



XV Corso Nazionale di Aggiornamento SIdEM
Roma 23 - 25 Settembre 2010

Attualità nel trattamento delle Microangiopatie Trombotiche

Gerlando Quintini

*U.O.C. Ematologia TMO AOUP Paolo Giaccone
Palermo*



blood

JOURNAL OF
THE AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF
HEMATOLOGY

VOLUME 98
NUMBER 6
SEPTEMBER 15, 2001

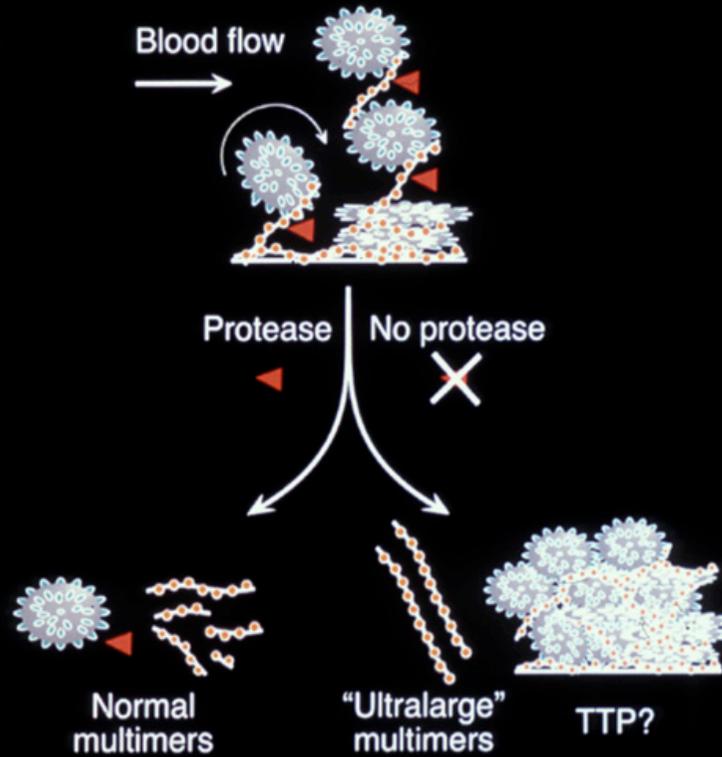
Purification of the
vWF protease

Pathologic spectrin
modeling

CDS cell failures
in HIV

Verotoxin effects
on endothelial cells

vWF and platelet adhesion

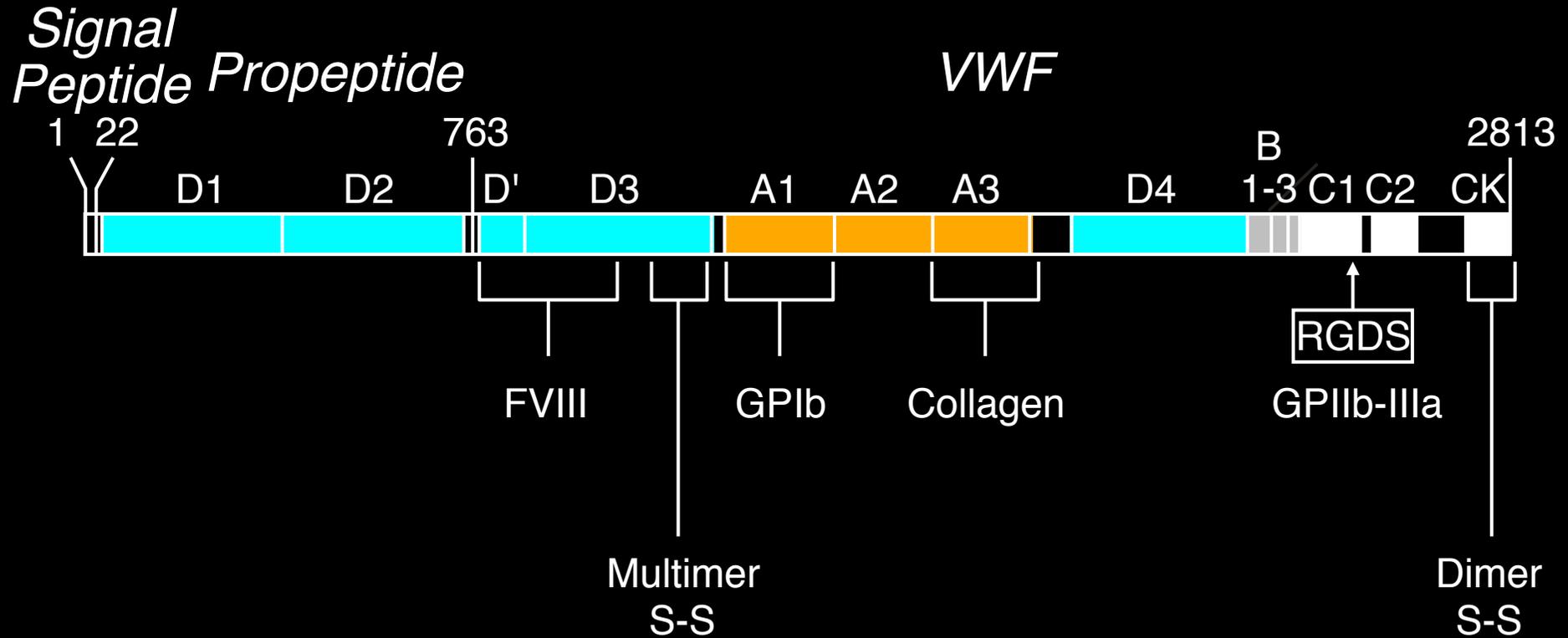




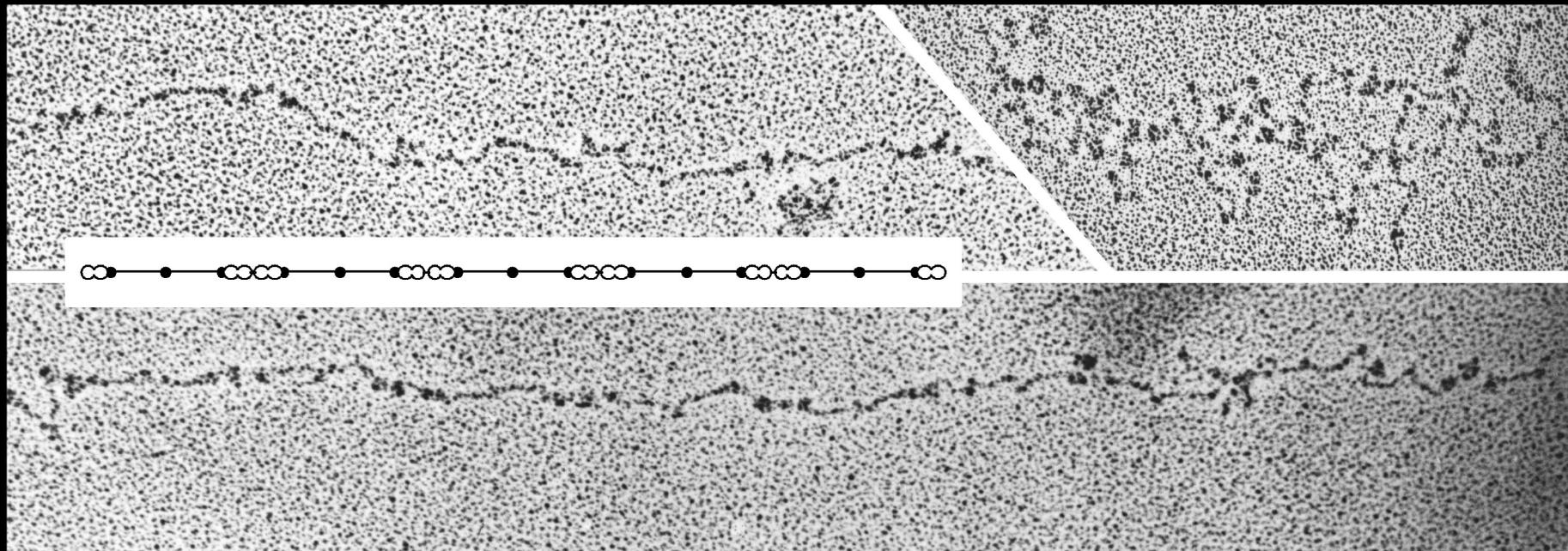
VWF and TTP

- VWF, ADAMTS13, platelet adhesion
- Pathophysiology, diagnosis, treatment of thrombotic microangiopathy
- Clinical Research Questions

