

# HEL(L)P ?!

when extensive laboratory diagnostics are  
required

Madách Krisztina

Semmelweis University  
Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Therapy  
Budapest

# 48,000

WOMEN PER YEAR WILL DEVELOP HELLP SYNDROME. IF HELLP GOES UNTREATED IT CAN CAUSE DEATH. DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR? OR WILL IT BE TOO LATE?

VISION PROBLEMS  
SEVERE HEADACHES  
SEIZURE  
NECK PAIN  
SHOULDER PAIN  
CHEST TENDERNESS  
HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE  
VOMITING  
NAUSEA  
PROTEIN IN URINE  
BLEEDING  
FATIGUE  
SWELLING  
ABDOMINAL PAIN (RIGHT SIDE)



TO LEARN MORE VISIT  
[WWW.WHATTHEHELLP.COM](http://WWW.WHATTHEHELLP.COM)

**WTH?**



# Haemolysis, elevated liver enzymes, low platelet (HELLP)

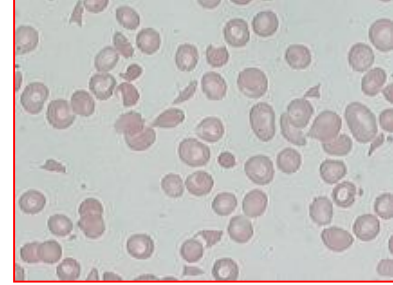
- A variant of pre/eclampsia
- Incidence: 0.17-0.9% of all pregnancies; 19-27% of subsequent pregnancies
- 1/4 of preeclamptic cases
- Main characteristic: endothel dysfunction
- Therapy: termination of pregnancy, plasmapheresis, steroid (?),  $\text{MgSO}_4$
- Mortality 1,1%-**86%** ???

# 27 years old primipara

- Admission on the 40th week of an eventless pregnancy due to eclampsia, low Hgb, platelet count, elevated liver enzymes, LDH, with suspicion of HELLP-sy
- Urgent caesarean section (transfusion:10E Plt), intraoperative convulsion
- 2700g, living, retarded boy
- Transmission to our department

