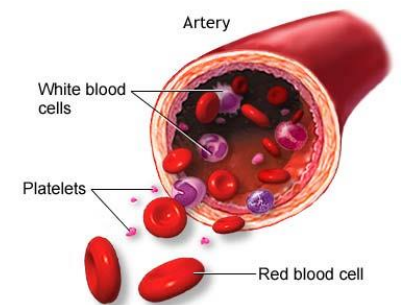


# Platelets, numbers and alternative functions 2018

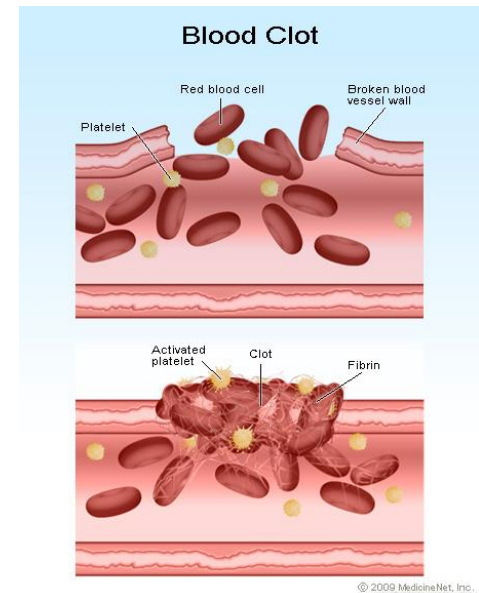
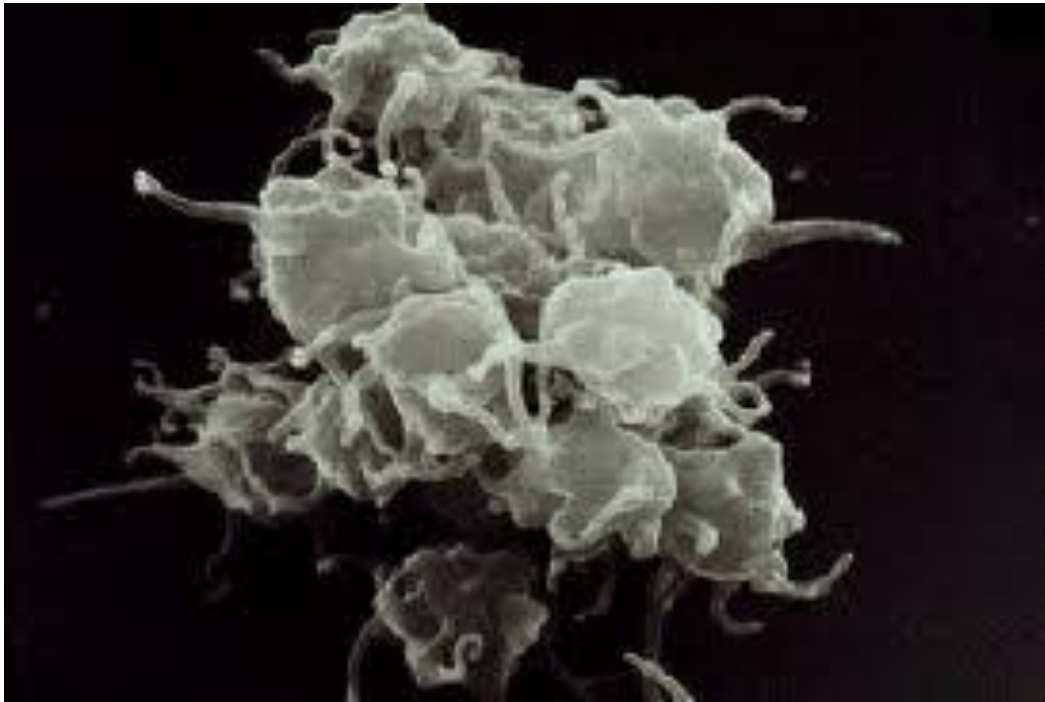
Nichola Cooper  
Hammersmith Hospital  
Imperial College



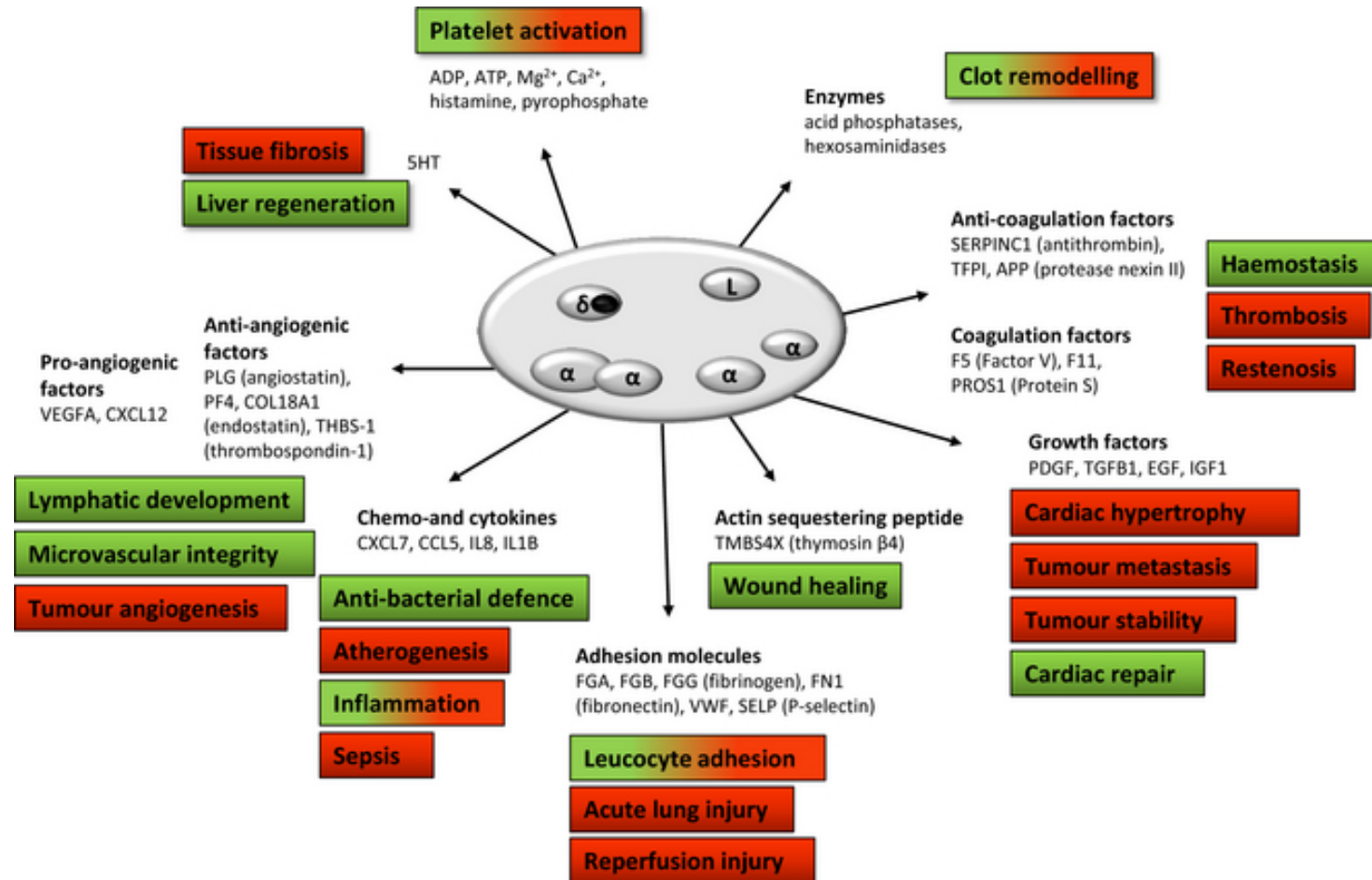
# Discussion points today

- What do platelets do beyond clot formation?
- How are platelets made?
- How is the platelet count regulated? TPO
- What is the relationship of platelet count and bleeding?
- How does this relate to disease?
  - Types of thrombocytopenia
  - ITP: pathogenesis, counts and treatment

# Understood role of the platelet: platelet activation and aggregation to produce a blood clot and stop/prevent bleeding



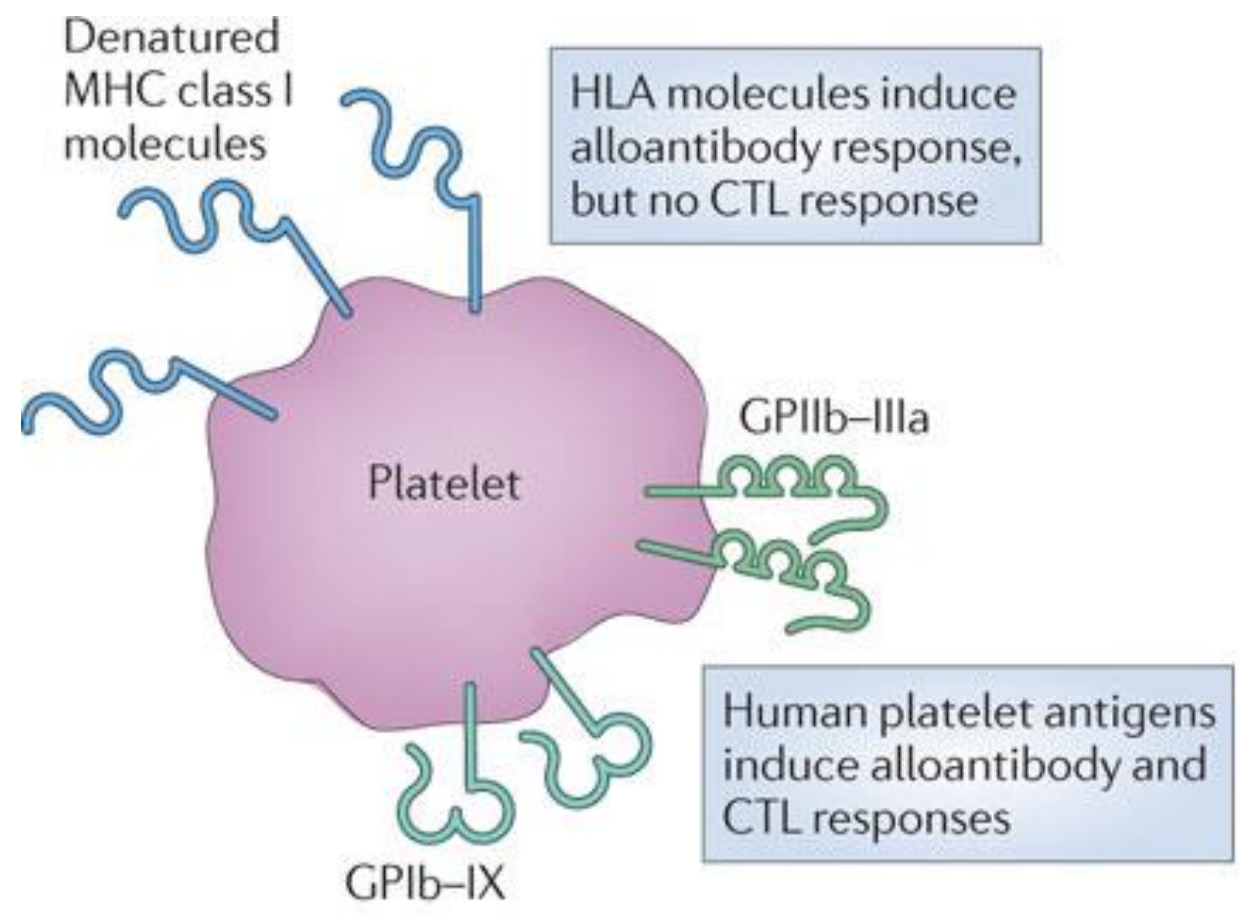
# Secrets of platelet exocytosis – what do we really know about platelet secretion mechanisms?



