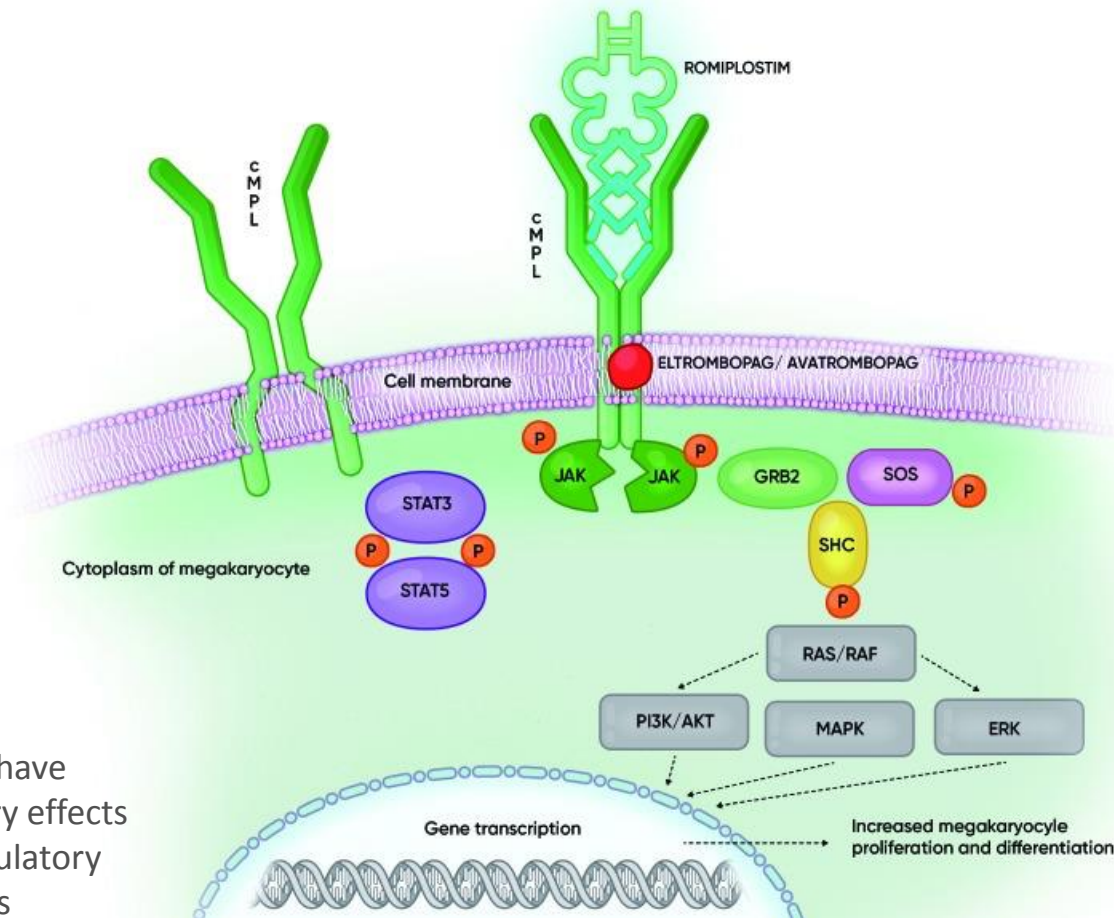
Neunert C, et al. Blood Adv. 2019;3:3829–66

All recommendations in figure are conditional recommendations

# THERAPEUTIC MECHANISMS OF CURRENT ITP TREATMENTS

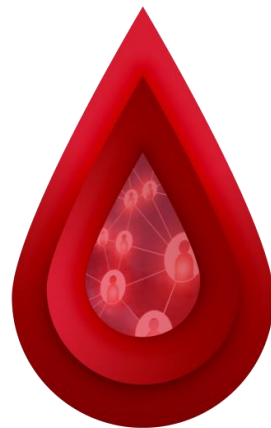


# THERAPEUTIC MECHANISMS OF TPO-RAS



TPO-RAs may also have immunomodulatory effects with increased regulatory T- and B-cell effects

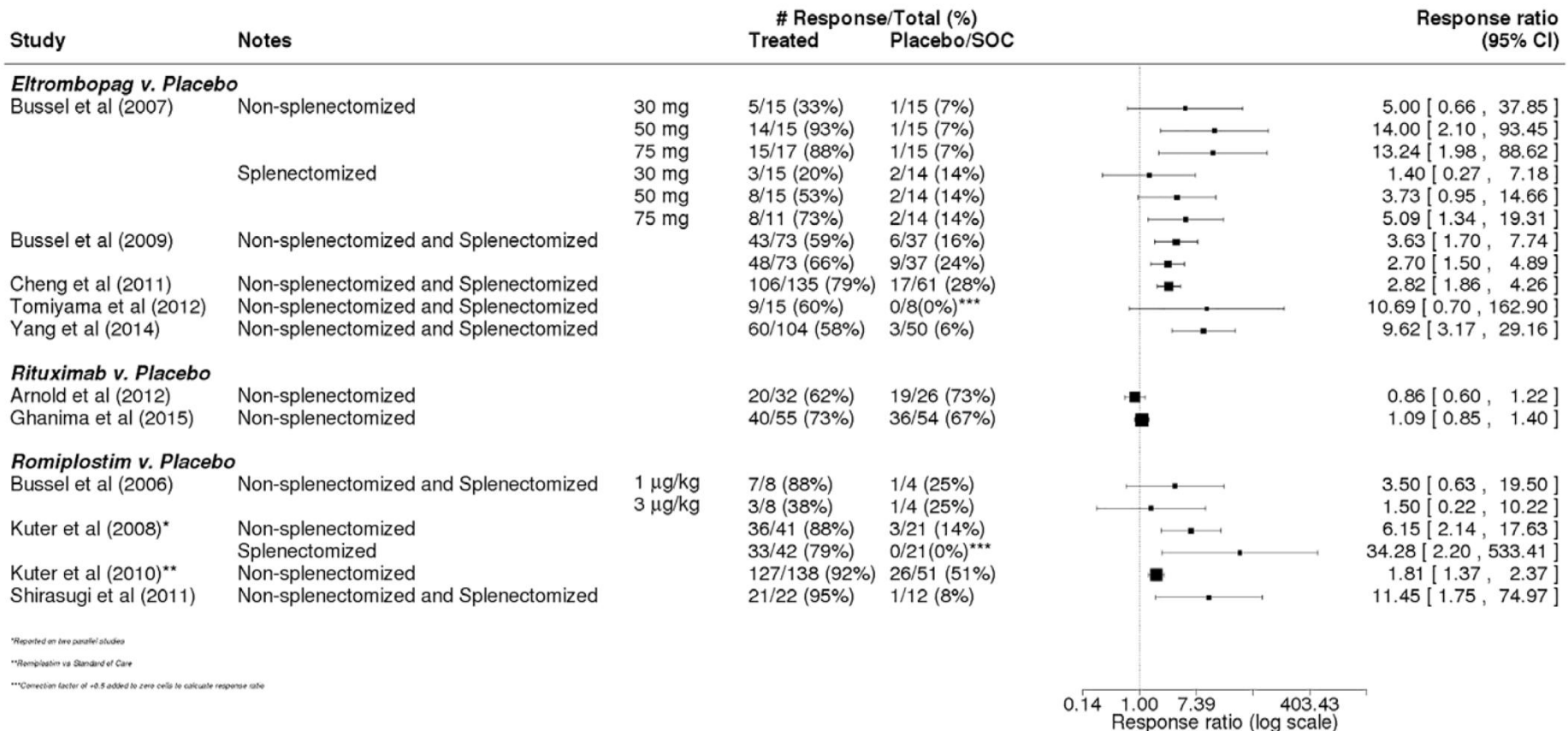
AKT, a serine threonine protein kinase; cMPL, thrombopoietin receptor; ERK, extracellular-signal-regulated kinase; GRB2, growth factor receptor-binding protein 2; JAK, Janus kinase; MAPK, mitogen-activated protein kinase; PI3K, phosphatid-ylinositol 3-kinase; RAF, rapidly accelerated fibrosarcoma kinase; RAS, rat sarcoma GTPase; SHC, Src homology collagen protein; SOS, son of sevenless; STAT, signal transducer and activator of transcription; TPO-RA, thrombopoietin receptor agonist



**WHAT ARE THE KEY SAFETY AND  
EFFICACY DATA SUPPORTING THESE  
TREATMENT OPTIONS?**

# COMPELLING EVIDENCE OF PLATELET RESPONSE WITH TPO-RAs

## OVERALL PLATELET RESPONSE IN RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIALS (RCTs) OF RITUXIMAB OR TPO-RAs



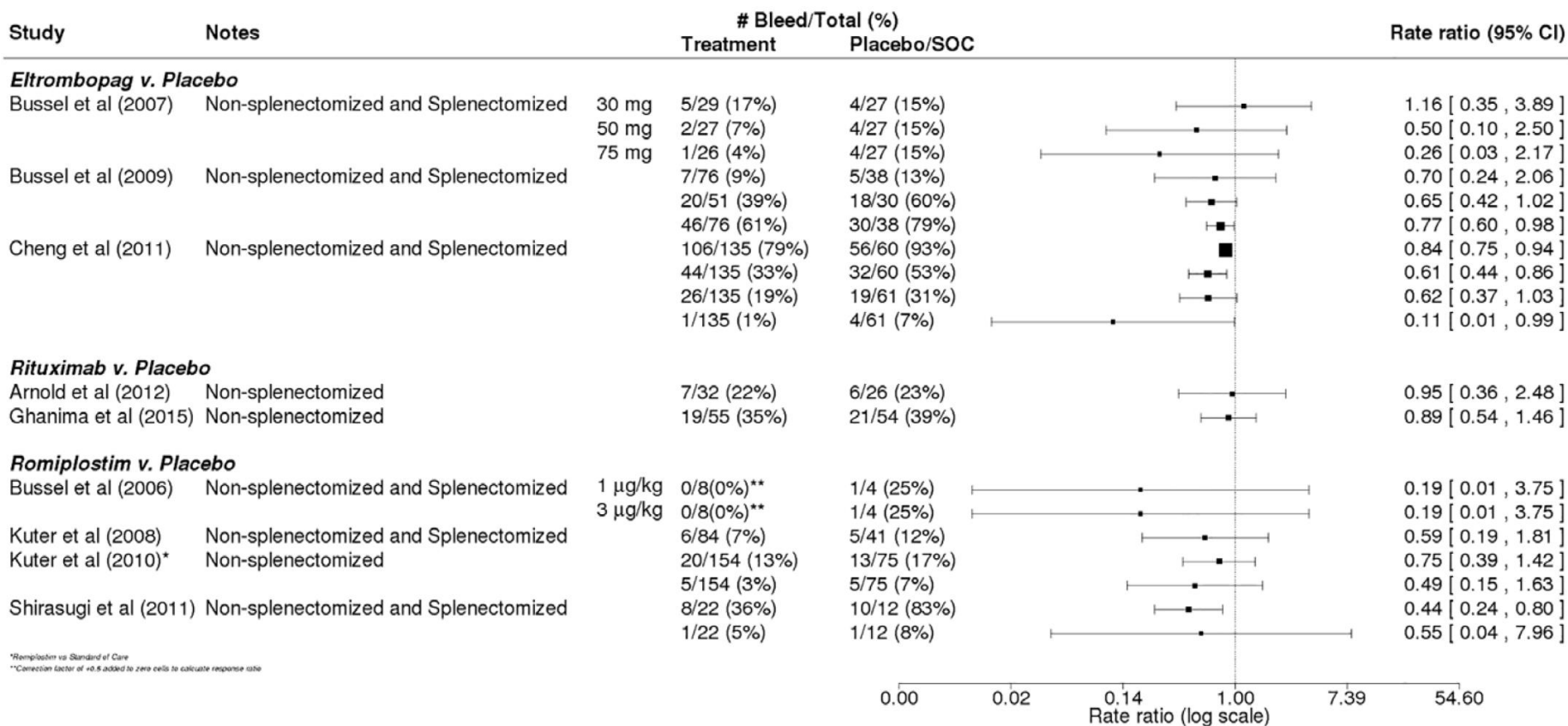
\*Reported on two parallel studies

\*\*Romiplostim vs Standard of Care

\*\*\*Correction factor of +0.5 added to zero cells to calculate response rate

# REDUCED BLEEDING WITH TPO-RAs

## BLEEDING IN RCTs OF RITUXIMAB OR TPO-RAs



\*Remplisten vs Standard of Care  
\*\*Correction factor of +0.6 added to zero cells to calculate response rate



# AVATROMBOPAG SUPERIOR TO PLACEBO

## EFFICACY ENDPOINTS, PHASE 3 STUDY

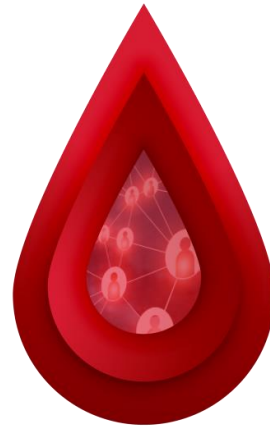
	avatrombopag (n = 32)	placebo (n = 17)	P-value
Median cumulative duration of platelet response, weeks (min., max.)*	12.4 (0, 25)	0.0 (0, 2)	< 0.0001
Platelet count $\geq 50 \times 10^9/L$ at day 8, % (95% CI)	65.6 (49.2–82.1)	0.0	< 0.0001
Any bleeding event <sup>†</sup> , %	43.8	52.9	NS

\*The total number of weeks in which platelet count is  $\geq 50 \times 10^9/L$  during the core study in the absence of rescue therapy.

<sup>†</sup>Lower for avatrombopag when adjusted for the 2.6-fold longer mean exposure time for avatrombopag-treated patients.

CI, confidence interval; NS, not significant; SD, standard deviation

Jurczak W, et al. Br J Haematol. 2018;183:479–90



# WHAT ARE THE MAIN UNMET NEEDS IN CHRONIC ITP IN ADULTS?

# KEY UNMET NEEDS IN CHRONIC ITP



When to introduce which treatment option



Access



Heterogeneity of the disease



Need for a tailored treatment approach



Optimal management of platelet fluctuations during treatment



Risk and minimisation of risk of bleeding and thrombotic events

# KEY UNMET NEEDS IN CHRONIC ITP, CONT'D



No head-to-head RCTs have directly compared subsequent therapy



More RCTs are needed



How do we obtain better long-term results using rituximab?



The mechanisms of failure of TPO-RAs are not well known



Who will have a durable response after TPO-RA discontinuation?



What are the long-term effects of TPO-RAs?