The Von Willebrand Factor Precursor



von Willebrand Factor Multimers

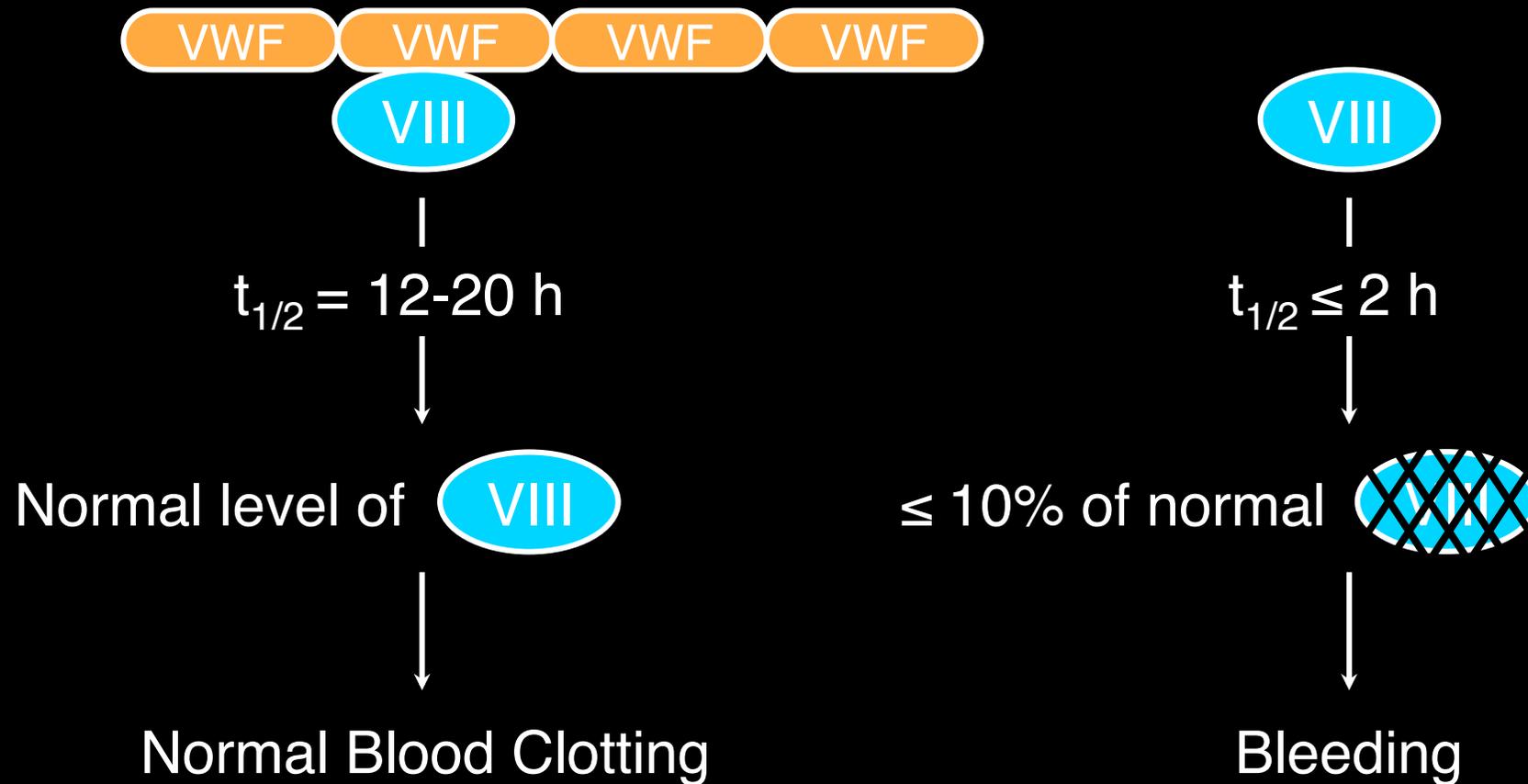


120 nm

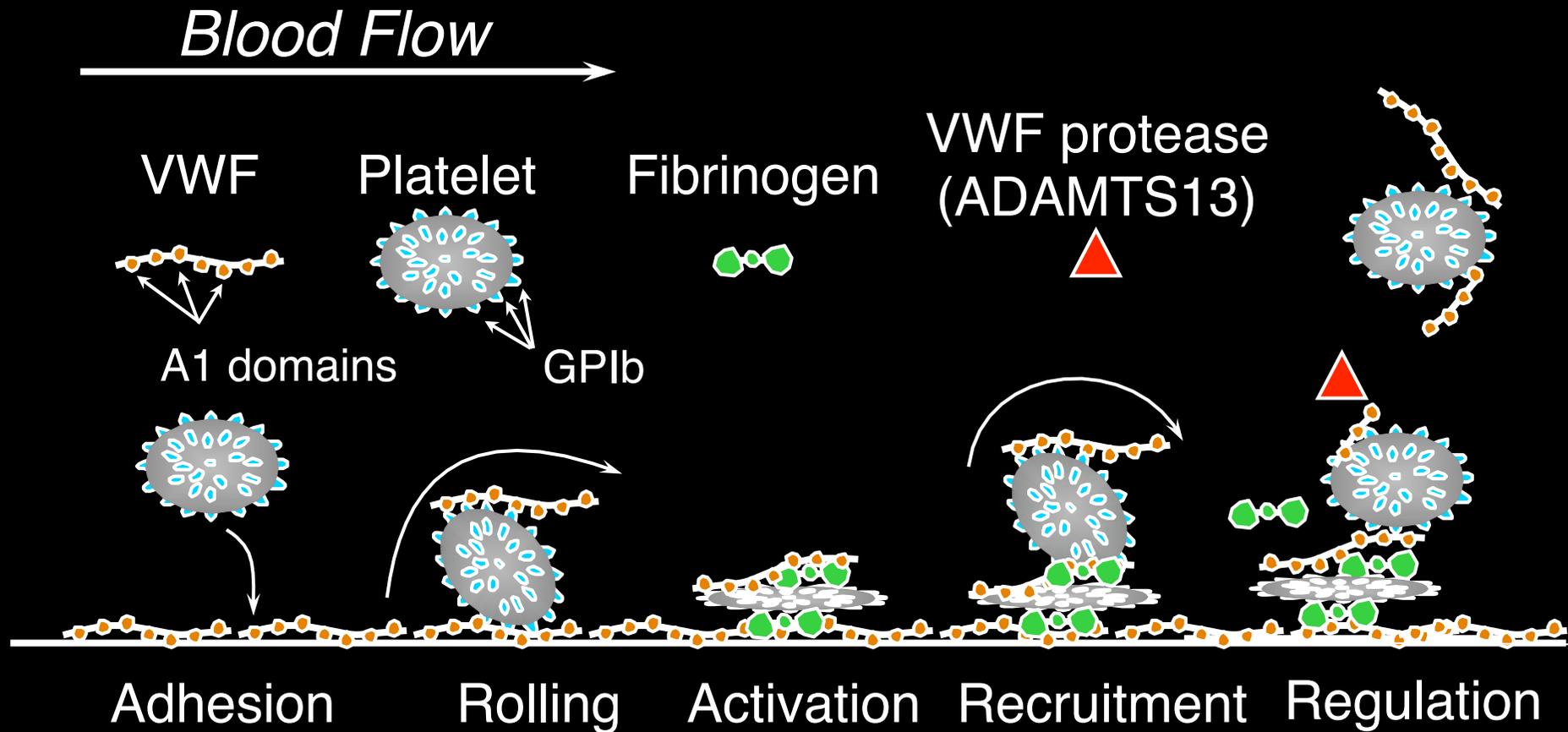
Adapted from Fowler et al, *J Clin Invest* 76:1491-1500, 1985



VWF and Factor VIII Survival



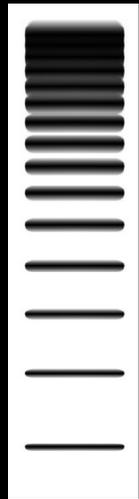
VWF, ADAMTS13 and Platelet Adhesion



Assembly and Catabolism of VWF

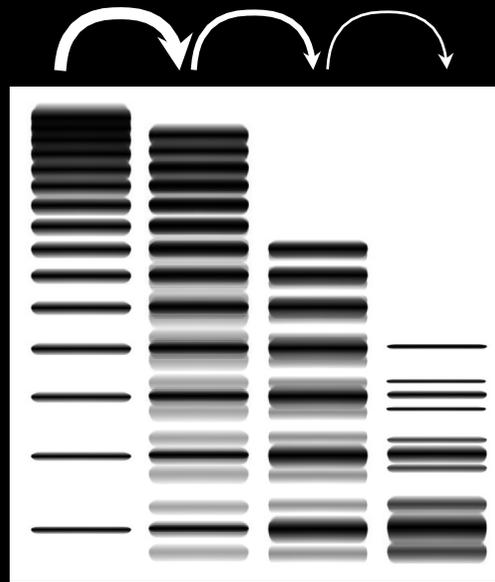
Normal Steady-State

Initial



$k_{\text{Secretion}}$

$k_{\text{Proteolysis}}$



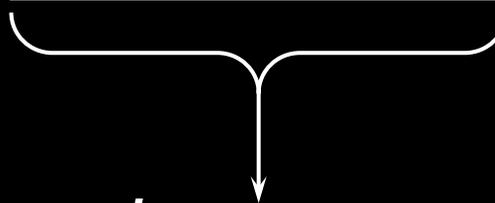
$\sum =$

Plasma



100 U/dl

$k_{\text{Clearance}}$





Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura

History:

Dr. Eli Moschcowitz – 1924, NYC
(*Arch Intern Med* 31:89, 1925)

- 16 yo girl with weakness, joint pain, 40°C fever, hemolytic anemia, WBC, no platelet count; 4 days paresis (L), coma, death
- "Acute febrile pleiochromic anemia associated with widespread microvascular occlusive thrombi"



History

- 1923** Eli Moschowitz described "acute febrile pleiochromic anemia"
 - autopsy showed hyaline microthrombi
- 1936** Baehr found microthrombi composed of fibrin and platelets, the pathognomonic lesion
- 1947** Singer named "TTP" to emphasize these lesions
- 1957** Named "Moschowitz's disease" by Bernheim

Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura

A Disorder of VWF Proteolysis?

A classic pentad of signs:

- Microangiopathic hemolytic anemia
- Thrombocytopenia
- Neurologic dysfunction
- Renal failure
- Fever



Incidence 4/million/year

Often strikes young adults, mainly females

Untreated, mortality >90%

Treated with plasmapheresis, mortality <20%



Definitions

Thrombotic microangiopathy:

- Microangiopathic hemolytic anemia (Coombs' negative)
- Thrombocytopenia
- Variable pattern of tissue injury from microvascular thrombosis



Definitions

Idiopathic TTP:

- **Thrombotic microangiopathy**
- Without a predisposing condition
- Without oliguric renal insufficiency at presentation



Definitions

Secondary TTP:

- **Thrombotic microangiopathy**
- With a predisposing condition (e.g., cancer, sepsis, malignant hypertension, marrow or organ transplantation, HELLP, eclampsia, cyclosporine, tacrolimus, other drugs)



Definitions

Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS):

- **Thrombotic microangiopathy**
- With acute oliguric or anuric renal failure
- Relative sparing of other organ systems



Definitions

Shiga toxin-associated HUS:

- Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli*
- Preceded by painful bloody diarrhea
- Usually a childhood disease

Atypical HUS:

- No diarrheal prodrome
- Complement regulatory defects in some

Enhanced surveillance of thrombotic microangiopathies in Scotland, 2003-2008



FIGURE 1: *E. coli* O157 cases: rates per 100,000 population, 1984-2007

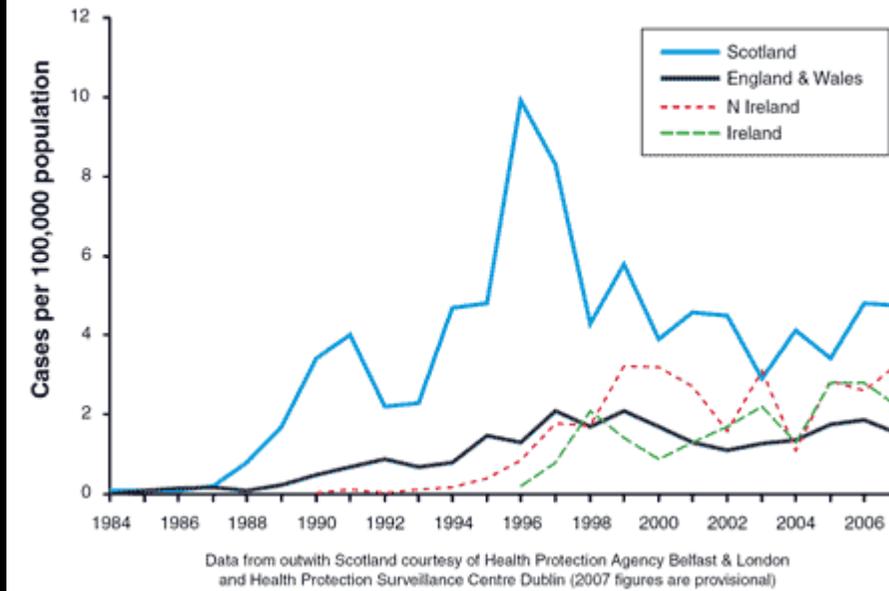


TABLE 1: Predisposing factors in development of haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS) or thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP) – χ^2 analyses performed on predisposing factors and development of thrombotic microangiopathy

Predisposing factor	HUS (cases)	TTP (cases)
Infection with verocytotoxin-producing O157 <i>E. coli</i>	133	1
Infection with verocytotoxin-producing non-O157 <i>E. coli</i>	4	0
Diarrhoea and vomiting (no pathogen identified)	8	0
Pre-existing renal disease	4	7
Relapsing disease	2	3
Immuno-suppression	2	7
Pregnancy	0	2
Severe sepsis	0	12
Collagen/vascular disorders	2	12
Malignancy	1	2
Other	9	11
Total number of cases	165	57



Idiopathic TTP – Demographics

Gender (Female/Male) ^{a,c}	≈2/1
Age (peak decade) ^a	35-45
African ancestry (Odds Ratio) ^b	≈2
BMI ≥ 30 kg/m ² (Odds Ratio) ^b	≈4
Annual incidence ^c	≈4.5 per million

^a Rock et al, *New Eng J Med* 1991; **325**: 393-397

^b George et al, *Semin Hematol* 2004; **41**: 60-67

^c Terrell et al, *J Thromb Haemost* 2005; **3**: 1432-1436



Idiopathic TTP – Evolution

Feature	1925- 1964 ^a	1964- 1980 ^b	1982- 1989 ^c
		<i>Percent</i>	
Microangiopathic hemolytic anemia	96	98	100
Low Platelets	96	96	100
Neurological Signs	92	84	63
Renal Abnormalities	88	76	59
Fever	98	59	24

^a Amorosi & Ultmann, 1966 (271 patients)

^b Ridolfi & Bell, 1981 (258 patients)

^c Rock et al, 1991 (102 patients)



Idiopathic TTP – Laboratory

Variable	Mean ± SD	Normal Range
Platelet count ($\times 10^9/L$)	22 ± 13	150-400
Hemoglobin (g/dL)	8.8 ± 1.9	12-17.5
Creatinine (μM)	124 ± 103	40-110
LDH (U/L)	1400 ± 900	100-225
PT (sec)	11.6 ± 1.1	10.5-12.5
aPTT (sec)	30.3 ± 10.3	20-35

Rock et al, *New Eng J Med* 1991; **325**: 393-397



Idiopathic TTP – Clinical Course

20% dead within with 5 weeks

80% complete response in average of 16 days (range, 3-36)

40% of responders have exacerbations within one week

30% of responders relapse within 2 years

Rock et al, *New Eng J Med* 1991; **325**: 393-397

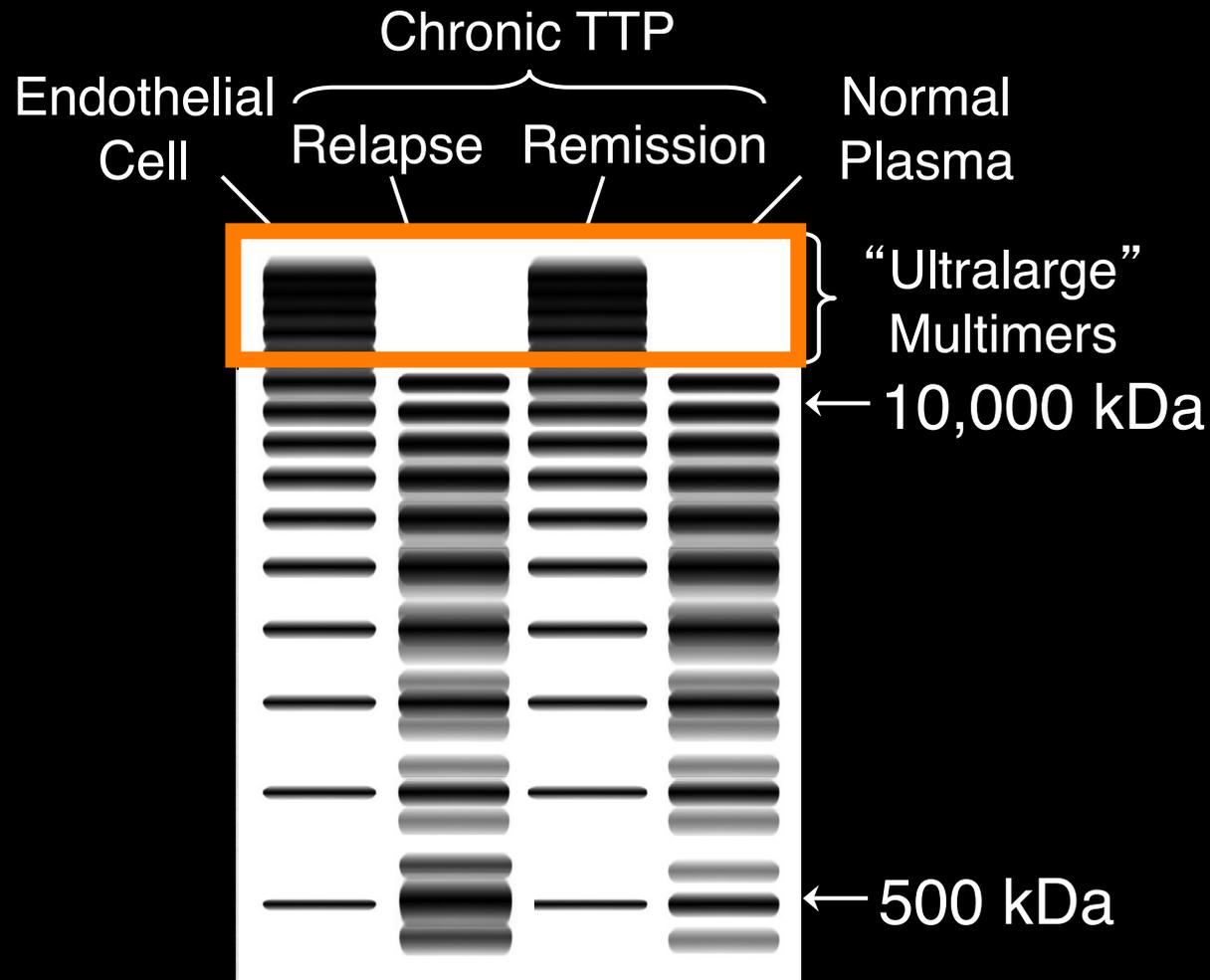
Idiopathic TTP – Pathophysiology

Why does plasma exchange work at all?

