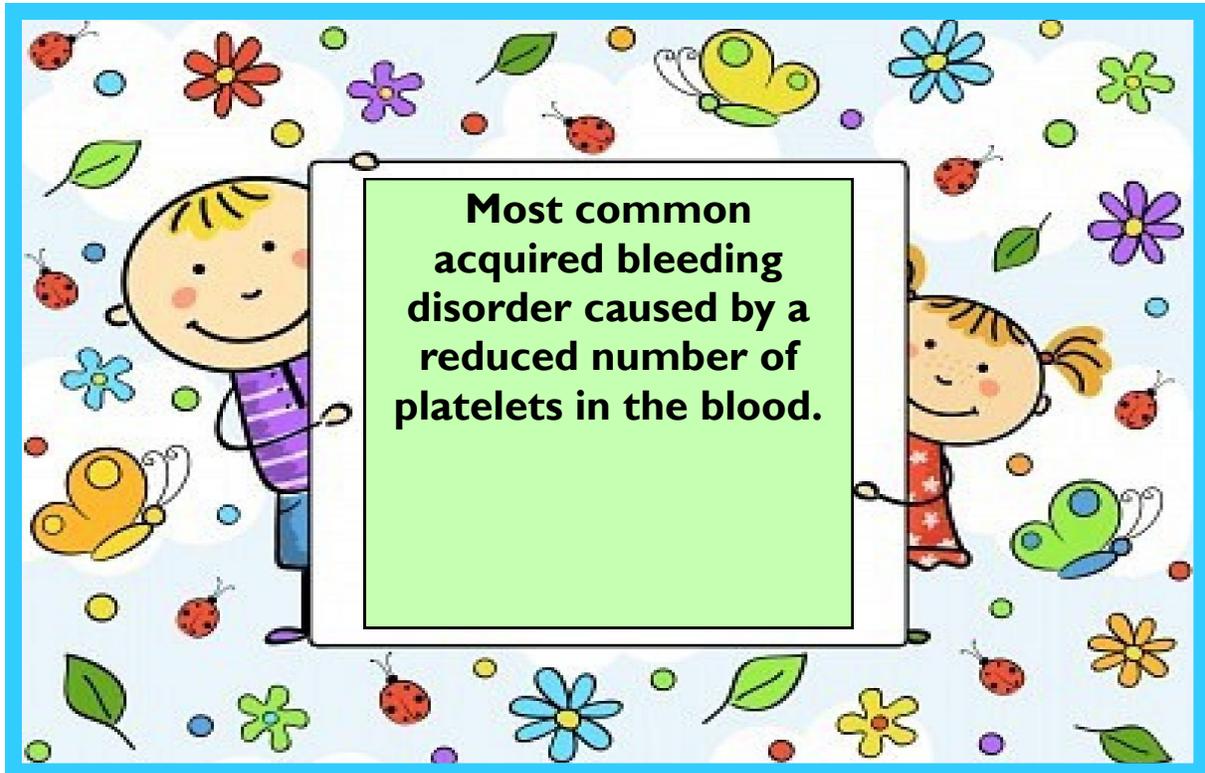


Tell me about ITP

Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura



Generally children develop ITP 1-6 weeks after a viral illness, .Something goes wrong with the body's immune system and the number of platelets (Small sticky cells in the blood which help it to clot) fall

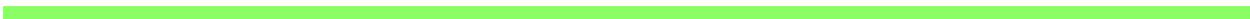
Children after a few weeks may then develop

- Bleeding easily
- Petechiae (small spots of blood under the skin)

Sometimes children also have

-Abdominal pain

- Bruising
- Nose bleeds
- Blood in their urine or stools.



Your child will be admitted to the ward to ensure we have made a full assessment of them, this will include

- Temperature
- Heart rate
- Breathing rate & Oxygen levels
- Blood Pressure.
- A blood test to look at all the different parts of the blood in the Laboratory.

Most children do not require any treatment, but recover over time. Occasionally, the condition becomes more severe, or treatment may be indicated.

Once we are happy that your child is well enough to go home we will

- Give you any medications that your child needs.
- Tell you what signs and symptoms to look out for.
- Try to encourage your child to avoid any vigorous activities that may result in bruises (such as climbing frames, bike riding etc) and play quiet games until their platelet levels have returned to normal.
- Avoid any contact sports until their blood levels have returned to normal.

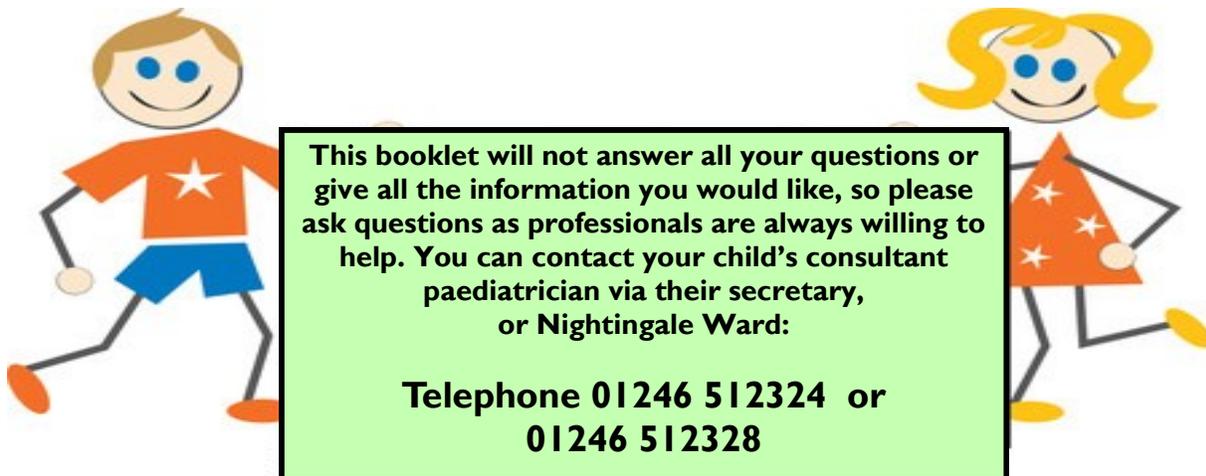
Please do not give your child any antihistamine medications, aspirin, ibuprofen or anti inflammatory medications as these can make the problem worse.

We will give you an appointment to see your child again to monitor their blood levels.

Any Other information

Please bring your child to The Emergency Department if any of the following occur:

- A nosebleed lasting longer than 30 minutes which will not stop despite pinching the nose.
- Prolonged gum bleeding.
- Blood in the stool or urine.
- An injury / bump to the head.
- Persistent or severe headache.
- Vomiting or drowsiness.



This booklet will not answer all your questions or give all the information you would like, so please ask questions as professionals are always willing to help. You can contact your child's consultant paediatrician via their secretary, or Nightingale Ward:

**Telephone 01246 512324 or
01246 512328**

