

# The Bleeding Patient



Sarah Stacey  
Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Hospital  
University of the Witwatersrand

# The Bleeding Patient

If you prick us, do  
we not bleed?



# The Bleeding Patient

Disorders of primary homeostasis:

dysfunction of the processes involved in formation of the platelet plug due to abnormalities of:

- platelet number
- platelet adhesion
- platelet aggregation

Disorders of secondary homeostasis:

dysfunction of the processes involved in humoral coagulation due to abnormalities of:

- coagulation factors
- contact factors
- fibrinogen
- connective tissues

# The Bleeding Patient

## Disorders of Primary Homeostasis

### Hereditary :

- von Willebrands disease
- Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome

### Iatrogenic:

- post-transfusion
- drug-induced immune thrombocytopaenia
- drug-induced qualitative platelet dysfunction

### Acquired:

- ITP
- DIC
- aplastic anaemia
- hypersplenism
- uraemia
- mechanical (cardiac bypass; AS)

# The Bleeding Patient

## Disorders of Secondary Homeostasis

Coagulation factor abnormalities :

- Haemophilia A and B
- deficiencies of factor II, V, VII, X, XIII
- acquired inhibitors to coagulation factors

Fibrinogen Abnormalities:

- afibrinogenaemia/hypofibrinogenaemia/dysfibrinogenaemia
- hyperfibrinolysis

CT disorders:

- Ehlers-Danlos syndrome
- Osler-Weber-Rendu syndrome
- scurvy

# The Bleeding Patient

## Disorders of Homeostasis

- bone marrow dysfunction
- drug-related
- ITP
- TTP

**EBOLA!**

# Bone marrow

- Myelodysplasia
  - 2005 Indian study found myelodysplasia in 32% on BMAT
  - Ugandan autopsy study found megakaryocyte myelodysplasia in 84%
  - 2013 Indian study did not show megakaryocyte dysplasia

# Bone marrow

- Infiltration
  - may be the result of infection
    - TB; MAC; fungi causing granulomatous inflammation
  - or malignancy
    - lymphoma
  - BMAT is a useful investigation
    - diagnostic yield = 47%
    - unique diagnosis = 33%



# Drugs

- Co-trimoxazole
- INH
- Rifampicin
- Amphotericin B
- Fluconazole
- Warfarin
- Penicillin
- Tricyclic antidepressants
- Too much garlic, vitamin E, vitamin C or ginger

# Thrombocytopaenia

- Thombocytopaenia is common in HIV infection
  - Pre-HAART era:
    - incidence of 5-30%
    - initial manifestation of HIV in 10%
    - association between HIV and ITP predates identification of the virus
  - Heparin and drugs used for OI's may cause thrombocytopaenia

# Immune Thrombocytopaenia

- Platelet count  $<150 \times 10^9/l$
- More prevalent in :
  - advanced HIV infection ( $CD_4 < 200/\mu l$ )
    - $CD_4 > 700$ : 2.8%
    - $CD_4 < 200$ : 10.8%
  - clinical AIDS
  - injection drug users
  - Age  $> 45$
  - lymphoma and/or anaemia

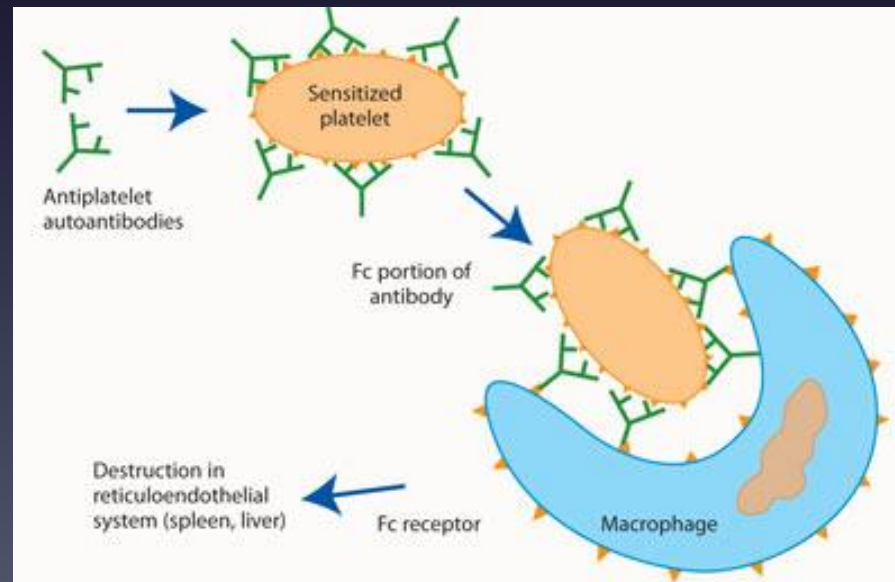
Kaslow RA. A report from the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study. *Ann Intern Med.* 1987;107