- Removes a toxin or antibody?
- Replenishes a missing factor?



The VWF Hypothesis



Failure to cleave ultralarge VWF causes TTP?

Moake et al, *N Engl J Med* 1982; 307: 1432-1435



VWF Cleaving Protease in Plasma

1982: Predicted by Moake

1996: Discovered by Tsai and Furlan

1997: Absent in familial TTP

1998: Absent in most idiopathic TTP (because of acquired autoantibody inhibitors)

2001: Cloned, mutated in familial TTP

What's the deal with ADAMTS 13?

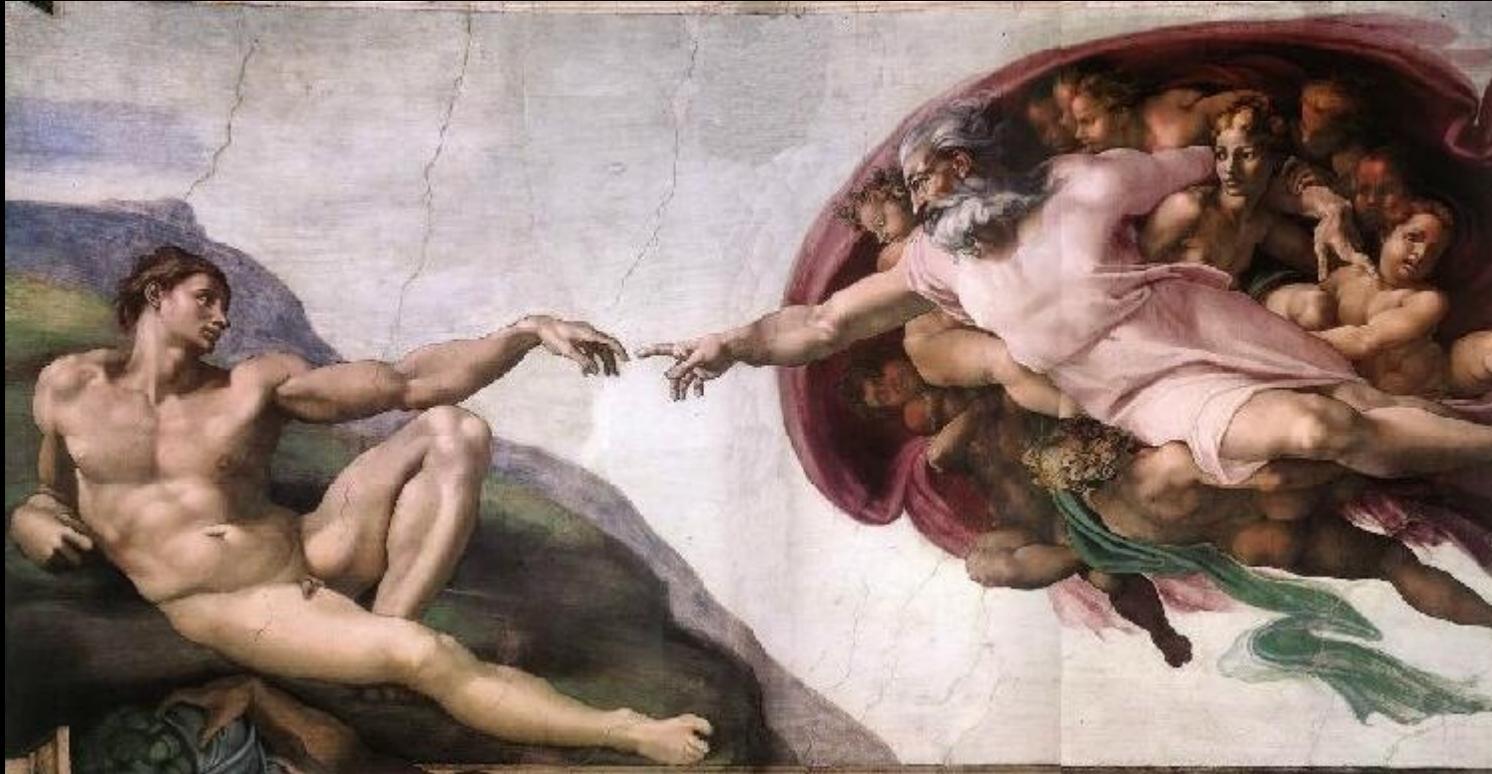
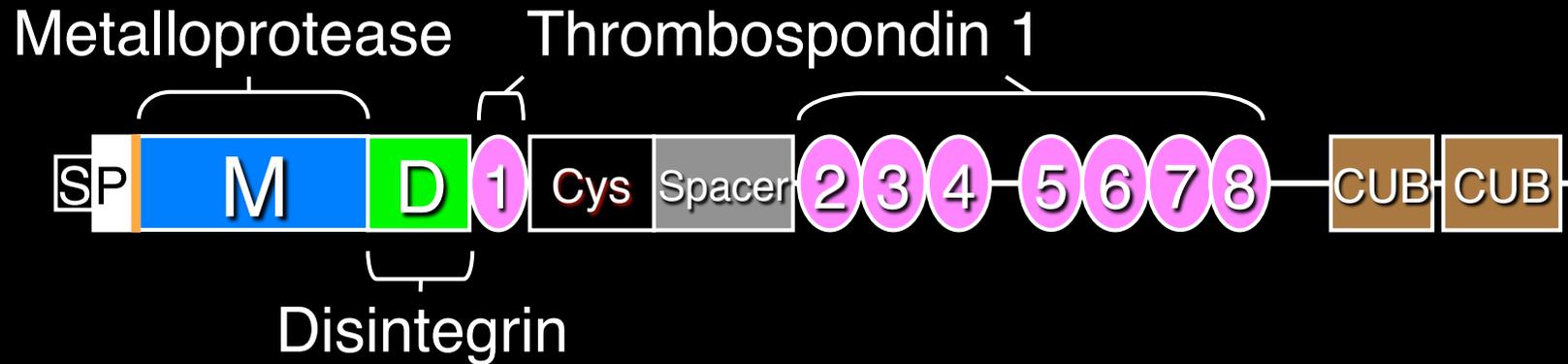


Image of Adam (looking fairly inactive at the moment):
Michelangelo, Sistine Chapel.

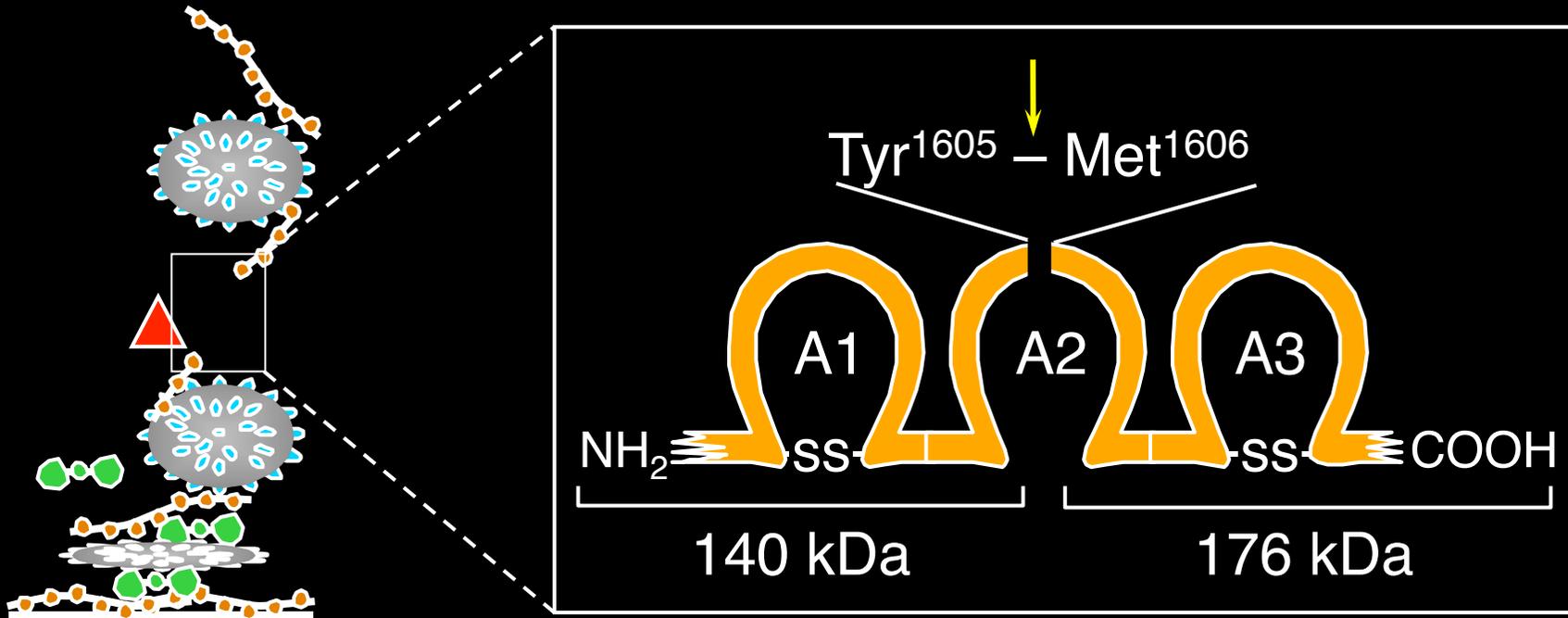
VWF Cleaving Protease (ADAMTS13)



A Disintegrin-like And Metalloprotease
with *Thrombospondin-1* repeats



Shear and VWF Proteolysis

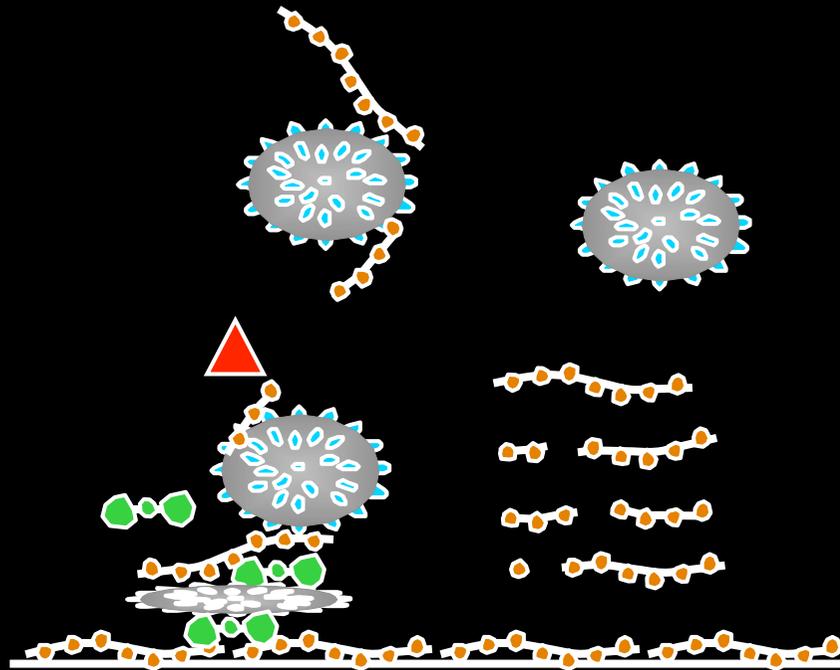


Proteolysis increased by:

- Shear stress (aortic stenosis)
- VWD type 2A mutations
- Denaturants (urea, guanidine)

