MEDICATION NAME:	**IVIG (INTRAVENOUS IMMUNE GLOBULIN)** **BRAND: GAMUNEX, GAMMAGARD, OCTAGAM.**
HOW IS IT GIVEN:	Intravenous infusion (IV).
HOW DOES IT WORK:	IVIG is a blood product that reduces the distruction of antibody-coated platelets. The mechanism of action is not fully understood.
COMMON DOSING REGIMENS:	0.8 - 1 g/kg/dose x 1-2. Equivalent total dose distributed over 5 days has been used.
COMMON SIDE EFFECTS:	Headache; flu-like symptoms (flushing, nausea, fever, chills, malaise).
RARE BUT SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS:	Aseptic meningitis, hypotension (low blood pressure), hemolysis (breakdown of red blood cells), kidney failure, thrombosis (blood clots), and anaphylaxis (severe allergy) have been reported.
TYPICAL TIME TO RESPONSE:	24-48 hours.
LIKELIHOOD OF INITIAL RESPONSE:	Approximately 70-80%
LIKELIHOOD OF LONG-TERM RESPONSE (3-5 YEARS):	Effects generally last several days to weeks. Not shown to induce sustained response in adults.
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:	May increase platelet count more rapidly than corticosteroids when each is used as a single agent. Minimize side effects by pre-treatment (and post-treatment as necessary) with Benadryl, Tylenol, and possibly steroids, in addition to providing adequate hydration and lowering rate of infusion. Risks associated with use of a blood product should be discussed.

References:

1. Guo, Y., Tian, X., Wang, X., and Xiao, Z. (2018). Adverse effects of immunoglobulin therapy. Frontiers in Immunology. PMID 29951056.
2. Khan, A., Myra, H., and Nevarez, A. (2017). Clinical Practice Updates in the Management of Immune Thrombocytopenia. Pharmacy and Therapeutics 42(12): 756-763.
3. Platelet Disorder Support Association https://pdsa.org/ivig.html
4. Stasi, R., and Provan, D. (2004). Management of Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura in Adults. Mayo Clinic Proceedings. April 79:504-522.
5. University of California San Francisco Health https://www.ucsfhealth.org/conditions/immune-thrombocytopenia/treatment