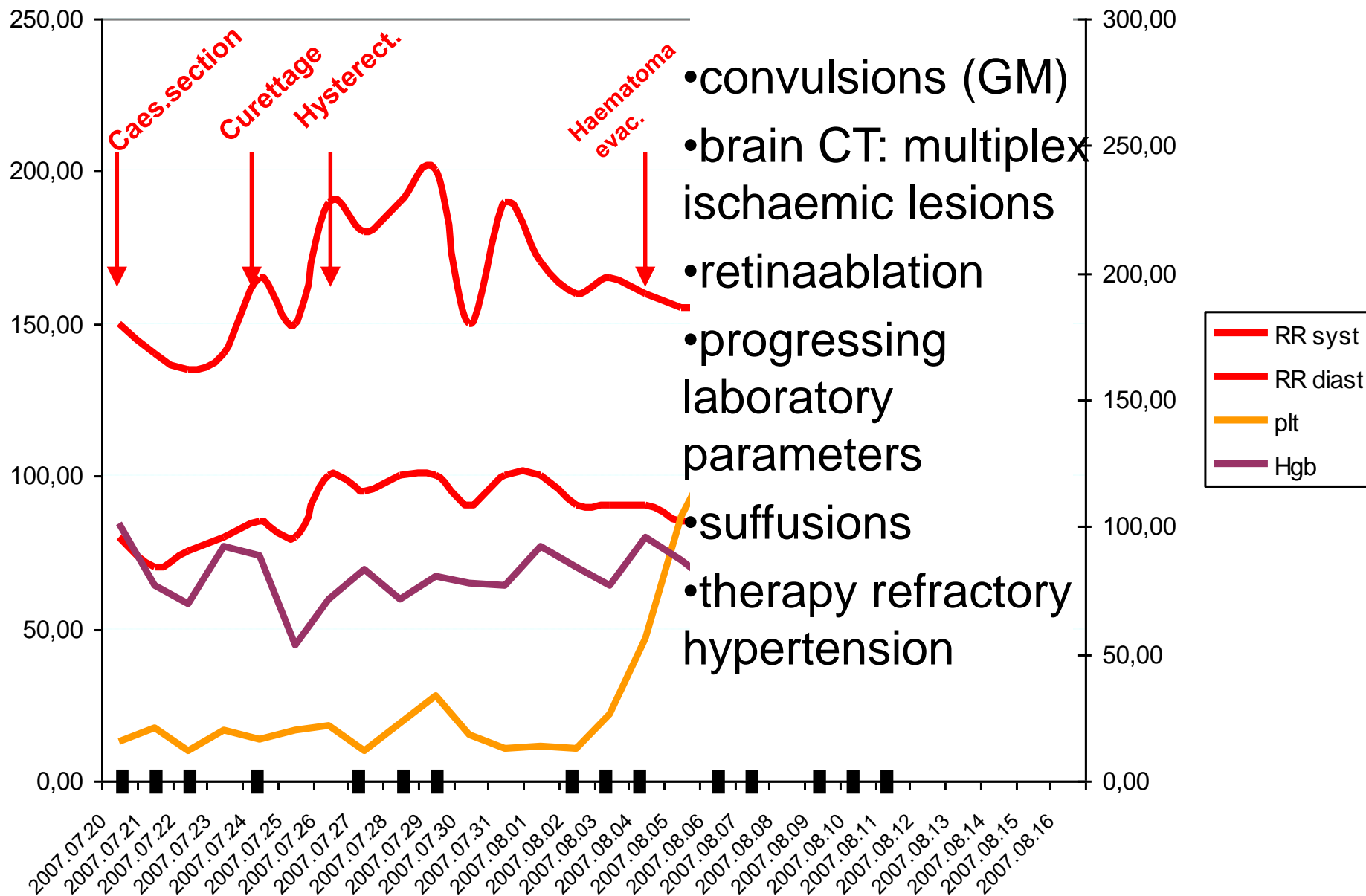


# HELLP severity



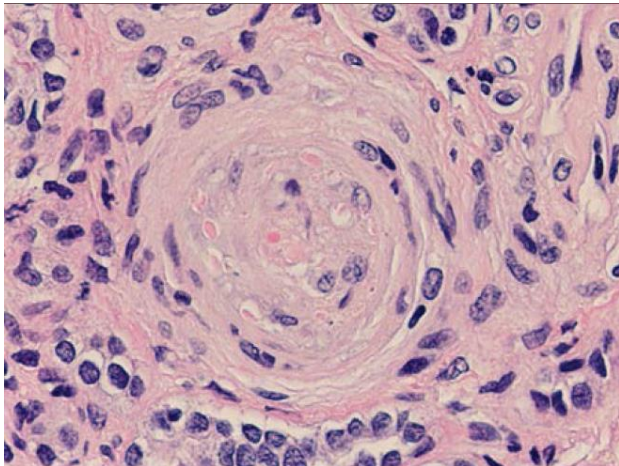
## HELLP

class	Tennessee classification	Mississippi classification
1	PLTs $\leq 100 \times 10^9/l$ AST $\geq 70$ IU/l LDH $\geq 600$ IU/l	PLTs $\leq 50 \times 10^9/l$ AST or ALT $\geq 70$ IU/l LDH $\geq 600$ IU/l
2		PLTs $\leq 100 \times 10^9/l$ and $\geq 50 \times 10^9/l$ AST or ALT $\geq 70$ IU/l LDH $\geq 600$ IU/l
3	Haptoglobin ↓ Plasma free haemoglobin ↑	PLTs $\leq 150 \times 10^9/l$ and $\geq 100 \times 10^9/l$ AST or ALT $\geq 40$ IU/l LDH $\geq 600$ IU/l



# Thrombotic microangiopathies (9)

- Hereditary (mutations)
  - ADAMTS13 deficiency (TTP)
  - Complement-mediated
  - Metabolism-mediated
  - Coagulation-mediated