Sloand EM. *Eur J Haematol.* 1992;48

Sullivan PS. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr Hum Retroviro.* 1997;14

# Immune Thrombocytopenia

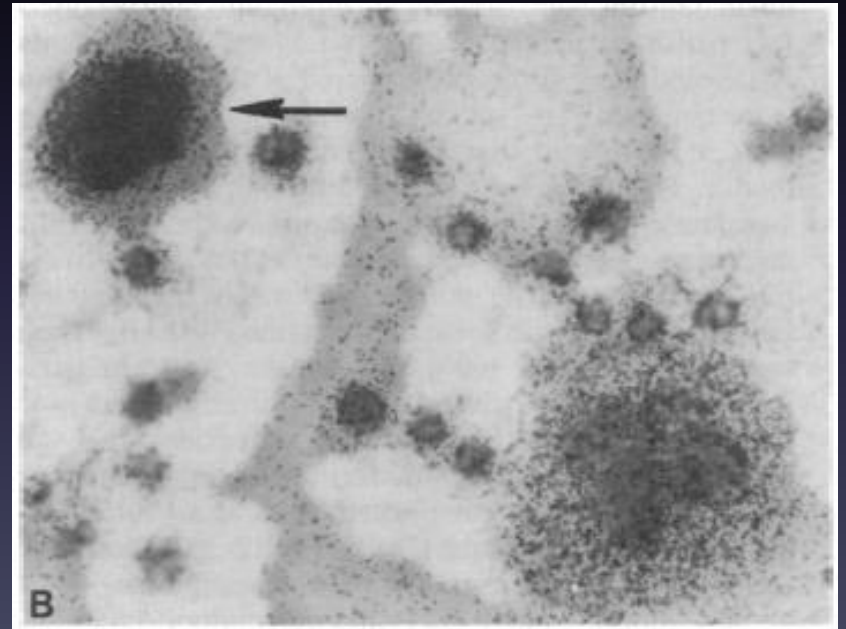
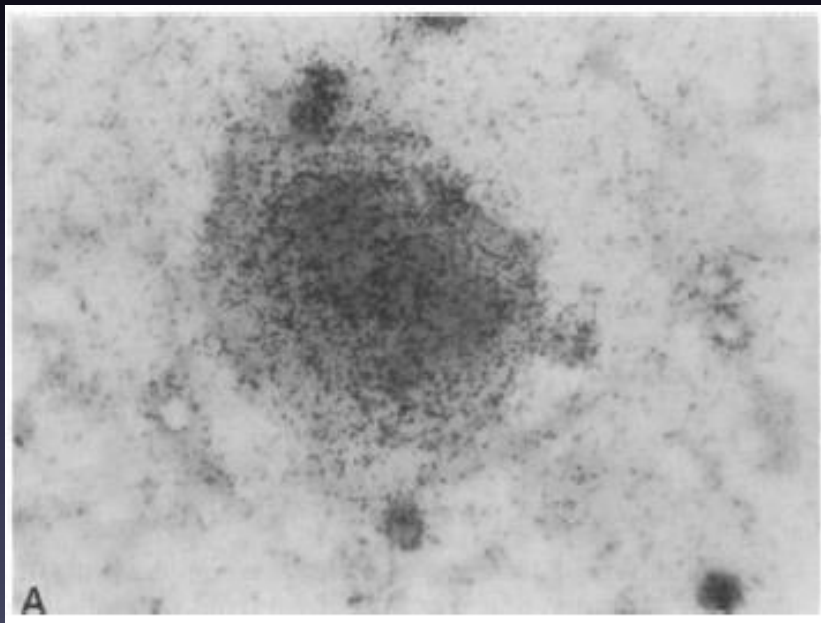
- Immune complex formation
- Cross reacting anti-HIV antibodies
- Anti-GPIIb/IIIa antibodies