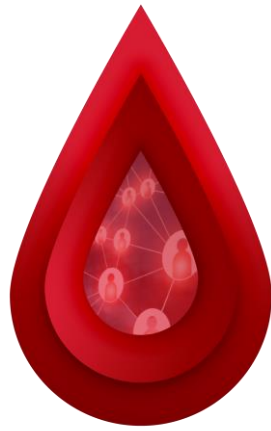
# CLINICAL EXPERIENCE WITH TPO-RAs

**David J. Kuter, MD, DPhil**

**Chief of Hematology, Massachusetts General Hospital  
Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School**

**Vickie McDonald, MA, MRCP, FRCPath, PhD**

**Consultant Haematologist, Royal London Hospital  
Honorary Senior Lecturer, Queen Mary University of London**



**GUIDELINES NOW SUGGEST STARTING  
TPO-RAs EARLIER IN THE COURSE  
OF THE DISEASE.  
WHAT DATA ON EARLY TPO-RA  
TREATMENT ARE AVAILABLE?**

**David J. Kuter**

# DISCLOSURES

- **Research support:** Agios, Alnylam, Argenx, Bioverativ, Bristol Myers Squibb, Incyte, Principia, Protalix, Rigel, Syntimmune
- **Consulting:** Alnylam, Amgen, Argenx, 3Bios, Bristol Myers Squibb, Dova, Fujifilm, Genzyme, GSK, Kirin, Medimmune, ONO, Pfizer, Principia, Rigel, Shionogi, Syntimmune, UCB
- **Stock ownership:** Rubius
- **Off-label uses:** none

**TPO-RAs are  
as effective in  
early ITP as in  
chronic ITP**



## Early<sup>1</sup>

- **Newly diagnosed:** 0–3 months
- **Persistent ITP:** > 3–12 months

## Chronic

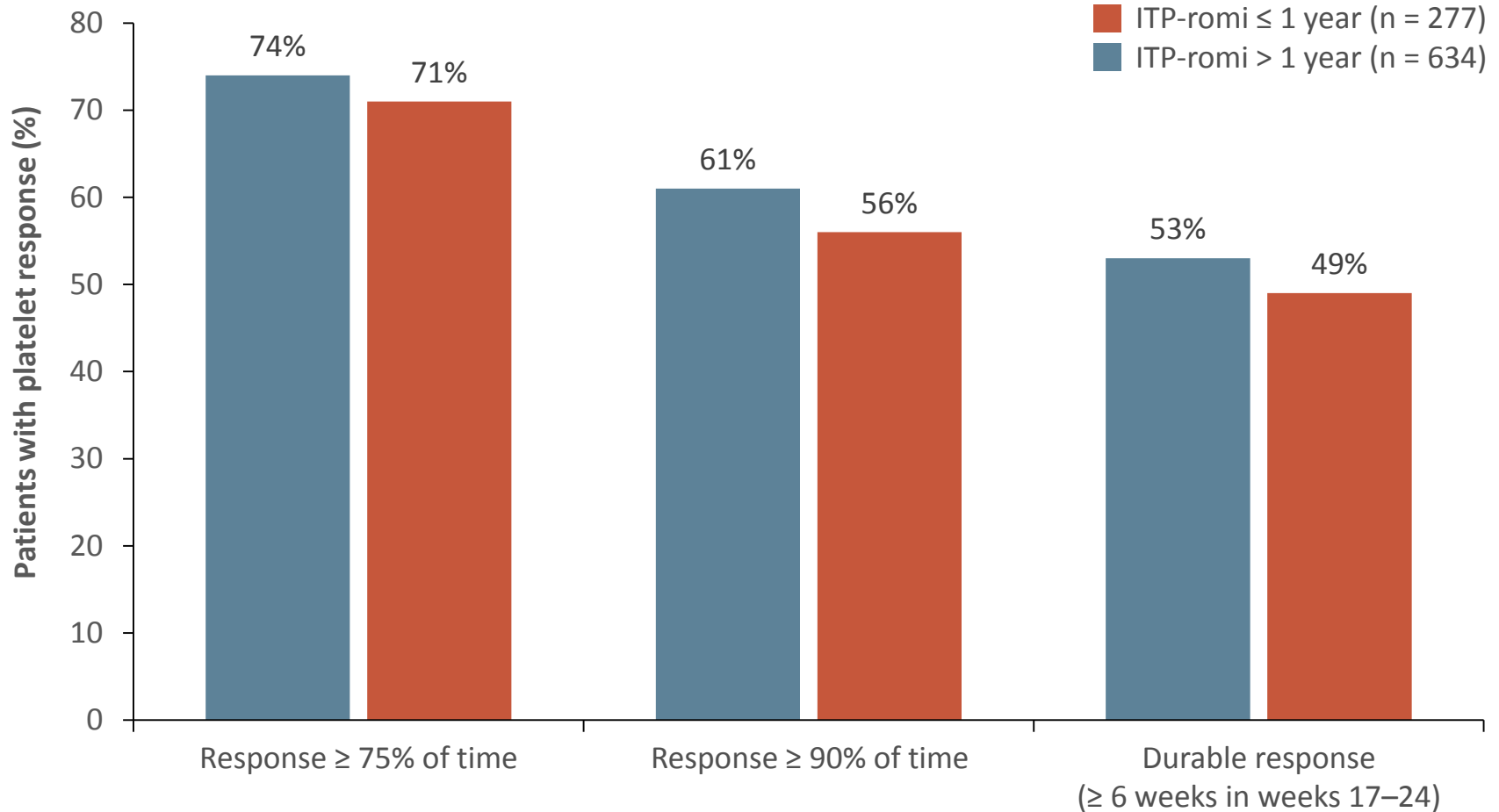
- Before 2009, > 6 months
  - Basis for regulatory approval of romiplostim and eltrombopag
- > 1 year<sup>1</sup>
  - Chronic ITP: > 12 months

- No known pathophysiological difference
  - “Epitope walking”?
- Concept of “chronic” deserves updating

# POOLED ANALYSIS OF NINE STUDIES OF ROMIPLOSTIM

	ITP ≤ 1 year			ITP > 1 year (n = 726)
	< 3 months (n = 155)	3–12 months (n = 156)	Total (n = 311)	
Female, n (%)	77 (50)	88 (56)	165 (53)	470 (65)
Age, median (Q1, Q3), years	52 (32, 69)	52 (35, 68)	52 (34, 68)	54 (42, 67)
Baseline platelet count, median (Q1, Q3), × 10 <sup>9</sup> /L	15 (8, 27)	20 (12, 29)	18 (10, 28)	18 (10, 29)
ITP duration, median (Q1, Q3), months	1.2 (0.7, 2.0)	5.8 (4.2, 8.4)	3.0 (1.2, 5.8)	72 (34, 160)
<b>Prior therapies, n (%)</b>				
≤ 3	104 (67)	98 (63)	202 (65)	251 (35)
> 3	6 (4)	11 (7)	17 (5)	162 (22)
Not collected	45 (29)	47 (30)	92 (30)	313 (43)
<b>Prior splenectomy, n (%)</b>	6 (4)	19 (12)	25 (8)	320 (44)

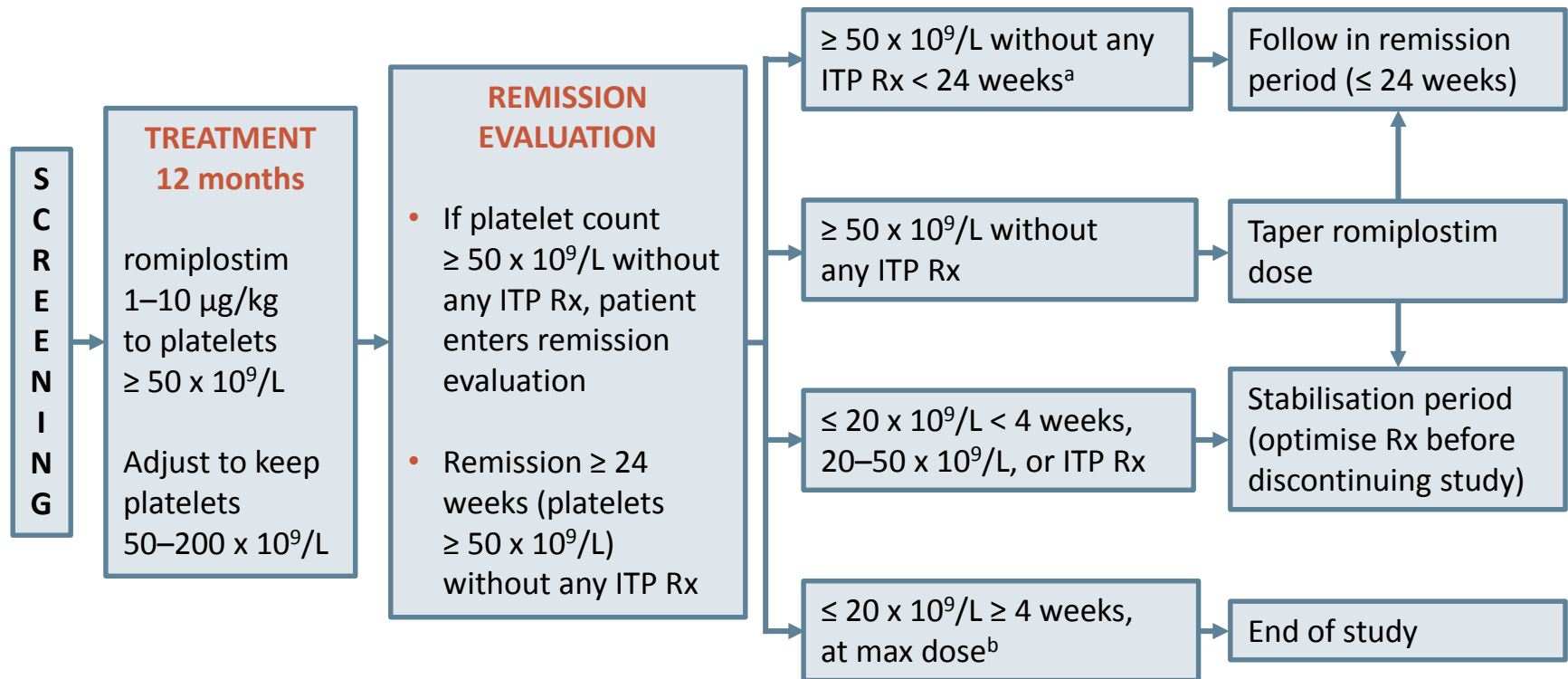
# IDENTICAL FREQUENCIES OF PLATELET RESPONSE: ITP ≤ 1 YEAR VS > 1 YEAR



ITP-romi, patients with immune thrombocytopenia treated with romiplostim

Kuter DJ, et al. Br J Haematol. 2019;185:503–13

## PHASE 2, INTERVENTIONAL, SINGLE-ARM STUDY



<sup>a</sup> For patients meeting these criteria in the treatment period, the 24 weeks would start then.

<sup>b</sup> If these criteria were met in the treatment period, treatment would be discontinued.

# EARLY ITP: RESPONSES

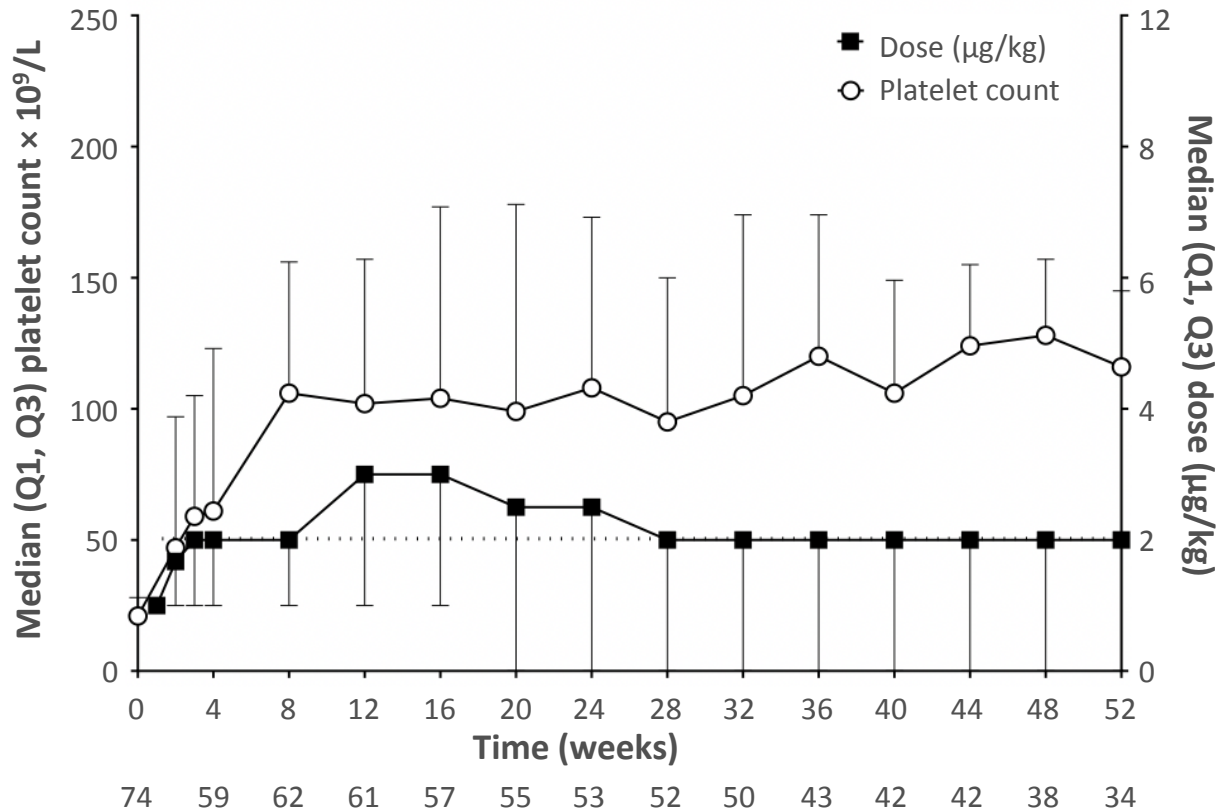
	Romiplostim (n = 75)
Patients with platelet response, <sup>a</sup> n (%)	70 (93)
Time to platelet response, median (95% CI), weeks	2.1 (1.1–3.0)
Patients with ITP remission <sup>b</sup> n (%) 95% CI, %	24 (32) (22–44)
Time to ITP remission, <sup>b</sup> median (range), weeks	27 (6–57)

<sup>a</sup> Platelet response = median platelet count  $\geq 50 \times 10^9/L$  during any month.

<sup>b</sup> Remission = all platelet counts  $\geq 50 \times 10^9/L$  for  $\geq 6$  months without romiplostim or any ITP medication.

31 patients started ITP remission. Patients starting remission were followed for 6 months only.