Platelets and the immune continuum

John W. Semple, Joseph E. Italiano, Jr & John Freedman

*Nature Reviews Immunology* **11**, 264-274 (April 2011)

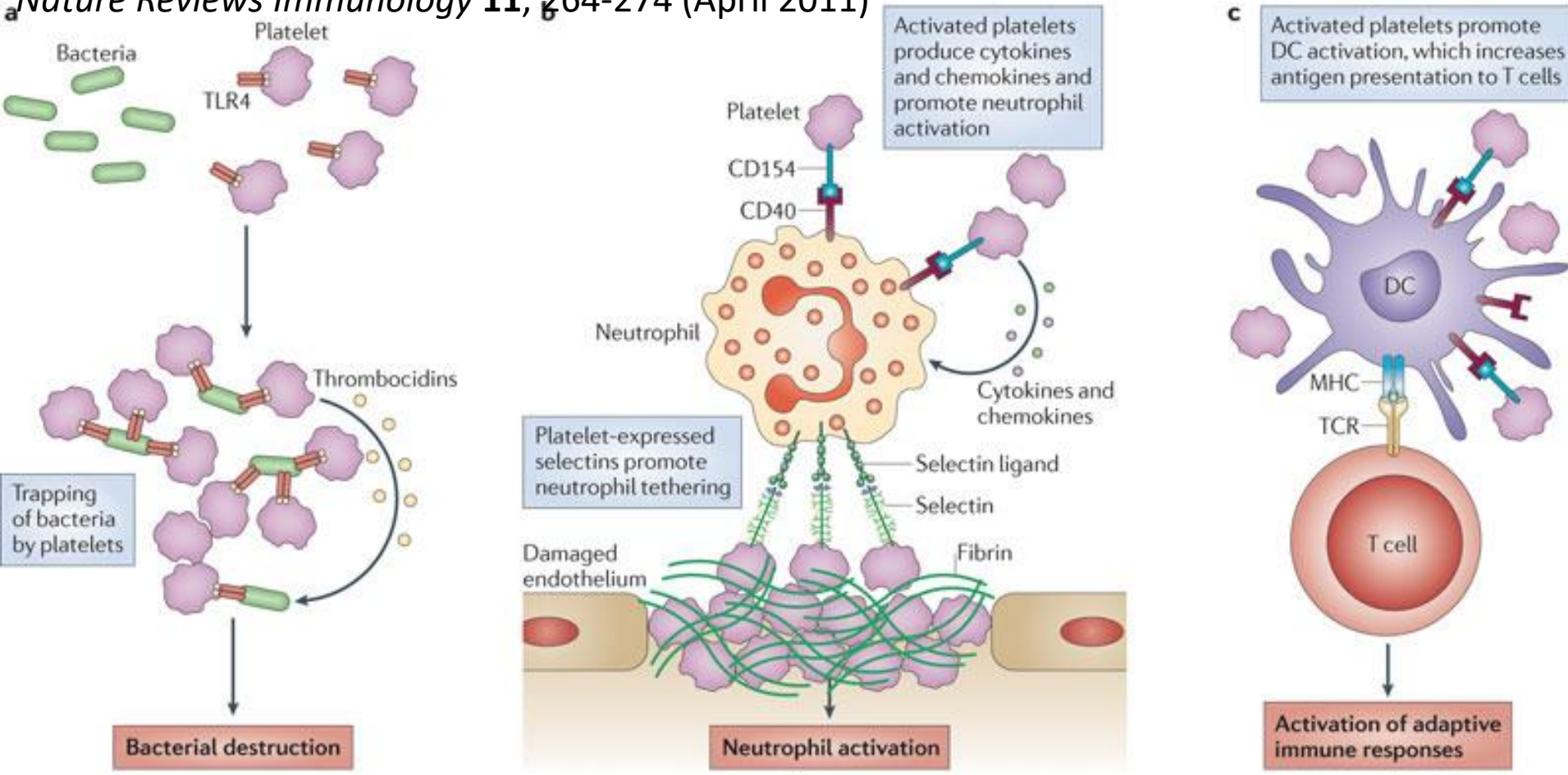


# Platelet interactions with the immune system

## From: Platelets and the immune continuum

John W. Semple, Joseph E. Italiano, Jr & John Freedman

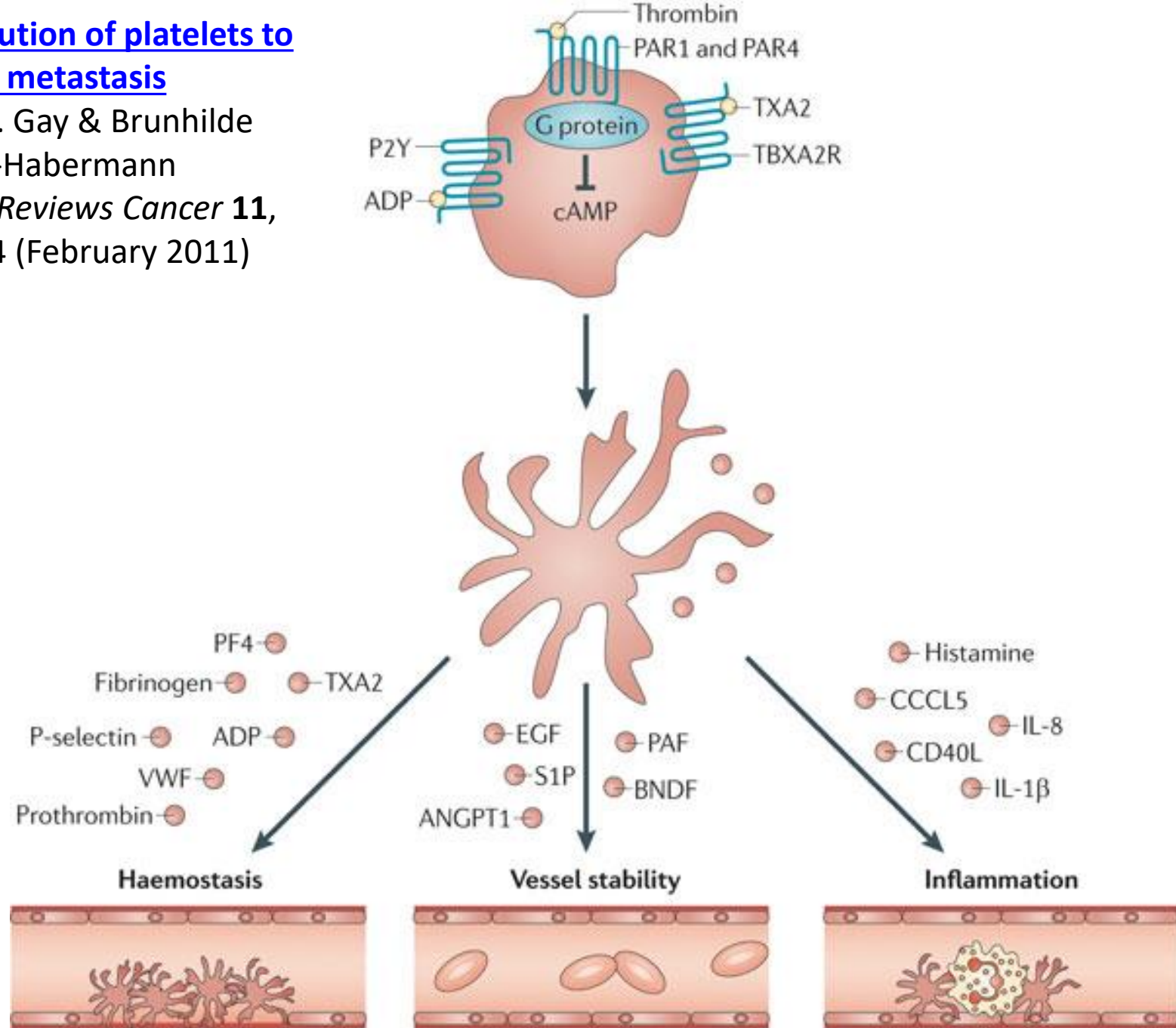
*Nature Reviews Immunology* **11**, 264-274 (April 2011)



**Contribution of platelets to tumour metastasis**

Laurie J. Gay & Brunhilde  
Felding-Habermann

*Nature Reviews Cancer* **11**,  
123-134 (February 2011)



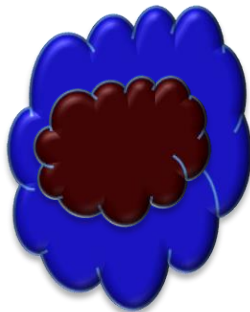
**TPO**



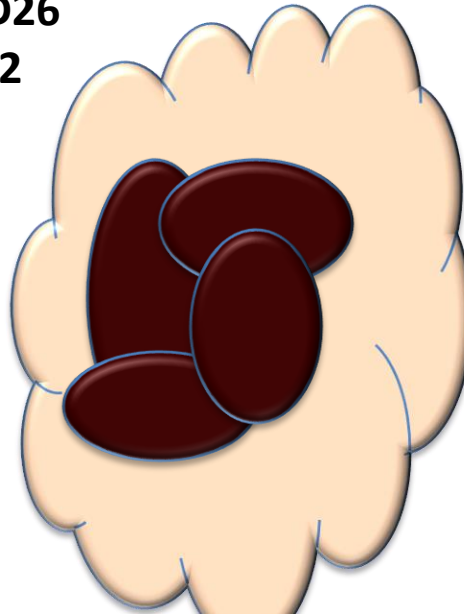
**Bone**



**Stem cell niche**



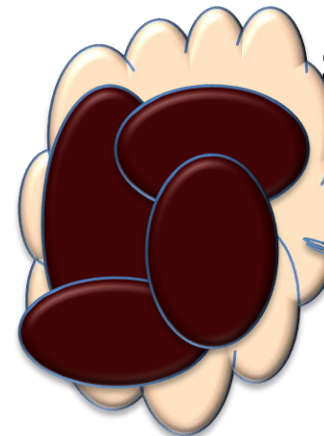
**GATA1  
RUNX1  
FLI1  
ANKRD26  
NBEAL2  
GFI1N**



**Collagen, VWF, fibrinogen (Gplb-IX-V, alIbB3)**

**Migration: SD1a**

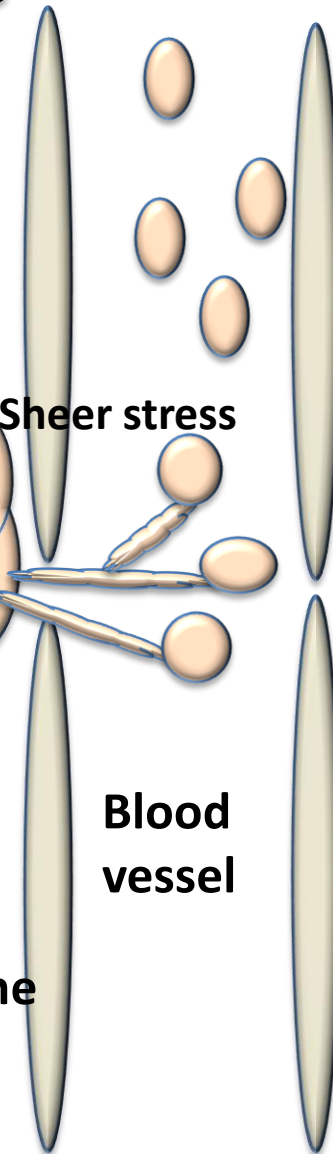
**PPF:  
cytoskeleton:  
Rock, myosin  
(inhibition Inc)**