- Acquired
  - ADAMTS13 deficiency (TTP)
    - autoantibodies
  - Shiga-toxin (ST-HUS)
    - E.coli, Shigella dysenteriae
  - Drug-mediated (immune)
    - antibodies
  - Drug-mediated (toxic dose)
    - VEGF inhibition
  - Complement-mediated (A-HUS)
    - compl.factor H activity inhibition by antibodies

# Thrombotic microangiopathies (9)

- Hereditary (mutations)
  - ADAMTS13 deficiency (TTP)
    - Plasma infusion
  - Complement-mediated
    - Plasma inf, PEX, anticomplement agent
  - Metabolism-mediated
    - Vitamin B12, folinic acid
  - Coagulation-mediated
    - Plasma infusion
- Acquired
  - ADAMTS13 deficiency (TTP)
    - PEX, immunosuppression
  - Shiga-toxin (ST-HUS)
    - Supportive care
  - Drug-mediated (immune)
    - Removal of drug, supportive
  - Drug-mediated (toxic dose)
    - Removal of drug, supportive
  - Complement-mediated (A-HUS)
    - PEX, immunosuppression, anticomplement agent



# Available research laboratory tests

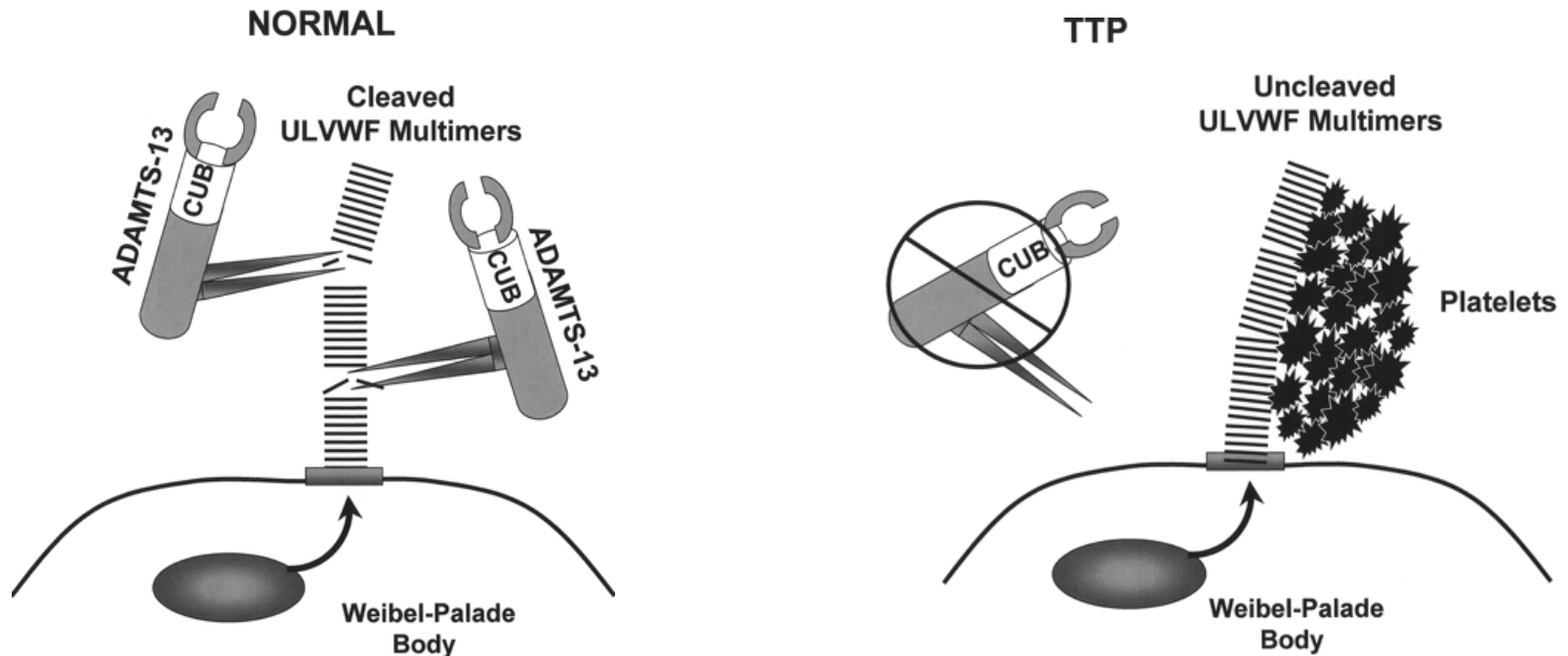
## **TTP: ADAMTS13 activity, anti-ADAMTS13 antibody measurement, genetics**