# PLATELET COUNTS AND DOSING: ALL PATIENTS



- A platelet count  $\geq 50 \times 10^9/L$  was achieved in 25% of patients after 1 week and in 50% after 2 weeks
- Median (Q1, Q3) treatment duration was 51 (18, 52) weeks in a 12-month period; range 0.3–52.4 weeks
- Median (Q1, Q3) average weekly dose was 2.6 (1.6, 3.9)  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ; range 0.7–9.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$

Q1, quartile 1; Q3, quartile 3

Newland A, et al. Br J Haematol. 2016;172:262–73. Newland A, et al. Blood. 2014;124):2775

- In adults with ITP lasting **≥ 3 months** who are corticosteroid-dependent or have no response to corticosteroids, the **ASH guideline** panel suggests<sup>1</sup>
  - Either splenectomy or a TPO-RA
  - Rituximab rather than splenectomy
  - TPO-RA rather than rituximab
- In adults with persistent or chronic ITP **after steroid cessation**, the International Consensus Report<sup>2</sup> recommends **medical therapy** (TPO-RA, rituximab, fostamatinib) for 12–24 months before considering splenectomy

# HOW TO TREAT ITP: SUMMARY



Many ITP patients do not need treatment



Initial treatment is prednisone or IVIg



Splenectomy works

But increased rate of VTE, infection



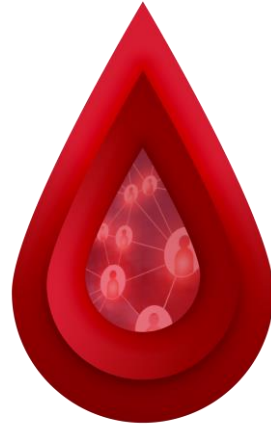
Not all ITP in adults will become or remain chronic



Give medical therapy a chance before splenectomy

- rituximab occasionally gives a long-term treatment-free response
- TPO-RAs are highly effective
  - Low rate of AEs
  - Improve HRQoL
  - May not need to be “forever”
- fostamatinib may be considered
- Don't forget danazol, azathioprine, dapsone, MMF, cyclosporine





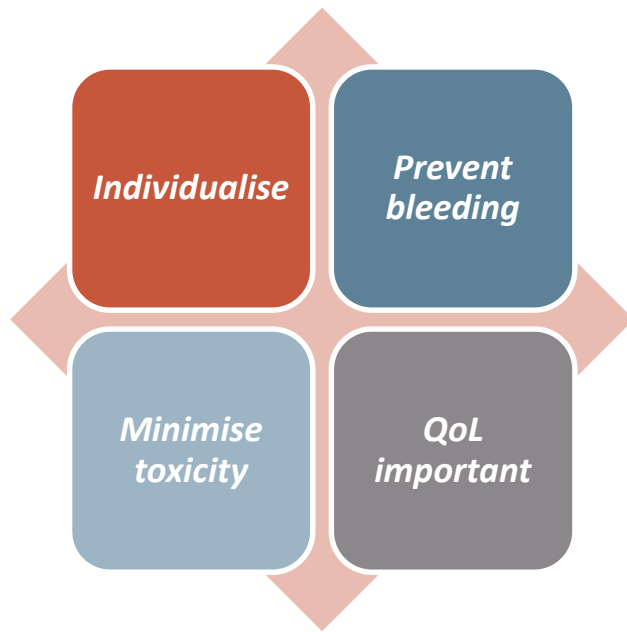
# CHANGING TREATMENT PATTERNS IN ITP: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

**Vickie McDonald**

# DISCLOSURES

- **Advisory and speaker work:** AbbVie, Amgen, Bayer, Novartis

# GOALS OF THERAPY IN ITP



Moved from  
**“The platelet count is key”** to  
**“Platelets plus symptoms (and  
 minimising toxicity) are key”**

Phase	Definition	Chance of spontaneous remission	Treatment goal
<b>New diagnosis, acute</b>	Up to 3 months after diagnosis	Common	Stop bleeding Rapid platelet count rise Prevent bleeding Cure?
<b>Persistent</b>	3–12 months after diagnosis	Less common	Stop or prevent bleeding Stabilise platelet count Mindful of AEs from medication Cure?
<b>Chronic</b>	> 12 months from diagnosis	Uncommon	Prevent bleeding Mindful of AEs from medication

## Optimising treatment

- Minimise steroid use
- Sequence therapy appropriately
- Optimise target platelet count
- Optimise timing of therapy
- Use medication for which there is the largest evidence base
- Use indicators other than platelet count, e.g. QoL and fatigue
- Understand the patient’s perspective and anxieties with ITP and its treatment
- Increase patient involvement in the choice of treatment and patient understanding of the impact of ITP on QoL<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>

AE, adverse event; ITP, immune thrombocytopenia; QoL, quality of life

1. Provan D, et al. Blood Adv. 2019;3:3780–817. 2. Neunert C, et al. Blood Adv. 2019;3:3829–66.
3. Matzdorff A, et al. Oncol Res Treat. 2018;41 suppl 5:1–30

- **Changes in guidance**

- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> line treatment

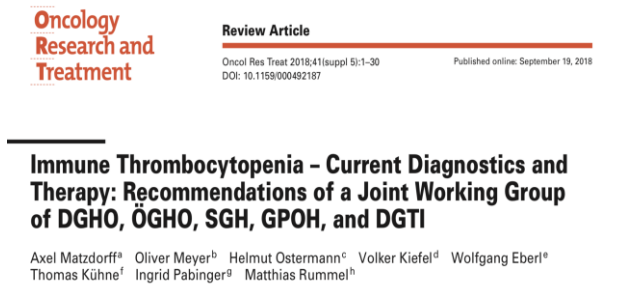


- **Trial data and literature**

- RCT data

- **Licensing**

- Changing definitions of persistent and chronic



- Localised and national **funding arrangements**

- Links to local and national guidance

# CHANGING TREATMENT USE IN THE UK: DATA FROM THE UK (PRIMARY) ITP REGISTRY

- Nationwide registry
- Eligibility criteria
  - > 18 years old
  - Living in UK
  - Platelet count <  $100 \times 10^9/L$
  - No evidence of other cause of thrombocytopenia
- Collects anonymised data
  - Epidemiology
  - Clinical and laboratory features
  - Treatment
- Plus DNA



# DEMOGRAPHICS

## (DATA ANALYSED 1/9/2019)

**Total number of patients: 3,236**

Sex, n (%)		
Female	1,814	56.7
Male	1,375	43.0
Unknown	10	0.3
Median (IQR) age at diagnosis, years		
All	50	31–66
Male	56	36–70
Female	46	28–62
Date of diagnosis, n (%)		
1/12/2008–30/11/2018	1,976	62.9
1998–2008	804	25.6
1988–1998	251	8.0
< 1988	113	3.6

Test	Data entry (%)	Median (IQR)
Full blood count		
Haemoglobin (g/L)	100	135 (127–147)
WBC ( $\times 10^9$ /L)	100	7.2 (5.5–9.96)
Platelets ( $\times 10^9$ /L)	100	21 (6–59)
Coagulation screen		
PT (sec)	100	11.7 (10.7–12.9)
APTT (sec)	100	28.5 (25.0–21.5)

## UK ITP REGISTRY (n = 3,236)

	Participants who received therapy (%)		
	1989–1998	1999–2008	2009–2018
prednisolone	70	79.1	82.5
dexamethasone	9.4	8.8	11.6
methylprednisolone	2.4	6.3	4.6
IVIg	42.4	40.3	37.7

## SPANISH REGISTRY STUDY<sup>1</sup> (n = 433)

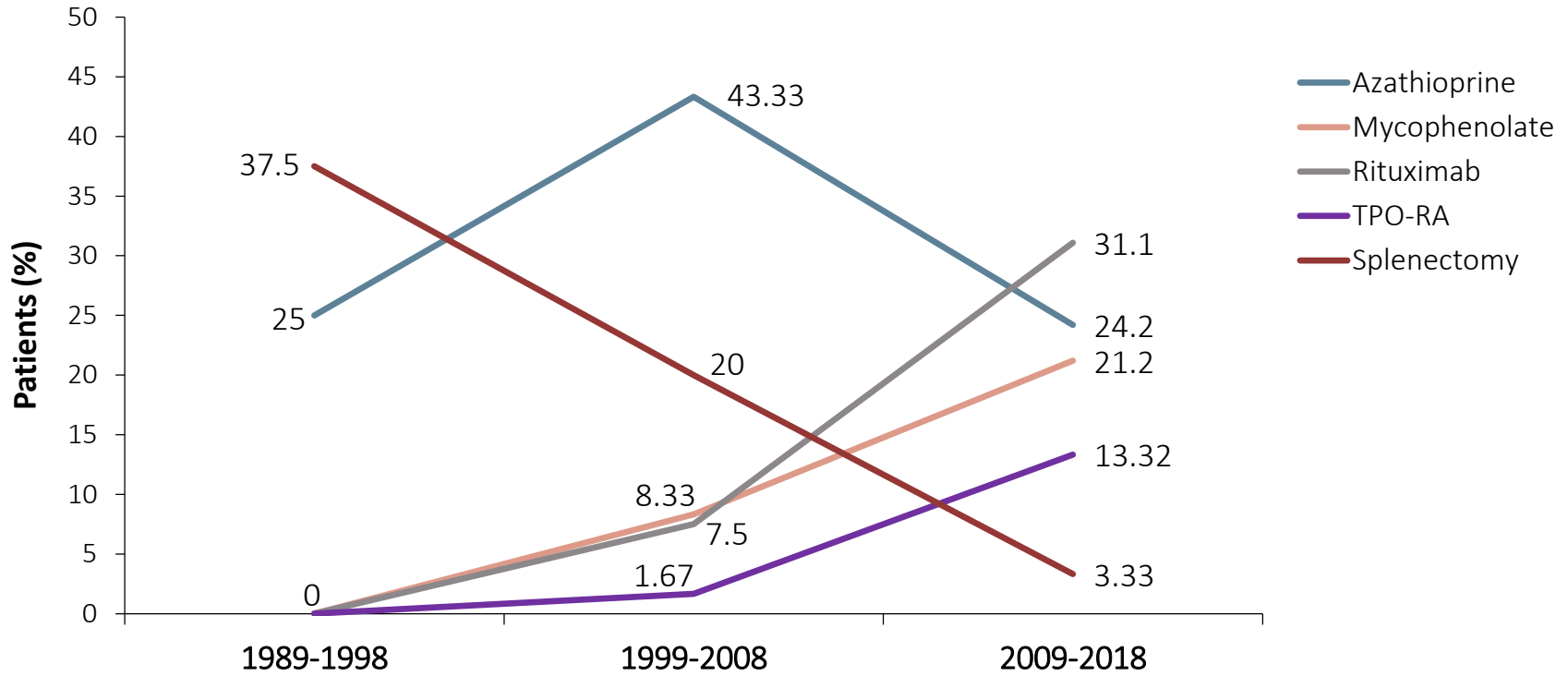
### Patterns of corticosteroid use as first-line treatment for primary ITP

	Primary ITP patients, n (%)
<b>Corticosteroid(s) as 1<sup>st</sup>-line treatment</b>	<b>324 (74.8)</b>
Corticosteroid monotherapy	176 (40.6)
Corticosteroid + IVIg (± other therapies)	142 (32.8)
Corticosteroid + other therapies (except IVIg)	6 (1.4)
<b>Type of corticosteroid</b>	
prednisone	282 (65.1)
methylprednisolone	52 (12.0)
dexamethasone	27 (6.2)
deflazacort	5 (1.1)
prednisolone	2 (0.5)

ITP, immune thrombocytopenia; IVIg, intravenous immunoglobulin

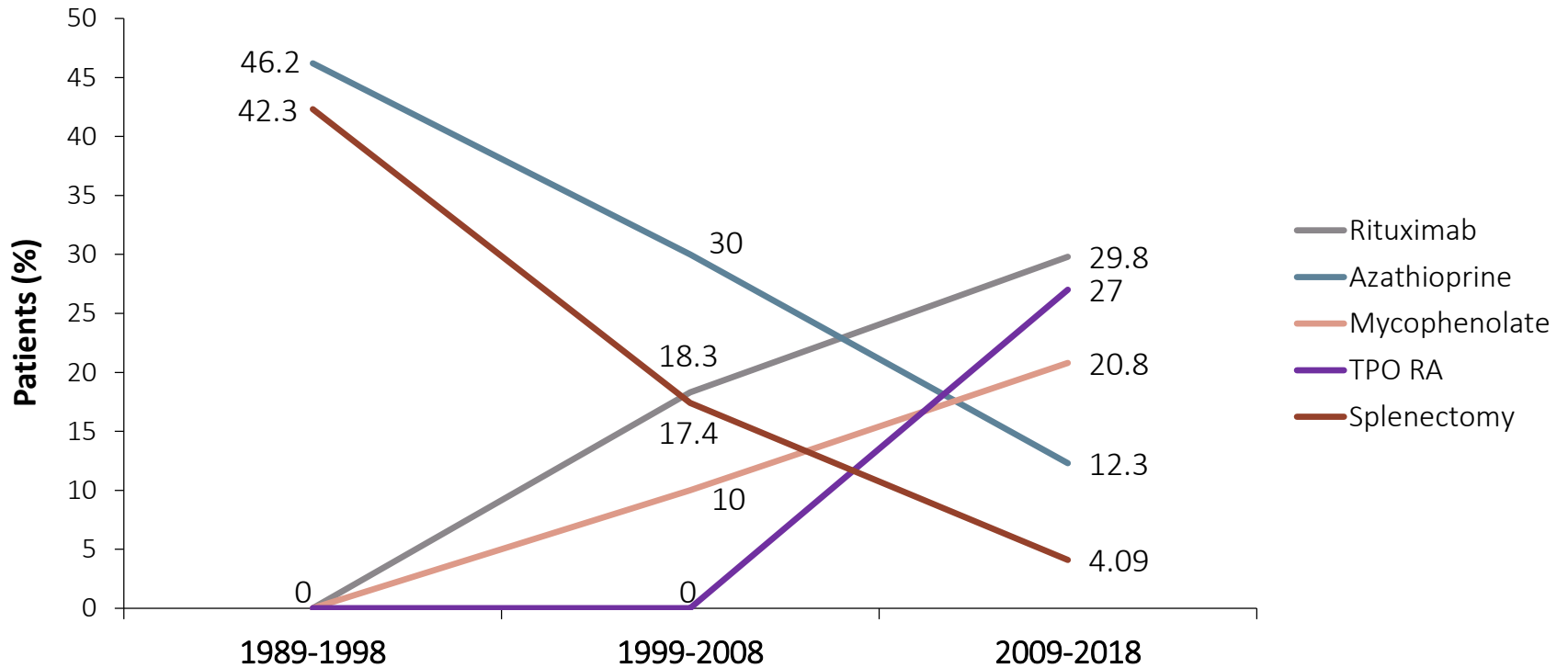
1. Palau J, et al. Hematology. 2017;22:484–92

# SECOND-LINE THERAPIES





# THIRD-LINE THERAPIES



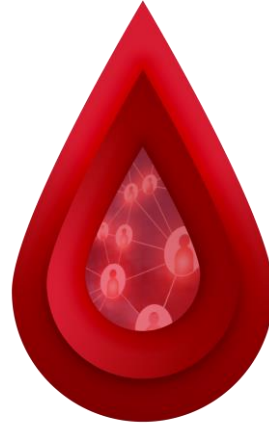
# OTHER INTERNATIONAL DATA

	USA <sup>1</sup> (2011–2016)	CARMEN <sup>2</sup>	SPANISH <sup>3</sup>
<b>Patients, n</b>	447	90 (primary ITP)	433 (primary ITP)
<b>Steroids</b>	76% by 1 year from diagnosis	60% (during week of diagnosis)	74.8%
<b>IVIg</b>	–	43% (during week of diagnosis)	5.8%
<b>Other treatments (by 1 year)</b>	rituximab 16% TPO-RA (both) 14% Splenectomy < 4%	rituximab 11 (12%) TPO-RA 15 (17%) Splenectomy 1 (1%) danazol 7 (8%)	Splenectomy 3.5%

ITP, immune thrombocytopenia; IVIg, intravenous immunoglobulin; TPO-RA, thrombopoietin receptor agonist

