FONDAZIONE PROGETTO EMATOLOGIA

Br J Haematol 2021 Sep;194(5):822-834 Epub 2021 Apr 6

PMID: 33822358 DOI: 10.1111/bjh.17390

Thrombosis in immune thrombocytopenia - current status and future perspectives

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Abstract

Immune thrombocytopenia (ITP) is an autoimmune disorder in which a combination of defective platelet production and enhanced clearance leads to thrombocytopenia. The primary aim for therapy in patients with this condition is the prevention of bleeding. However, more recently, increased rates of venous and arterial thrombotic events have been reported in ITP, even in the context of marked thrombocytopenia. In this review we discuss the epidemiology, aetiology and management of thrombotic events in these patients. We consider the impact of ITP therapies on the increased thrombotic risk, in particular the use of thrombopoietin-receptor agonists (TPO-RAs), as well as factors inherent to ITP itself. We also discuss the limited evidence available to guide clinicians in the treatment of these complex cases.

Link all'articolo: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33822358/