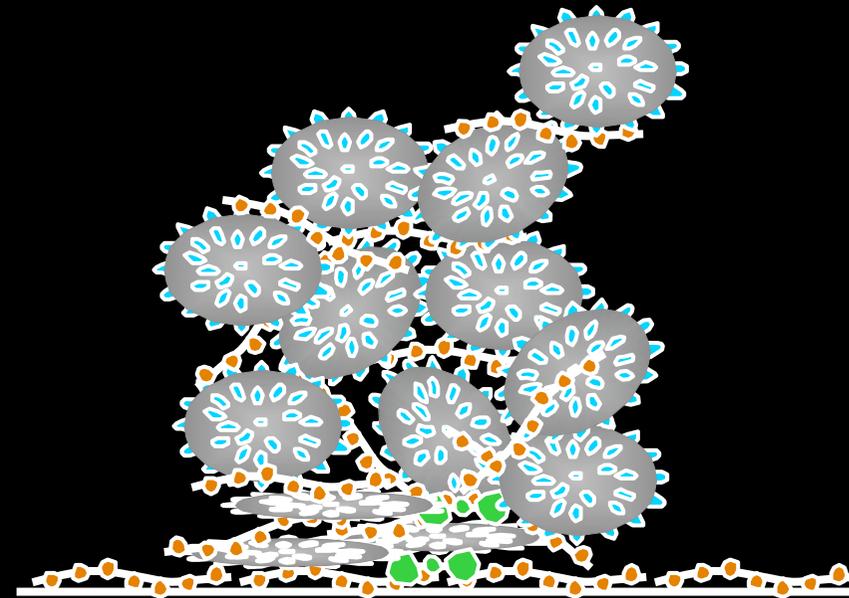
VWF, ADAMTS13 and Platelet Adhesion

With ADAMTS13



Normal VWF Multimers
Normal Hemostasis

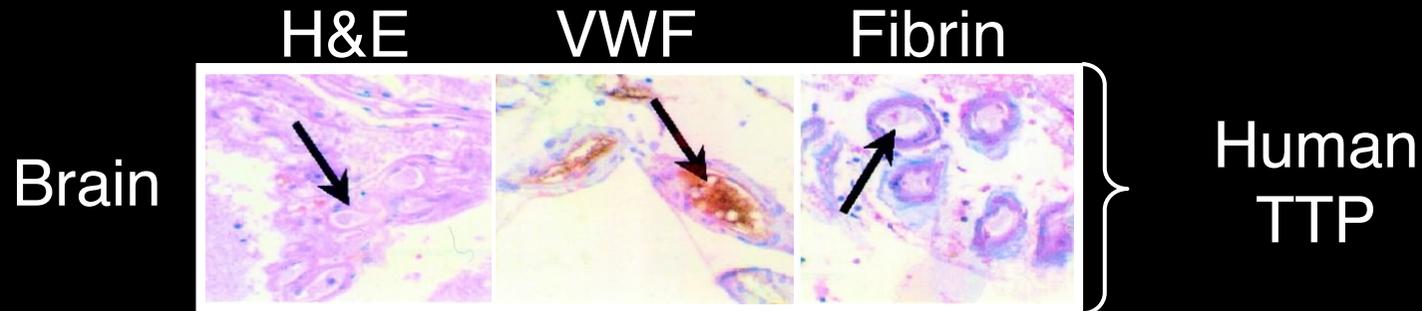
Without ADAMTS13



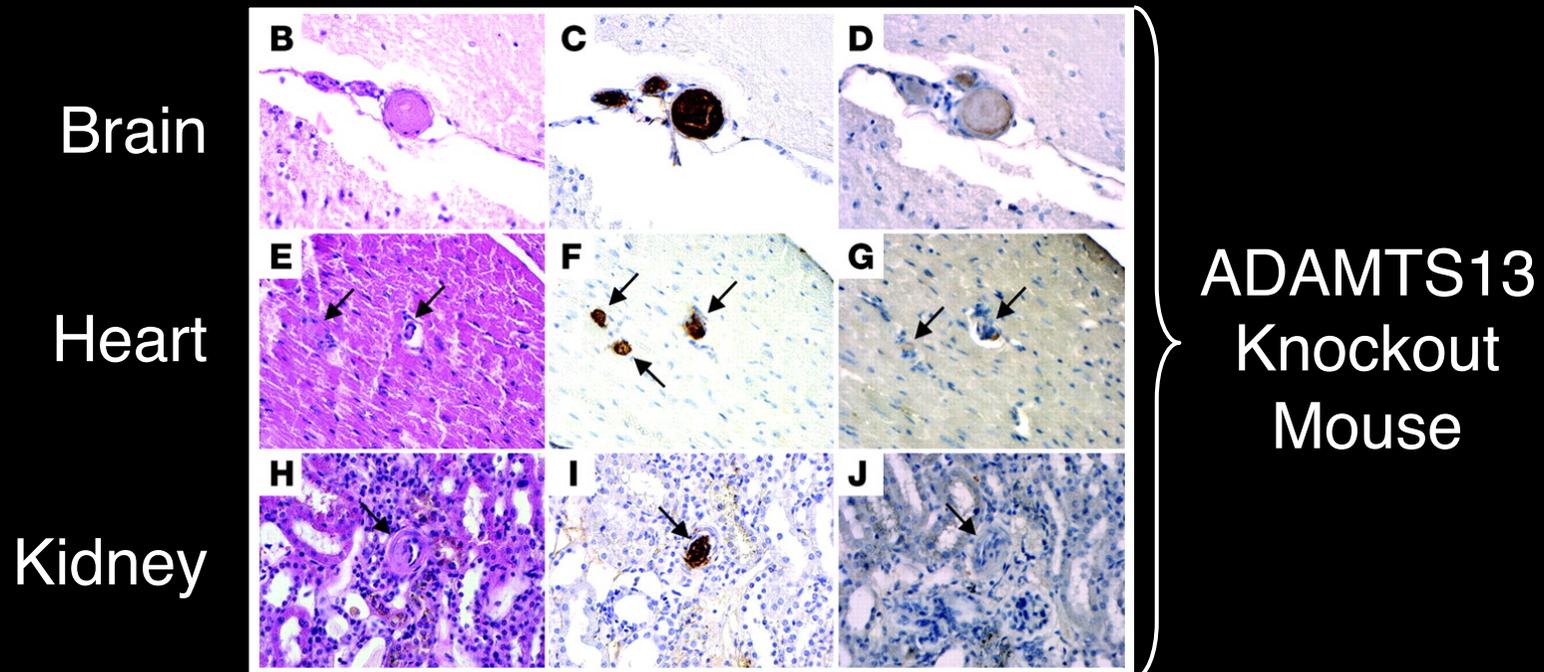
Ultralarge VWF Multimers
Microvascular Thrombosis
(TTP)



TTP Histopathology



Tsai et al, *Pediatr Res* 2001; 49: 653-659



Motto et al, *J Clin Invest* 2005; 115: 2752-2761



Familial TTP

Upshaw-Schulman Syndrome

Clinical features:

- Autosomal recessive, rare
- Neonatal jaundice
- Some have a relapsing course from infancy
- Others present as young adults
- Precipitated by infection, pregnancy or stress
- Chronic renal failure is uncommon



Familial TTP

Upshaw-Schulman Syndrome

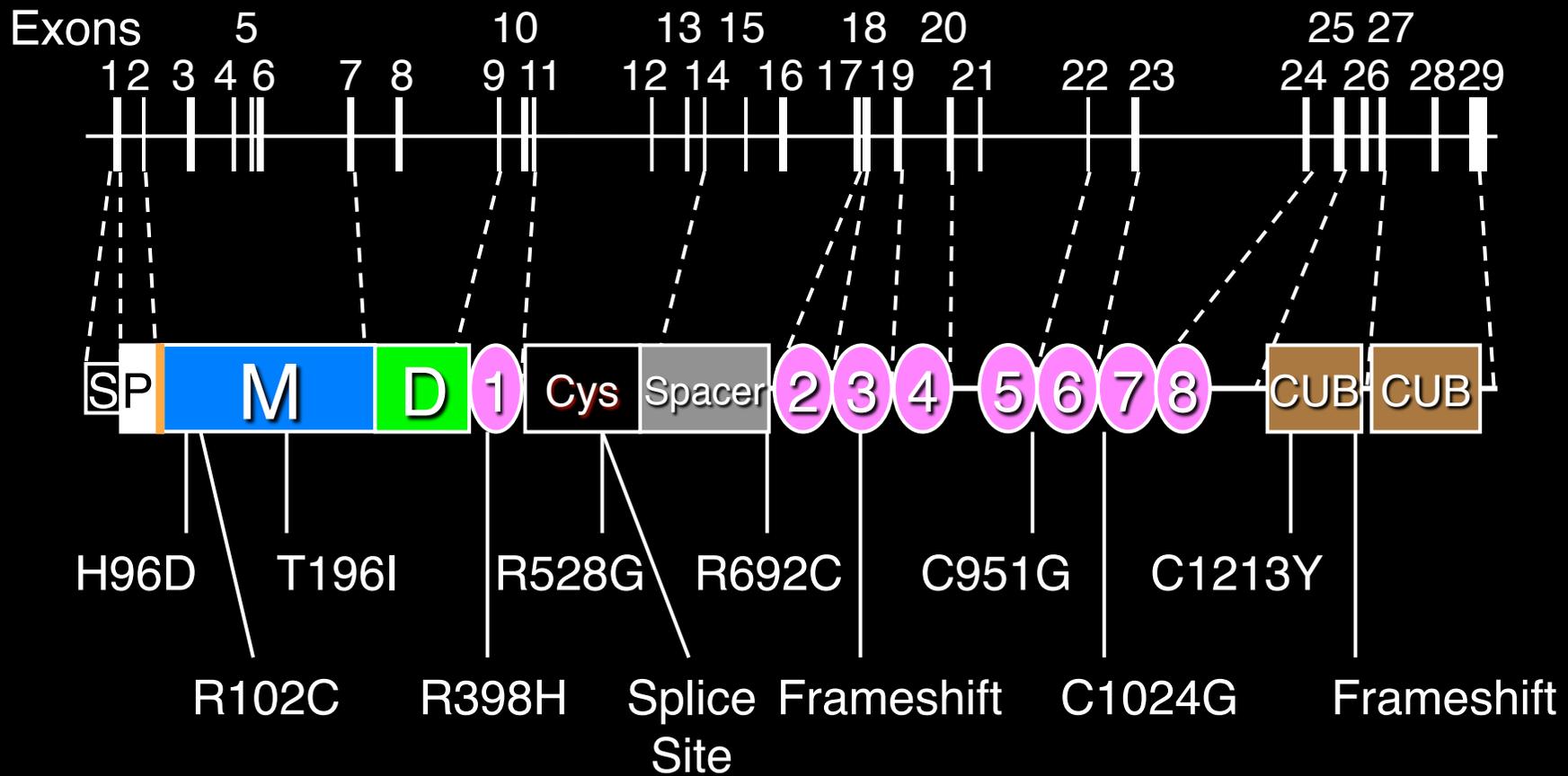
Laboratory Studies:

- Microangiopathic hemolytic anemia
- Thrombocytopenia
- Mild renal insufficiency, microhematuria

Treatment and Prognosis:

- Plasma 20-40 ml/kg every 2-4 wks, or less often
- ADAMTS13 plasma half life is 2-3 days
- 5% of normal ADAMTS13 level prevents disease