1. Cetin K, et al. Blood. 2018;132 suppl 1:497. 2. Moulis G, et al. Am J Hematol. 2017;92:493–500.

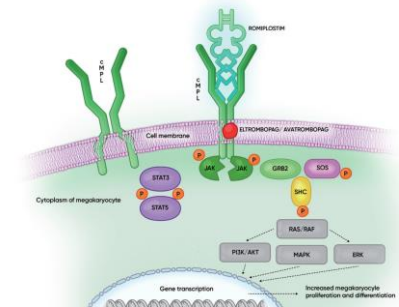
3. Palau J, et al. Hematology. 2017;22:484–92



# WHAT IS KNOWN ABOUT LONG-TERM REMISSION WITH TPO-RA IN CHRONIC ITP?

**Vickie McDonald**

# TPO-RA SUMMARY



	romiplostim	eltrombopag	avatrombopag
<b>Type of molecule</b>	Peptide	Small molecule	Small molecule
<b>TPO receptor site of action</b>	Extracellular	Transmembrane	Transmembrane
<b>Potency</b>	8-10 times increased platelet count at maximum dose compared to eltrombopag	-	3-5 times increased platelet count at maximum dose compared to eltrombopag
<b>Route</b>	Subcutaneously once weekly	Oral, daily	Oral, daily
<b>Administration considerations</b>	Can patient self-administer injections	Timing in relation to food containing calcium	None
<b>Safety and tolerability</b>	Well tolerated, low AEs Reticulin and VTE comparable Antibody development	Well tolerated, low AEs Reticulin and VTE comparable Transaminitis	Well tolerated, low AEs VTE comparable Reticulin has not been studied
<b>Current indications</b>	Chronic ITP (adults and children)	Chronic ITP (adults and children) Hepatitis C-associated thrombocytopenia Severe aplastic anaemia	Periprocedural thrombocytopenia in patients with chronic liver disease Chronic ITP (USA), awaiting regulatory approval in EU

AE, adverse event; ITP, immune thrombocytopenia; TPO, thrombopoietin; VTE, venous thromboembolism

Ghanima W, et al. Haematologica. 2019;104:1112–23. Al-Samkari H and Kuter DJ. Ther Adv Hematol. 2019;10:2040620719841735

# TPO-RAs CAN INDUCE A LONG-LASTING IMMUNOLOGICAL RESPONSE

Increased or improved T-regulatory cell activity<sup>1</sup>

Increased B-regulatory cell activity<sup>2</sup>

Increased TGF-beta (mediates the increased T- and B-regulatory cell activity)<sup>3</sup>

Change in Fc receptors: reversal of Fc receptor balance towards FcRIIb (inhibitory)<sup>4</sup>

Reduces antiplatelet antibody levels in mice with ITP<sup>5</sup>

FcRIIb, Fc receptor IIb; ITP, immune thrombocytopenia; TGF, transforming growth factor; TPO-RA, thrombopoietin receptor agonist

1. Bao W, et al. Blood. 2010;116:4639–45. 2. Li X, et al. Blood. 2012;120:3318–25. 3. Wan YY, Flavell RA. Immunol Rev. 2007;220:199–213. 4. Liu X-G, et al. Blood. 2016;128:852–61. 5. Kapur R, et al. Platelets. 2020;31:399–402

# TREATMENT FREE “REMISSION” IN ITP: TERMINOLOGY

- Treatment-free remission vs thrombocytopenia-free remission
  - Significance of terminology
  - Complete response (CR): Platelets  $\geq 100 \times 10^9/L$
  - (Partial) response: Platelets  $\geq 30 \times 10^9/L$  and two-fold increase from baseline
- Treatment-free remission
  - No longer requiring active therapy, considered low risk for bleeding
- What threshold?
  - Platelets  $> 50 \times 10^9/L$
  - Platelets  $> 30 \times 10^9/L$
- For how long?
- Mazzucconi et al.<sup>1</sup>
  - “Durable response”: response or CR lasting  $\geq 4$  weeks with a stable dose of TPO-RA
  - “Sustained response”: platelet count  $\geq 30 \times 10^9/L$  after  $> 4$  weeks since TPO-RA discontinuation, in the absence of concomitant treatments



# SUSTAINED RESPONSES TO TPO-RA OFF TREATMENT<sup>1</sup>

Study	Patients, n	Patients who discontinued TPO-RA, n (% of all patients)	Patients with off-treatment responses, n (% of all patients)	Median follow-up, months
Leven et al.	15	5 (33)	5 (33)	6+
Mahevas et al.	54	20 (37)	8 (15)	13.5
Cervinek et al.	46	11 (24)	11 (24)	33
Gonzalez-Lopez et al.	12	12 (100)	12 (100)	7
Newland et al.	4	3 (75)	3 (75)	29.5
Marshall et al.	43	12 (28)	12 (28)	20
Bussel et al.	302	10 (3)	9 (3)	6+
Carpenedo et al.	27	13 (48)	13 (48)	26
Mazzucconi et al. <sup>2</sup>	39	7 (18)	7 (18)	19.4

TPO-RA, thrombopoietin receptor agonist

1. Zaja F, et al. Blood Rev. 2020;41:100647. 2. Mazzucconi MG, et al. Eur J Haematol. 2017;98:242–9

# POSSIBLE CRITERIA TO BE CONSIDERED AS PARAMETERS OF TPO-RA TAPERING AND DISCONTINUATION

Patients to consider for tapering	Patients to perhaps not consider for tapering
Patients with a CR and treated with lower doses of a TPO-RA for $\geq 6$ months *? CR or lower platelet count acceptable	Patients requiring high-dose TPO-RA and platelets $< 50 \times 10^9/L$ ITP that was previously hard to manage
ITP duration: not predictive but better if shorter	TPO-RA $< 6/12$ months
Age of patient: not predictive	High risk of bleeding if treatment stopped
Number of lines of previous treatment: not predictive, but better if low	On concurrent antiplatelets or anticoagulants required to support higher platelet count
	Significant comorbidities, risk of recurrent infection

CR, complete response; ITP, immune thrombocytopenia; TPO-RA, thrombopoietin receptor agonist

Bradbury C, et al. HemaSphere. 2(Suppl 1):PF668. Cooper N, et al. HemaSphere. 2(Suppl 1):PF670. Thachil J, et al. Br J Haematol. 2018;180:591–4. Zaja F, et al. Blood Rev. 2020;41:100647

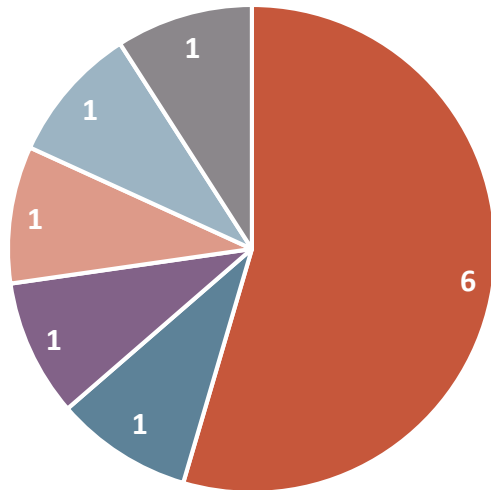


# HOW TO TAPER: NO INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS

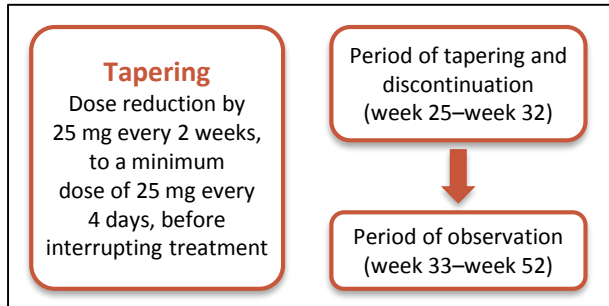
## EXPERT OPINION

### DOSE REDUCTION: HOW QUICKLY?

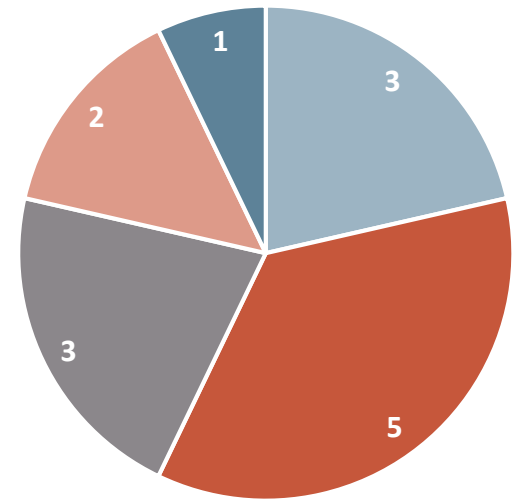
romiplostim (considering a dose of  $x$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  every week before tapering)



- Go to  $x - 1$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  every week
- Go to  $x - 1$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  every other week
- Go to  $x - 2$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  every week
- Go to  $x - 2$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  every other week
- Extend the same dose by 1 day
- At fortnightly intervals drop to 75% of  $x$ , then 50%, then 25%, then 10%, then stop



eltrombopag (considering a dose of 50 mg every day before tapering)



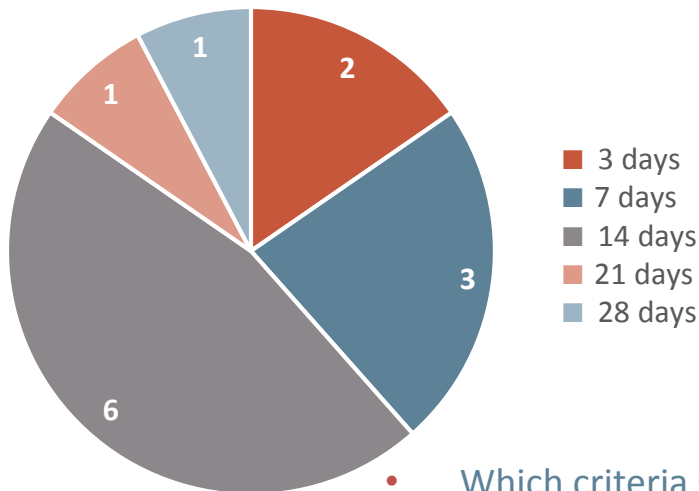
- 37.5 mg daily
- 25 mg daily
- 25 mg alternating with 50 mg
- 50 mg 6 days per week
- 50 mg 5 days per week

# HOW DO WE MONITOR TAPERING AND DEFINE FAILURE?

## EXPERT OPINION

### MONITOR: HOW CLOSELY?

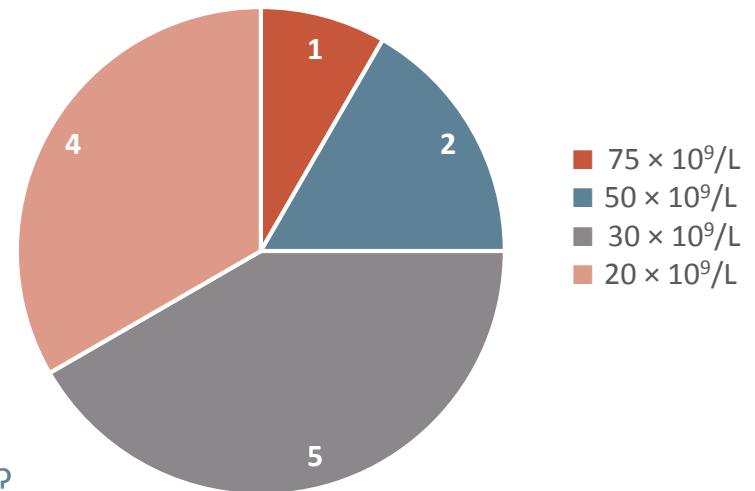
Time to platelet-count monitoring after initiating TPO-RA dose reduction



- Which criteria should we use?
  - Platelet count: 50 vs 30 vs 20 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L
  - Bleeding
  - QoL
- Trial data needed: TAPER<sup>1</sup>

### TAPER FAILURE?

If you are tapering off TPO-RA, below which platelet count would you reinstitute treatment or stop tapering or add another treatment?



NO EVIDENCE

QoL, quality of life; TPO-RA, thrombopoietin receptor agonist

Cooper N, et al. EHA 2019; abstract PB2251. Zaja F, et al. Blood Rev. 2020;41:100647

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## UK ITP registry team

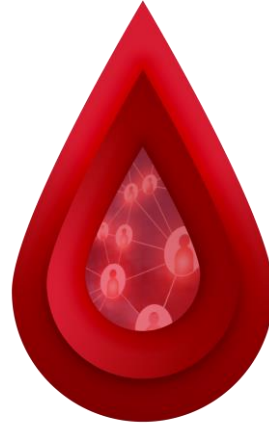
H Miah  
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	Bwrdd Iechyd Cwm Taf Health Board, Prince Charles Hospital and Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Wales
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Dr W Lester	Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham
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Dr V McDonald	The Royal London Hospital
Dr M Mohan	Colchester General Hospital
Dr T Moorby	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, King's Mill Hospital
Dr L Munro	Scarborough Hospital, York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Prof M Murphy	Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust / The Churchill Hospital
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# WHAT IS THE LONG-TERM SAFETY PROFILE OF TPO-RAs?