**Vascular niche**

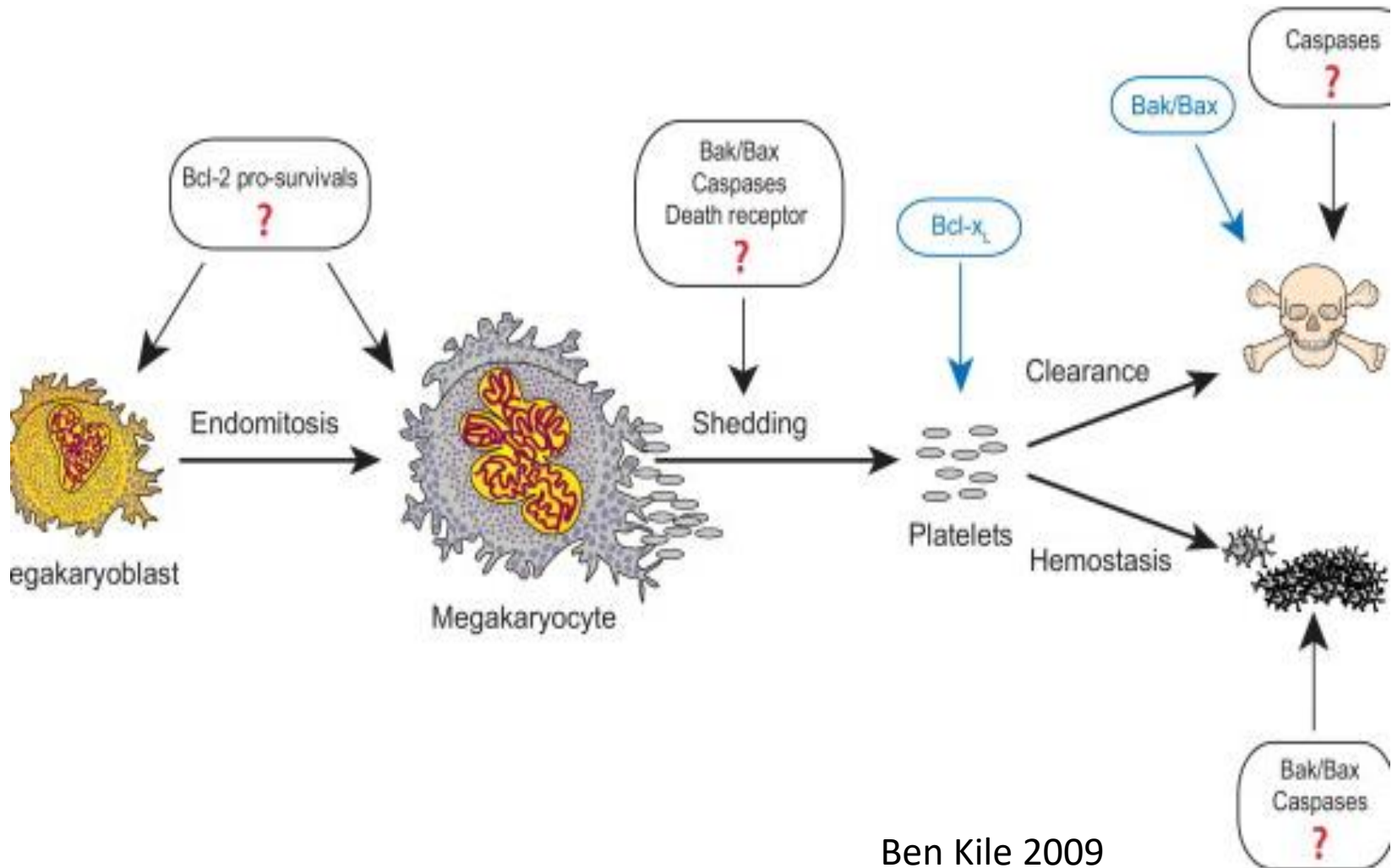
**Sheer stress**

**Blood  
vessel**



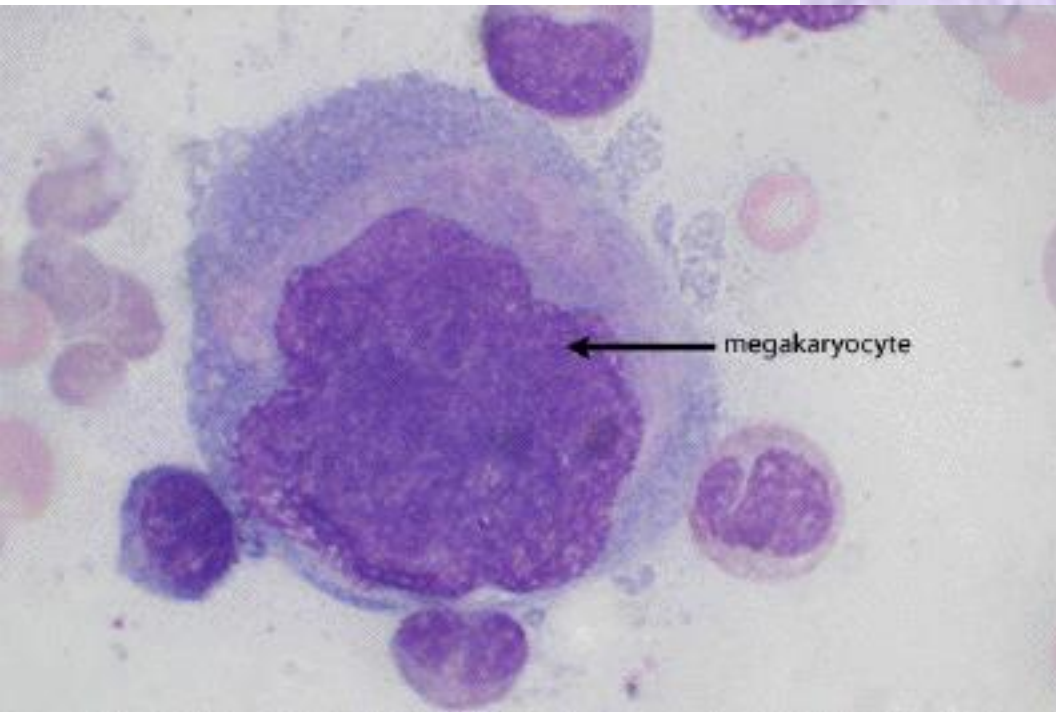
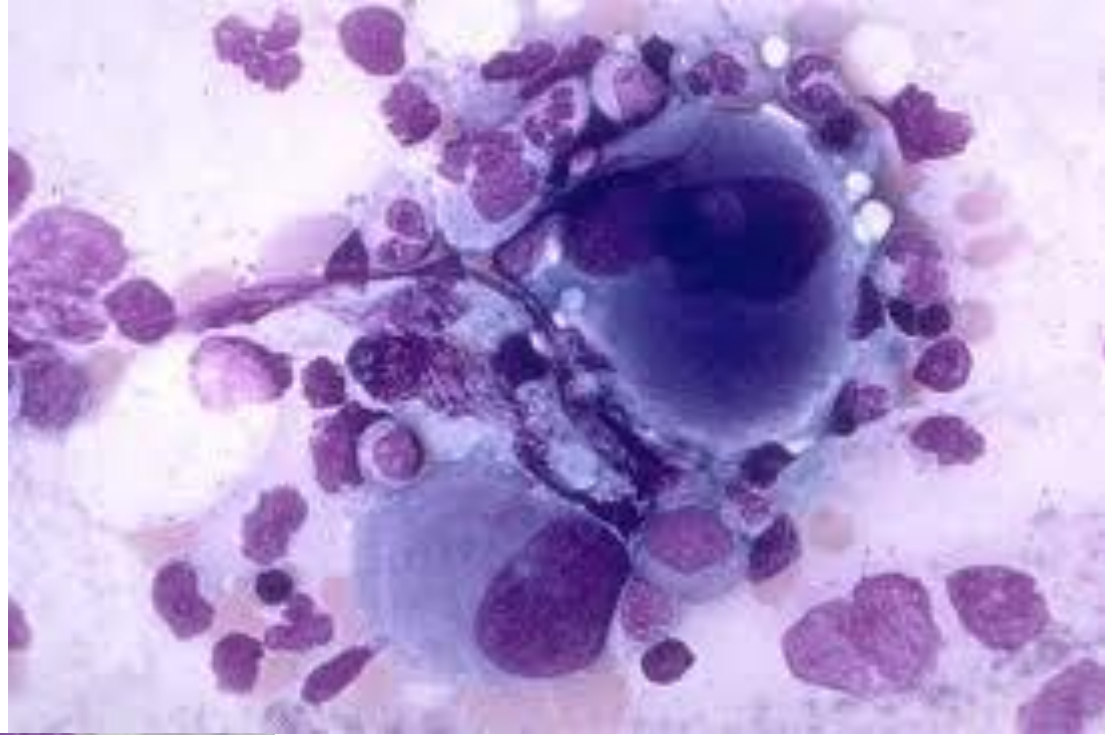
**Can you Influence this part?: MSCs, Notch, Stem Regenin-1, HES-1, PU.1**

The platelet has a specific life span of 10 days, then is programmed to be cleared (if not activated)



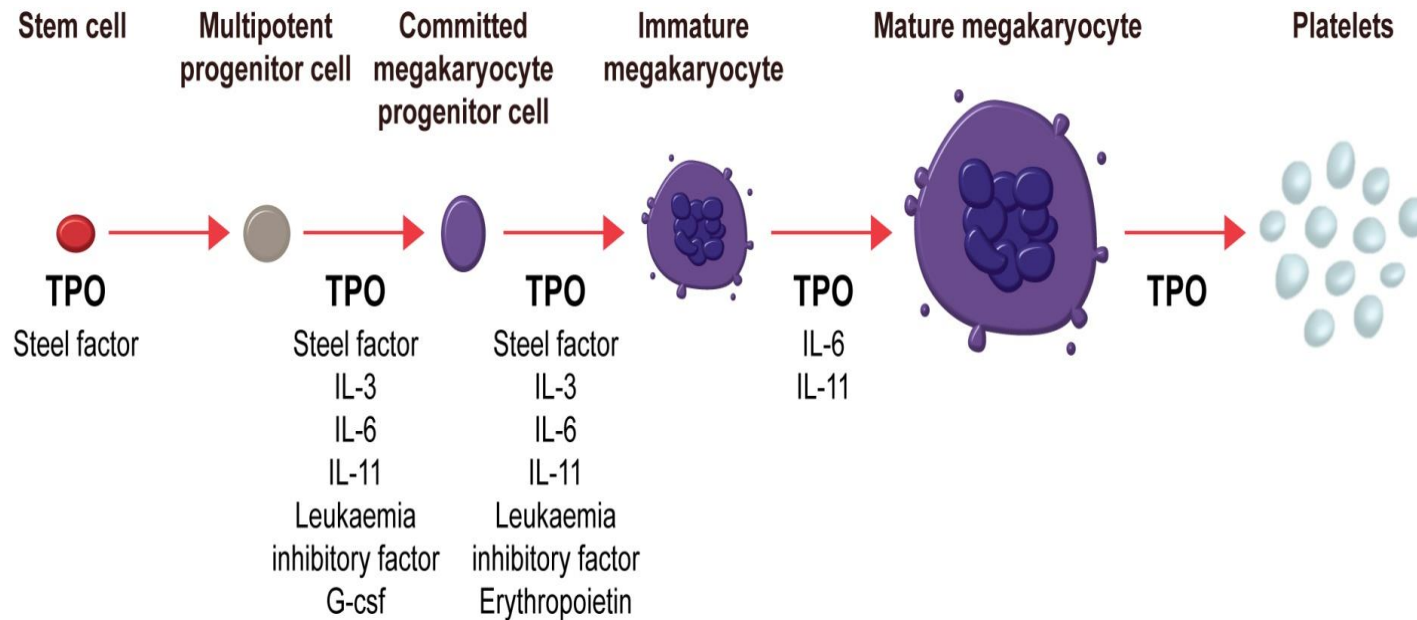
Each megakaryocyte  
produces 2000 to 3000  
platelets

Platelets circulate for 7 to  
10 days

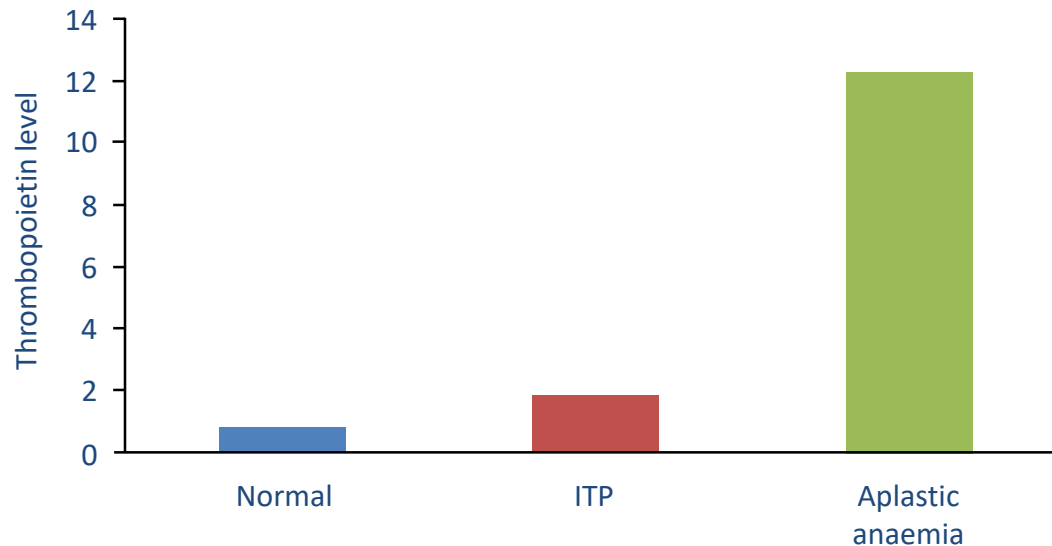


About a third of platelets  
are kept in the spleen

# TPO – principle regulator of platelet production



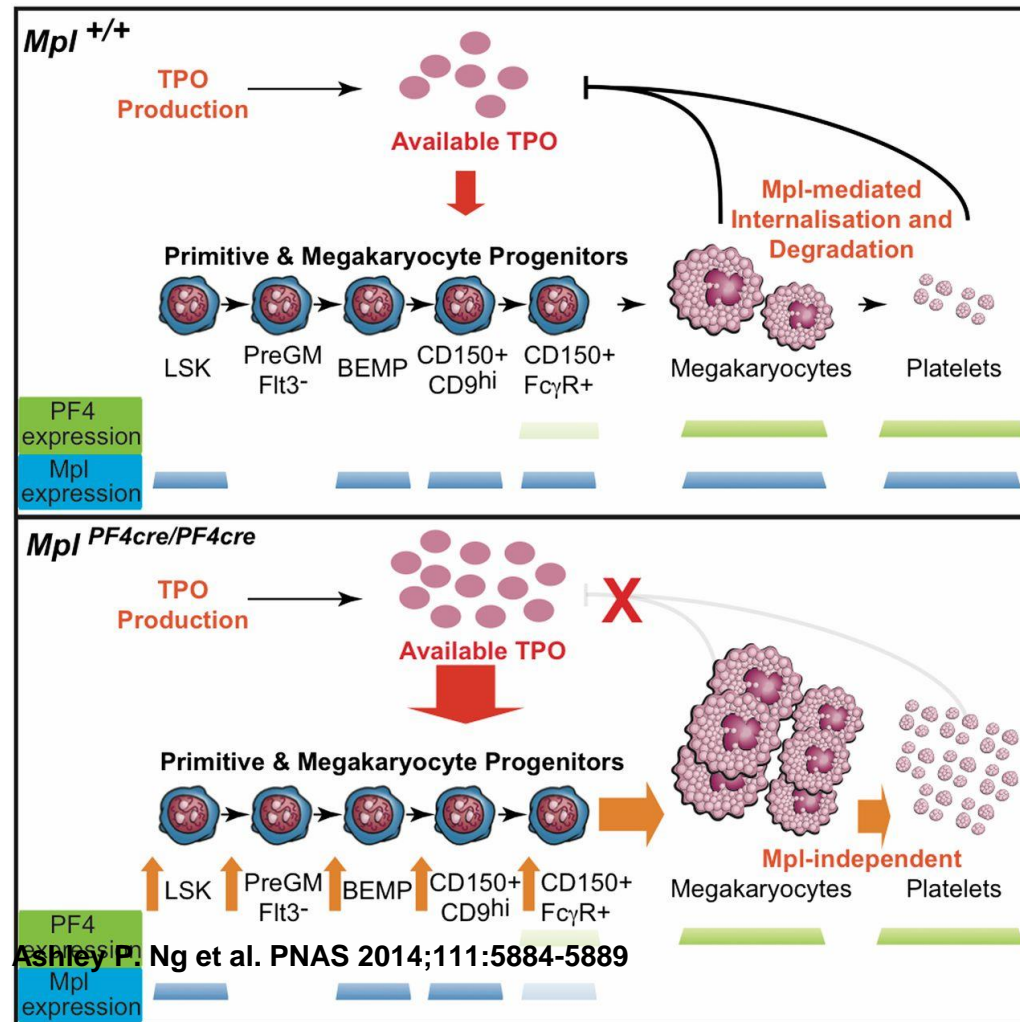
# Thrombopoietin is lower in ITP than other thrombocytopenic disorders



