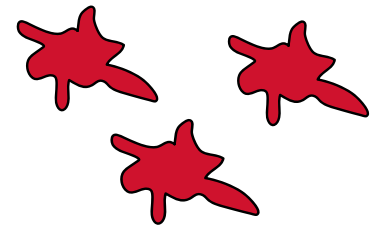


Immune thrombocytopenia (ITP)

ITP is a complication of CLL. It happens when your immune system attacks blood cells called platelets.

ITP causes low numbers of platelets in your blood (thrombocytopenia). This can show up on your routine blood tests.

You need platelets for your blood to clot. If you don't have enough platelets, it can cause unusual or heavier bleeding than normal for you.



Platelets

Up to 5 in 100 people with CLL develop ITP. More than 95 in 100 do not.

Symptoms and diagnosis

You may not have any symptoms of ITP, but it can cause bleeding that's hard to stop. This may be underneath your skin, from your skin or inside your body. It can sometimes be serious. You may notice:



Bruising easily



Unusual bruising



Swelling under your skin that looks or feels like a lump



Nosebleeds



Bleeding gums



Blood in your pee or poo



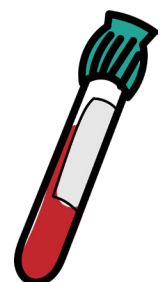
Heavier or longer periods than usual



Extreme tiredness

Unusual bruising may look like tiny spots under your skin. These may look red or purple on white skin or purple or darker brown on black or brown skin.

You'll need blood tests to diagnose ITP.



Contact your GP or haematology team if you are worried about any symptoms.

Treatment for ITP

There are lots of treatment options for ITP. Your treatment plan will depend on your symptoms, general health and preferences.



They may include:

- Steroids
- Donor antibodies through a drip (intravenous immunoglobulin or IVIG)
- A targeted medicine called rituximab
- Medicines to boost your platelet count (eltrombopag or romiplostim)

Depending on your blood test results and your medical history, you might need to stay in hospital to have your treatment.

Your haematology specialist is best placed to talk to you about your options and your outlook.

This information is aimed at people in the UK. We do our best to make sure it is accurate and up to date but it should not replace advice or guidance from your health professional.

For [more information about CLL](#), follow the link. Or search 'CLL' at www.leukaemiacare.org.uk or scan the QR code. This also includes links to order free information in print.



Need help? We offer a range of [support services](#). To find out more, scan the QR code, click the link or search 'support for you' at leukaemiacare.org.uk



Want to talk about CLL?

Call our freephone helpline on **08088 010 444** (weekdays 9am to 4.30pm)

Send a WhatsApp to **07500 068065** (weekdays 9am to 4.30pm)

Visit www.leukaemiacare.org.uk

Email support@leukaemiacare.org.uk

If you'd like to comment on our content or have a list of the sources we used for this factsheet, please get in touch. Email information@leukaemiacare.org.uk or call **08088 010 444**. Or complete our [short survey](#).



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