- ADAMTS13 metalloprotease enzyme activity
  - FRET-vWF73: Kinetic fluorimetric assay
- Functional measurement of inhibitory antibodies : Bethesda unit (BU)
- *ADAMTS13* mutation screening

## **HUS: complement factor, antibody measurement, genetics**

- Functional measurement of complement activity
  - CH50 and WIELISA-ALT
- Complement protein measurement
  - C3, C4, FH, FB, FI
- Mutation screenings
  - *CFH* exons 2, 4, 6, 9 14-15, 17, 18, 20-23, *CFI* exons 3, 5-6, 9-10, 12-13, *CD46* exons 5-6, *C3* exons 14, 20, 26-27, 37, *CFB* exons 6-7, *THBD* in progress
- Haplotype analysis
  - *CFH* tag SNPs, *MCP* tag SNPs
- Detection of copy number variation in region 1q32 (MLPA)
- Anti-HF IgG measurement to detect autoimmune form

The molecular cause of TTP is the procoagulant transformation of the endothelial surface due to formation of immature vWF



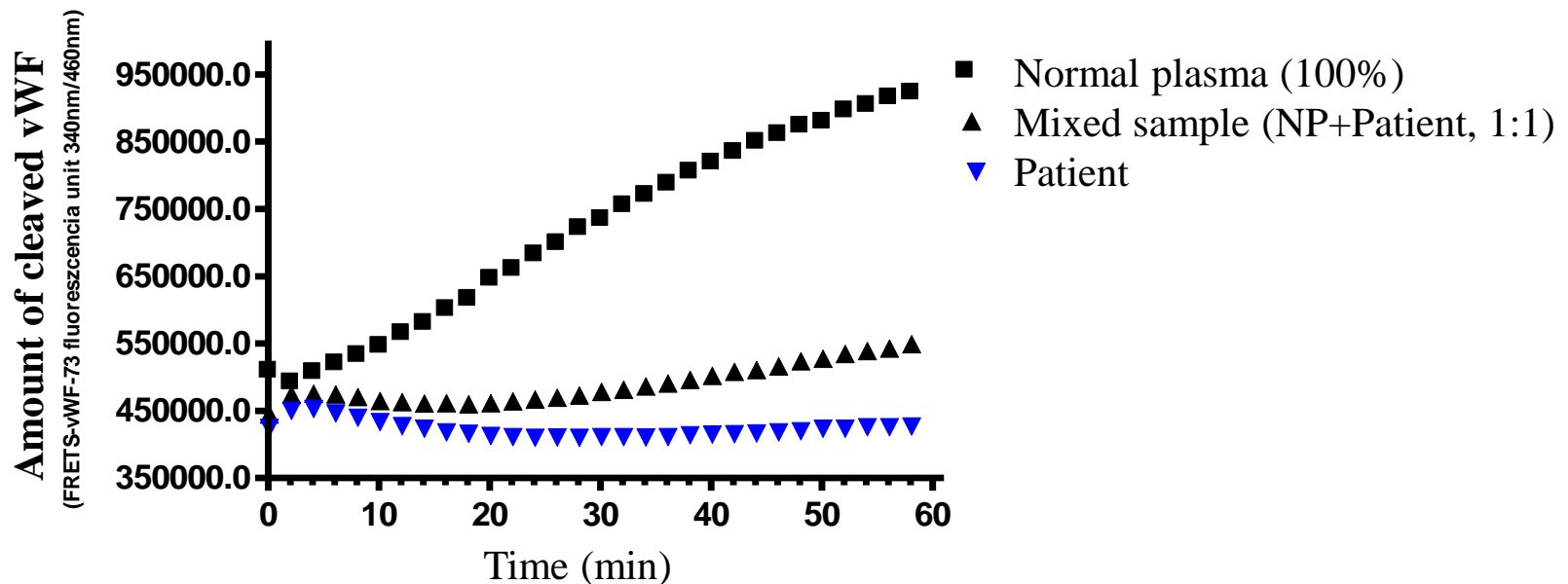
Acute mortality with PEX 20% (without PEX 90%)