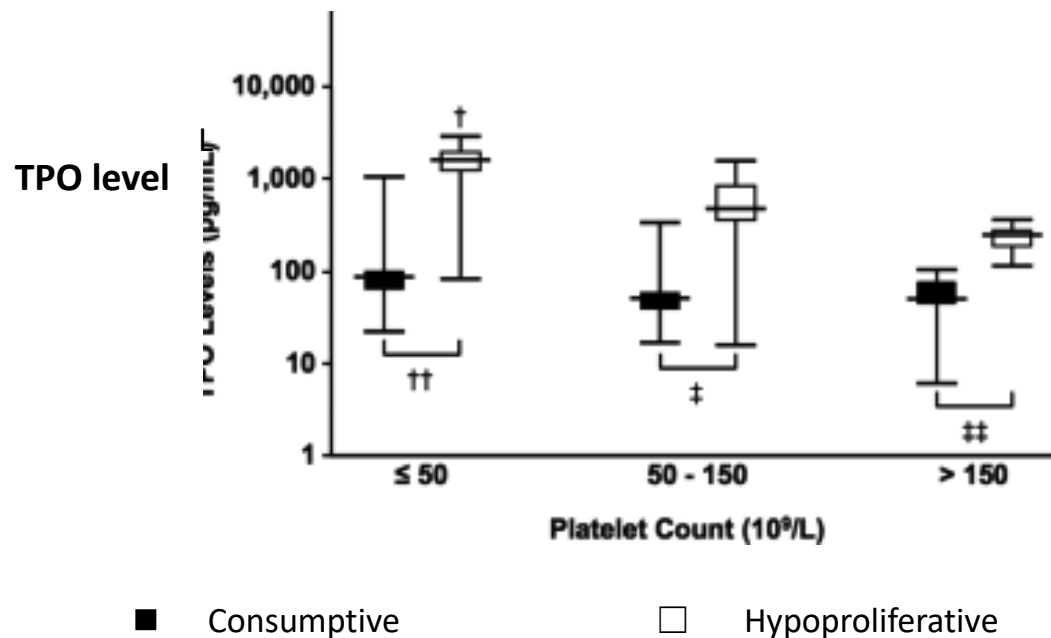
- No correlation between platelet count and TPO levels in patients with ITP<sup>1</sup>
- No significant difference in TPO levels between patients with ITP and controls<sup>2</sup>

- 1. Kosugi S *et al. Br J Haematol* 2003;93:704–706;  
2. Aledort LM *et al. Am J Hematol* 2004;76:205–213

# Model for regulation of TPO and control of megakaryopoiesis.

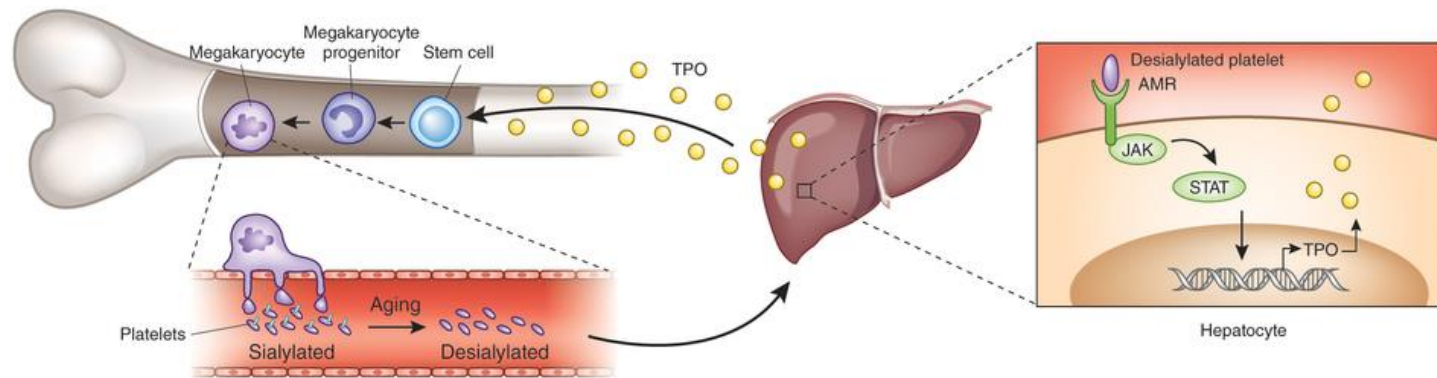


# Thrombopoietin levels may distinguish between consumptive or hypoproliferative causes of thrombocytopenia



Maker et al Haematology 2013: Thrombopoietin levels in patients with disorders of platelet production: Diagnostic potential and utility in predicting response to TPO Receptor agonists

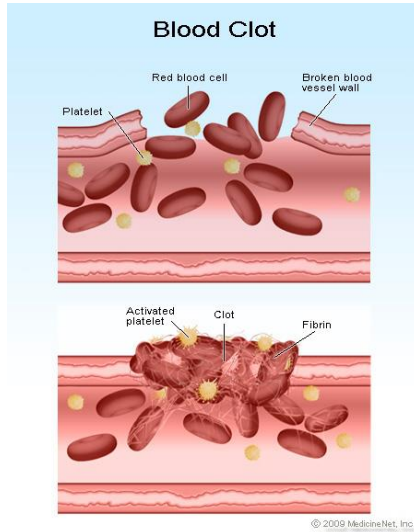
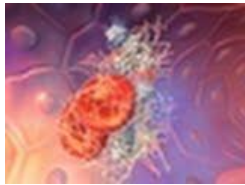
# Ashwell–Morell receptor in hepatocytes: A possible method of platelet regulation



**Old platelets are recognized by the Ashwell–Morell receptor (AMR) in hepatocytes causing thrombopoietin production**

Small platelets MPV <7fL	Normal platelets MPV 7-11 fL	Large/Giant platelets, MPV >11 fL
Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome	Familial platelet disorder/AML	MHY9-related diseases May-Hegglin anomaly Sebastian syndrome Fechtner syndrome Epstein syndrome
X-linked thrombocytopenia	Chromosome 10/THC2	Bernard-Soulier syndrome
	Congenital Amegakaryocytic thrombocytopenia	Paris-Trousseau thrombocytopenia/Jacobsen syndrome
	Thrombocytopenia and absent radii	Velcardiofacial/DiGeorge syndrome
		GATA1 mutation
		Grey platelet syndrome

# Relative bleeding risk at different platelet counts



# Is there a platelet count at which serious bleeding occurs?

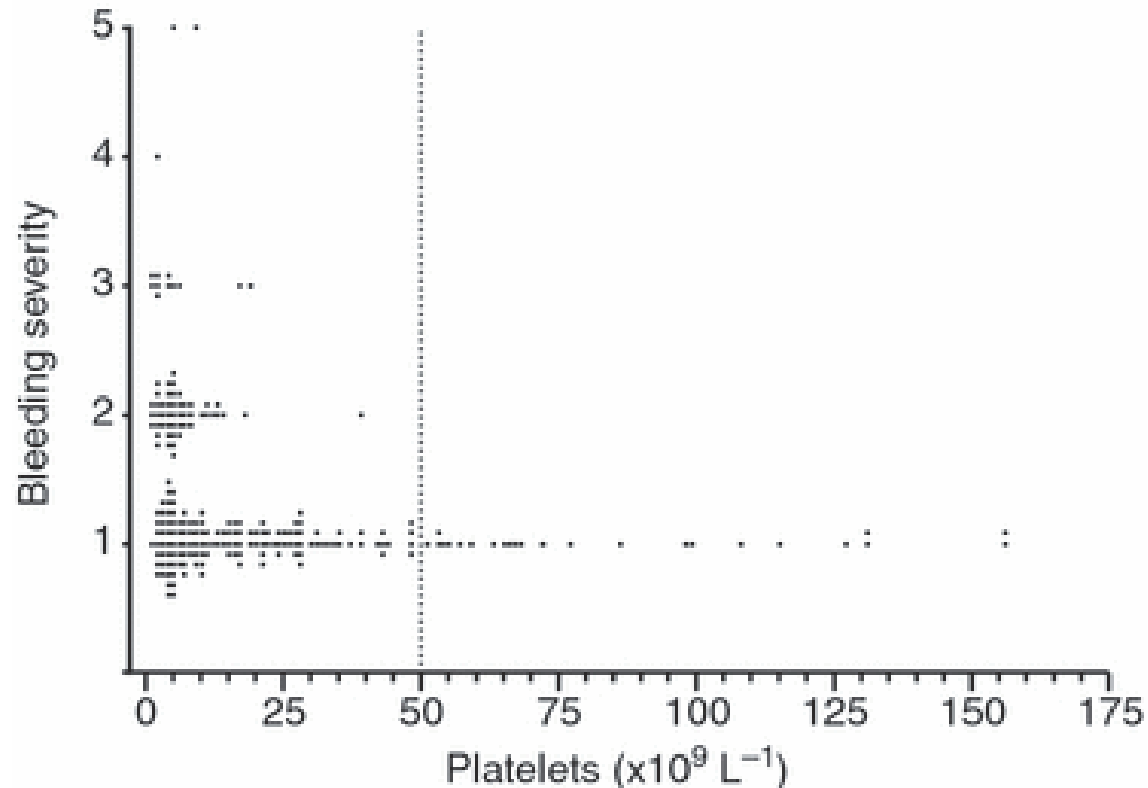
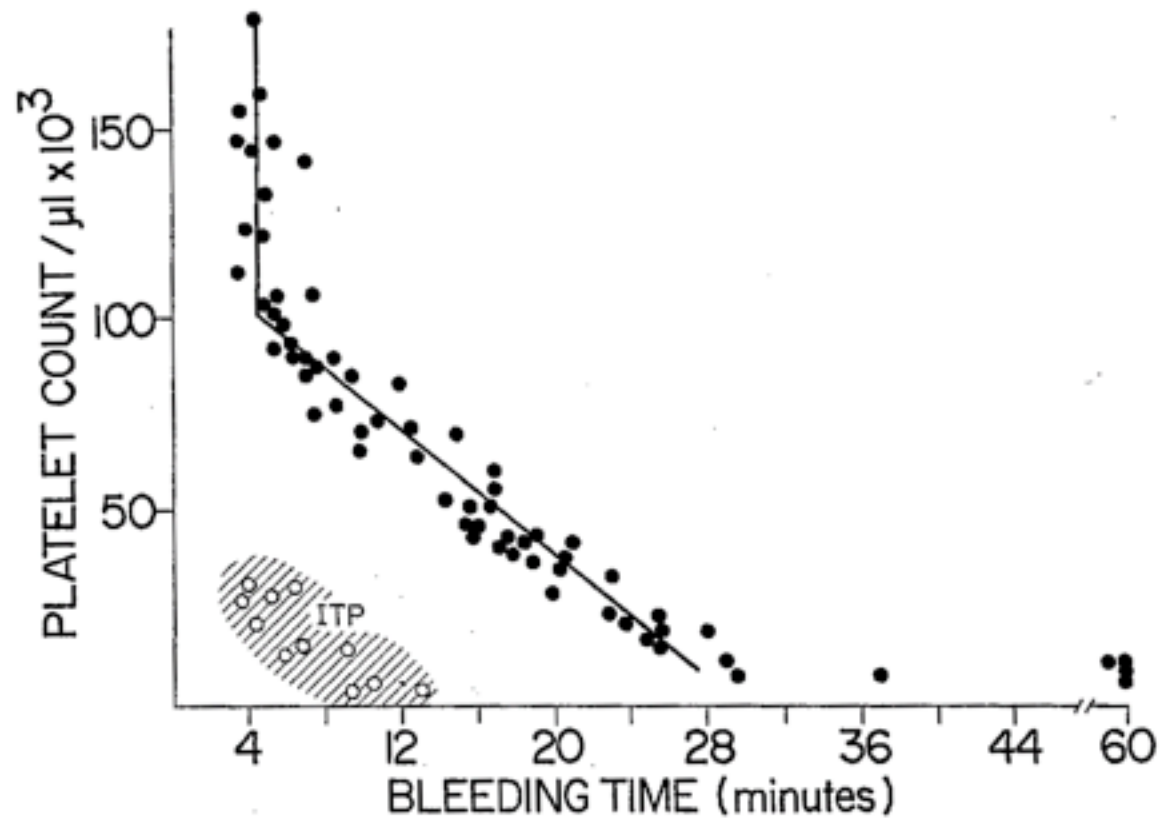
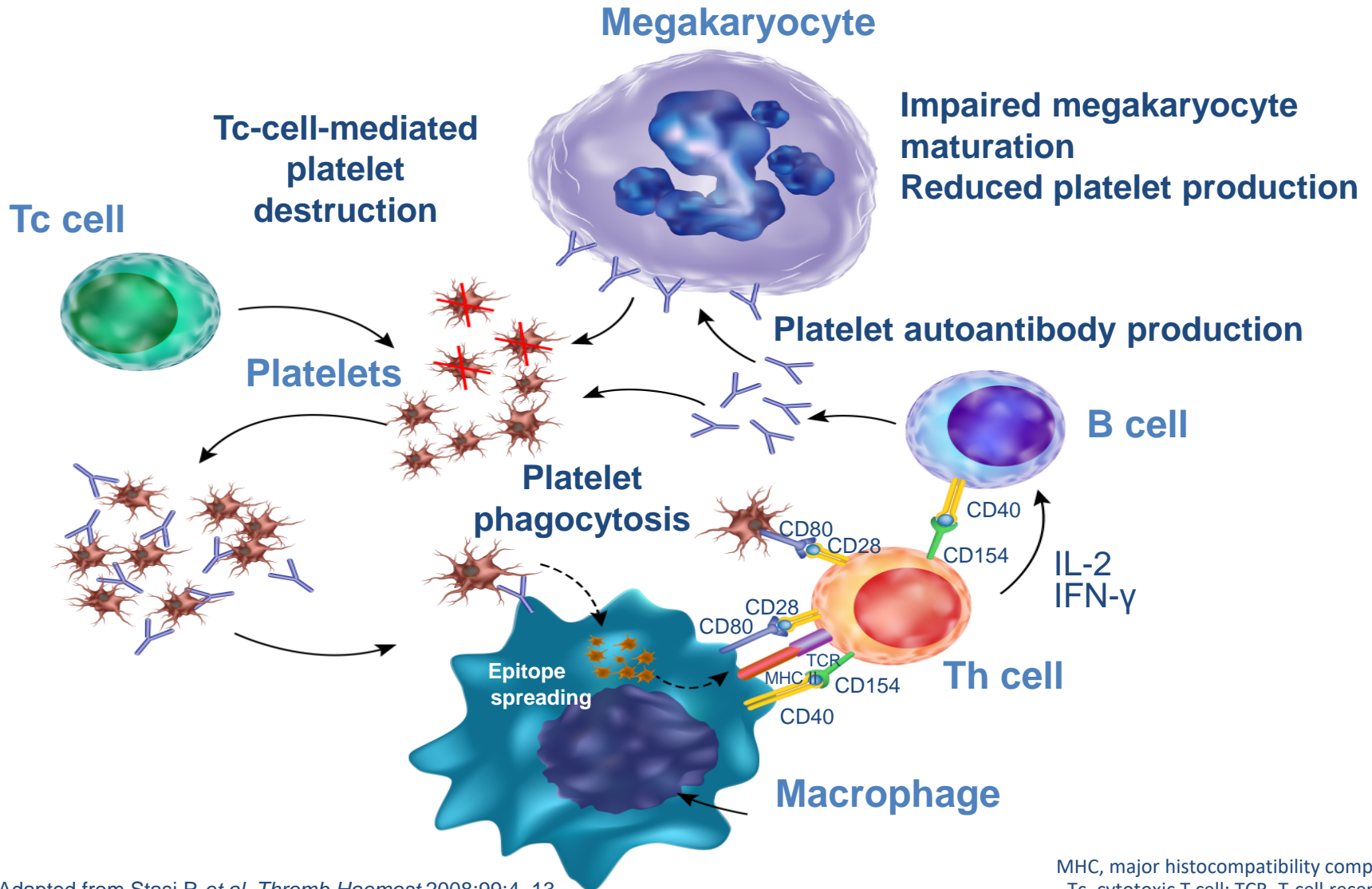