ADAMTS13 Mutations in Familial TTP



7 families, 12 mutations

Levy et al, *Nature* 2001; **413**: 488-494



Autoimmune Idiopathic TTP

Acquired ADAMTS13 Deficiency

Idiopathic TTP

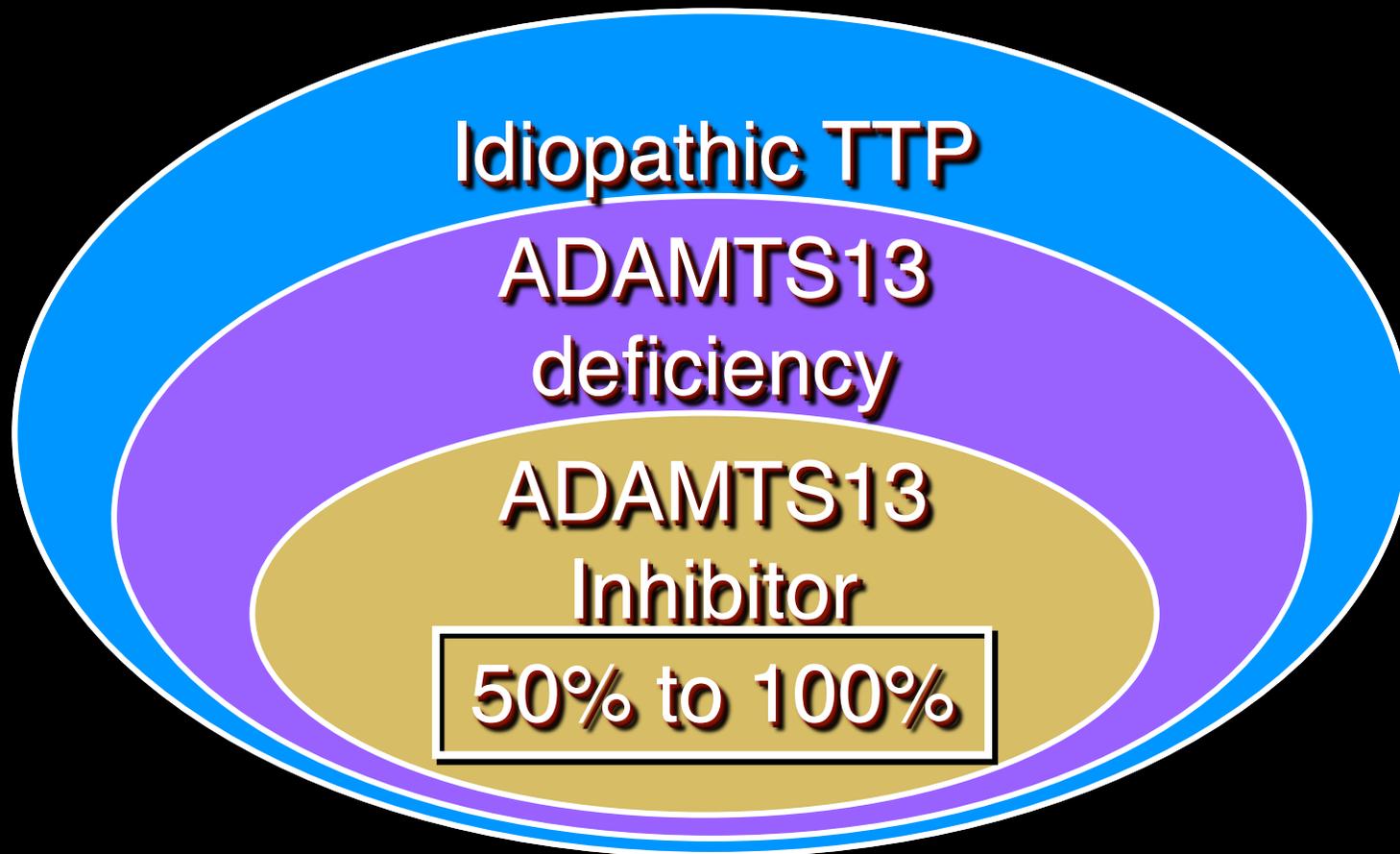
**ADAMTS13
deficiency**

34% to 100%



Autoimmune Idiopathic TTP

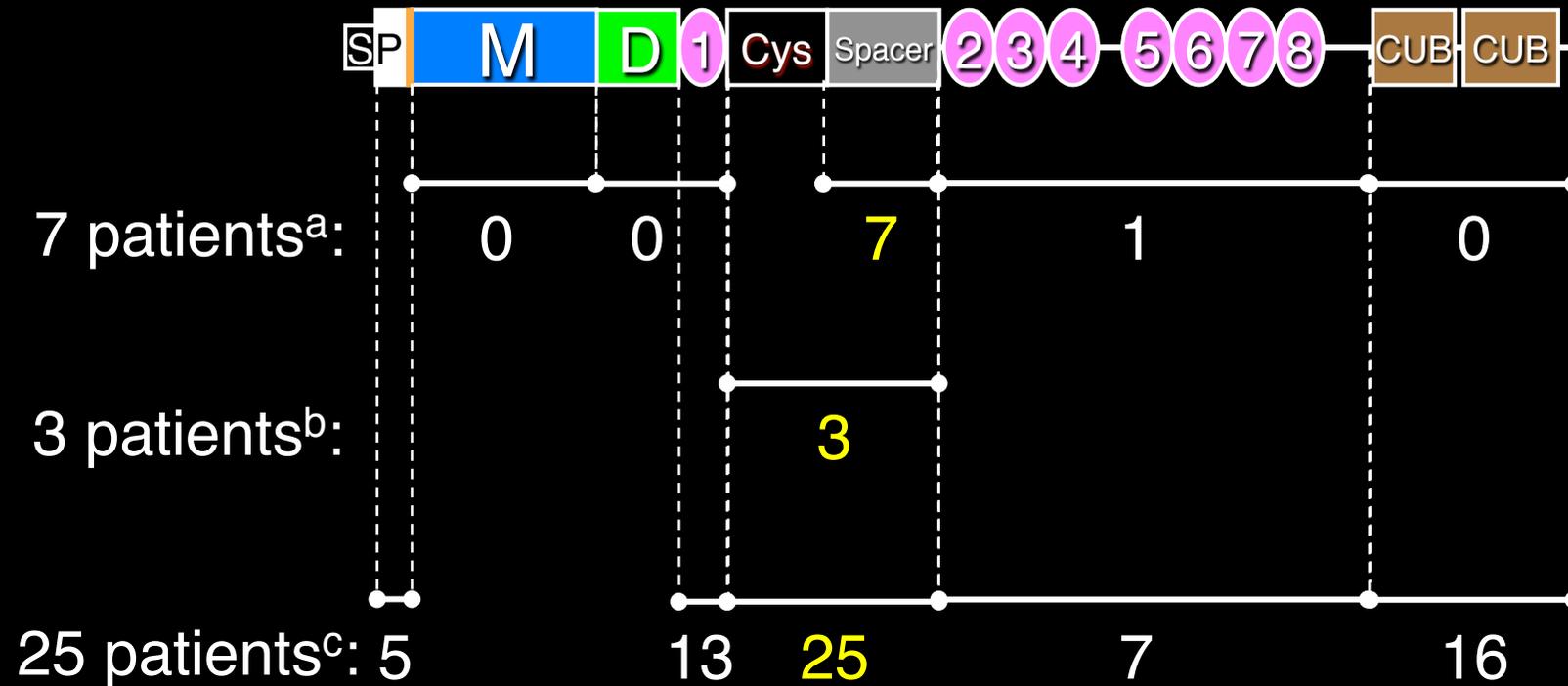
Acquired ADAMTS13 Deficiency





ADAMTS13 Inhibitors in TTP

Epitopes Map to Cys-Rich + Spacer



^a Luken et al, *Thromb Haemost* 2005; **93**: 267-274

^b Soejima et al, *Blood* 2003; **102**: 3232-3237

^c Klaus et al, *Blood* 2004; **103**: 4514-4519



ADAMTS13 Deficient, With Inhibitor

Response to Plasma Exchange

7 patients with:

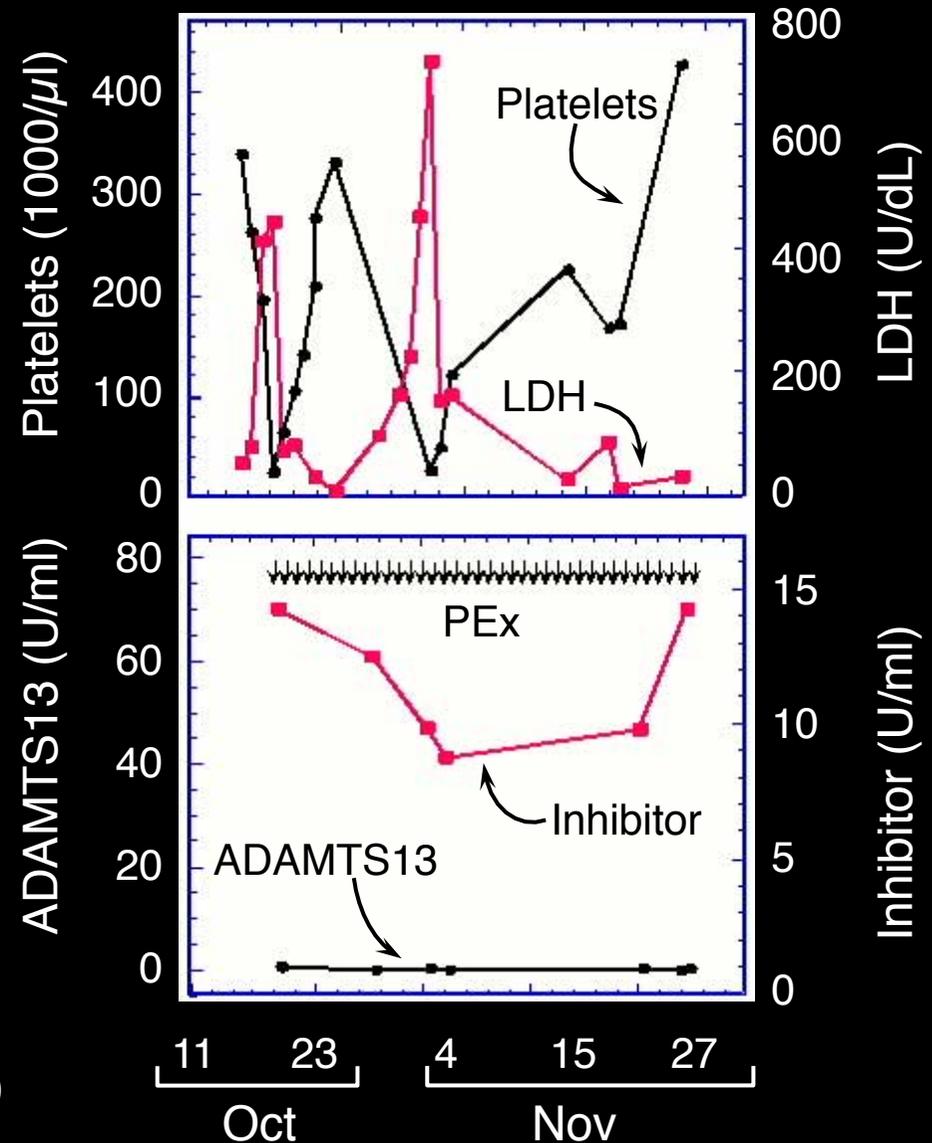
- ADAMTS13 $<5\%$
- Inhibitor present
- Multiple relapses in 4 and 2 deaths

Plasma exchange:

- Good response
- Unchanged ADAMTS13
- Persistent inhibitor

Why is PE effective?

Zheng et al, *Blood* 2004; **103**: 4043-4049



TTP and Persistent ADAMTS13 Inhibitors

Why Does Plasma Exchange Work?

Stress precipitates TTP in familial ADAMTS13 deficiency

- Childhood triggers: vaginal delivery, upper respiratory infection, pneumonia, otitis media
- Adult triggers: infection, alcohol abuse, pregnancy

Resolution of stress may end an attack of familial (or acquired idiopathic) TTP



ADAMTS13 – Clinical Correlations

ADAMTS13 deficiency (<5%) predicts:

- Idiopathic TTP
- Complete response to plasma exchange
- Survival

ADAMTS13 inhibitor predicts:

- Prolonged time to complete response
- Death
- Relapse

Reviewed in Coppo et al, *Br J Haematol* 2005; **132**: 66-74

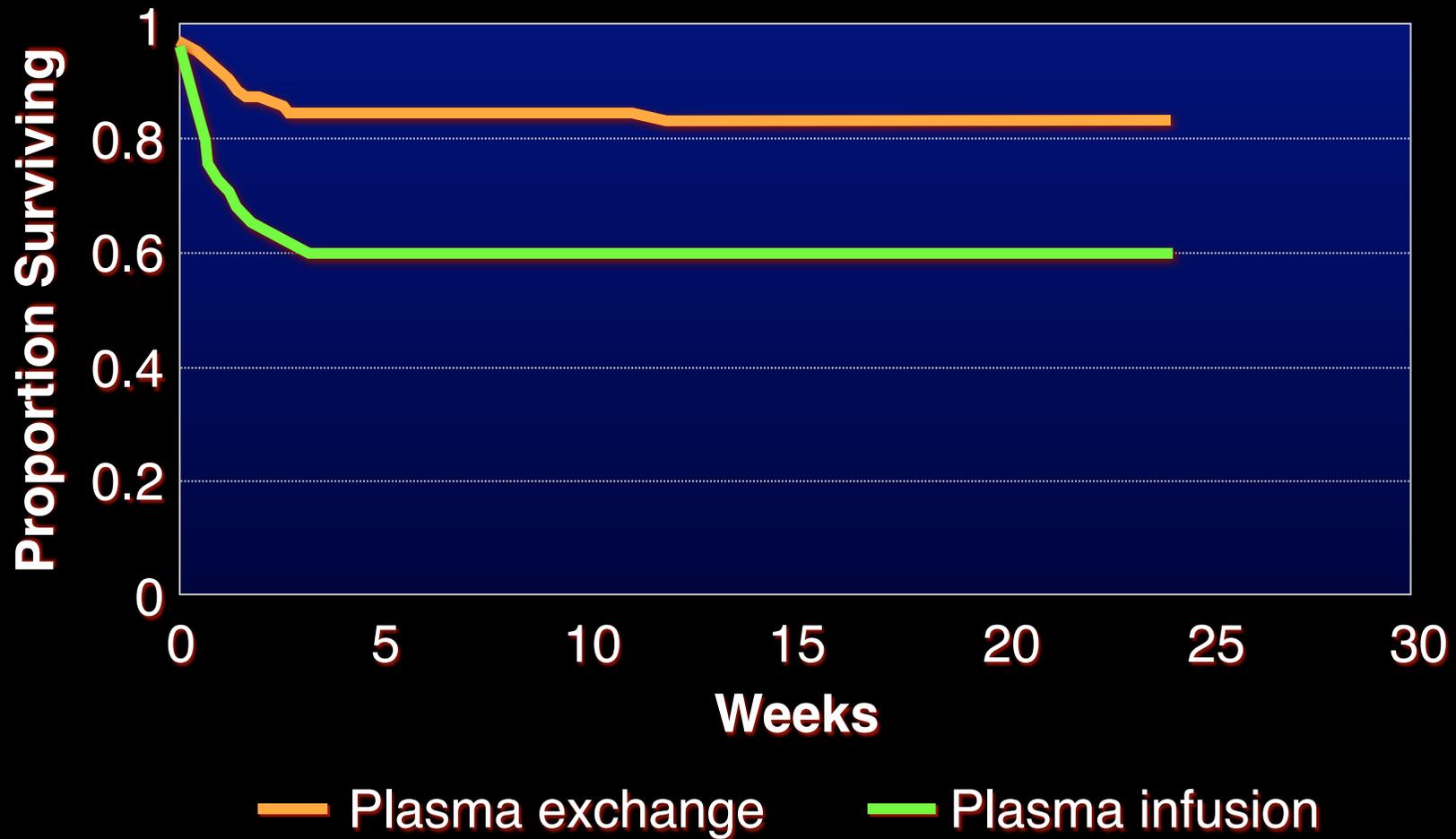


Therapy

- 1930s-40s** Splenectomy initially; @ 50% response rate
- 1959** Rubinstein, fresh blood exchange transfusions
- 1977** Bukowski, plasmapheresis
- 1991** Rock, plasma exchange superior to infusion
- 1996** Rock, "cryopoor" plasma more effective than FFP as initial therapy
- 1997** One PE daily and antiplatelet drugs until complete remission; otherwise not standardized; ***do not transfuse platelets***