Cines DB, Semin Hematol. 2009 January ; 46(1 Suppl 2)

# Immune Thrombocytopenia

- Decreased platelet production and ineffective haematopoiesis



Zucker-Franklin D, Cao Y. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA  
1989; 106

Li Z. Blood. 2005; 106

# Immune Thrombocytopenia

- Bleeding
  - mucosal; skin; intracranial
  - uncommon with platelets  $>30 \times 10^9/l$
- Features of other secondary causes of ITP
  - SLE; Hep C, lymphoma
- Drug history

# Immune Thrombocytopaenia

- Peripheral blood:
  - low platelets (normal or large); normal WCC and Hb
  - exclude fragments; clumping and satellitism
- Bone marrow:
  - normal or increased numbers of megakaryocytes, increased immature forms
  - megakaryocyte apoptosis
- Reticulocyte count and Coombs to exclude associated AIHA

# Immune Thrombocytopenia

- Corticosteroids
- IVIg
- Anti-Rh(D)
- HAART
- Rituximab
- Thrombopoetin receptor agonists
- Splenectomy



# Immune Thrombocytopenia

- Corticosteroids
  - 80% respond
  - most relapse
  - higher doses = more sustained response

# Immune Thrombocytopenia

- IVIg
  - used in conjunction with corticosteroids
  - rapid increase in platelet count
  - response of short duration
  - toxicity: aseptic meningitis, nephrotoxicity, thrombosis, haemolytic anaemia

# Immune Thrombocytopenia

- Anti-Rh(D)
  - binds erythrocytes leading to clearance in the spleen
  - inhibits clearance of opsonised platelets
  - only effective in patients who are Rh(D) positive with intact spleens
  - complicated by haemolysis and fall in Hb

# Immune Thrombocytopaenia

- HAART
  - HIV-related cytopaenias correlate with plasma viral load
  - AZT monotherapy increases platelet counts in 60-70%
  - HAART induces sustained platelet responses

# Immune Thrombocytopenia

- Rituximab
  - anti- CD20 monoclonal antibody
  - median response time 5.5 weeks; median duration 10.5 months
  - durable response in 21% of patients
  - adverse effects include infusion reactions, serum sickness and cardiac arrhythmias
  - contraindicated in chronic Hep B infection

# Immune Thrombocytopaenia

- Thrombopoetin receptor agonists
  - for refractory patients? for newly diagnosed patients? before or after splenectomy
  - Romiplostim; Eltrombopag
  - stimulate megakaryocyte proliferation and differentiation