# ADAMTS13 activity

## Fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET)

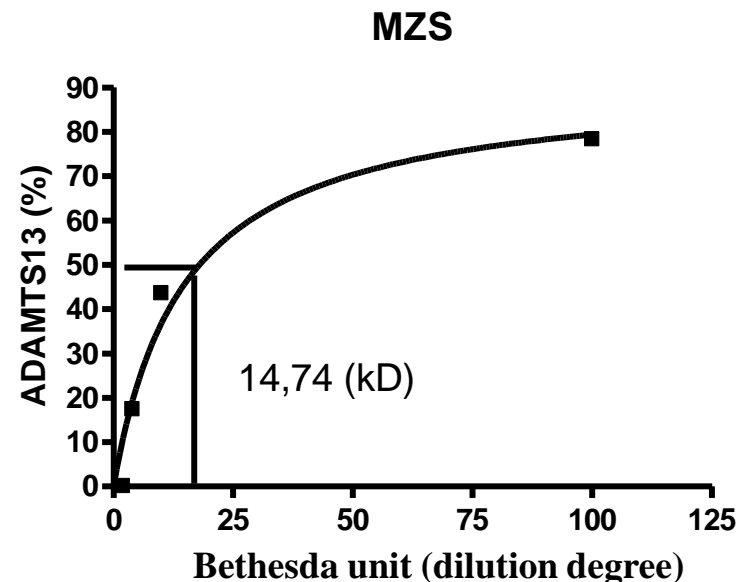
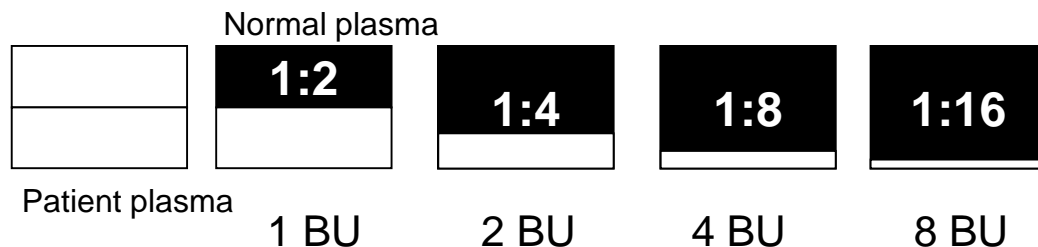
- We found 0% activity in the plasma of the patient even after several PEXs
- Mixing study demonstrated the presence of anti-ADAMTS13 inhibitory antibodies (activity 0%)

