POSTER PRESENTATIONS

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CHRONIC IMMUNE THROMBOCYTOPENIC PURPURA IN CHILDHOOD:
A CLINICAL PROFILE

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Objective: The aim of this study was to examine the clinical and laboratory profiles of chronic immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) patients attending Paediatric Clinic of Tengku Ampuan Afzan Hospital, Kuantan and Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Hospital (HoSHAS), Temerloh.

Method: All chronic ITP patients on follow-up in the year 2009 were identified. Information was collected from the case-record using a predesigned questionnaire.

Results: A total of 15 patients were identified. The age at which the patients first presented ranged from 2.3 – 10.5 years. Two patients were asymptomatic at presentation. Almost half of the patients had history of prior infection. In all except for 2 patients the platelet count was below 30 x 10⁹/L. Screening for connective tissue disease was positive on follow-up in one patient and none had concurrent autoimmune haemolytic anaemia. Eight patients had bone marrow examinations performed. Intravenous immunoglobulin and / or oral corticosteroid was started in all but two patients. There were no episodes life-threatening bleed. Duration of follow-up ranged from 1.5 – 9 years. One third had sustained normalization of the platelet count.

Conclusion: Although no episodes of life threatening bleed were documented in this small review, the daily functions and quality of life of these patients need to be looked into as some patients continued to require treatment to increase or sustain the platelet count.