**David J. Kuter**

# POTENTIAL ADVERSE CONSEQUENCE OF THROMBOPOIETIC GROWTH FACTORS

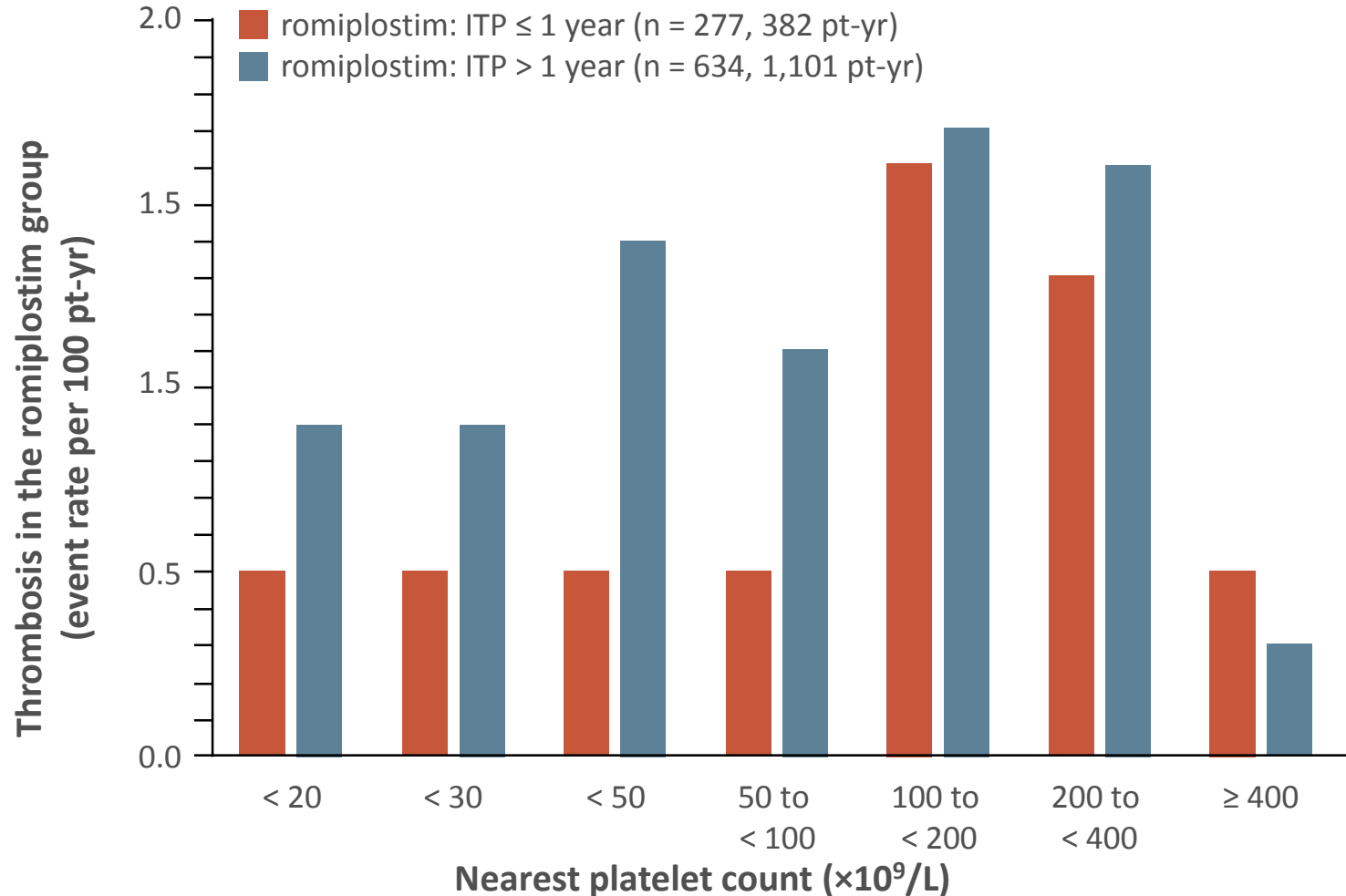
- Thrombocytosis
- **Thrombosis**
- Stimulation of tumour growth
- Stimulation of leukaemia cell growth
- Interactions with other cytokines
- **Autoantibody formation**
- Stem cell depletion
- Reduction of threshold for platelet activation
- **Rebound worsening of thrombocytopenia**
- **Increased bone-marrow reticulin**

# POOLED ANALYSIS: THROMBOTIC EVENTS IN ALL ROMIPILOSTIM STUDIES

	Romiplostim	Placebo or SOC
	n = 994	n = 138
	<b>1,520 pt-yr</b>	<b>110 pt-yr</b>
<b>Thrombotic or thromboembolic events</b>	83 (8.4%)	6 (4.3%)
	<b>5.5/100 pt-yr CI 4.4–6.8</b>	<b>5.5/100 pt-yr CI 2.0–11.9</b>
<b>Serious thrombotic or thromboembolic events</b>	61 (6.5%)	2 (1.4%)
	<b>4.0/100 pt-yr CI 3.1–5.2</b>	<b>1.8/100 pt-yr CI 0.2–6.6</b>

**No relation with platelet count**

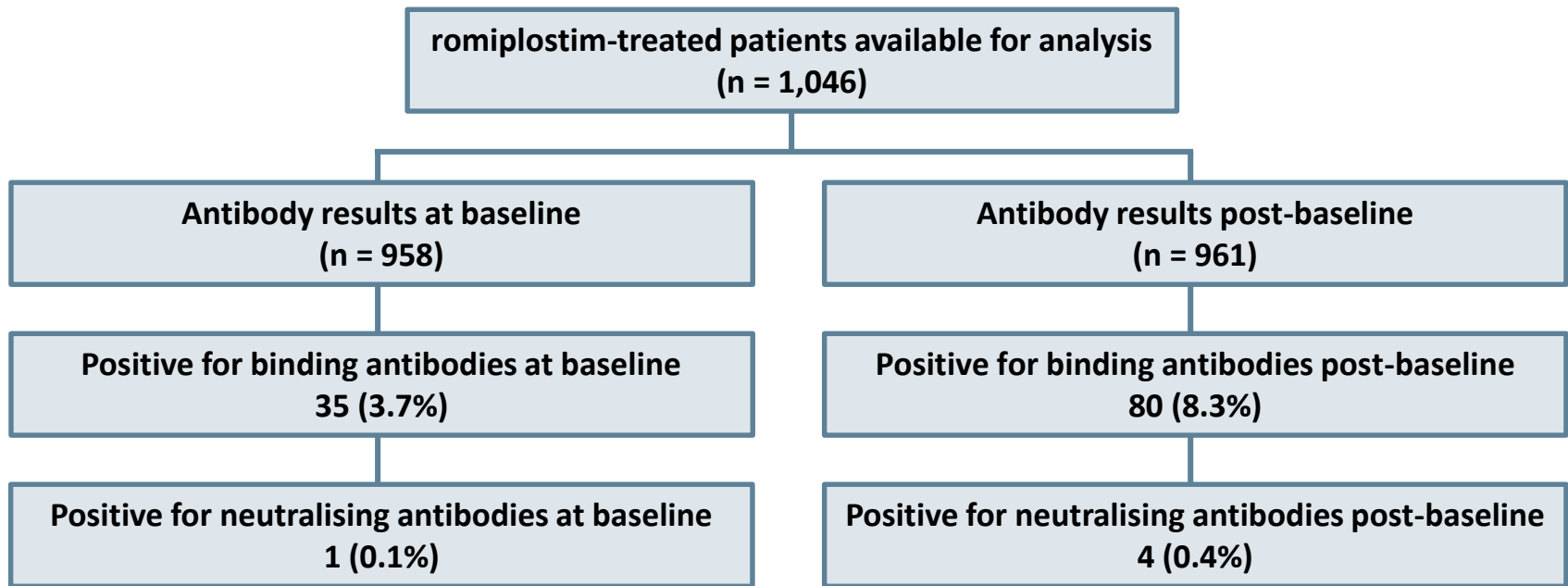
# NO RELATION BETWEEN PLATELET COUNT AND THROMBOSIS EVENTS



ITP, immune thrombocytopenia; pt-yr, patient-years

Kuter DJ, et al. Br J Haematol. 2019;185:503–13

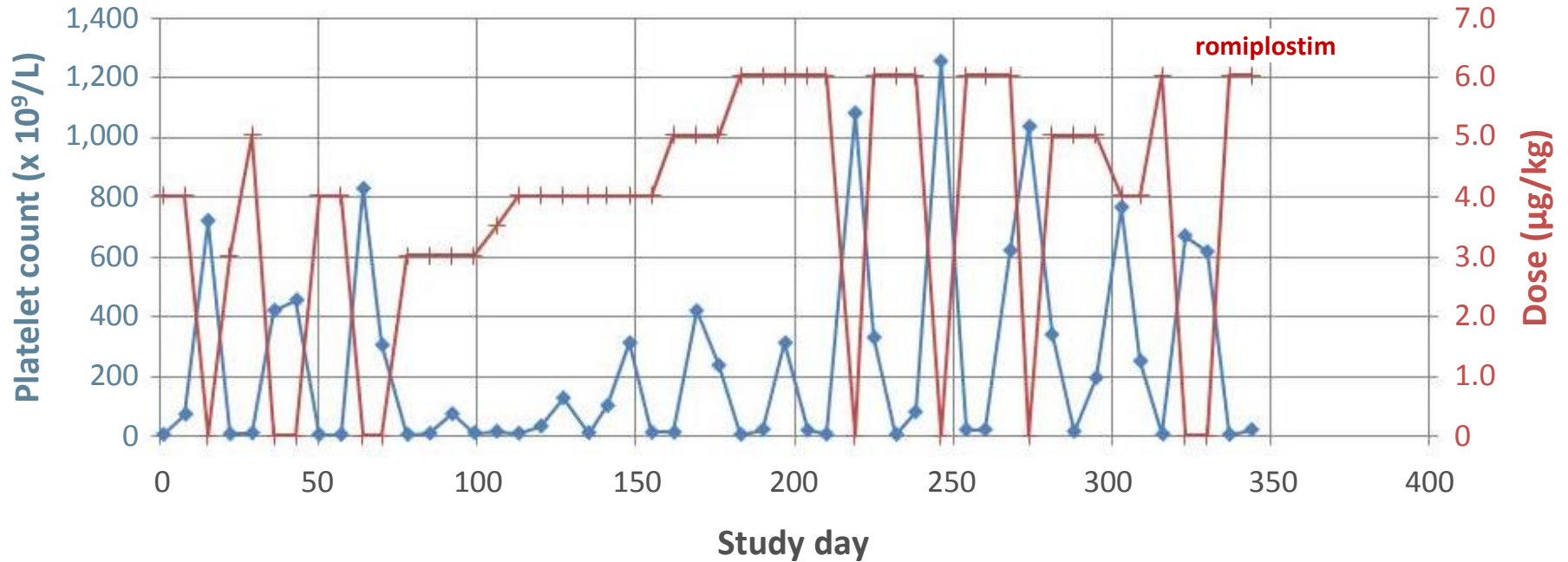
# ANTIBODIES TO TPO-RA (ROMIPILOSTIM) ARE RARE



- No TPO-neutralising antibodies
- No effect on platelet count



# DANGER OF WITHHOLDING A DOSE



**Platelet count**  
Mean (SD) 239 (328)  
Median (range) 53 (5–1,257)

**Dose**  
Mean (SD) 4 (2) µg/kg  
Median (range) 4 (0–6) µg/kg

# BONE MARROW FIBROSIS: PROSPECTIVE TRIALS

- **NCT00907478:** a prospective study evaluating changes in bone marrow morphology in adult subjects receiving romiplostim for the treatment of thrombocytopenia associated with ITP<sup>1,2</sup>
  - Bone marrow studies at baseline and after 1, 2, and 3 years of treatment
  - Primary endpoint: rate of collagen fibrosis
  - Multiple secondary endpoints: reticulin
- **NCT01098487:** a longitudinal 2-year bone marrow study of eltrombopag in previously treated adults with chronic ITP<sup>3,4</sup>
  - Bone marrow studies at baseline and after 1 and 2 years of treatment

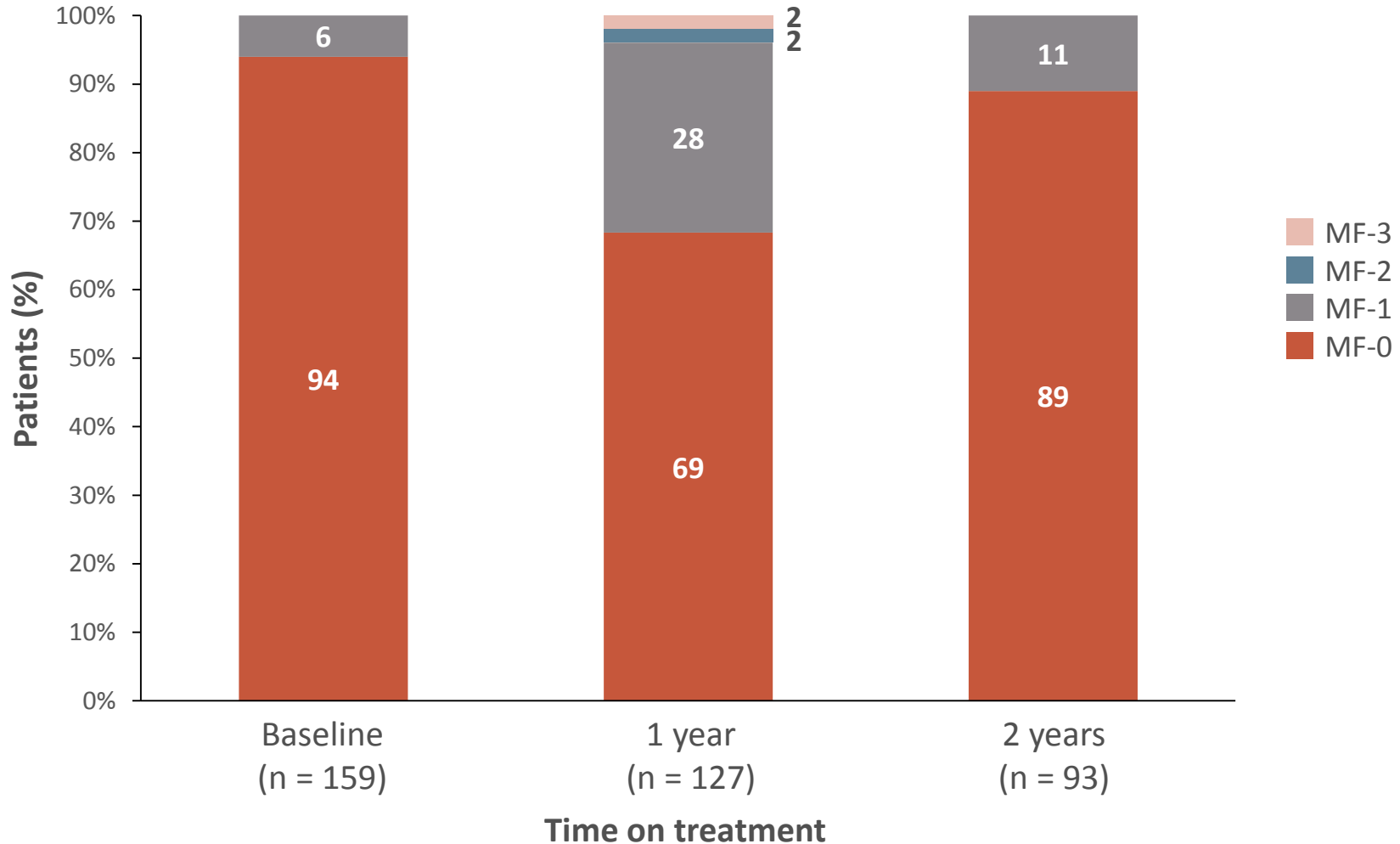
ITP, immune thrombocytopenia

1. Study NCT00907478. Available at <http://clinicaltrials.gov>. Accessed 12 June 2020. 2. Janssens A, et al. Ann Hematol. 2016;95:1077–87. 3. Study NCT01098487. Available at <http://clinicaltrials.gov>. Accessed 12 June 2020. 4. Brynes RK, et al. Acta Haematol. 2017;137:66–72

# INCIDENCE OF BONE MARROW FIBROSIS IN ITP PATIENTS TREATED WITH ROMIPLOSTIM

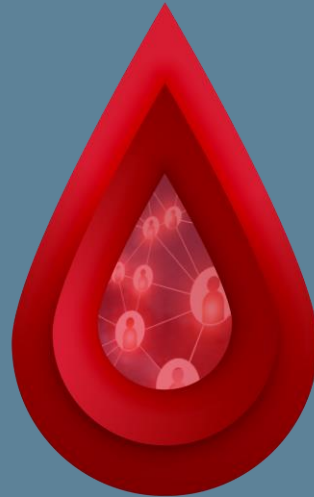
	After 1 year (n = 50)	After 2 years (n = 50)	After 3 years (n = 69)	All groups (n = 169)
<b>Evaluable for collagen (trichrome stain), n</b>	42	38	52	132
<b>Positive for collagen, n (%)</b>	1 (2.4)	0	1 (1.9)	2 (1.5)
<b>Evaluable for reticulin (silver stain), n</b>	41	38	52	131
<b>Reticulin increase by ≥ 2 grades, n (%)</b>	2 (4.9)	1 (2.6)	4 (7.7)	7 (5.3)