Figure 3. Distribution of bleeding adverse events by severity and platelet count in both treatment groups in the phase 3 studies. Each point represents one bleeding adverse event. One grade 1 bleeding adverse event that occurred at a platelet count of  $505 \times 10^9 \text{ L}^{-1}$  is not shown

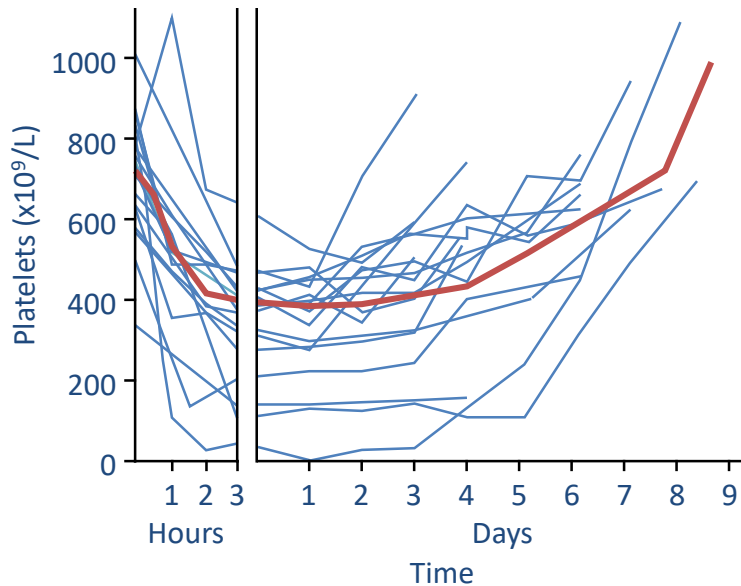


# Immune thrombocytopenia pathophysiology is complex involving different pathways



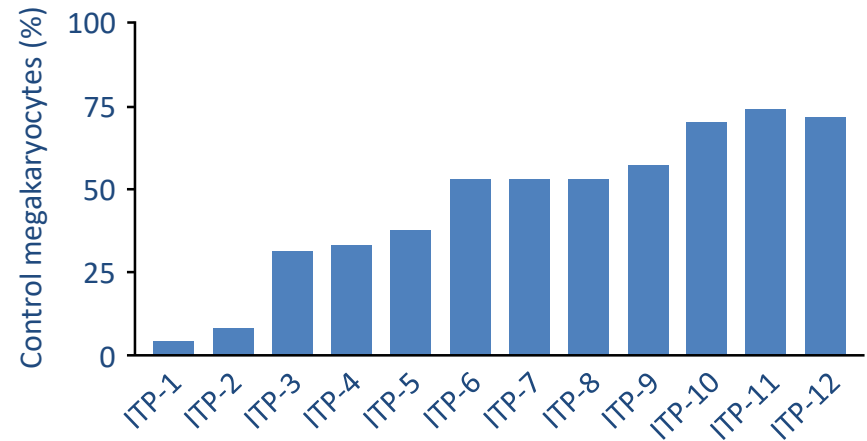
# What is the evidence for immune pathology in ITP? B-cell disease

## Antiplatelet antibodies: 1951<sup>1</sup>



Platelet count after infusion with patient plasma

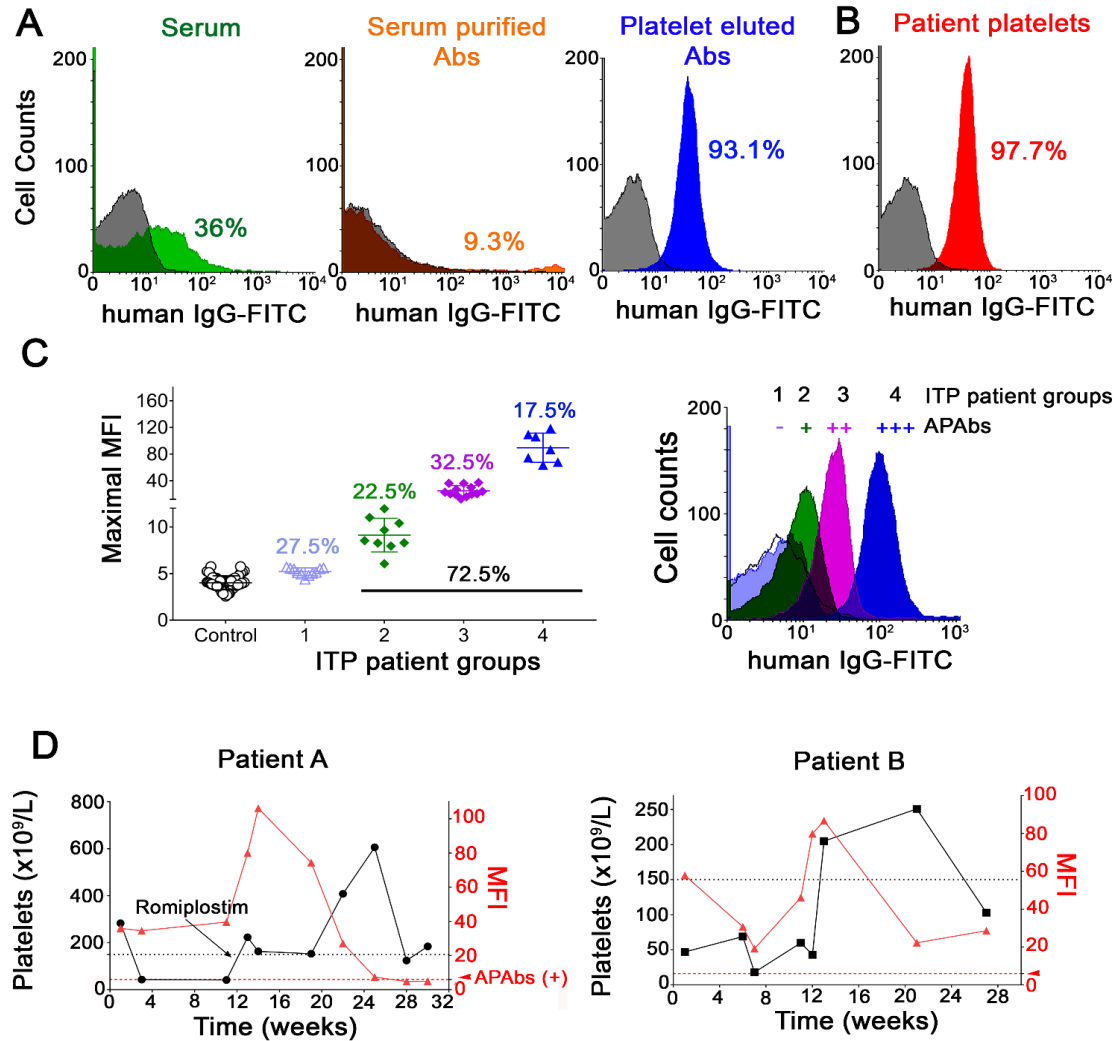
## Inhibition of megakaryocytes by plasma from ITP patients: 2004<sup>2</sup>



1. Harrington WJ *et al. J Lab Clin Med* 1951;38:1–10;

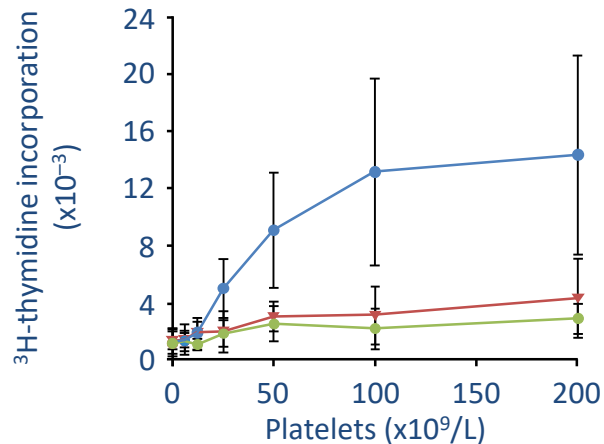
2. McMillan R *et al. Blood* 2004;103:1364–1369

# Over 70% of patients have antibodies eluted from platelets – suggestive of other specificities

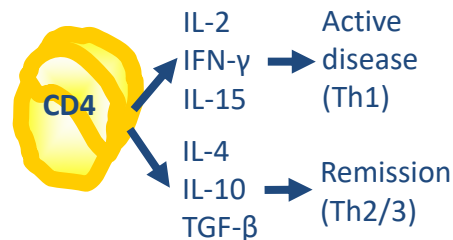


# What is the evidence for T-cell-mediated platelet destruction in ITP?

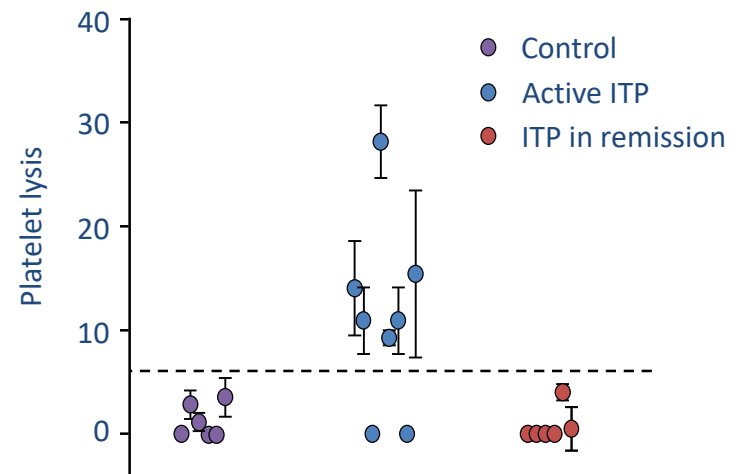
**T-cell proliferation in response to own platelets and Th1-mediated disease: 1990s<sup>1</sup>**