### ADAMTS13 activity measurement



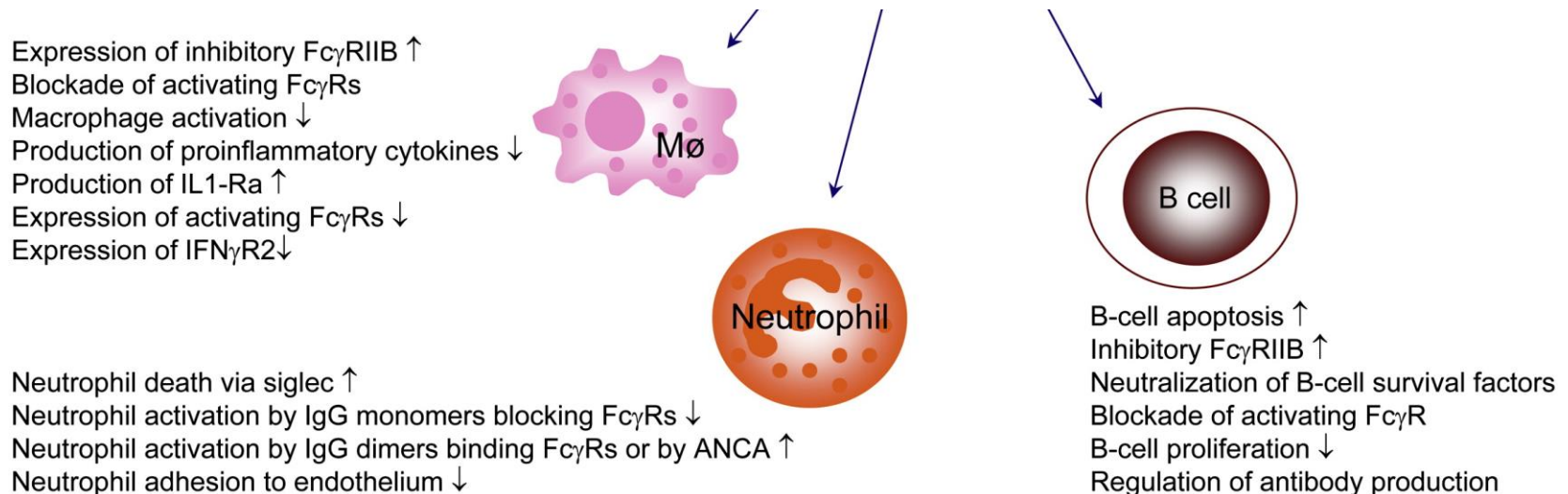
# Functional measurement of inhibitory antibodies : Bethesda unit (BU)

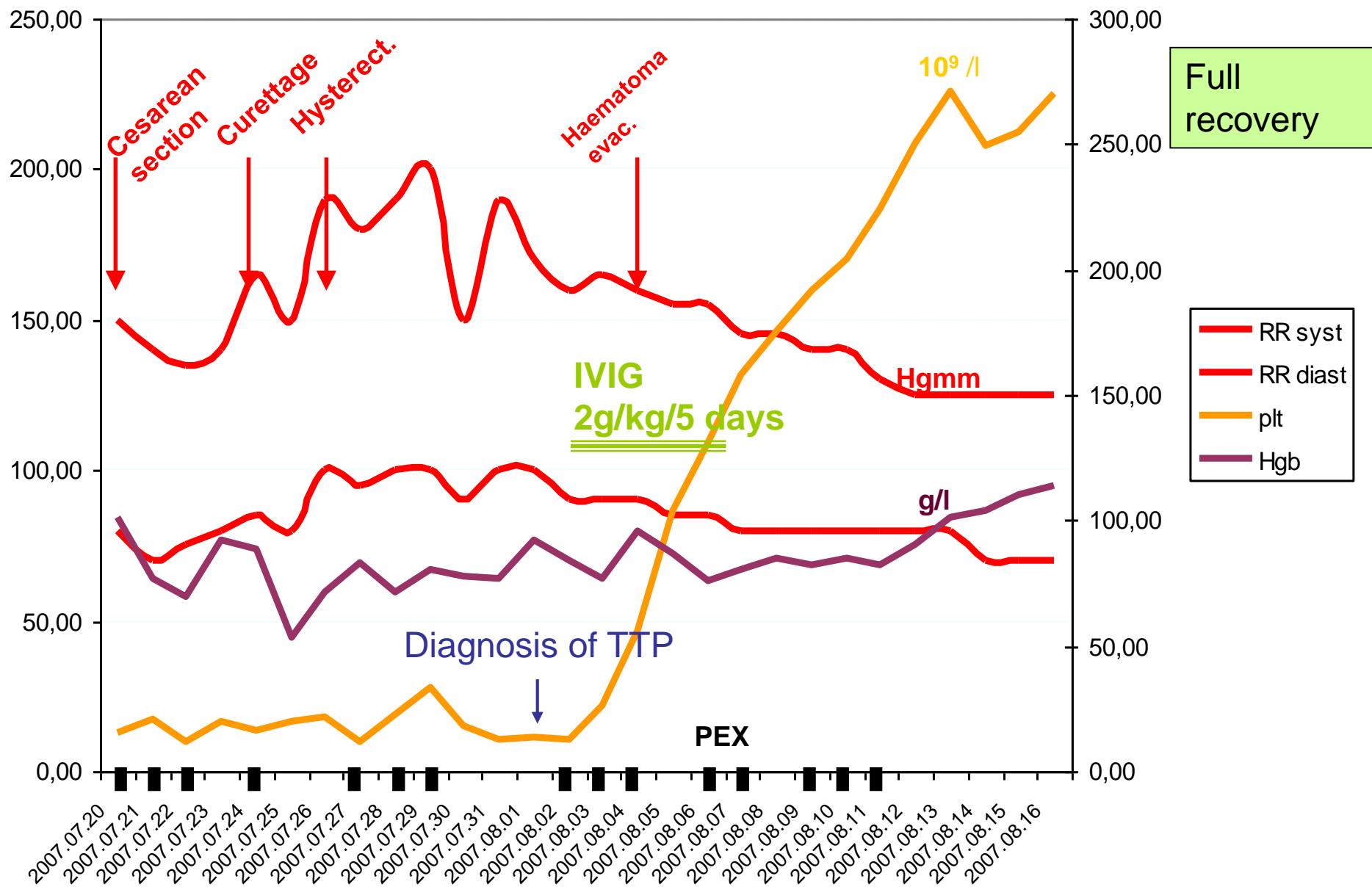
- The decreased activity plasma of the patient (0%) was mixed with increasing amount of 100% activity normal plasma, thus an increasing ADAMTS 13 activity could be measured
- If the activity of 1:2 rate mixed sample is 50%, then there is no inhibitory factor (=1 BU), the sample will simply dilute
- If the activity of the mixed sample is > 50% less than it would be expected from the mixture (e.g.<25% in this case), than presence of inhibitory factor is probable.
- Titration helps exact measurement