# INCIDENCE OF BONE MARROW FIBROSIS IN ITP PATIENTS TREATED WITH ELTROMBOPAG



ITP, immune thrombocytopenia; MF, marrow fibrosis (European Consensus scale)

Brynes RK, et al. Acta Haematol. 2017;137:66–72



# CURRENT CHALLENGES AND NOVEL TREATMENT OPTIONS IN ITP

**Jerzy Windyga**  
**David J. Kuter**  
**Vickie McDonald**

# CASE: MR RUSSO

## PART 1

### PATIENT FROM A HIGH-RISK CORONAVIRUS AREA PRESENTS WITH ITP



53-year-old man presents with bleeding gums and generalised petechiae



History of episodes of bleeding gums and easy bruising, type 2 diabetes, and rheumatoid arthritis



Platelet count  $16 \times 10^9/L$   
Other haematological and biochemical parameters and liver function tests normal

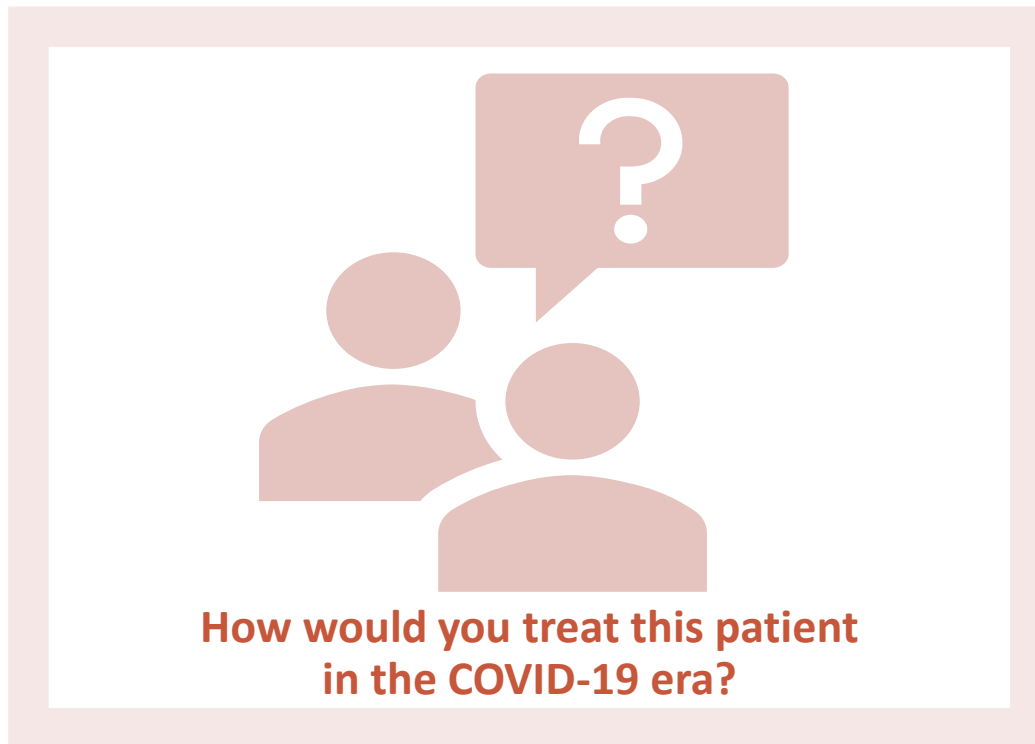


Recently visited family in northern Italy

# CASE: MR RUSSO

## PART 1

### PATIENT FROM A HIGH-RISK CORONAVIRUS AREA PRESENTS WITH ITP



1. Is hospitalisation required?
2. What should be the first-line therapy?
3. Has COVID-19 changed the role of steroids in the treatment of ITP?
4. What can be done to minimize the number of hospital visits?

# CASE: MR RUSSO

## PART 2

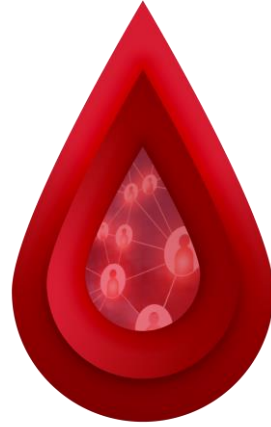
### PATIENT DEVELOPS REFRACTORY ITP



3 years later, Mr Russo still regularly has bleeding gums, petechiae, and blood in stool, despite treatment with a TPO-RA

**What novel treatment options are in the pipeline to treat a patient with refractory, chronic ITP?**



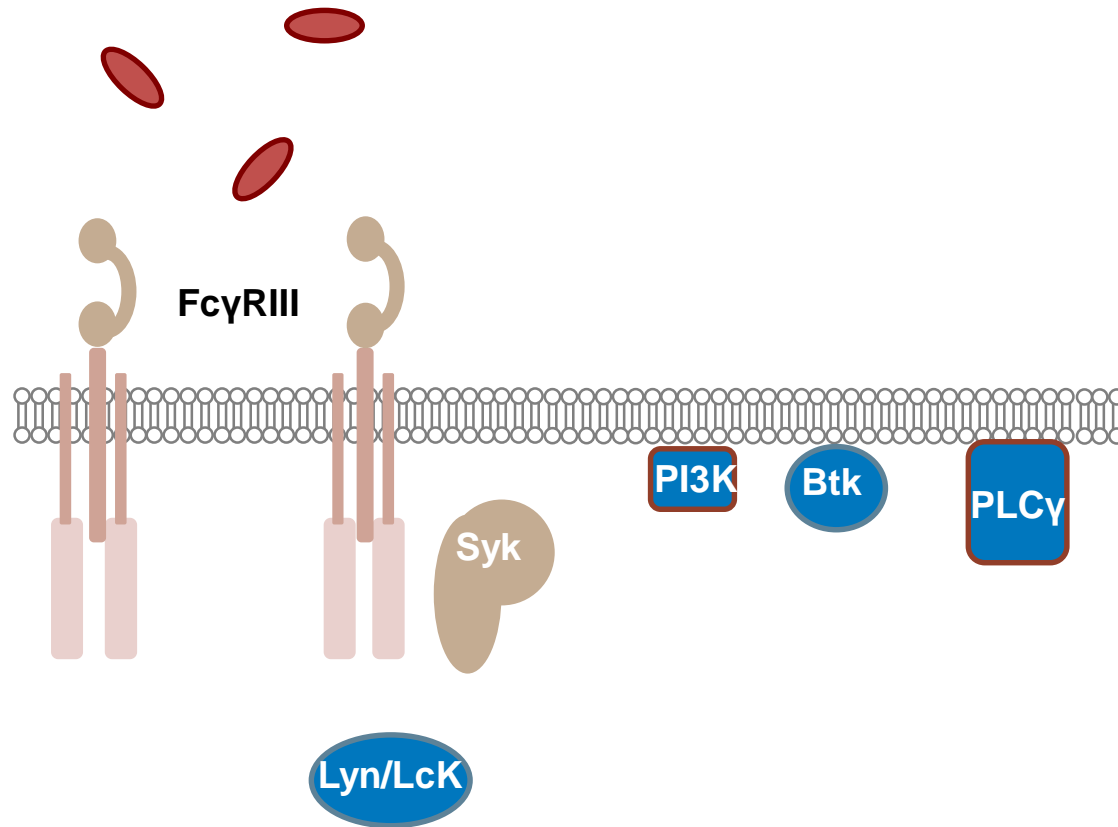


# WHAT NOVEL DRUGS ARE IN THE PIPELINE TO TREAT THIS PATIENT?

**David J. Kuter**

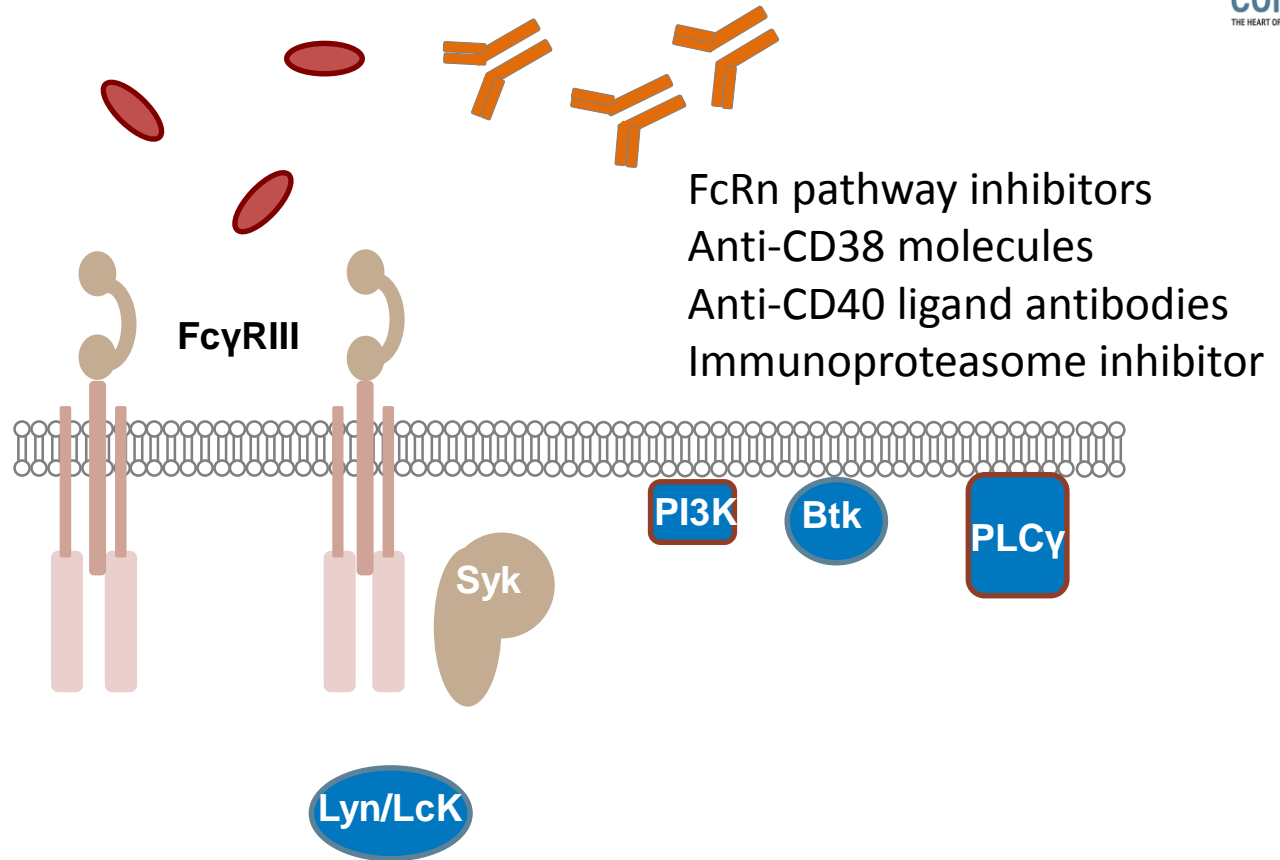
# NOVEL THERAPIES FOR ITP

- **FcRn pathway inhibitors**
  - Increase clearance of antiplatelet antibody
- **Anti-CD38 molecules**
  - Inhibit plasma cells
- **Anti-CD40 ligand antibodies**
  - Reduce production of antiplatelet antibody
- **Immunoproteasome inhibitor**
  - Reduces antibody
- **Sialylated IgG**
  - Blocks macrophage FcR
- **Stradomers**
  - Recombinant Fc multimers reduce phagocytosis
- **Bruton kinase inhibitors**
  - Ibrutinib
  - Rilzabrutinib (PRN1008)
- **Syk kinase inhibitors**
  - Fostamatinib
- **Complement inhibitor**
  - Antibody against C1s
- **Recombinant TPO**
  - Use in pregnancy
- **Low-level laser light**
  - Prevents megakaryocyte apoptosis



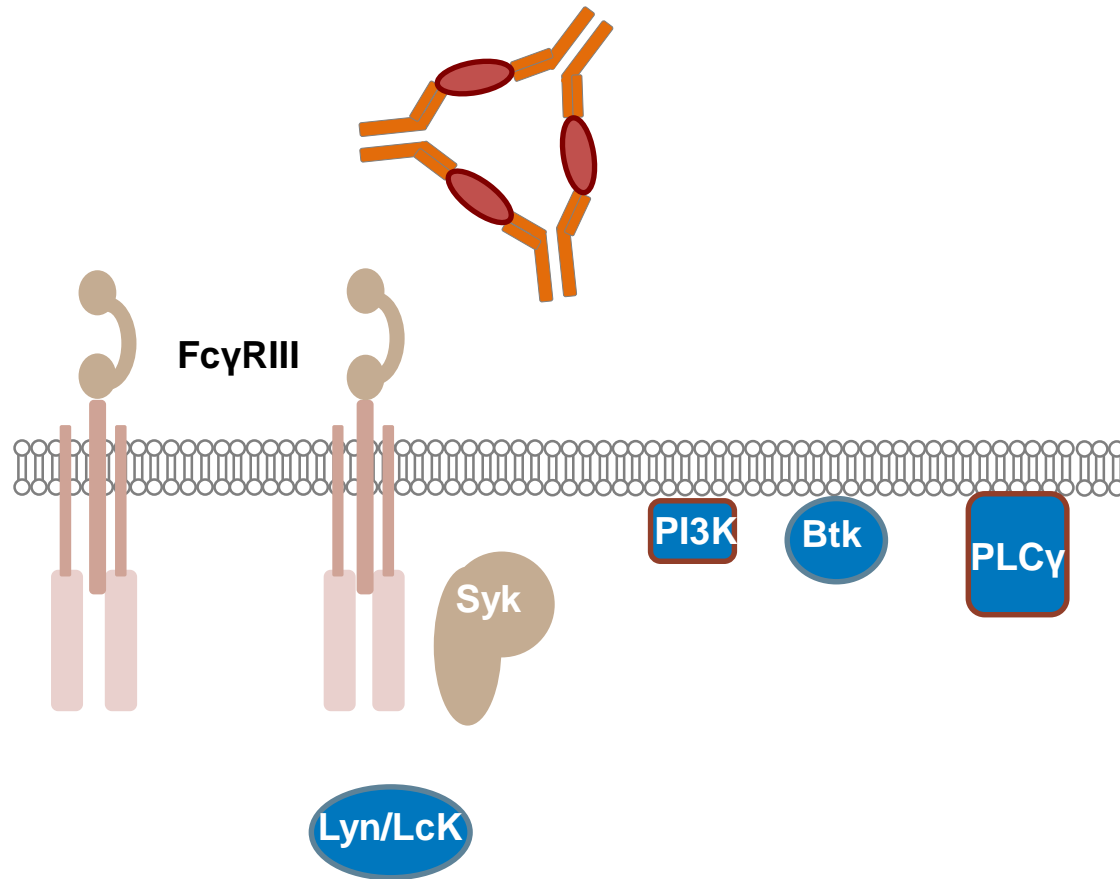
Btk, Bruton tyrosine kinase; FcγRIII, Fc gamma receptor III; PI3K, phosphatidylinositol-3 kinase; PLCγ, phospholipase C gamma; Syk, spleen tyrosine kinase