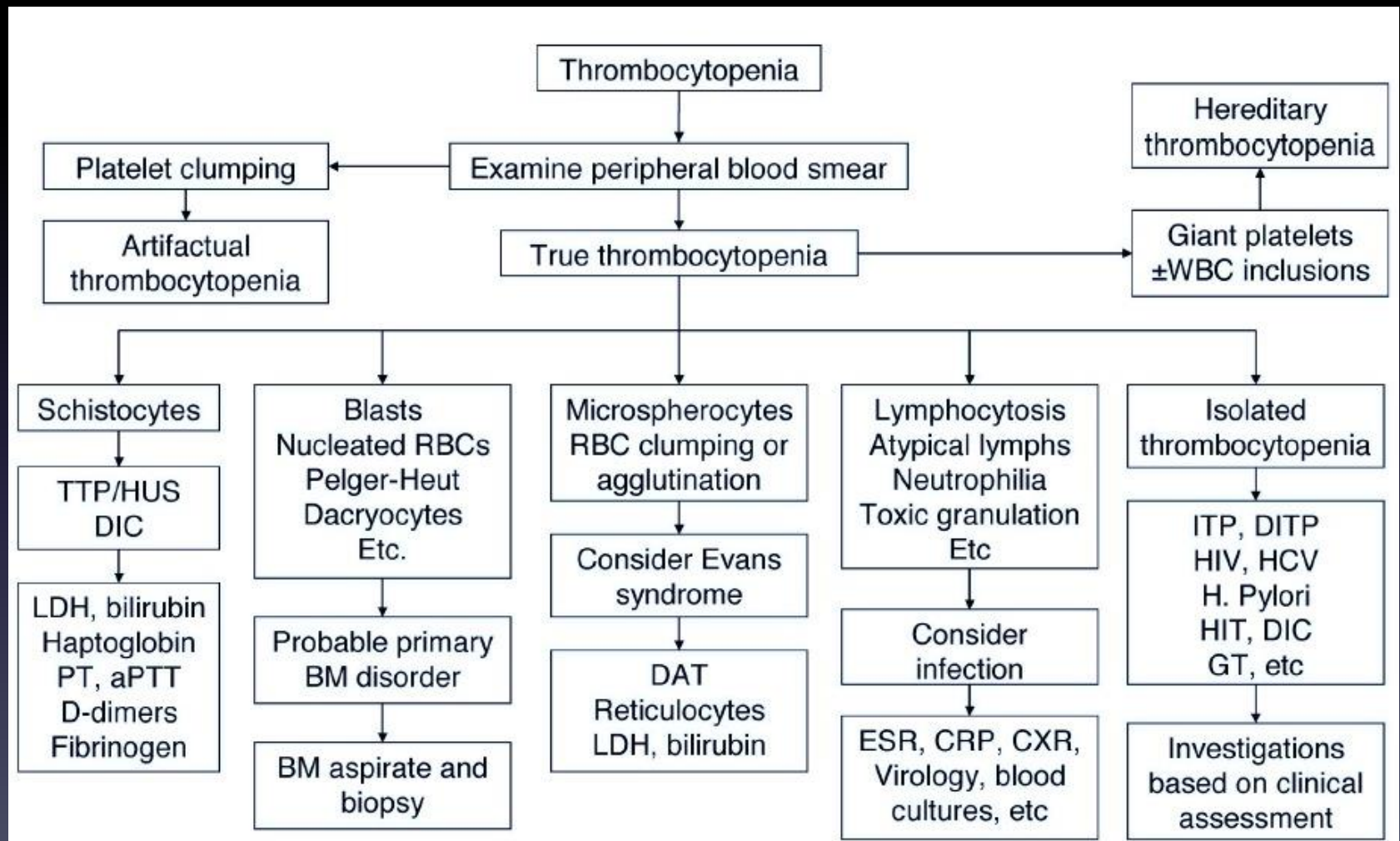
# Immune Thrombocytopaenia

- Splenectomy
  - safe and effective in HIV+ patients
  - complete response 66% - 72%
  - most relapses in first 2 years

Kistanguri, G and McCraeKR, Hematol Oncol  
Clin North Am . 2013 June ; 27(3)