**Note: Please provide reference for graph**



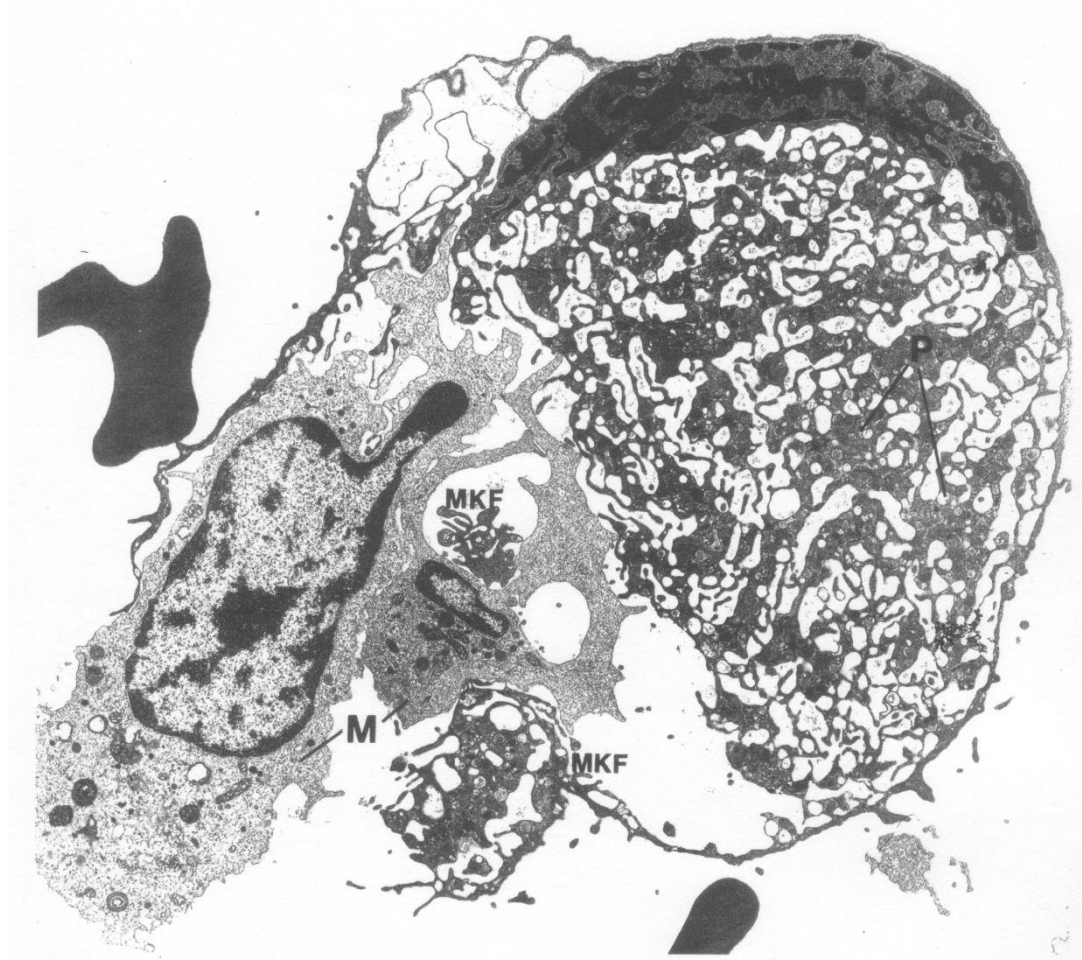
**Cytotoxic T-cell attack against platelets: 2003<sup>2</sup>**



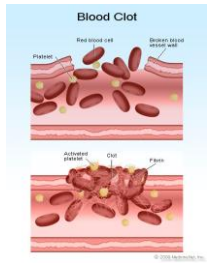
1. Semple JW & Provan D. *Curr Opin Hematol* 2012;19:357–362;  
 2. Olsson B et al. *Nat Med* 2003;9:1123–1124

CD, cluster of differentiation; IFN-γ, interferon-γ; IL, interleukin;  
 TGF-β, transforming growth factor-β; Th, helper T cell

# Increased apoptosis in megakaryocytes from patients with ITP



# Morbidity/mortality ITP



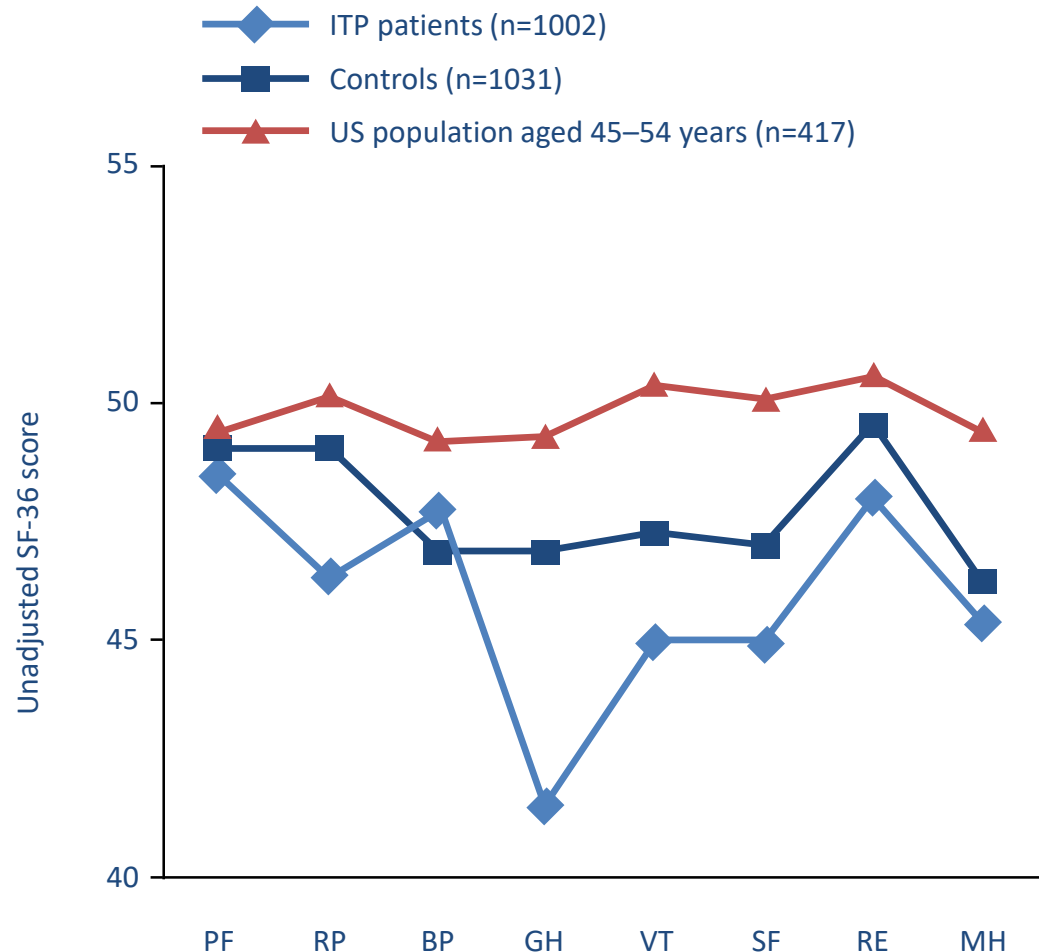
- Majority of patients are asymptomatic despite low platelet counts
- Increased mortality only in patients with persistently low platelet counts
- Morbidity and mortality as much from complications of immunosuppressive treatment as from bleeding <sup>1, 2</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Portejle et al 2000, <sup>2</sup>Cohen et al 2002

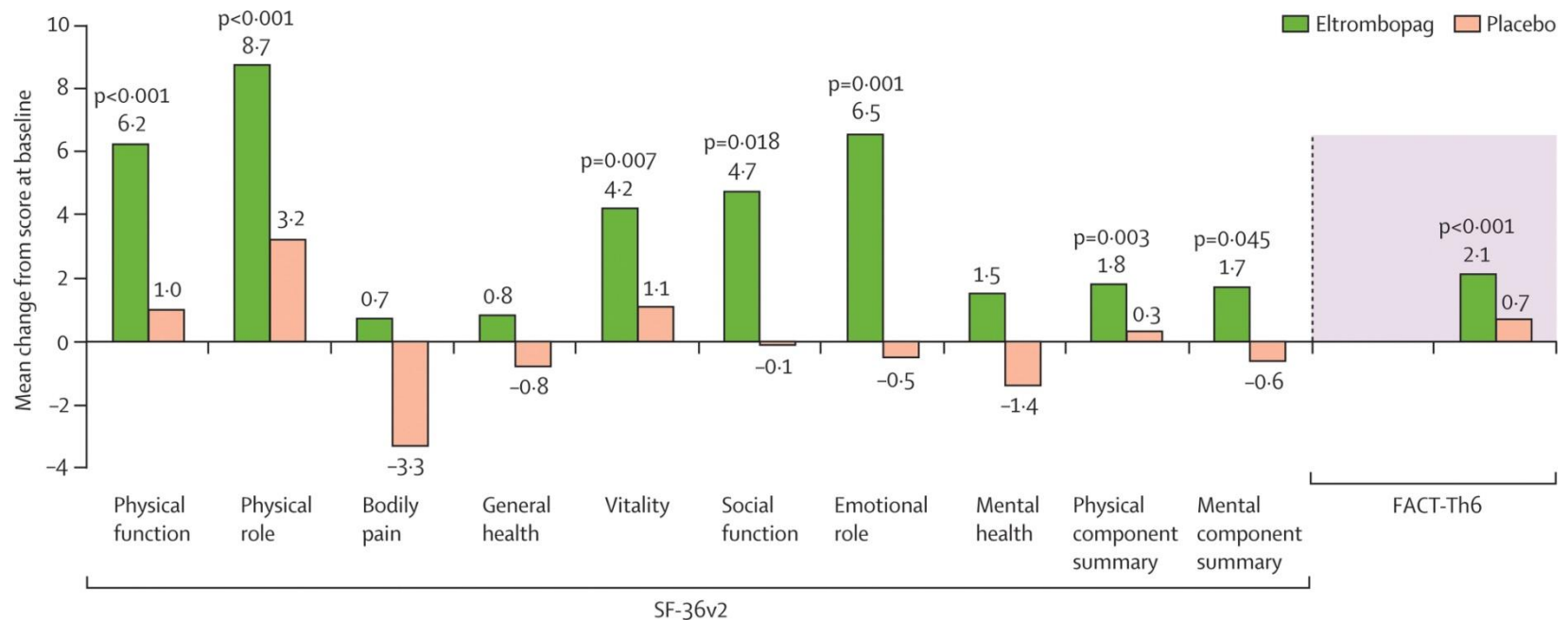
# Patients with ITP have poor HRQoL

- The aim for patients with chronic ITP should be to minimize impact on HRQoL
- Treatment decisions should be based on the treatment side effects, both short and long term
- There are currently no data on this



BP, bodily pain; GH, general health; HRQoL, health-related quality of life; MH, mental health; PF, physical function; RE, role function – emotional; RP, role function – physical; SF, social function; VT, vitality

# Quality of life changes with Eltrombopag adults



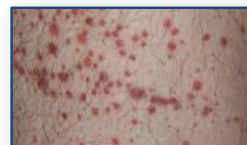
# Risk of fatal/severe bleeding in ITP is VERY RARE

- Presence of other conditions such as hypertension or cerebrovascular disease
- Rate of fatal haemorrhage increases with age
  - <40 years: 0.004 per patient-year
  - 40–60 years: 0.012 per patient-year
  - >60 years: 0.130 per patient-year
- Increased risk of venous thromboembolism in people with increased risk factors

# Treatment recommendations based on platelet count



## Platelet count



# Current 'guidelines'

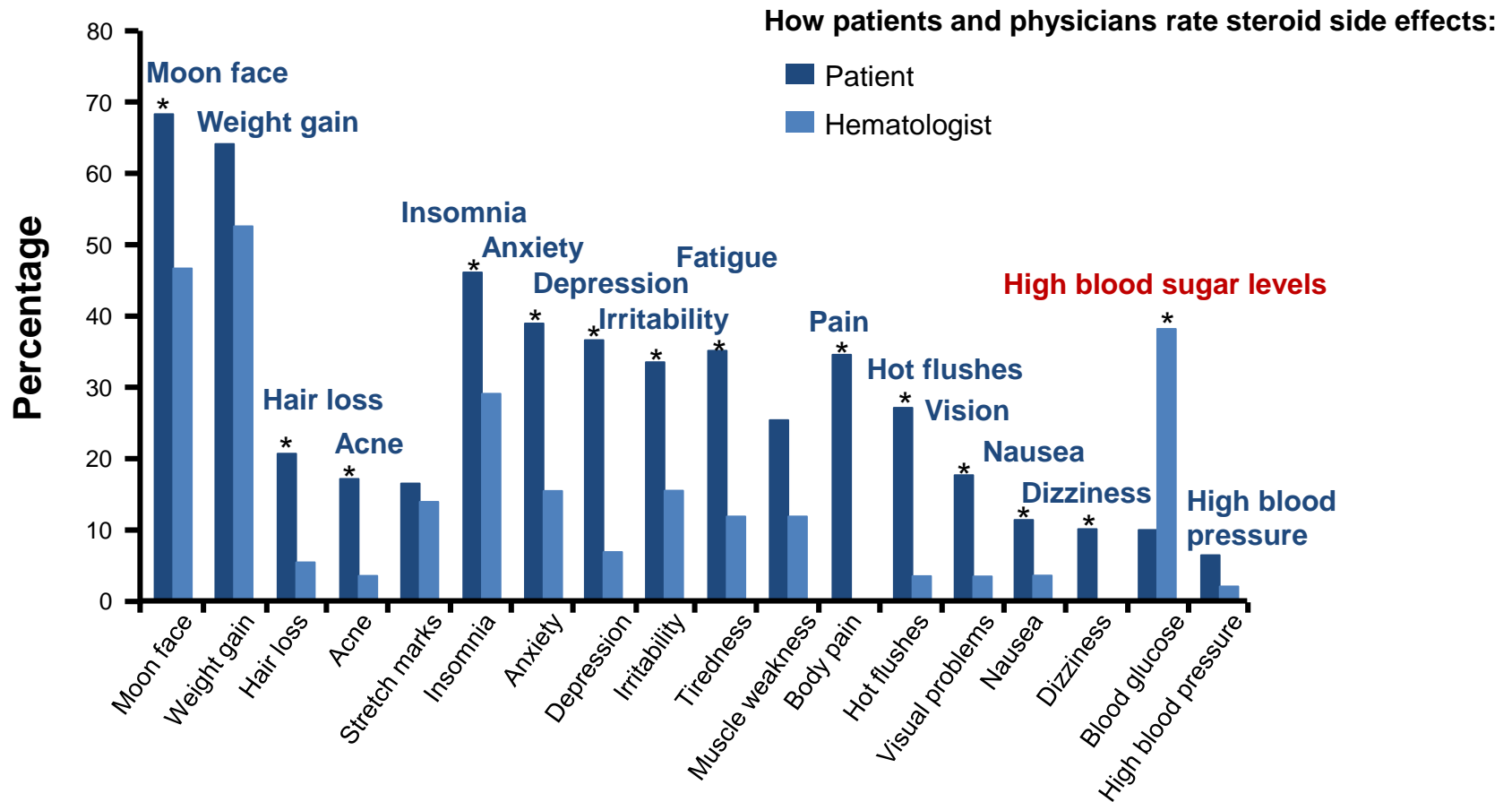
## **International consensus report on the investigation and management of primary immune thrombocytopenia**

