

Thrombocytopenia in the ICU.

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Critical Care Medicine

Majority occurring in inpatients are of secondary concern:

- Sepsis
- Cirrhosis / hypersplenism
- DIC
- Most drug-induced* *review MAR*
- Alcoholism
- Primary bleeding (dilutional)

HR for bleeding 3.5 if platelets <20K

Work-up and treatment rarely warranted

When to worry more (the 4 Hs”):

- HIT* → PE, limb loss
- HELLP → SHC, CNS bleed, abrupt
- TTP/HUS* → PRES, CNS bleed
AMI, SD, cardiogenic shock
- HLH
- Spontaneous bleeding
- Have to do an LP







“4 T’s”

2 points

1 point

Thrombocytopenia

>50% drop
nadir > 20K

30–50% drop
nadir 10–19K

Timing

5–10 days
< 1d + prior hep
< 30ds

? 5–10 d
>10 d
<1d + prior hep 30–
100d)

Thrombosis

New Clot
anaphylaxis,
skin necrosis

Suspected
progressive or
recurrent clot

alTernative dx

none

possible

“4 T’s”

Score	HIT risk	Action:
1–3 points	< 1%	Don’t test
4–5 points	10%	Test (SRA?)
6–9 points	50%	Test (HIT ELISA?)

Pretest Probability of HIT by 4T score*	ELISA test result (OD)	Reasonable clinical action:
Low (0–3 points) <i><1% chance patient has HIT</i>	>2.00	Order SRA**
	1.50 – 1.99	
	0.60 – 1.49	HIT ruled out***
	< 0.6	
Intermediate (4–5 points) <i>~10% chance patient has HIT</i>	>2.00	Treat HIT
	1.50 – 1.99	Order SRA**
	0.60 – 1.49	
	< 0.6	HIT ruled out***
High (6–8 points) <i>~50% chance patient has HIT</i>	>2.00	Treat HIT
	1.50 – 1.99	
	0.60 – 1.49	Order SRA**
	< 0.60	

Treatment

- DC *a//* heparin No LMWH
- Decide if further antithrombic rx needed pending lab tests
- Argatroban *I would consult pharmD*
- Bivalrudin
- Fondaparinux