Liebman, H. Hematology 2008

# Investigation of Thrombocytopaenia

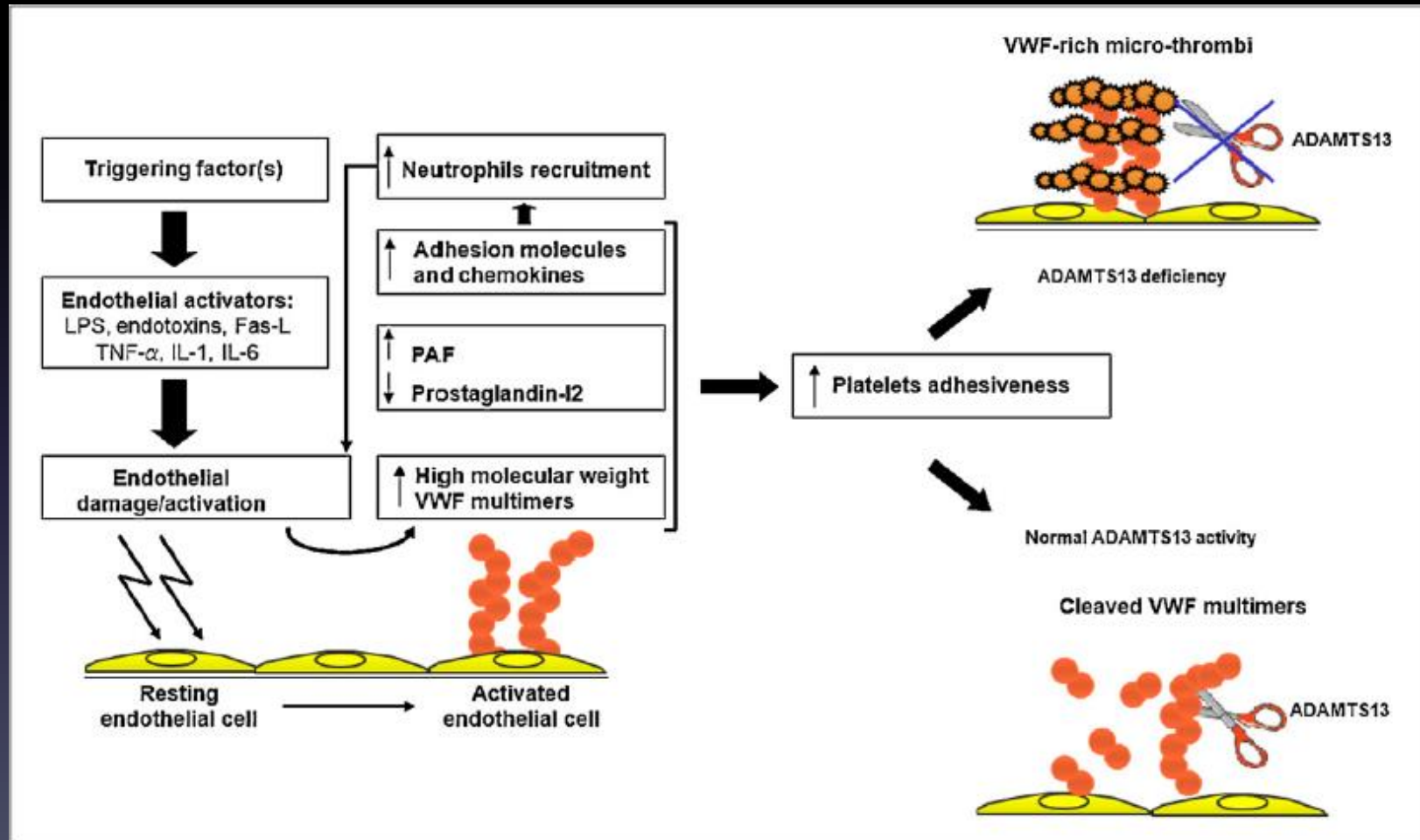




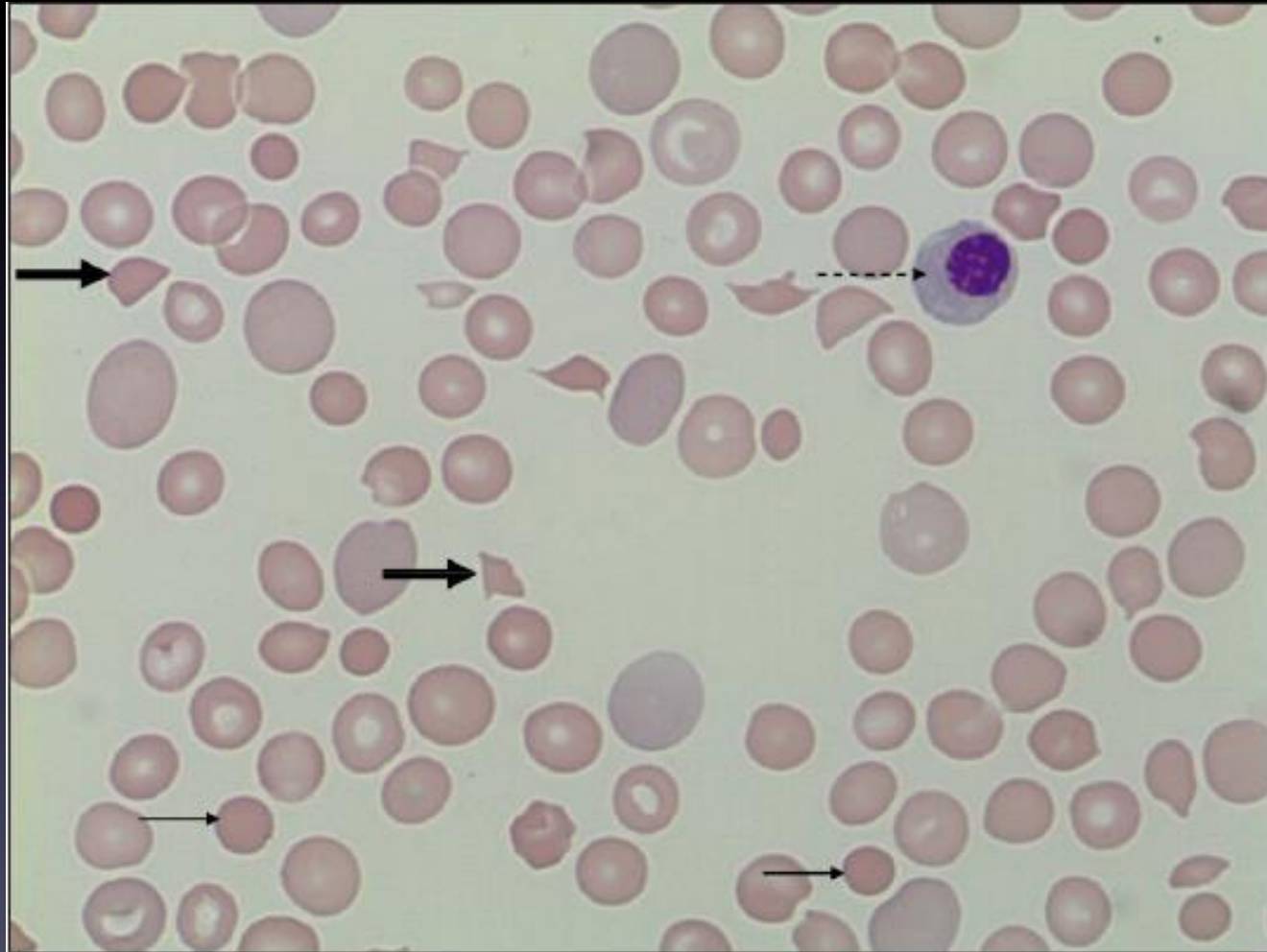
# Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic purpura

- Thrombotic microangiopathy caused by a deficiency of ADAMTS 13 (activity <10%)
  - A Disintegrin And Metalloproteinase with Thrombospondin-1 motifs, member 13
  - von Willebrand's factor cleaving protease
  - auto-antibodies to ADAMTS 13
  - highly adhesive ultra-large vWF multimers

# Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic purpura



# Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic purpura



# Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic purpura

- Incidence of 4/ 1 000 000 per year
- association with HIV, CT disorders, cancer, pregnancy, treatment with antiplatelet drugs
- young black women with high viral loads
- HIV+ patients with few or no AIDS related complications do better

# Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic purpura

Classic Pentad

thrombocytopenia

microangiopathic haemolytic anaemia

fever

fluctuating neurological signs

renal dysfunction

# Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic purpura

- Plasma exchange
  - achieves remission rates of 85%
  - efficacy due to replenishing ADAMTS<sub>13</sub>
  - superior to plasma infusion
    - response @ D9: 47% vs 27%
    - survival @ 6/12: 78% vs 47%
  - should be initiated without delay

# Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic purpura

- HAART
- Corticosteroids
  - sound theoretical basis
  - response to high dose methylprednisolone better than low dose
  - some clinical trials show similar outcomes regardless of steroid use

# Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic purpura

- Antiplatelet agents
  - some studies show a trend towards better survival with aspirin and dipyridamole
  - others report no effect and an increased risk of bleeding