Nimmerjahn F, Ravetch JV. *Ann Rev Immunol.* 2008;26:513–33



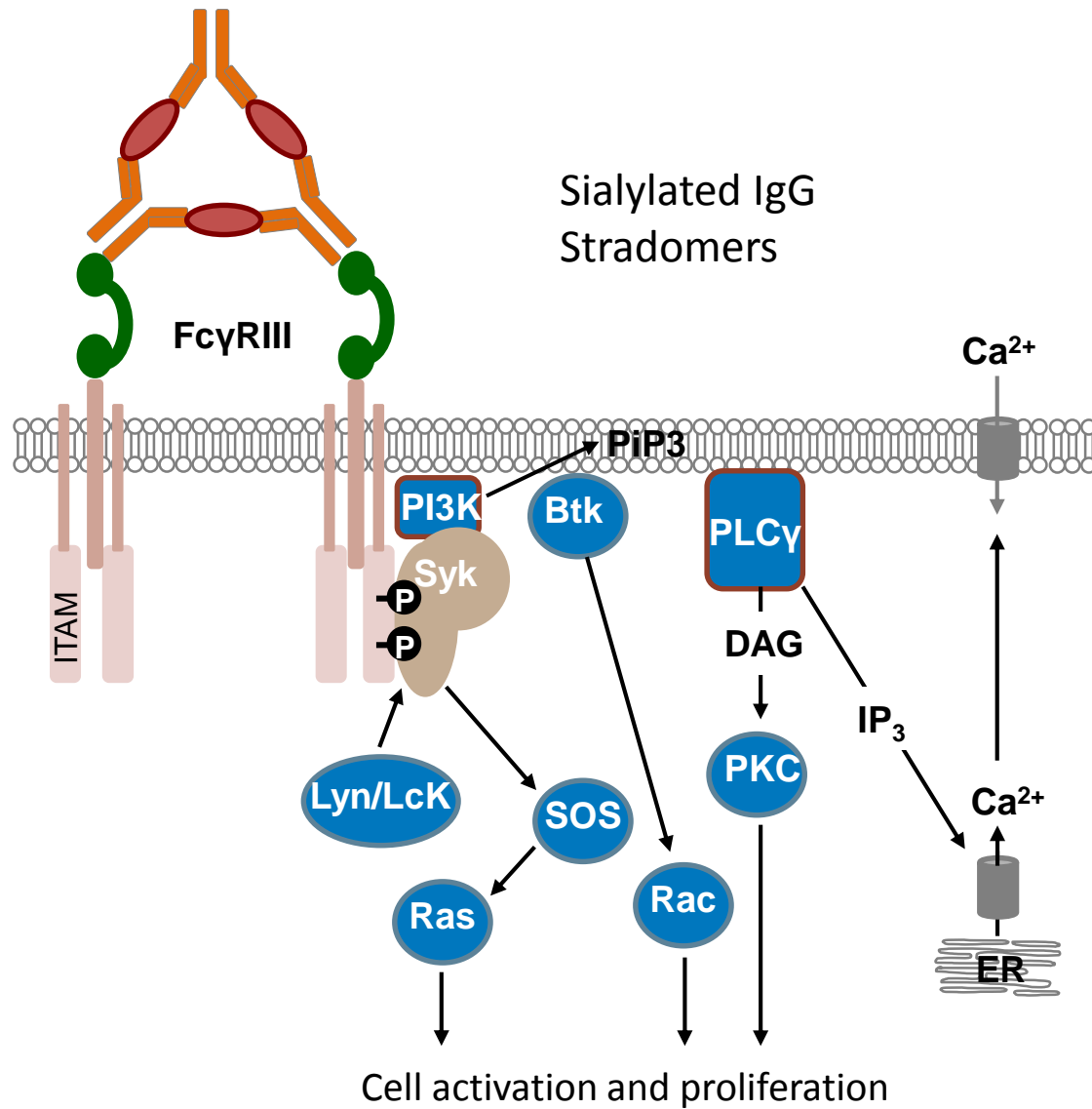
Btk, Bruton tyrosine kinase; FcγRIII, Fc gamma receptor III; FcRn, neonatal Fc receptor; PI3K, phosphatidylinositol-3 kinase; PLCγ, phospholipase C gamma; Syk, spleen tyrosine kinase

Nimmerjahn F, Ravetch JV. Ann Rev Immunol. 2008;26:513–33



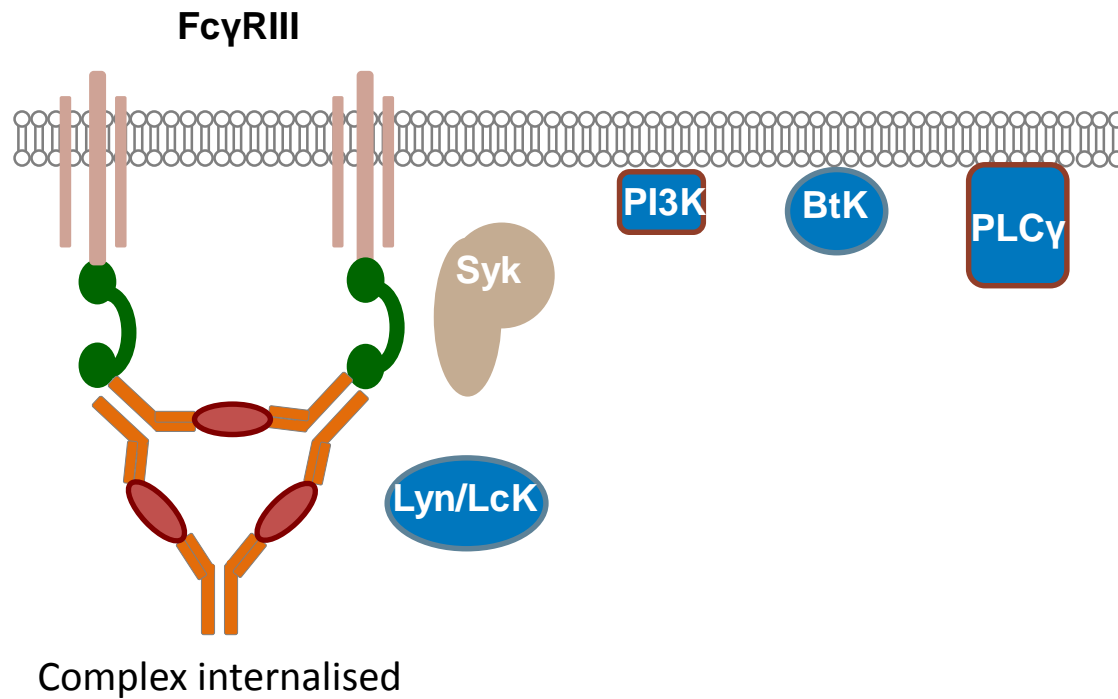
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Nimmerjahn F, Ravetch JV. *Ann Rev Immunol.* 2008;26:513–33



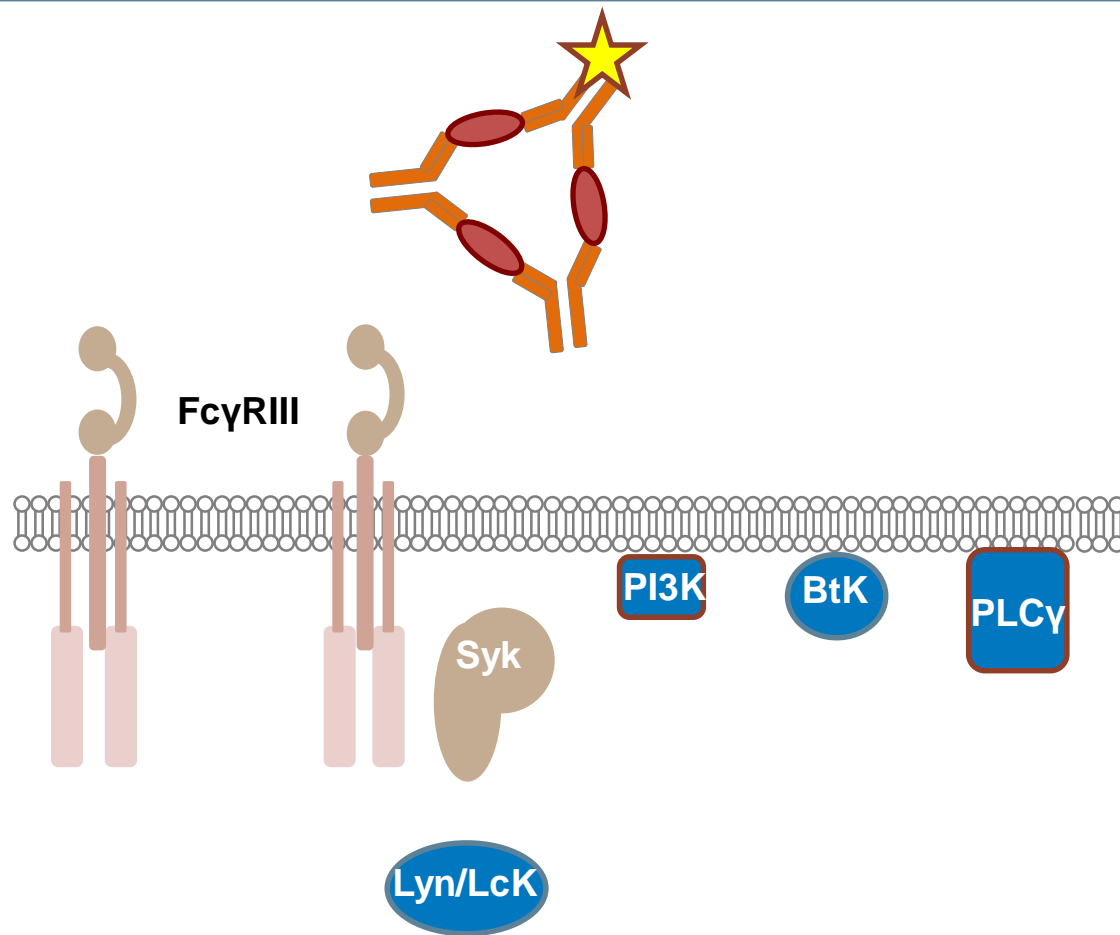
Btk, Bruton tyrosine kinase; ER, endoplasmic reticulum; FcγRIII, Fc gamma receptor III; IP<sub>3</sub>, inositol trisphosphate; ITAM, immunoreceptor tyrosine-kinase-based activation motifs; PIIP3, phosphatidylinositol (3,4,5)-trisphosphate; PKC, protein kinase C; PI3K, phosphatidylinositol-3 kinase; PLCγ, phospholipase C gamma; Syk, spleen tyrosine kinase

## Bruton kinase inhibitor Syk kinase inhibitors



Btk, Bruton tyrosine kinase; FcγRIII, Fc gamma receptor III; PI3K, phosphatidylinositol-3 kinase; PLCγ, phospholipase C gamma; Syk, spleen tyrosine kinase

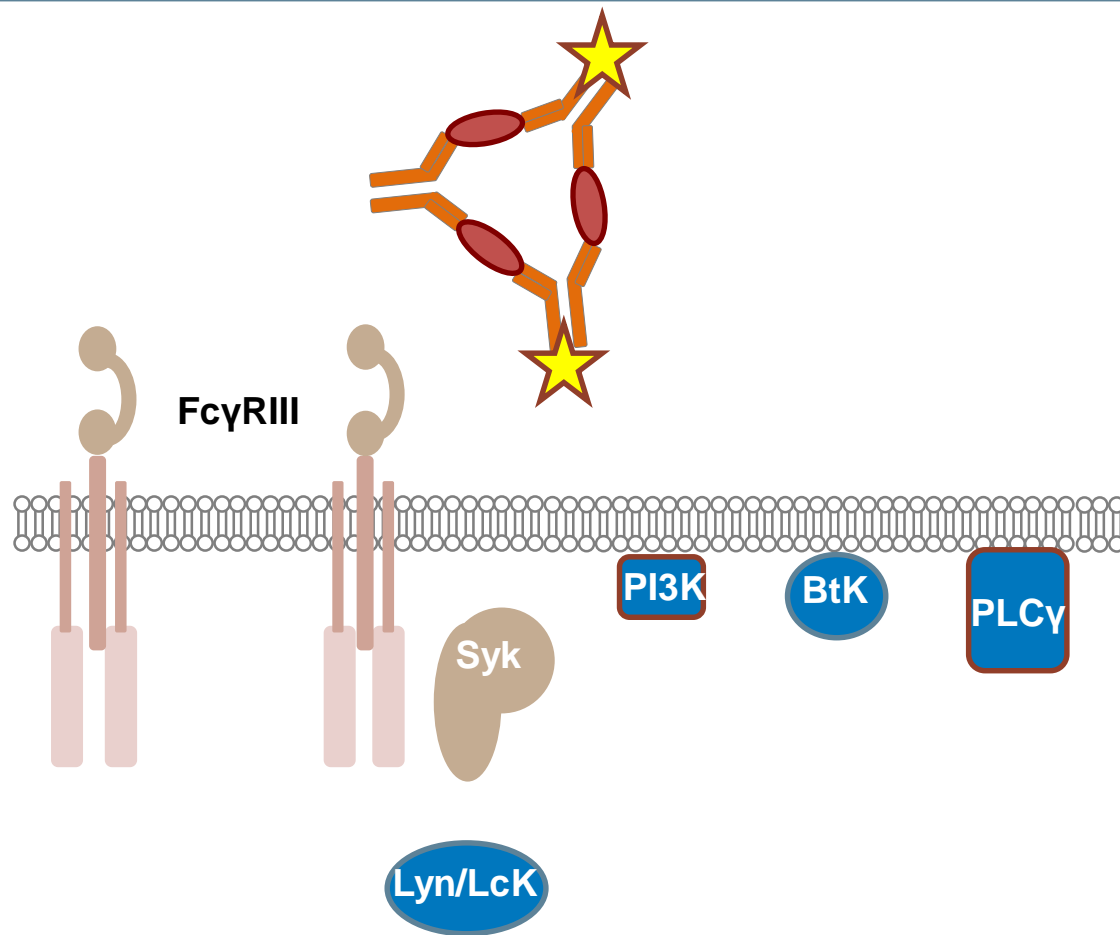
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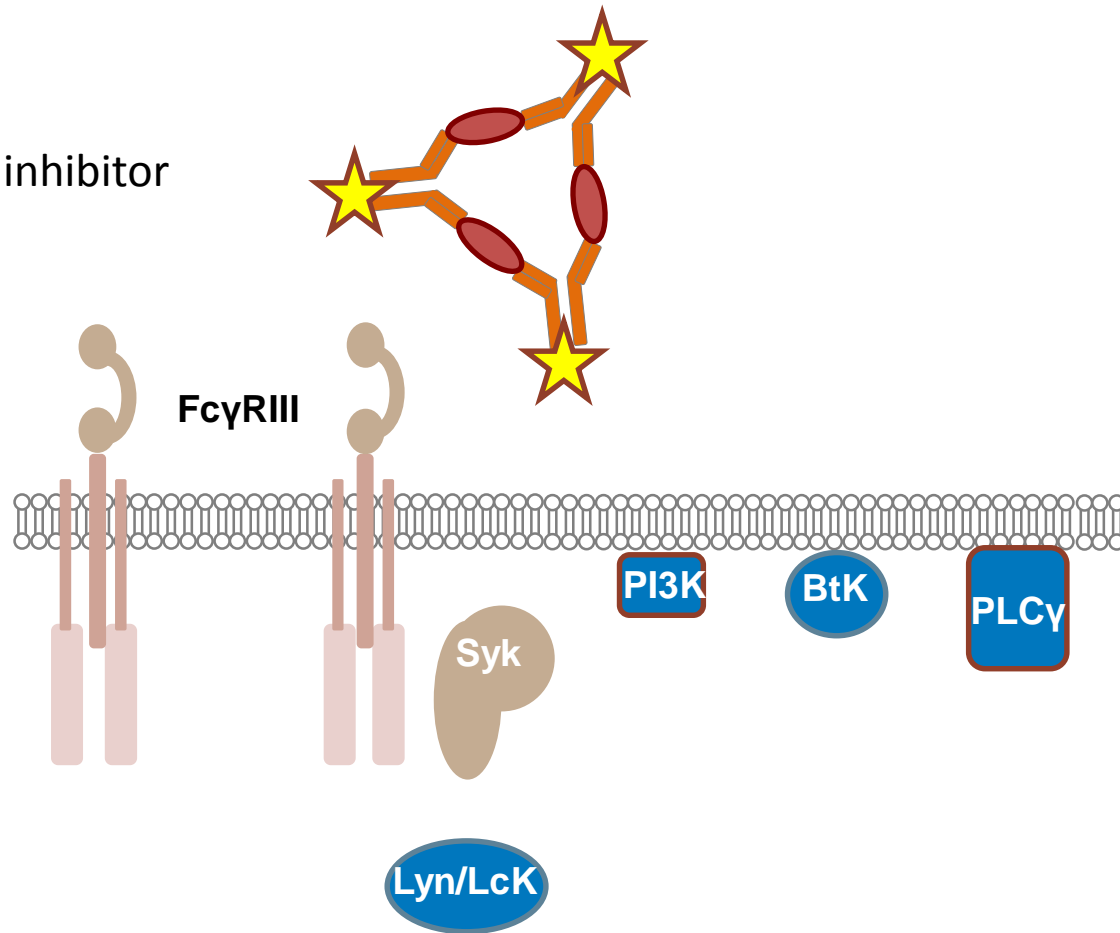