## IVIG:

- Inhibition of anti-ADAMTS13 antibodies by infused anti-idiotypic antibodies
- Acceleration of IgG catabolism
  - IVIG displaces the pathogenic antibodies from the endothelial FcRn receptors
- Acceleration of degradation of pathogenic antibodies
- Nonspecific inhibition of inflammatory response





# Treatment summary

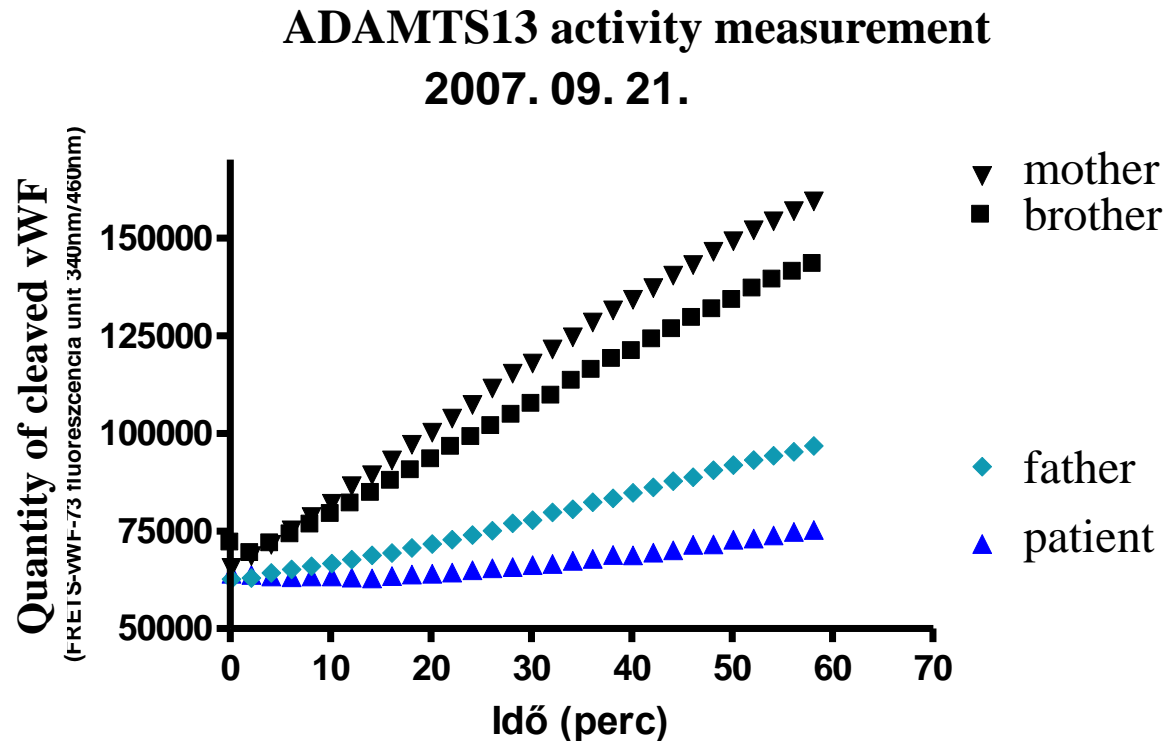
- PEX: 17
- FFP:  $17 \times 6 = 102$  U for PEX + 14 U FFP
- Matched rbc: 21 U
- Platelets: 22 U
- Humaglobin: 110 g
- Operations: 4 db
- Coronary plaques: a lot