Plasma Infusion vs. Plasma Exchange





Management

Plasma Infusion vs. Exchange

- Rock et al. *NEJM*, Aug 1991
- Randomized trial 102 pts, PE vs. PI
- All pts received ADA/dipyridamole and no steroids
- 6m mortality PE: 22%
PI: 37%



Plasma Infusion vs. Exchange

PE superior to infusion

- Canadian Apheresis Trial

But, unequal volumes of plasma infused

- Rock GA, Shumak KH, Buskard NA, et al:
Comparison of plasma exchange with plasma
infusion. *N Eng J Med* 1991;325:393-7

No prospective trials



Idiopathic TTP – Initial Therapy

Initiate treatment:

- Plasma exchange 60 ml/kg daily
- Plasma infusion if >12 hour delay
- Prednisone 2 mg/kg/day

Cardiac monitoring

Avoid:

- Platelet transfusions
- ?Antiplatelet drugs (e.g., **aspirin**, dipyridamole, **clopidogrel**)



Idiopathic TTP – Initial Therapy

Continue PE to complete response:

- Platelets $>150\text{K}/\mu\text{l}$ for 3 days
- and LDH normal
- and Neurologically stable

After complete response:

- PE every other day for 4 days and stop
- Taper prednisone
- Resume treatment for exacerbation (<30 days) or relapse (>30 days)



Idiopathic TTP – Initial Therapy

Laboratory monitoring daily:

- Hemoglobin, white blood cell and platelet count, LDH, electrolytes, calcium, creatinine

Evaluate for causes of secondary TTP

Complications of plasma exchange:

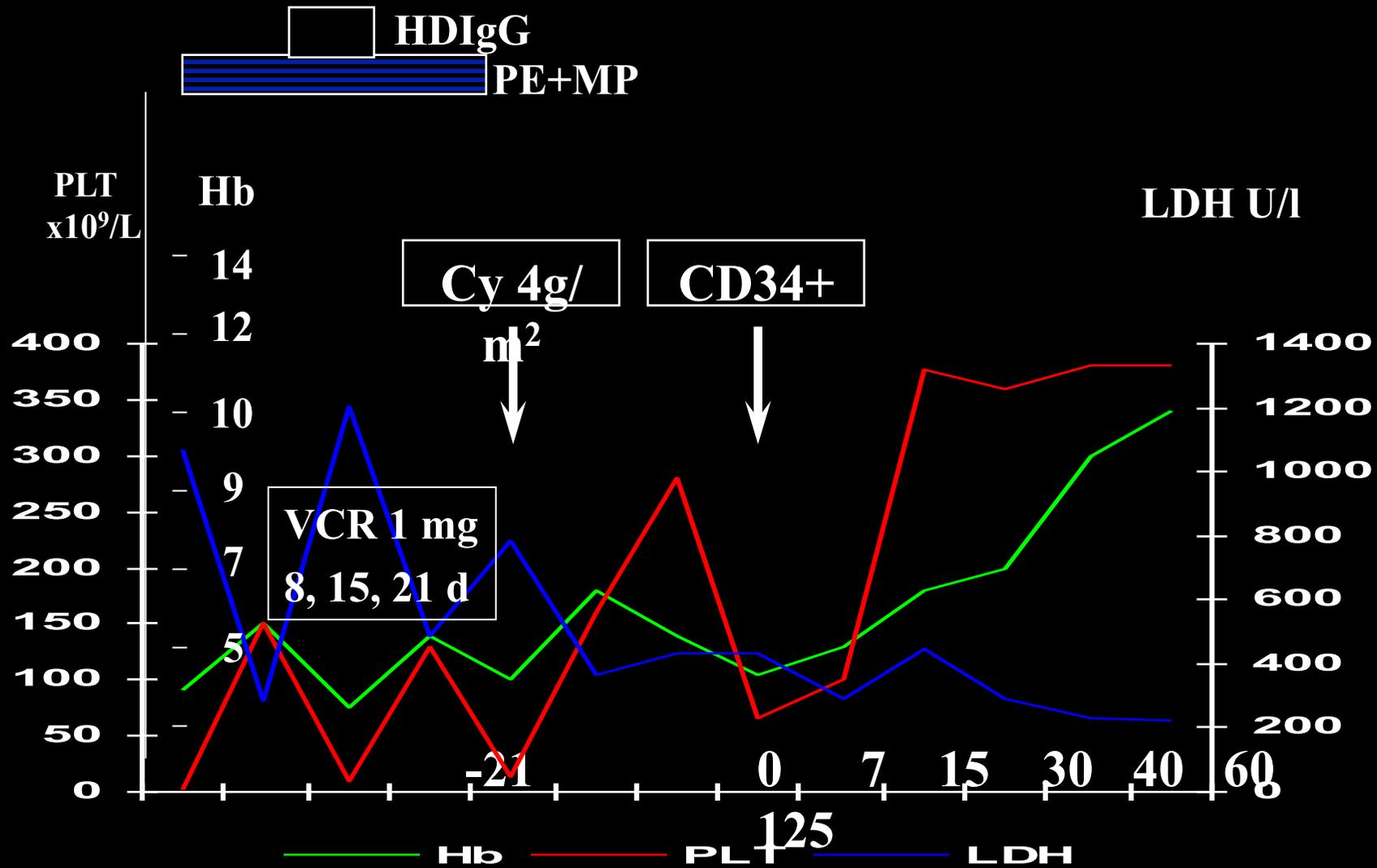
- Catheter (28%) – Sepsis, thrombosis, pneumothorax, hemorrhage
- Plasma (8%) – Allergic reaction, alkalosis, blood-borne infection, hypocalcemia

Idiopathic TTP – Salvage Therapy

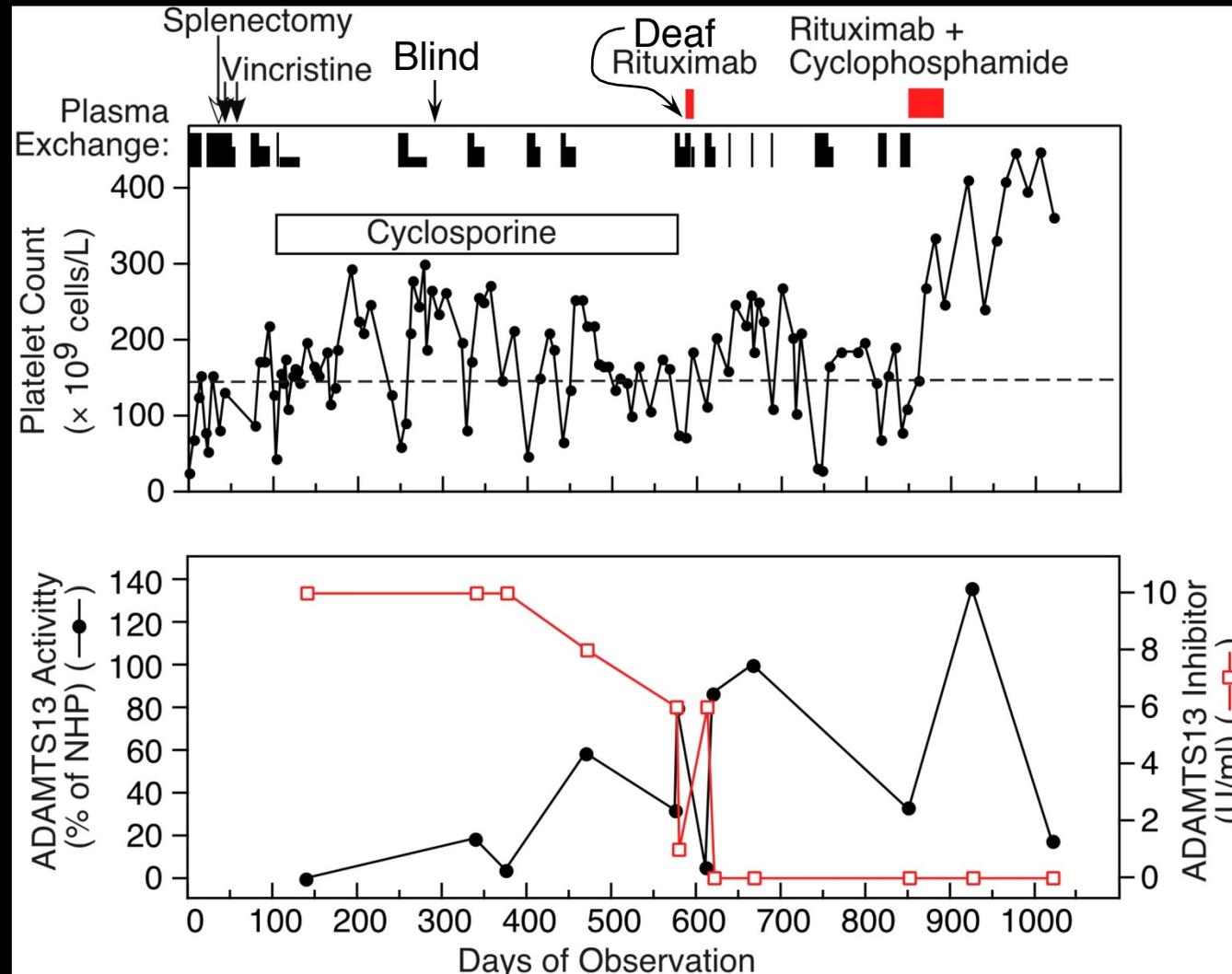
Refractory or relapsing disease may benefit from immunosuppression:

- Vincristine
- Splenectomy
- Rituximab (monoclonal anti-CD20)