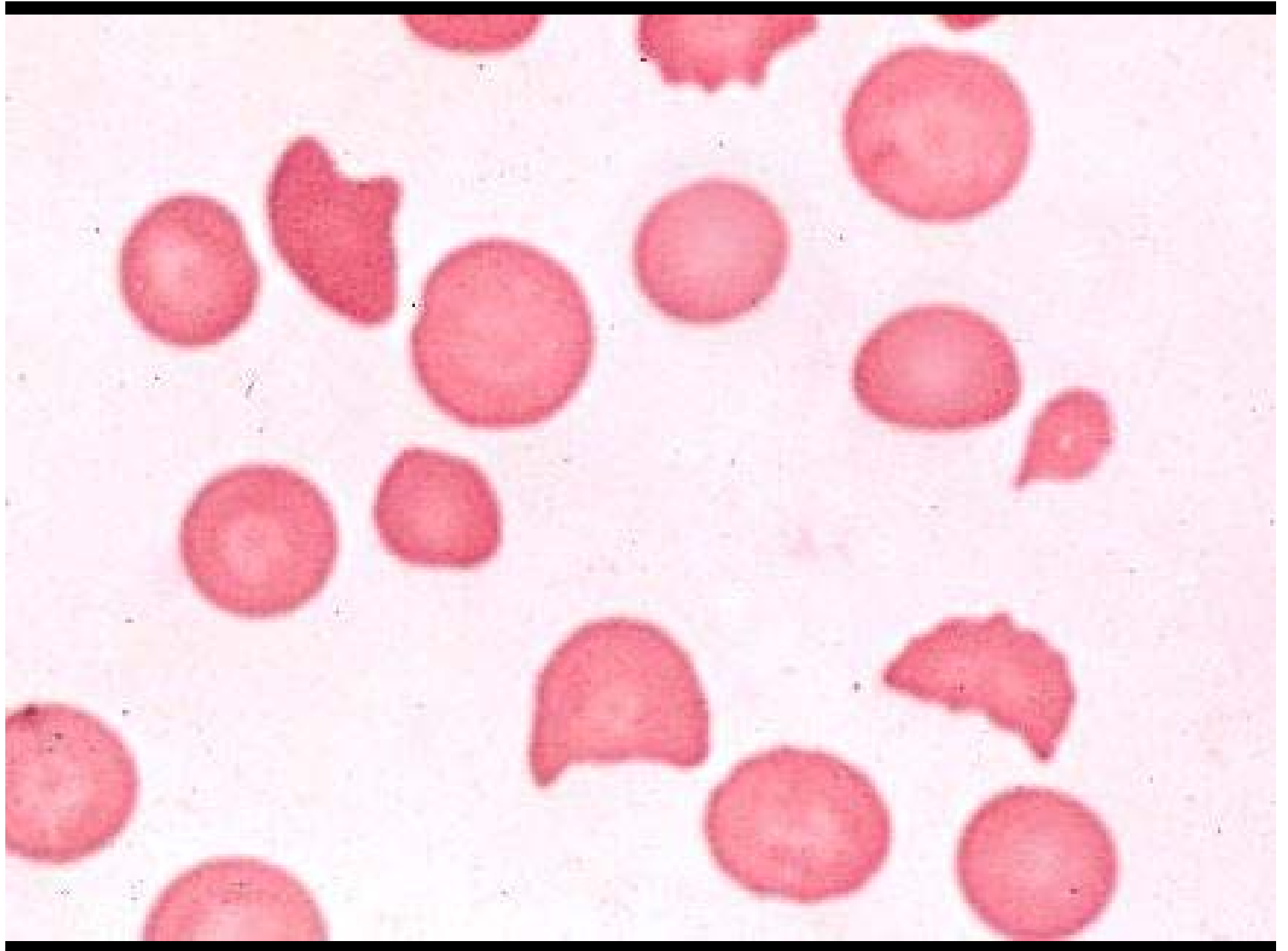
PELIGRO NO
BAJAR AL CRATER

TTP/HUS

- Tough diagnosis: anemia, thrombocytopenia, mild renal insufficiency are common.