Provan D, Stasi R, Newland AC, Blanchette VS, Bolton-Maggs P, Bussel JB, Chong BH, Cines DB, Gernsheimer TB, Godeau B, Grainger J, Greer I, Hunt BJ, Imbach PA, Lyons G, McMillan R, Rodeghiero F, Sanz MA, Tarantino M, Watson S, Young J, Kuter DJ. *Blood* 2010;115:168–186

## **The American Society of Hematology 2011 evidence-based practice guideline for immune thrombocytopenia**

Neunert C, Lim W, Crowther M, Cohen A, Solberg L Jr, Crowther MA; American Society of Hematology. *Blood* 2011;117:4190–4207

# Patients and physicians consider different side effects of steroid treatment burdensome

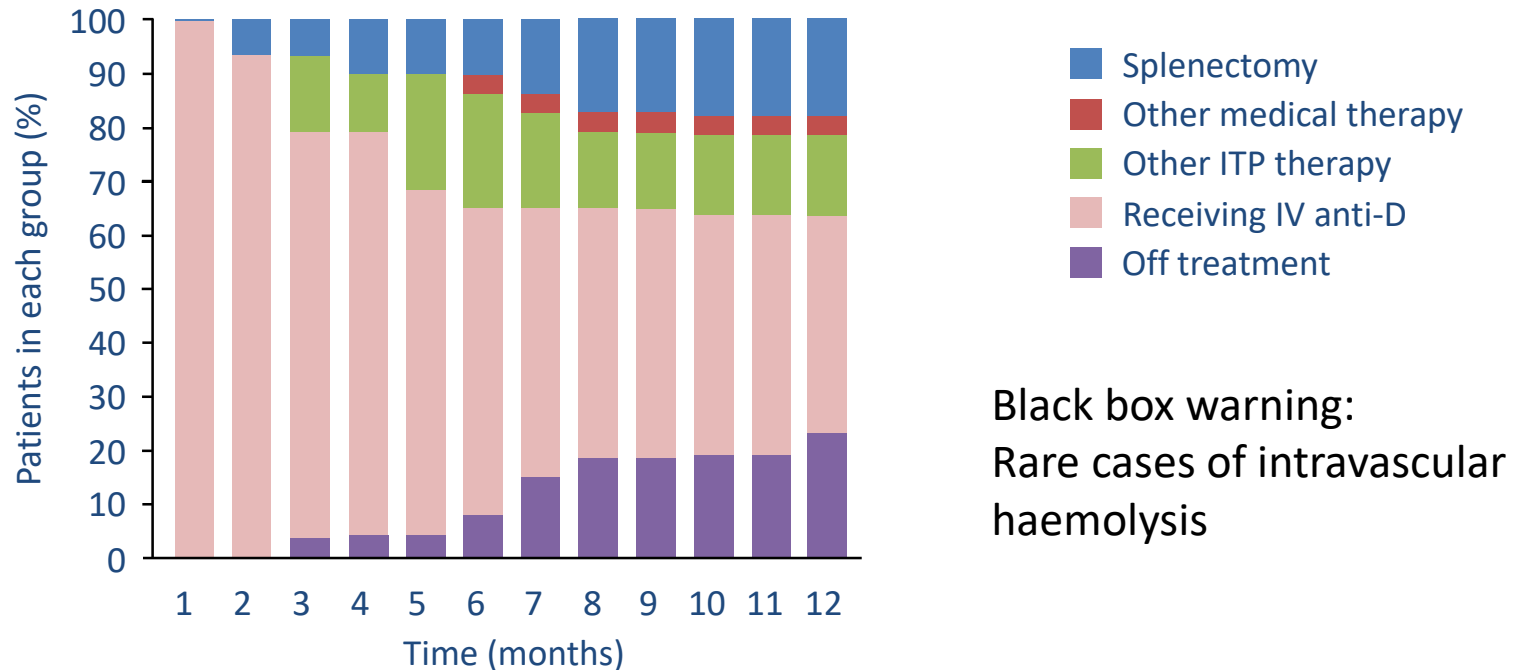


\*p<0.05 hematologist vs. patient.

Figure reproduced from Guidry JA, et al. *Eur J Haematol* 2009;83:175–182.

# About 30% of patients go into remission with any treatment

## Long-term outcome of patients receiving monthly IV anti-D



**Patients with newly diagnosed ITP should be given treatment most likely to achieve a platelet response and least likely to have a long-term impact (such as splenectomy)**

# Second-line options in persistent ITP

- Common morbidity in persistent ITP is infection or other steroid-related complications
- Steroid-sparing agents:
  - Rituximab
  - Immunosuppression (azathioprine, MMF)
  - Thrombopoietin receptor agonists
  - Splenectomy

# Management of ITP

## Thrombocytopenia

Diagnosis: Infection, drugs, inherited, acquired

### Newly diagnosed ITP (0–3 months)

Steroids or IVIg



### Persistent ITP (3–12 months)

MMF or TPO-RAs or rituximab



### Chronic ITP (>12 months)

Continuous TPO-RAs

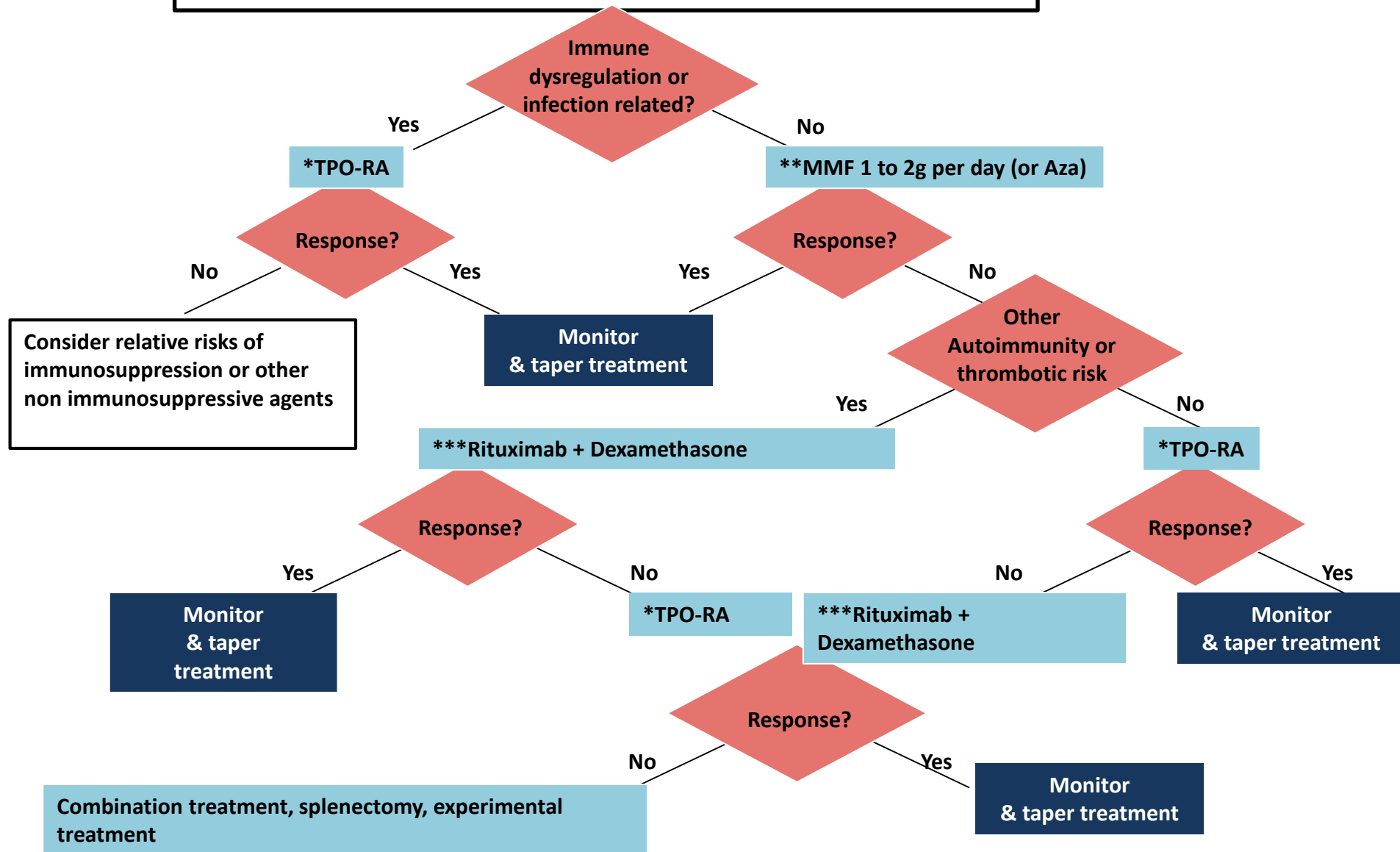
Repeated rituximab ( $\pm$  dexamethasone)

Continuous MMF

Other: Danazol, dapsone, hydroxychloroquine

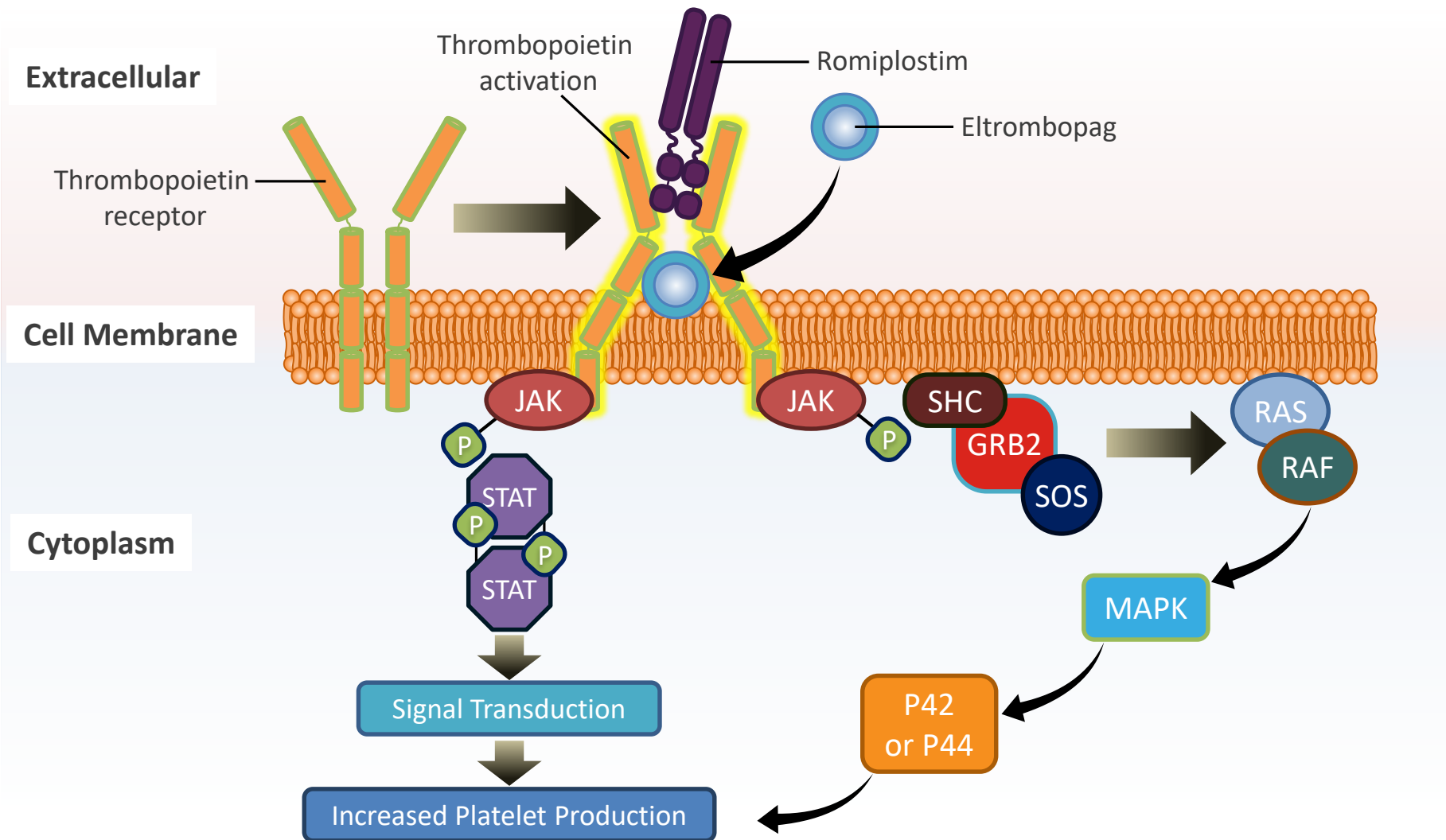
Splenectomy

# Management of persistent ITP requiring treatment



**Responders:** Monitor every 2 – 8 weeks for bleeding and infections. Emergency access if bleeding. Taper treatment after 12 to 18 months.