M.G. 20, M, CD34+ ASCT for TTP



Immunosuppressive Therapy in TTP



Zheng et al, *Ann Intern Med* 2003; 138: 105-108



Rituximab for Refractory TTP

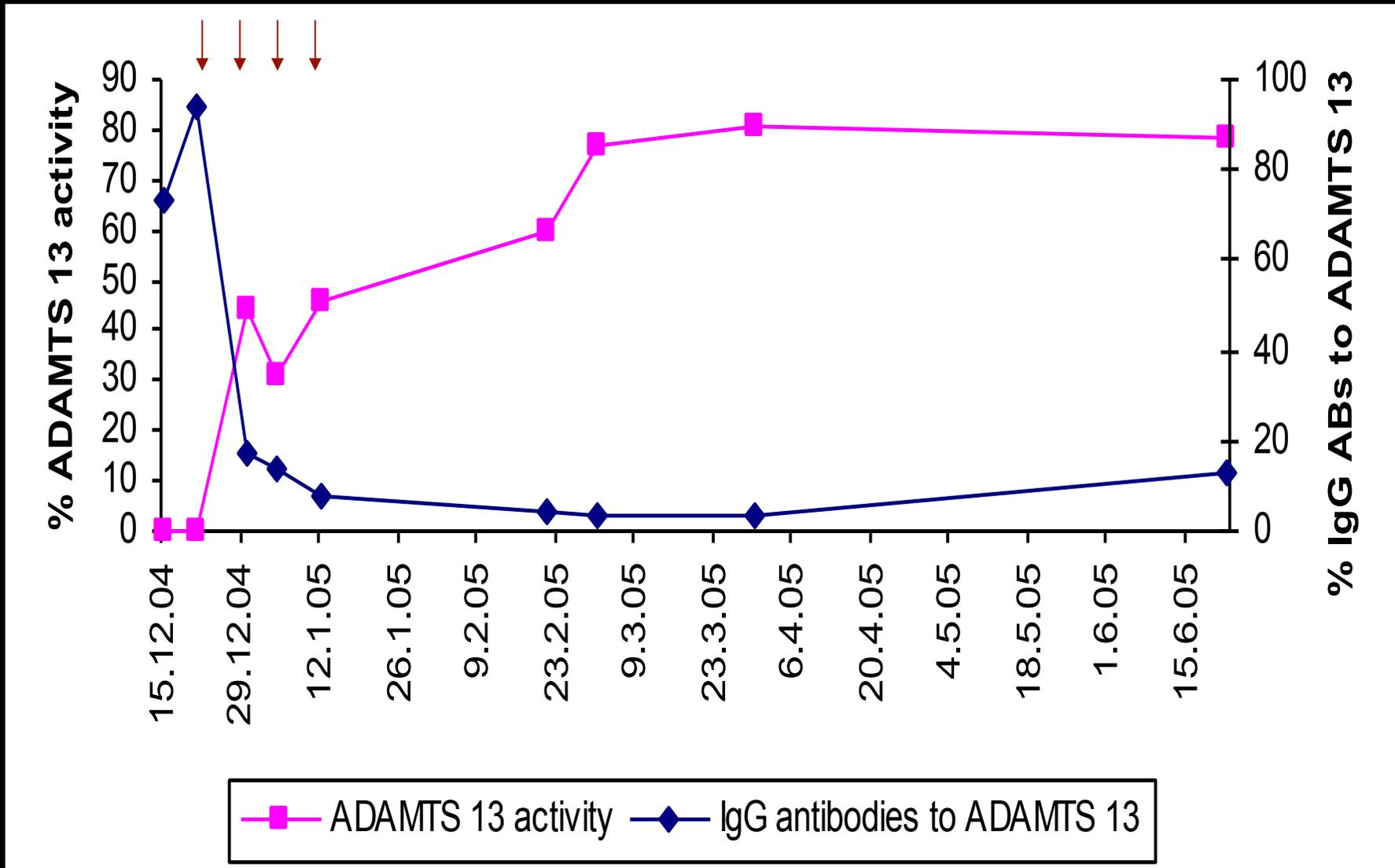
At least 18 reports, 43 patients failed PE, many failed steroids, vincristine, splenectomy

Rituximab 375 mg/m² weekly, up to 8 doses

Responses in 2-5 weeks:

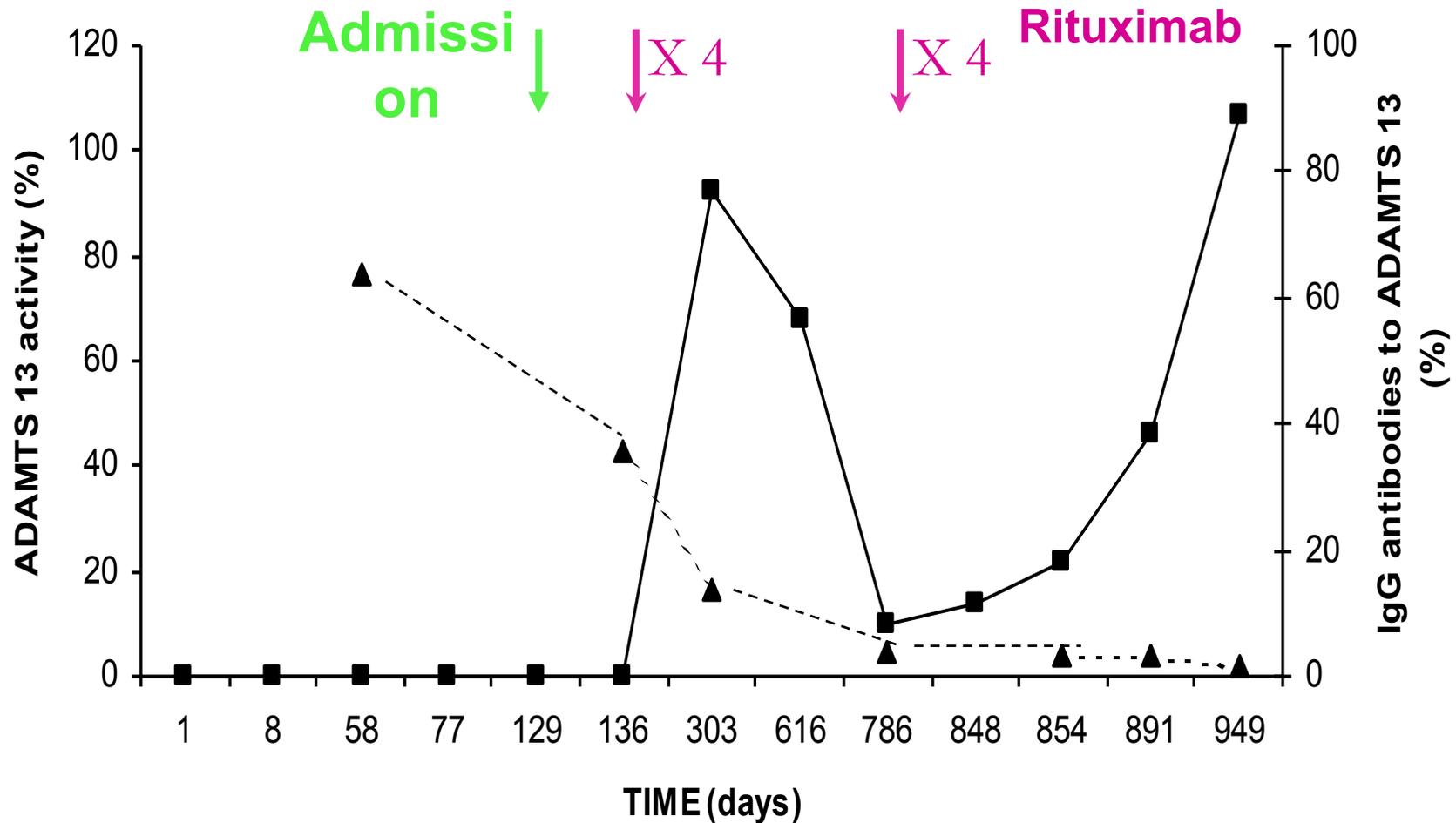
- 38 durable complete responses
- 2 late relapses, 1 achieved CR upon retreatment
- 1 partial response
- 2 no response (one with lung cancer)

