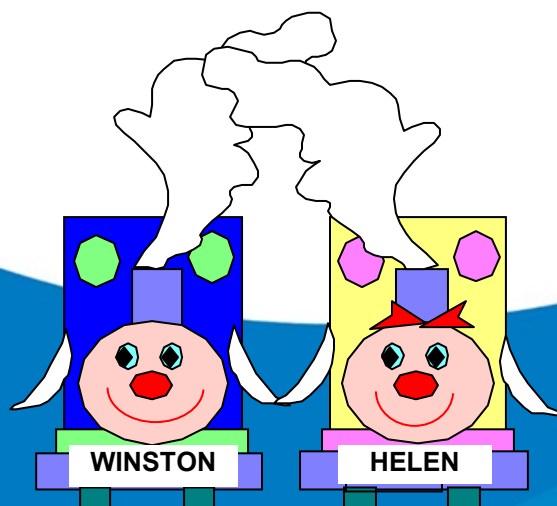


Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura ITP

This leaflet can be made available
in alternative languages / formats on request.

*如有需要，本传单可提供其他语言/版式
此單張的其他語言/格式版本可按要求提供*

Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona
w innych językach/formatach.



Nature and reasons for the condition

ITP is a rare bleeding disorder in which the body's immune system destroys platelets in the blood. Platelets are found in the blood and are used for clotting.

This condition is common in children and appears usually following a viral infection.

Signs and symptoms

- ITP presents itself with bruising and very small purple spots.
- These spots can be found in the mouth, gums and on lips and bruising may appear on the arms and legs.
- It is caused by the bleeding of tiny blood vessels just under the skin.
- Sometimes your child's urine looks pink as it may contain a small amount of blood.

Our usual form of treatment is:

Whilst your child is in hospital, various tests will be carried out to help find the cause, but often no cause is found. Some tests include blood samples and urine tests. In some cases treatment is required.

This can be given in one of two ways:

- Oral Steroids – these can reduce the bleeding from the tiny blood vessels
- Intravenous Immunoglobulins – these prevent the destruction of platelets

The child's temperature, heart rate and blood pressure will be monitored by nursing staff at regular intervals and their urine will be tested to identify blood content.

Your child will need to rest, whilst in hospital and at home, and be protected from any injuries.

Most children usually recover within a few weeks or months whether or not treatment has been given.

The benefits of treatment/management

Doctors at the hospital will advise you how long your child should rest for and when he/she can resume school/activities.

You may be given an appointment to return to the hospital for your child to have a repeat blood test.

This is to check if the number of platelets are increasing back to a normal range.

Always continue to give your child the prescribed medication and only stop when instructed to do so by your Doctor/Nurse.

Risks of treatment

Nil

Alternatives to treatment

Nil

If you have any further questions, please contact your child's consultant via their secretary via the hospital switchboard.

The secretaries are available Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

If you need to contact the department outside of these hours, please phone either:

Ward 3F 0151 430 1616

Ward 4F 0151 430 1791

Whiston Hospital
Warrington Road,
Prescot, Merseyside,
L35 5DR

 /sthknhs  @sthk.nhs

www.sthk.nhs.uk