# Mechanism of Action of TPO-RAs



The role of cytokines released from platelets:  
Does increasing the platelet count using TPO-  
RA result in restoration of immune tolerance to  
platelets by increasing TGFb?

Figure 6

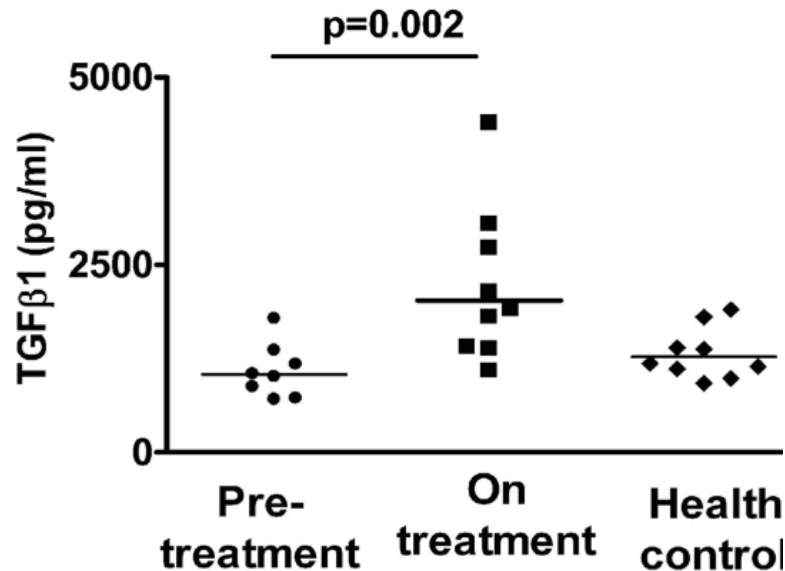
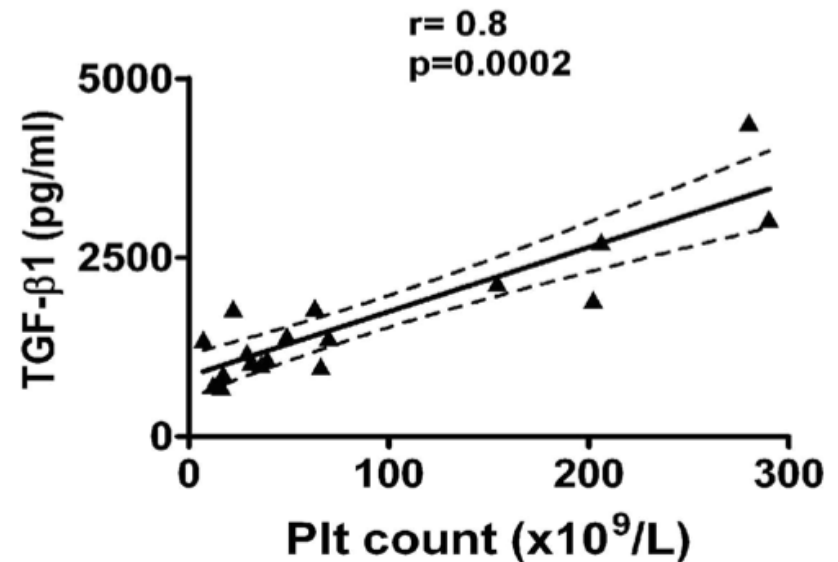


Figure 5



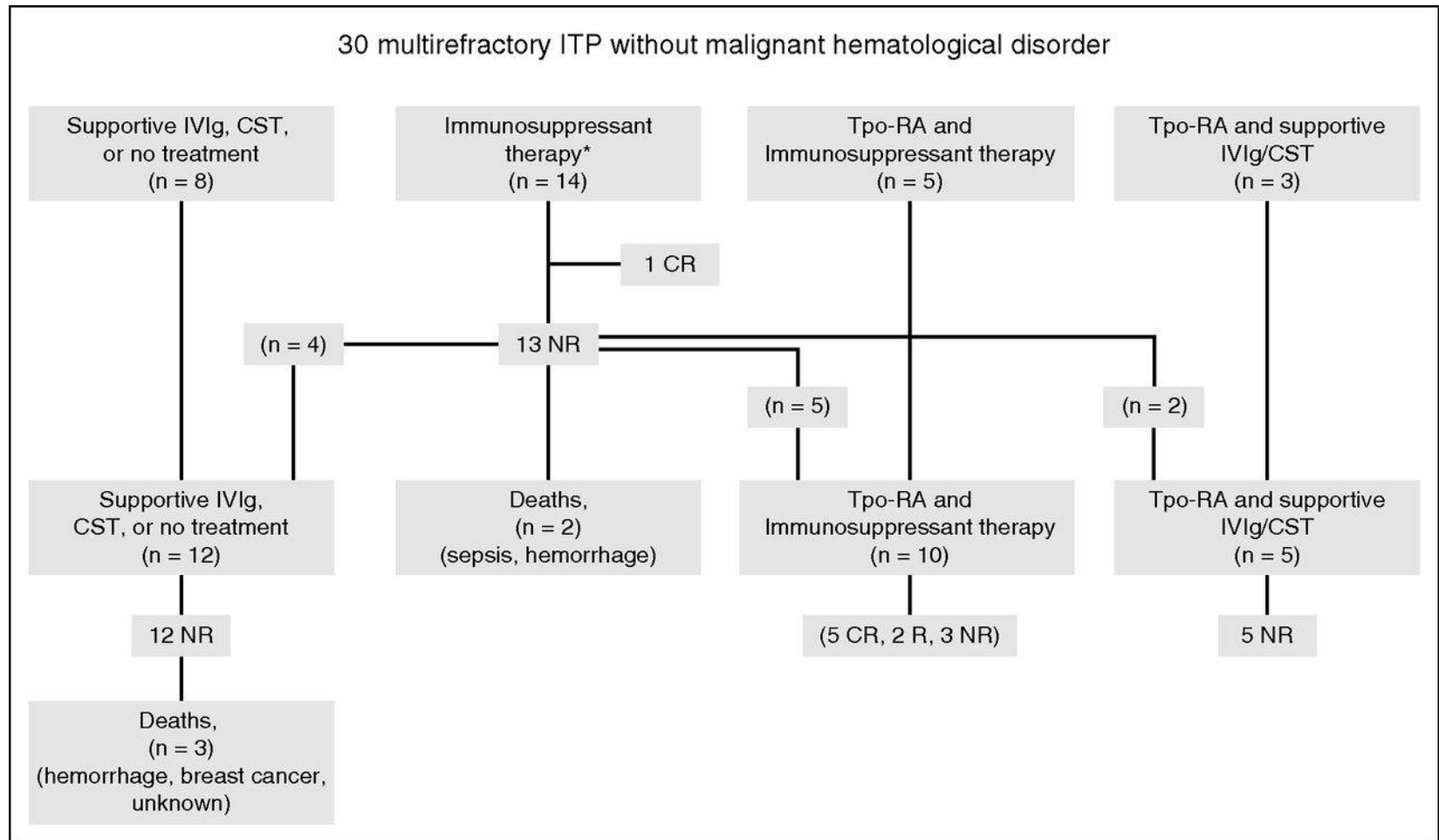
# Some patients, even with refractory disease, have only needed TPOs for a short time

## TPO-Ras (romiplostim and eltrombopag)<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>

- 30% of patients could come off treatment
- Patients had ITP for an average of 7.8 years and had failed an average of four prior therapies, including eight patients who had a splenectomy

**No predictive factors of sustained response were identified**

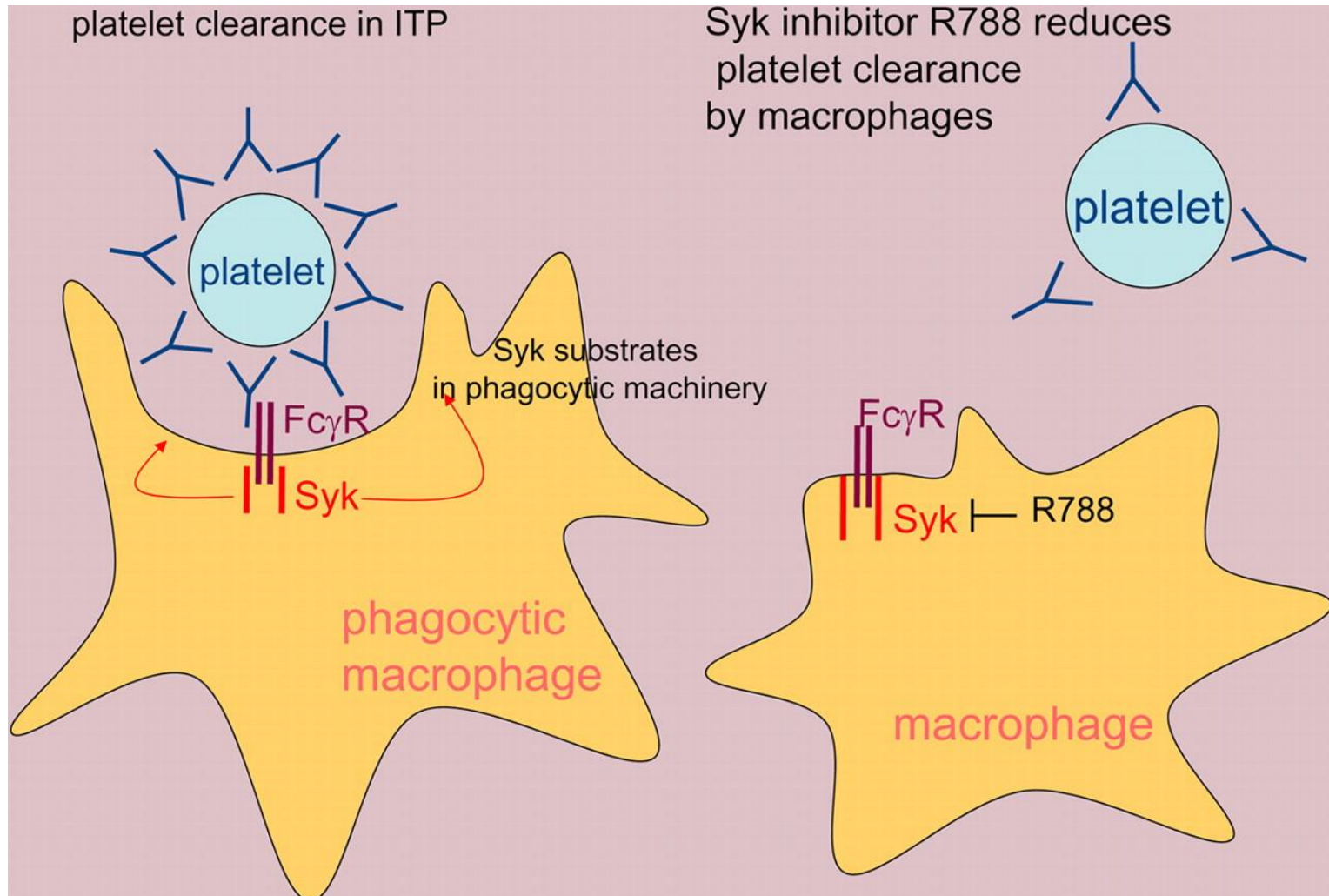
# Response to therapy in patients with a multi-refractory ITP: combination of TPO and immunosuppression



Matthieu Mahévas et al. Blood 2016;128:1625-1630

\*Cyclophosphamide, n = 1; azathioprine, n = 4; cyclosporine, n = 1; mycophenolate mofetil, n = 2; alemtuzumab, n = 1; high-dose cyclophosphamide followed by autologous HSCT, n = 1.

# Fostamatinib inhibits Immune-mediated clearance of antibody-opsonized platelets in patients with ITP receptors



blood

Donna S. Woulfe Blood 2009;113:3133-3134

# Summary

- Stem cells develop in to megakaryocytes via complex regulatory system
- Thrombopoietin is the critical Factor for MK development
- Megakaryocytes migrate to blood vessel and platelets released in to the vessel by unclear regulation
- Regulation of platelet number not fully understood
- Life span of platelets regulated by apoptotic pathways
- Many genes involved in megakaryocyte development and platelet production
- Many roles of platelets, besides coagulation
- The role of platelets in infection may results in their premature destruction – resulting in ITP
- Most patients with ITP do not bleed, treatment is complicated
- (Megakaryocyte/platelet supplement with the BJH April 2014)
- How I manage ITP BJH 2017

Thank you for your attention!



The ITP Support Association

Immune Thrombocytopenia