

# Use and effectiveness of eltrombopag in a tertiary hospital

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## INTRODUCTION

Eltrombopag is authorized by the EMA for adult chronic immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) splenectomised patients who are refractory to other treatments and as second-line treatment for non-splenectomised patients for whom surgery is contraindicated. Eltrombopag was effective in 59% of patients in a randomized controlled trial<sup>1</sup>

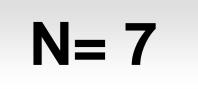
## **OBJECTIVES**

- 1) To determine whether eltrombopag is prescribed according to the approved indications.
- 2) To observe the effect on platelet levels.

# METHODS

Observational study. We included patients treated with eltrombopag from 01/01/2011 to 31/08/2011. Variables: demographics, diagnosis, previous treatments, duration, rescue medication, changes in platelet levels, and reason for suspension (where applicable).

# RESULTS



#### Demographics

 $\succ$ Sex: 4 males; 3 females.

#### **Previous treatments**

First line treatment: all have received corticosteroids and immunoglobulins

Second line treatment: all were refractory to at least 2 of the follow treatments:

- Immunosuppressants (3 patients)
- Rituximab (3)
- Vinca alkaloids (2)
- Tranhexamic acid (3)
- Romiplostim (2)

 $\succ$  Median age: 65 years old.

### Diagnosis

► ITP: 6

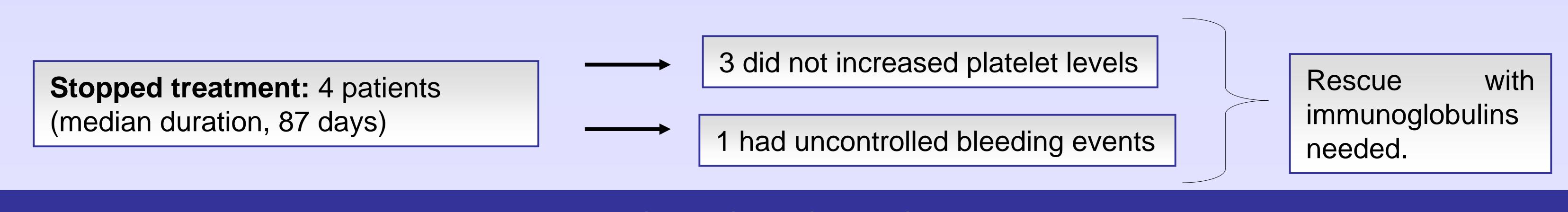
> Multifactorial essential thrombocytopenia: 1

### **Splenectomy (patients with ITP)**

- > One patient splenectomised
- > 5 not splenectomised:
  - Old age (3 patients)
  - Multiple comorbidities (1)
  - Refusal (1)

**Duration and effectiveness** 

**Continued treatment:** 3 patients (median interval from onset, 46 days) 3 of 3 increased platelet levels from baseline and maintained levels >50 x  $10^{3}/\mu$ L



## CONCLUSIONS

Eltrombopag was prescribed according to the approved indication in 6 out of 7 patients and was effective in half of the patients with ITP. Despite our small study population, the percentage of responders was similar to that found by Bussel et al.

1- Bussel J, Provan D, Shamsi T, Cheng G, Psaila B, Kovaleva L et al. Effect of eltrombopag on platelet counts and bleeding during treatment of chronic idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. Lancet 2009; 373: 641-48

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