

Immune Thrombocytopenia (ITP)

ITP stands for **Immune Thrombocytopenia**, also known as **Immune** or **Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura**. ITP is a rare bleeding disorder characterized by a low amount of platelets in the blood. Platelets are needed for clotting of the blood.

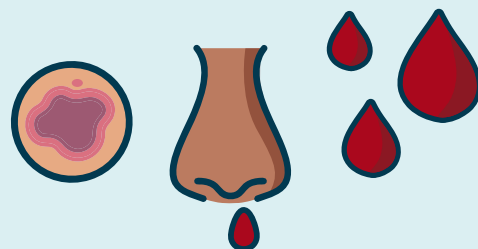
In patients with ITP, a person's own immune system creates antibodies that mark healthy platelets as "foreign substances" and then mistakenly attack and destroy them. As an autoimmune disease that results in the destruction of platelets, patients with ITP have a tendency to bleed or bruise.

FORMS OF ITP:

- **Acute (transient) thrombocytopenic purpura** is most commonly seen in young children. Boys and girls are equally affected. Symptoms often, but do not necessarily, follow a viral infection. About 85% of children recover within 1 year and the problem doesn't return.
- Thrombocytopenic purpura is considered **chronic** when it has lasted more than 6-12 months. The onset of illness may be at any age. Adults more often have the chronic disorder and females are affected two to three times more than males. The onset of illness may be at any age.
- **Primary ITP**, also known as **Idiopathic**, is when ITP develops for no known reason.
- **Secondary ITP** is associated with other illnesses such as an infection or autoimmune disease, or occur after transfusion or taking certain drugs, for instance cancer drugs.

COMMON SYMPTOMS OF ITP

- Bleeding, which can include bruising (ecchymosis)
- Tiny red dots on the skin or mucous membranes (petechiae)
- In some instances bleeding from the nose, mouth and gums, digestive or urinary tracts may also occur
- Rarely, bleeding within the brain occurs





If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with ITP, it is important to know when you should contact BCDI. Please call if the person with ITP has:

- Bleeding symptoms including prolonged nose bleeding (more than 10 minutes)
- Prolonged gum or mouth bleeding (more than 20 minutes)
- Excessive or prolonged menstrual bleeding (longer than 7 days)
- Blood in urine/stool
- More frequent bruising or large painful bruising with knots.
- Any upcoming procedures or surgeries, including dental work.
- Any injury to head, neck or abdomen.
- If there are any concerning symptoms or doubt, please call for recommendations.

If loss of consciousness or significant bleeding occurs – call 911 prior to making other calls.



When in doubt, we ask that you call our office for recommendations.

- To reach a nurse, please call **(309) 692-5337**.
- After regular business hours, please call **(309) 677-6085** to reach the provider on call.