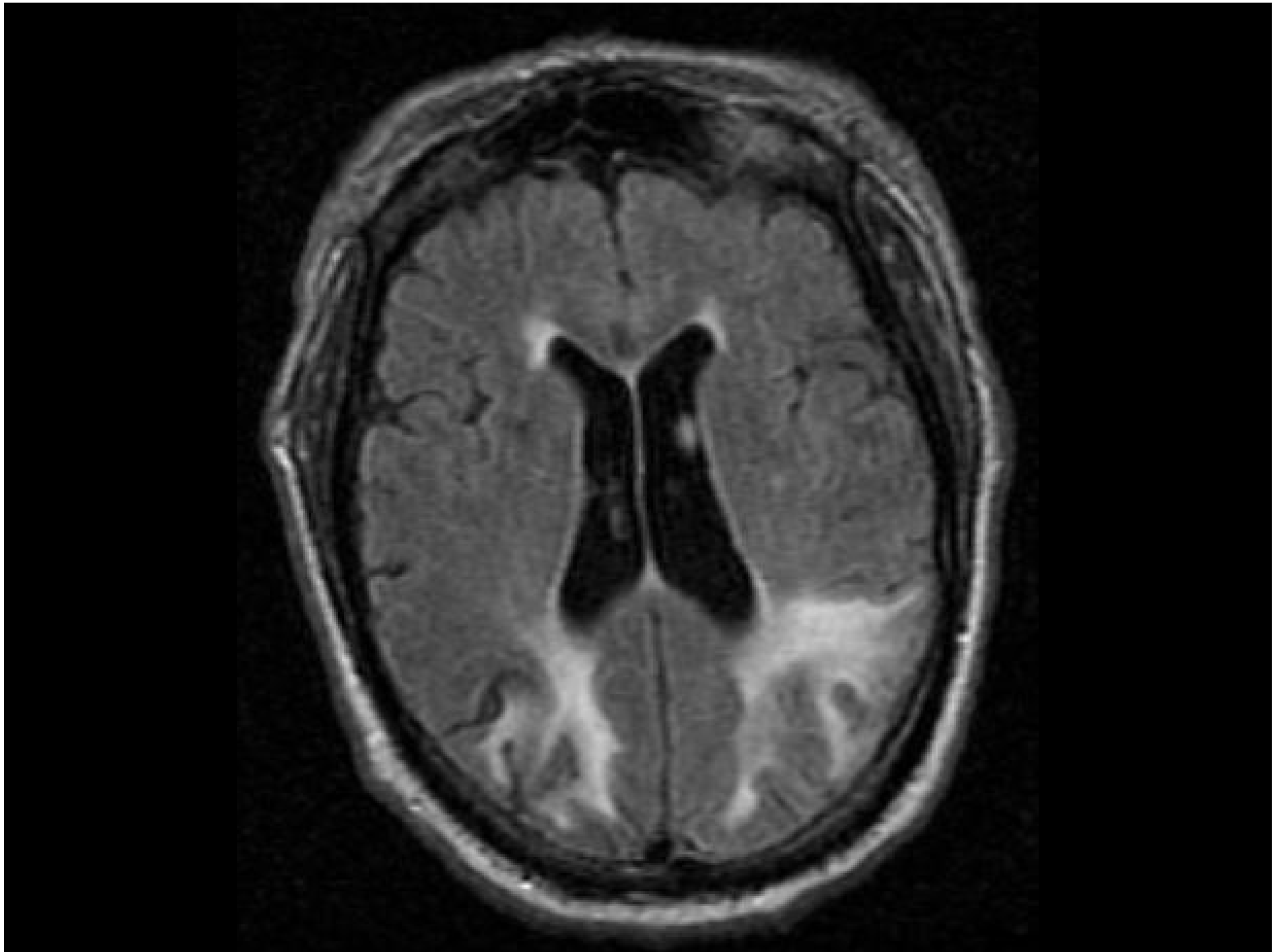
→ *Sudden cardiac death, CNS catastrophe*