Btk, Bruton tyrosine kinase; FcγRIII, Fc gamma receptor III; PI3K, phosphatidylinositol-3 kinase; PLCγ, phospholipase C gamma; Syk, spleen tyrosine kinase

Nimmerjahn F, Ravetch JV. *Ann Rev Immunol.* 2008;26:513–33

# Complement inhibitor

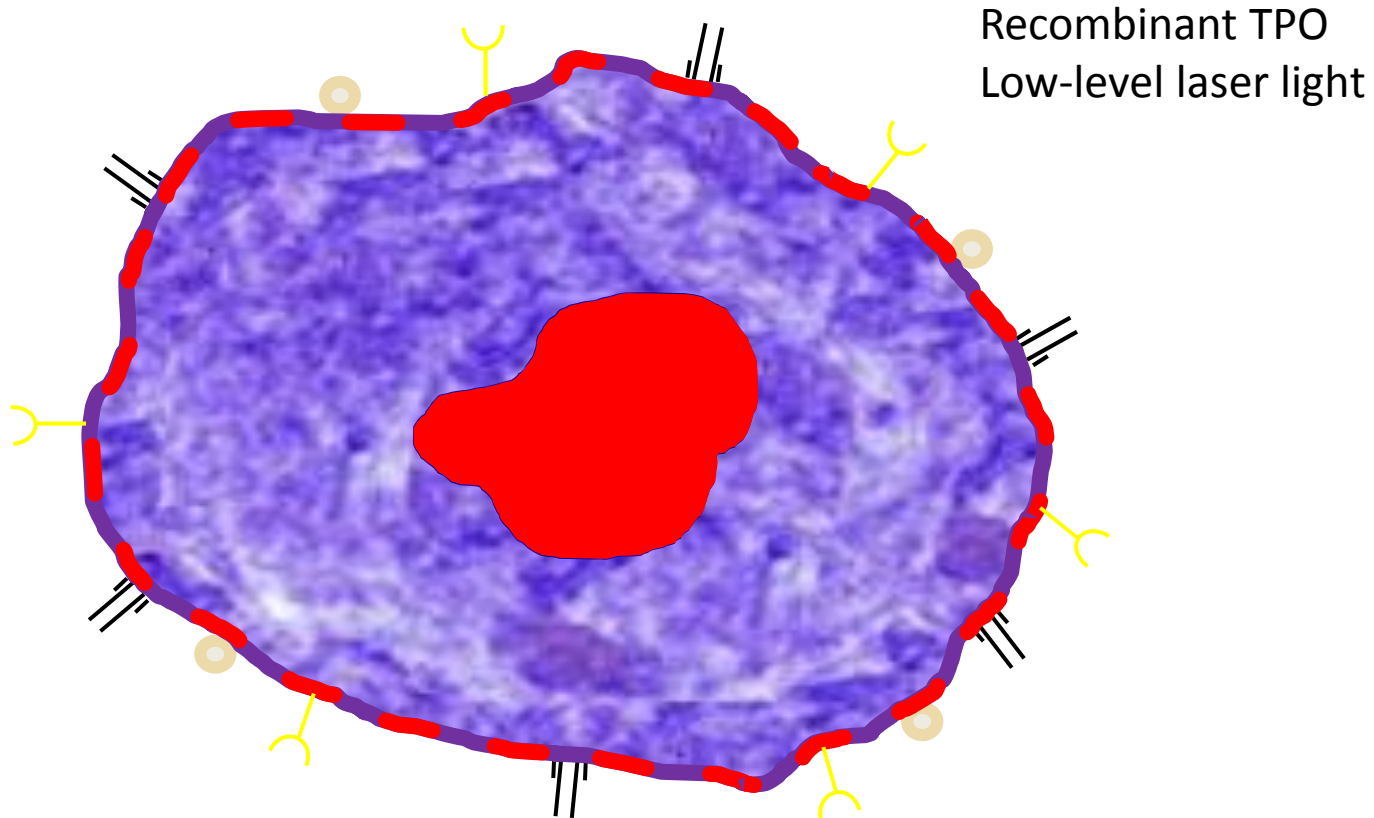


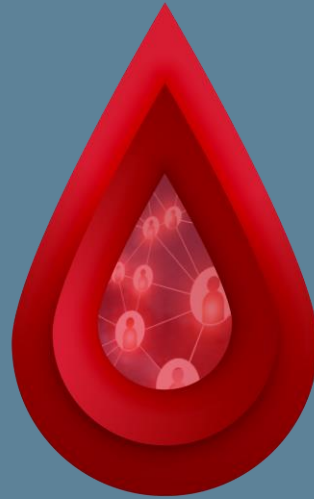
Btk, Bruton tyrosine kinase; FcγRIII, Fc gamma receptor III; PI3K, phosphatidylinositol-3 kinase; PLCγ, phospholipase C gamma; Syk, spleen tyrosine kinase

Nimmerjahn F, Ravetch JV. Ann Rev Immunol. 2008;26:513–33

- Y - TPO Receptor
- ||| Antiplatelet antibody
- Antiplatelet lymphocyte

1. Antiplatelet antibody attacks megakaryocyte
2. Lymphocyte attacks megakaryocyte
3. Megakaryocyte undergoes apoptosis





# SUMMARY

# SUMMARY



There is a range of medical options for the subsequent treatment of adults with primary ITP, including rituximab and TPO-RAs



TPO-RAs have shown compelling evidence of platelet response and reduced bleeding; recent data indicate TPO-RAs are as effective in early ITP as chronic ITP



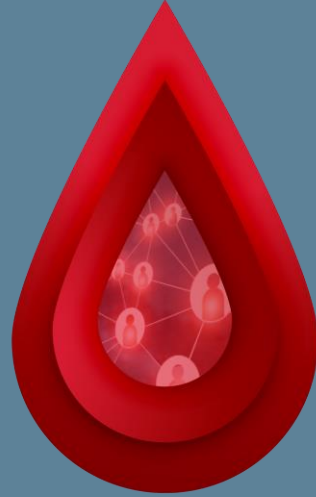
TPO-RAs can induce a long-lasting immunological response, however no consensus currently exists on when and how to taper



Key AEs associated with TPO-RAs include thrombosis, autoantibody formation, rebound worsening of thrombocytopenia and increased bone-marrow reticulatin



Unmet needs remain in this disease area, requiring further research and consensus; novel drugs are expected in the years to come



# APPENDIX

# ISTH 2020 ABSTRACTS ON THE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC ITP IN ADULTS

Abstracts are available at [abstracts.isth.org](https://abstracts.isth.org)

Abstract number	First author	Title
PB1316	J. Agnelli Giacchello	Megakaryocytic Hyperplasia in Bone Marrow Biopsy as a Novel Predictor of Response in Patients with Immune Thrombocytopenia
PB1318	D. Kuter	Phase I/II, Open-Label, Ongoing Study of PRN1008 (Rilzabrutinib), an Oral Bruton Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor, in Patients with Heavily Pretreated Immune Thrombocytopenia (ITP)
PB1335	I. Altomare	Achieving Clinically Relevant Platelet Count Response Thresholds with Avatrombopag (AVA) in Immune Thrombocytopenia (ITP)
PB1343	J. Yamanouchi	Sustained Remission after Withdrawal of Thrombopoietin Receptor-Agonists in Immune Thrombocytopenia
PB1344	P. Zhao	Risk Stratification for Intracranial Hemorrhage in Adults with Immune Thrombocytopenia: A Retrospective Multicenter Study
PB1345	J. Gebhart	Factors Influencing Bleeding Severity in Adult Patients with Primary Immune Thrombocytopenia
PB1346	M. Stimpson	CD4+ T Cell Expression of IL-10 Compared to IL-17 is Lower in Patients with Immune Thrombocytopenia (ITP) Who Do Not Respond Clinically to High Dose Corticosteroid
PB1349	H. Maitland	Response to Avatrombopag (AVA) in Chronic Immune Thrombocytopenia: Alternative Efficacy Measures
PB1350	N. Gabrail	Pharmacokinetic/Pharmacodynamic (PK/PD) Modeling Providing Guidance for Selecting Avatrombopag (AVA) Dose when Switching from Eltrombopag in Chronic Immune Thrombocytopenia (ITP)
PB1357	M. Marcosano	Long Term Complications after Splenectomy in Chronic pITP Patients: A Retrospective Case Control Study
PB1358	W. Ghanima	Fostamatinib as Second-Line Therapy for ITP and in Earlier Stage ITP Patients
PB1360	M.G. Mazzucconi	Randomized Study for the Treatment of Primary Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura (pITP) in Newly Diagnosed Untreated Adult Patients. Comparison of Standard Dose Prednisone versus High-dose Dexamethasone. Preliminary Results. GIMEMA Protocol ITP0207
PB1363	M.G. Mazzucconi	Response Rate and Response Duration after Discontinuation of Treatment with Thrombopoietin Receptor Agonists (TPO-RAS) in Patients Affected by Primary Immune Thrombocytopenia (pITP): Retrospective Study. Preliminary Results. GIMEMA Protocol ITP0714
PB1378	M. Recht	Corticosteroid Reduction or Discontinuation after Initiation of Avatrombopag Treatment in Patients with Chronic Immune Thrombocytopenia (ITP)

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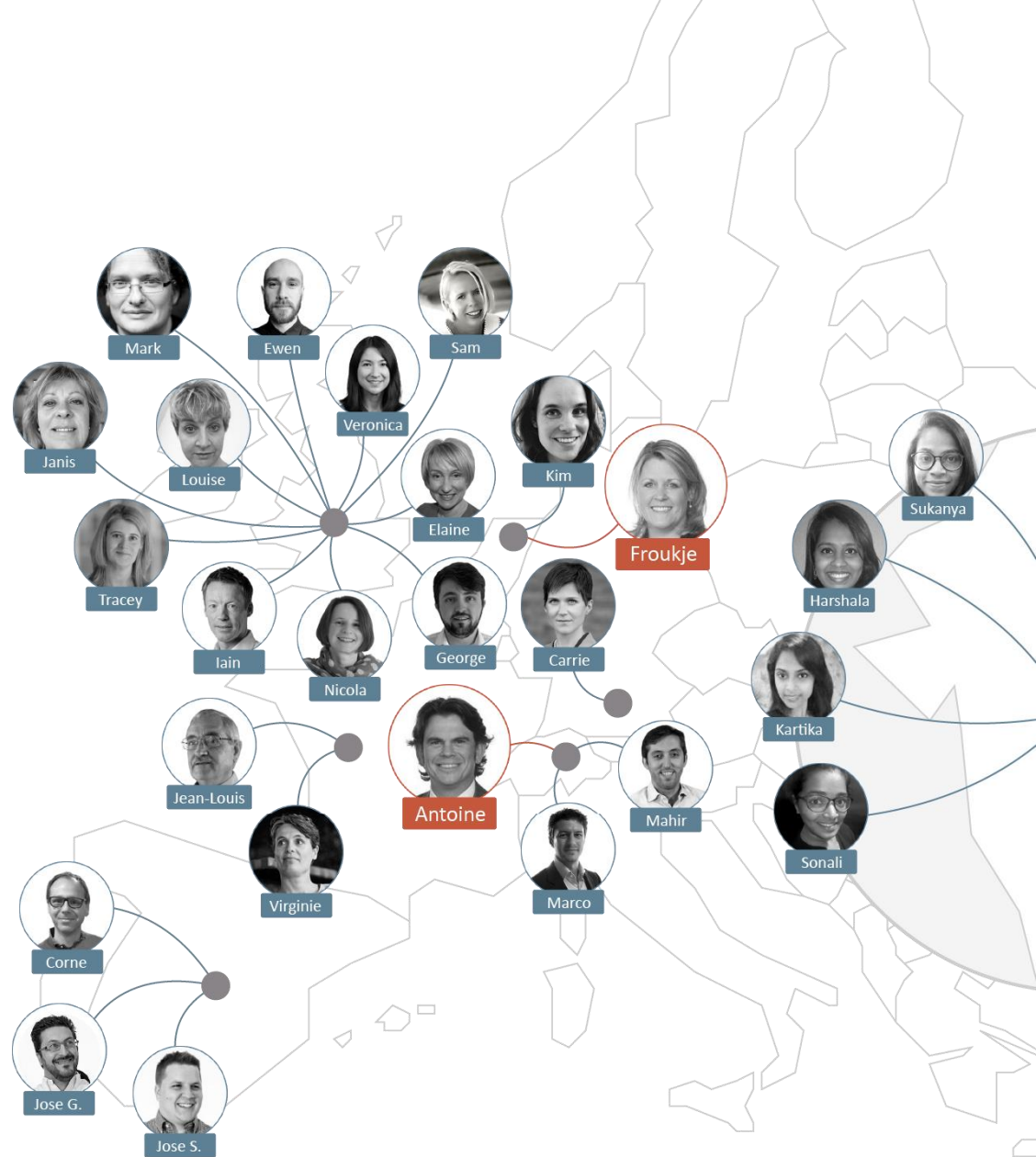
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