# Refractory TTP

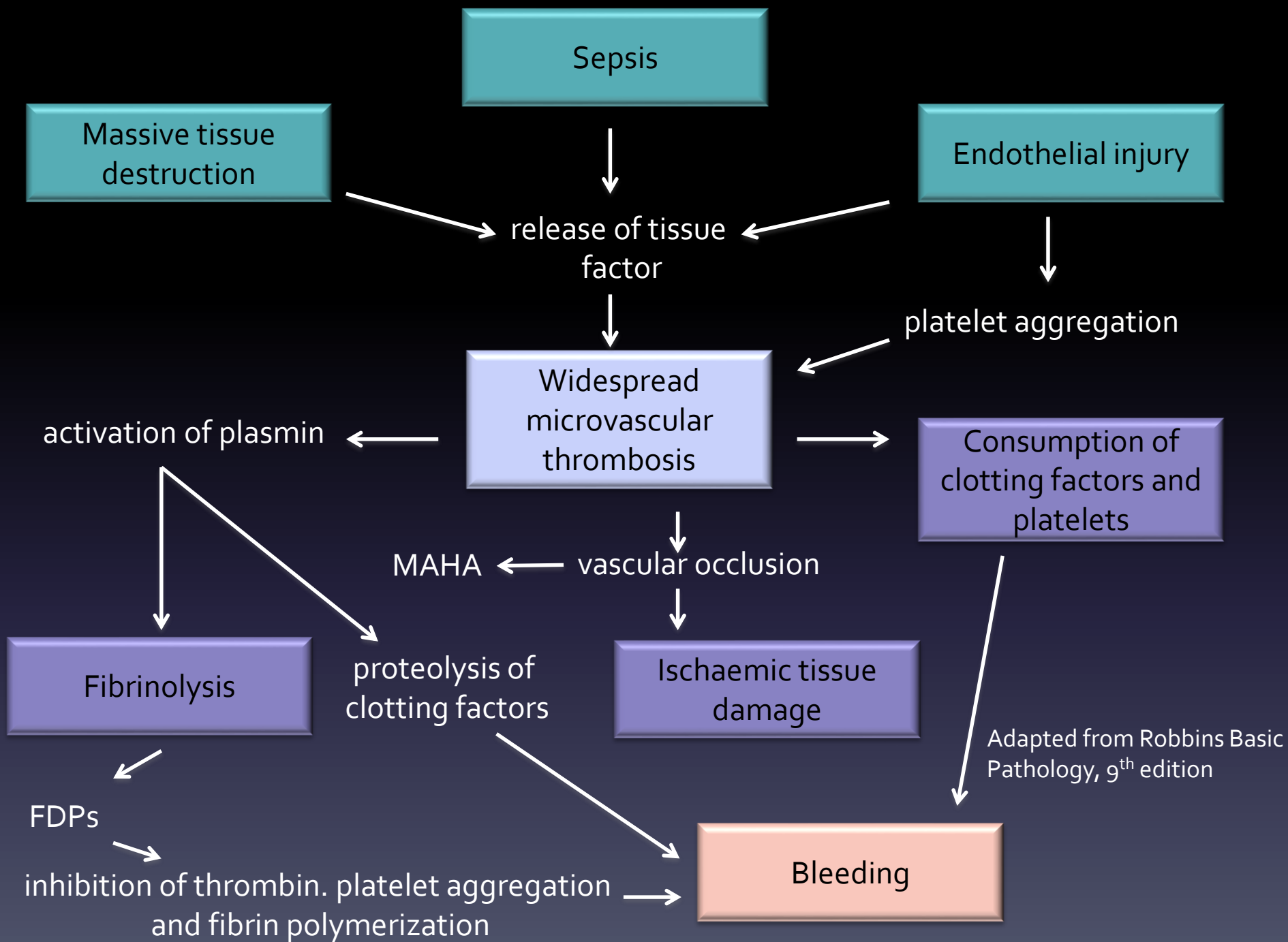
- Refractory TTP can be defined as no response after 4 full days of therapy
- An exacerbation can be defined as worsening of disease
  - on treatment
  - while decreasing the plasmapheresis schedule
  - if the platelet count has been  $>30$  for less than 30 days
- Relapse is worsening of the condition when the platelet count has been  $>30$  for more than 30 days

# Therapy for Refractory TTP

- Rituximab
  - refractory:
    - complete remission achieved in 88%
    - recovery of ADAMTS<sub>13</sub> activity and decrease in antibody production
  - relapse:
    - complete remission in 100%

# Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation

- systemic activation of coagulation with formation of thrombi in the microcirculation
- platelets and coagulation factors are consumed
- fibrinolysis is activated
- usually triggered by
  - i) release of tissue factor or thromboplastic substance or
  - ii) widespread endothelial damage



Adapted from Robbins Basic Pathology, 9<sup>th</sup> edition

# Therapy for DIC

- Treatment of the underlying condition
- Supportive care
  - platelet transfusion
  - FFP infusion
  - cryoprecipitate infusion
  - anticoagulation