- *Practical Dx:* MAHA + ↓ plts



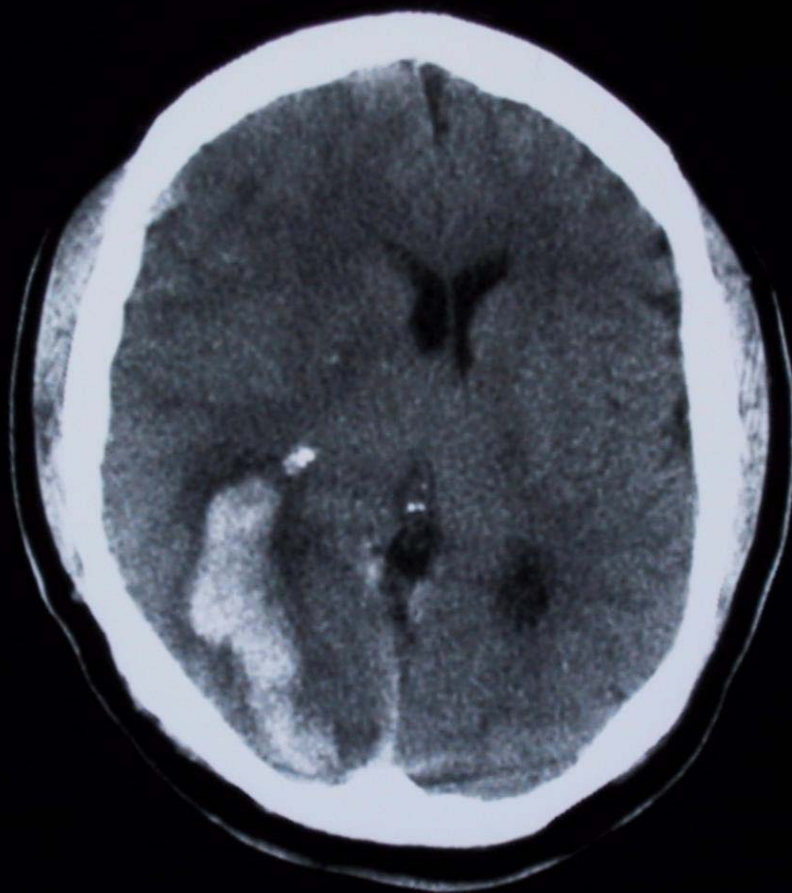
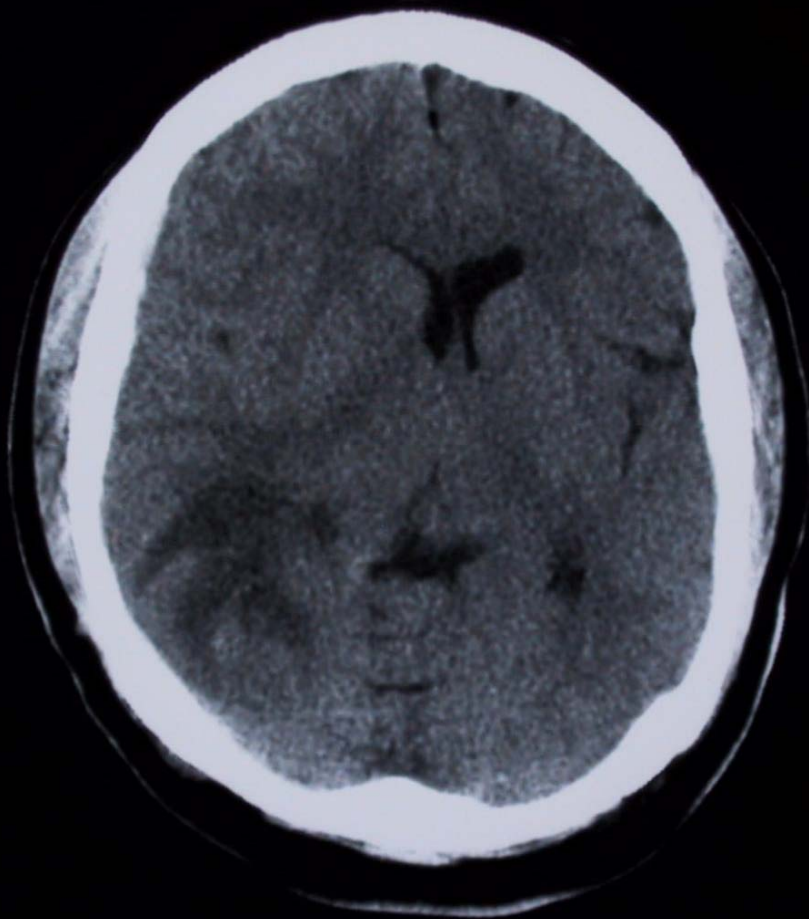
TTP / HUS

- Consider DDx
- Review MAR
- Check ADAMTS13 and inhibitor
- Don't wait for result → *plasma exchange*
steroids



