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ACUTE IMMUNE THROMBOCYTOPENIA IN CHILDHOOD - OUR EXPERIENCE

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Acute immune thrombocytopenia (ITP) is one of the most common primary hematologic disorders occurring during childhood. In our retrospective study starting from January 1998 to December 2002, 98 children with acute ITP were evaluated. An annual incidence is 3,8 per 100.000. More children were affected during spring and summer (63%). About 38% of the patients had a preceding infection. Although 59% of the patients had a platelet count $<20 \times 10^9/L$, most of them (91,9%) had only mild bleeding symptoms. Just 8,1% had serious bleeding symptoms requiring nasal packing because of serious nosebleeds and hormonal therapy because of menorrhagia. There was no case of ICH and death. The mean platelet count on admission was $21,20 \times 10^9/L$ (lowest count $3 \times 10^9/L$). Almost all (93,8%) received glucocorticosteroids (GC), just 3% (infants aged 2-4 months) received immunoglobulins (IG), and 3% were not treated. Side effects were noted in 5% of the children treated with GC.

CONCLUSION: Acute ITP in childhood is a benign disease with practically very low percentage of serious bleedings. Very high number of children treated with GC instead of IG in our study is due to limited economic capabilities of the country.