Effect of Rituximab in acute refractory TTP



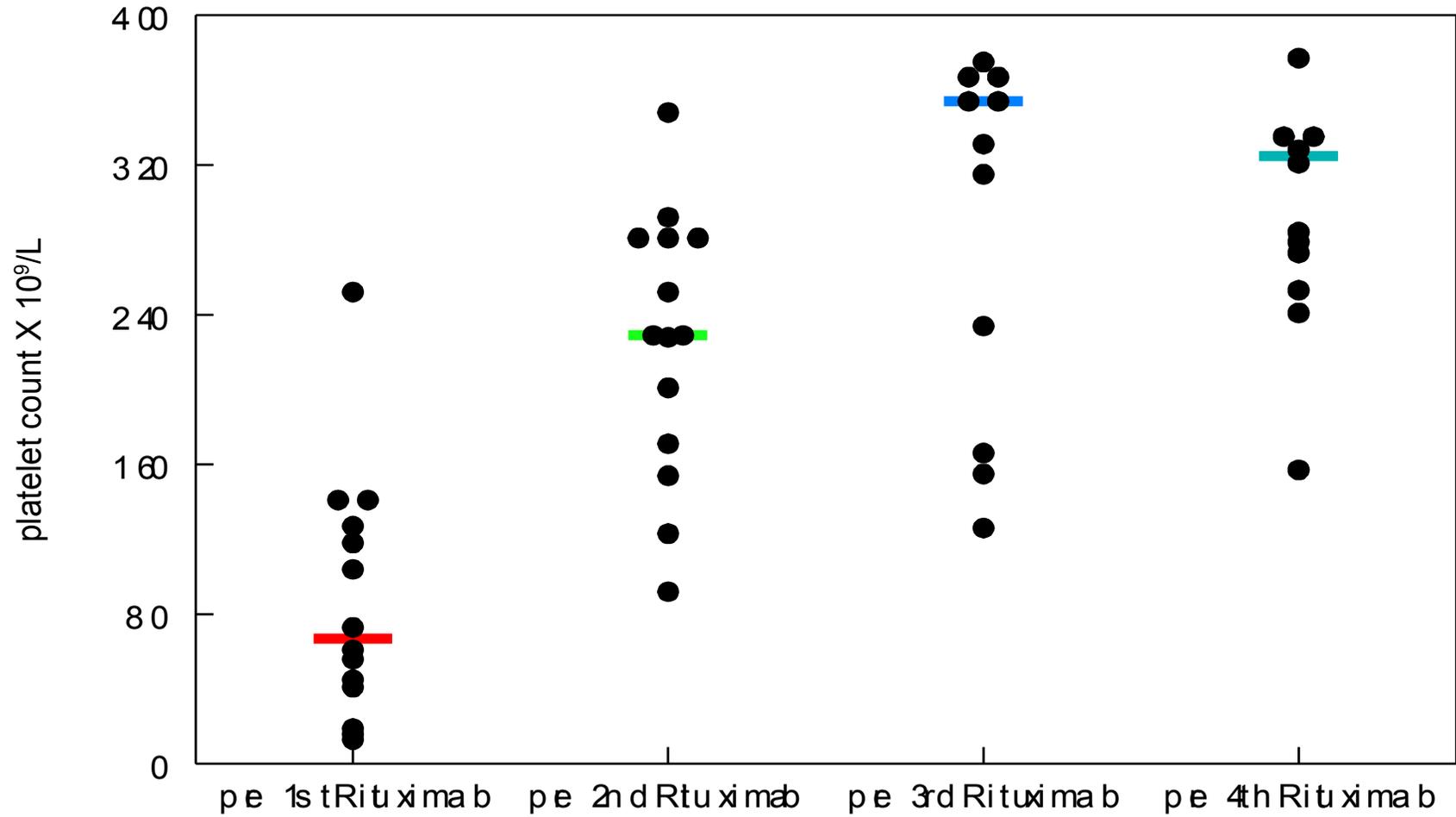
Acute and elective use of Rituximab

ADAMTS 13 activity: ■ IgG antibodies to ADAMTS 13: ▲



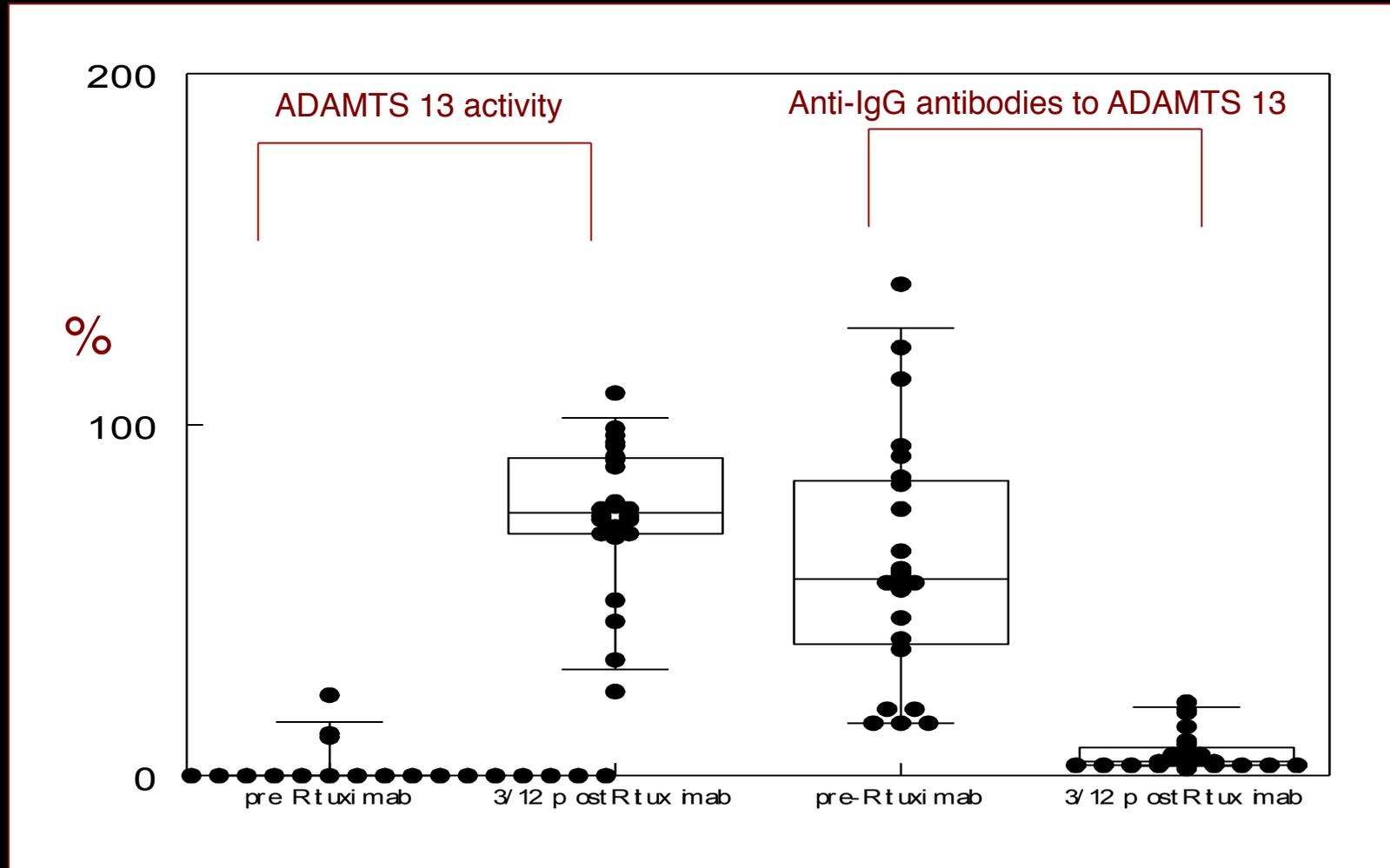


Platelet count Pre Rituximab Therapy





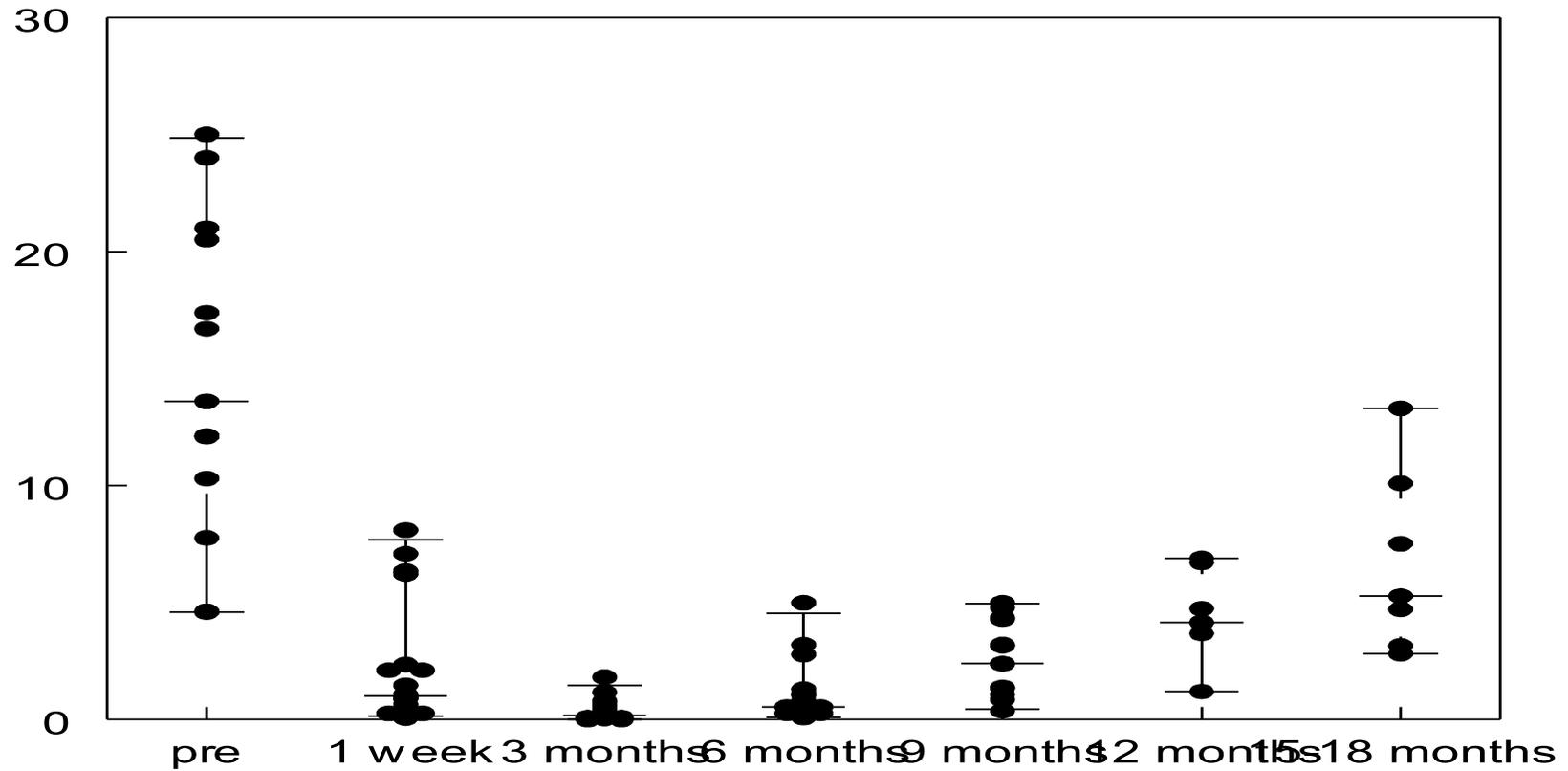
ADAMTS 13 activity and IgG antibody to ADAMTS 13 before and 3 months following Rituximab



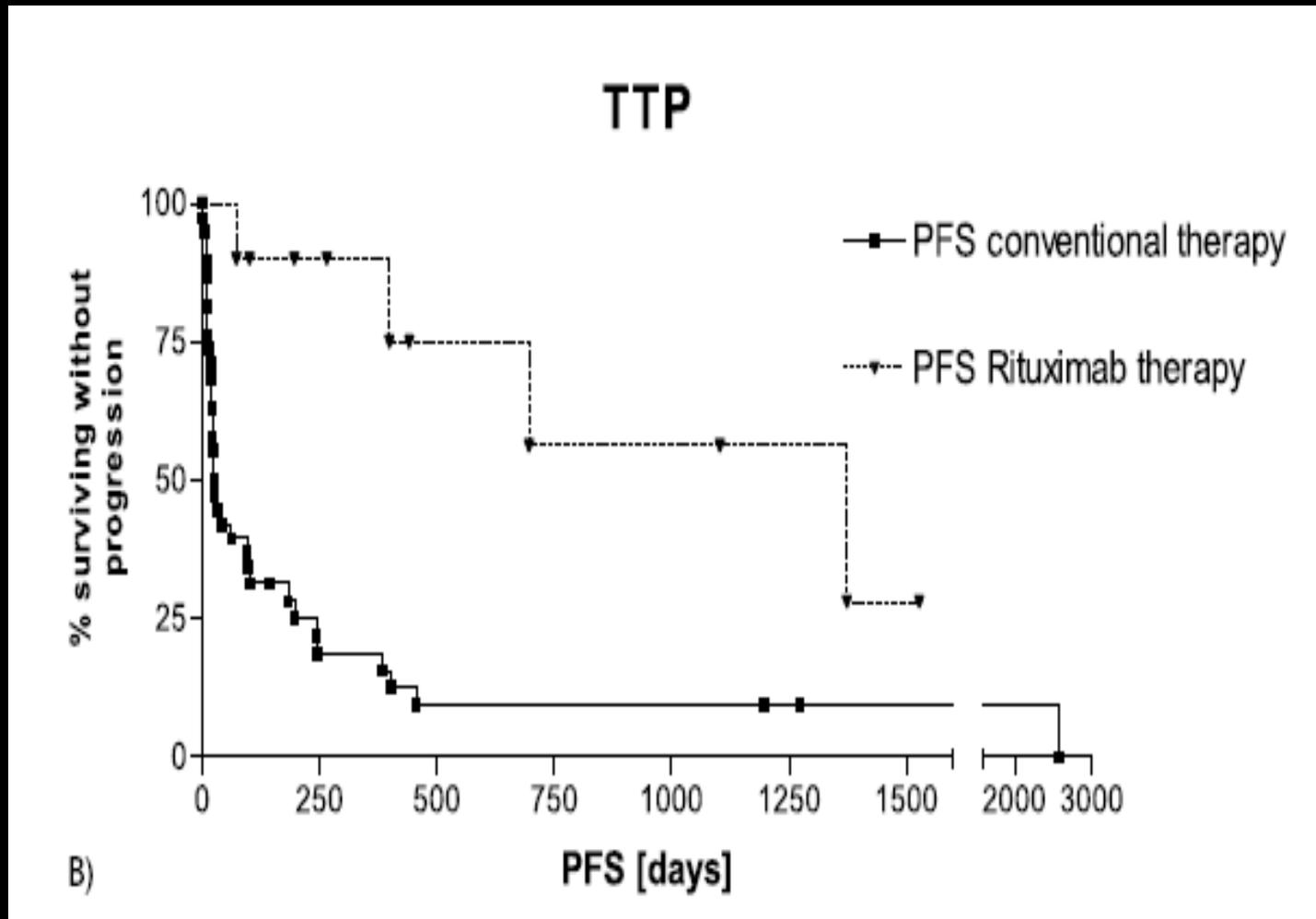


CD 19 levels before and following Rituximab in acute TTP

CD 19



Rituximab improves Response Rate and PFS in Relapsed/refractory TTP



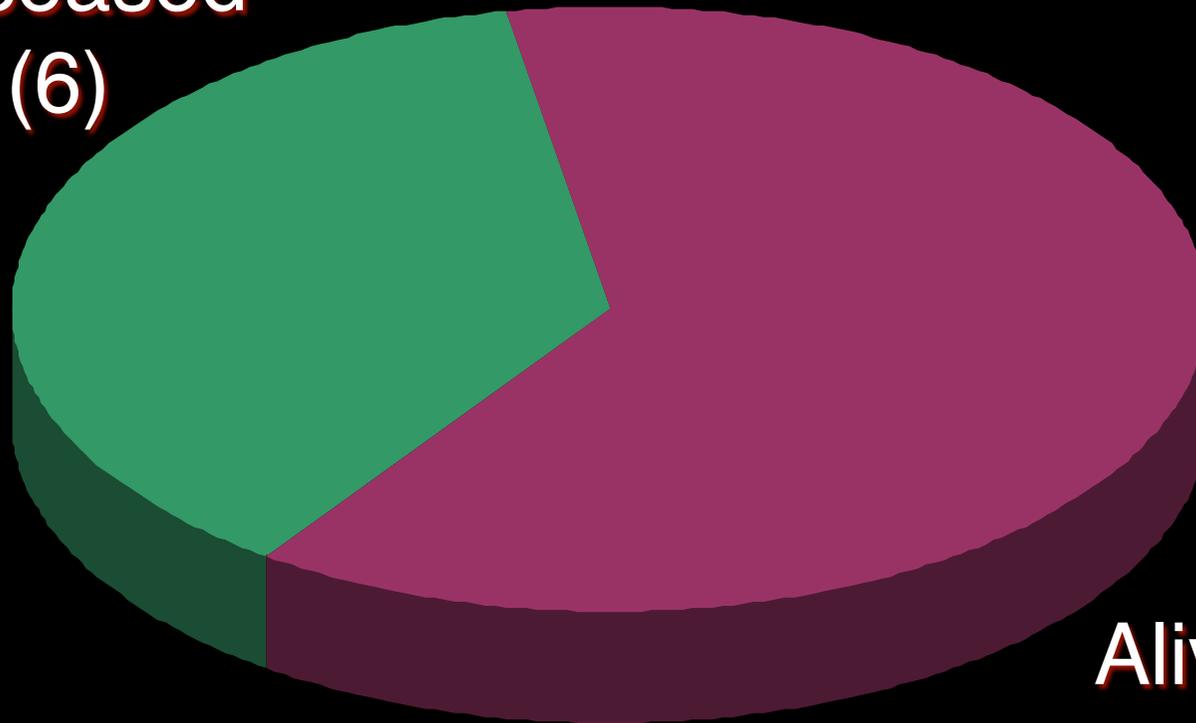


Should Splenectomy Still Have a Role in the Treatment of Patients with Refractory TTP?



TTP Patients Who Had Splenectomy

Deceased
(6)



Alive
(10)



VWF and TTP

- Look for hemolysis and schistocytes in all patients with anemia and thrombocytopenia
- ADAMTS13 deficiency correlates with response to PE and survival
- ADAMTS13 inhibitors correlate with relapses and early death
- Refractory patients may respond to immunosuppression



TTP: Clinical Research Questions

Many causes of microangiopathic hemolytic anemia, thrombocytopenia

Are ADAMTS13 data useful:

- To diagnose autoimmune idiopathic TTP?
- To stratify patients by risk?
- As biomarkers of disease activity?



TTP: Clinical Research Questions

*Should we stratify patients by
ADAMTS13 activity and inhibitor level?*

- Does plasma exchange benefit patients with normal ADAMTS13?
- Inhibitors predict relapse, death
- Evaluate PE + rituximab as initial therapy for high-risk disease



TTP: Clinical Research Questions

Should asymptomatic patients with ADAMTS13 deficiency be treated?

- Relapses occur unpredictably
- Evaluate preemptive immunosuppression
- Evaluate ADAMTS13 activity and inhibitor as biomarkers of response



TTP: Clinical Research Questions

*What is the best way to replace
ADAMTS13 during active TTP?*

- Fresh frozen plasma or cryosupernatant
- Virucidally-treated plasma fractions
- Recombinant ADAMTS13



***"Prediction is very difficult,
especially about the
future."***

Niels Bohr



***"Those who cannot
remember the past are
condemned to repeat it."***

*George Santayana,
Reason in Common Sense
(New York: Scribner's, 1905)*