HELLP

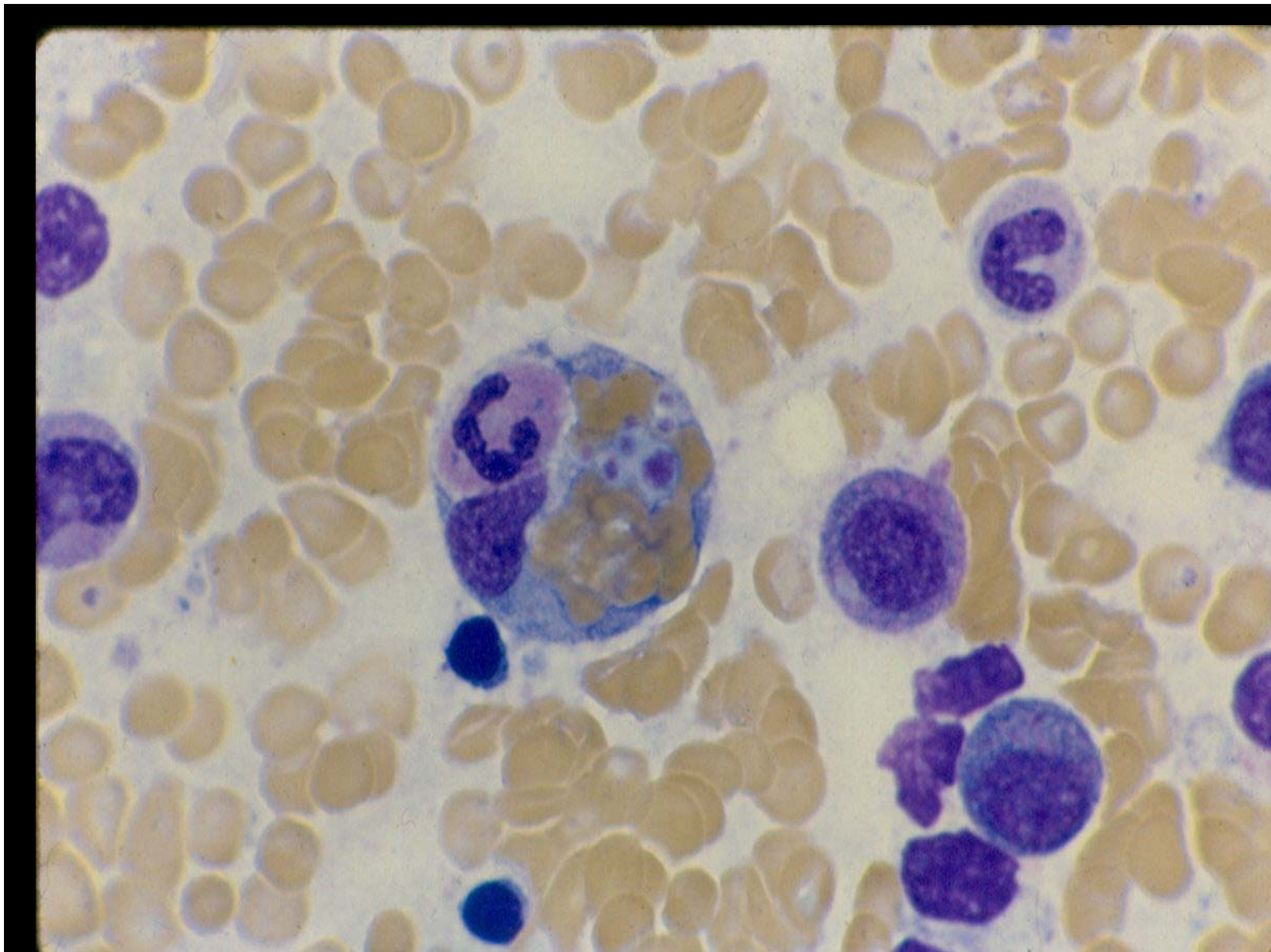
- 2nd/3rd trimester
- Epigastric/SS/RUQ pain, N/V
- 85% w/pre-eclampsia
- Dx:
 - *Microangiopathic hemolytic anemia*
 - *AST >70*
 - *<100K platelets.*
- → **abruption, DIC, pulm edema, ARF**





HLH

- Secondary to infection*, autoimmune
- **Unremitting septic shock w/ MSOF**
- Pancytopenia → Hyperferritinemia → bone marrow
- 29 cases now diagnosed at BUMCP ICU.



Reasonable platelet levels

- Neurosurg, epidural 100K
- Surgery, LP 50K
- CVC 20K

- Spont bleeding usually < 10K

- *1 unit single donor plt* ↑ 30K

Single donor platelets

- Equivalent to platelets present in 6 units of whole blood 6:6:1
- WBC → fever alloimmunization, GVHD
Leukoreduced
- plasma → TRALI, anaphylaxis