Together  
Everyone  
Achieves  
More



# Family screening

- Samples of the parents and one brother
- Decreased ADAMTS13 activity in the sample of the father (64%)





# 41 years old primipara

- Admission on the 38th week of an eventless pregnancy due to preeclampsia, suspected HELLP sy
- Caesarean section, living, mature 3500g girl
- Postoperative 12<sup>th</sup> hour:
  - Hb: 43 g/l, Plt: 40 G/l, AST: 1120 U/l, ALT: 932 U/l, LDH: 2937 U/l
  - creat 238umol/l, anuria, GFR↓
- Abrasion, PEX, steroid
  - Increasing inflammatory parameters, fever, debris in abrasion sample (G- rods)
  - DIC
- AB treatment, hysterectomy 24 hours after admission

# Anti-FH autoantibody is positive: acquired, complement-mediated A-HUS is diagnosed

Dátum	Komment	Klasszikus út (48-103 CH50/mL)	C4 (0,15-0,55 g/L)	C3 (g/L); ref 0,9-1,8	Alternatív aktivitás WIE-ALT, %; ref 70-105	Anti-FH IgG (<110 AU/mL)	HF:Ag (mg/L); ref 127-447	I faktor, % (ref: 70-130)	B faktor, % (ref: 70-130)	ADAMTS13 aktivitás (67-147%)
2013.12.13	1. ferezis előtt	32	0,08	0,7	59	2797	208	86	69	28
2013.12.13	1- ferezis után	28	0,08	0,52	6	133	128	58	56	27
2013.12.16	3. ferezis után	40	0,16	0,44	16	41	189	89	52	29
2013.12.17	4. ferezis után	46	0,08	0,54	39	105	186	99	68	40
2013.12.19	5. ferezis után	35	0,13	0,61	54	34	164	119	71	53
2013.12.21	7. ferezis után			0,66	69	39	162	139	77	
2013.12.22				0,56	38	34	141	102	56	
2013.12.23				0,65	67	40	137	123	72	
2013.12.24				0,84	58	32	157	133	75	
2013.12.25				0,88	62	34	151	130	69	
2013.12.26				0,77	77	25	145	126	83	
2013.12.27				0,85	81	31	176	123	92	
2013.12.28				0,93	79	30	211	133	77	
2013.12.29				0,9	69	30	216	117	83	
2013.12.30				1	82	25	214	108	75	
2013.12.31				1,01		47	301			37
2014.01.01				1,17			289			

# Outline of functioning of the complement system

**Classical pathway** (Immune complexes)

**Regulators:**

C1-inhibitor, C4-binding protein, factor I

**Lectin pathway** (carbohydrate structure)

Opsonization  
Antigen presentation  
Antibody production

Anaphylatoxins C3a, C5a  
Inflammatory effect  
Chemotaxis

**Alternative pathway** (spontaneous C3 activation)  
Factor B, D

**Regulators:**

MCP, CD59, factors H, I

**Alternative pathway amplification**  
C3b

**Anti-FH autoantibody**

C3 activation

C5 activation

Terminal reaction  
pathway

Lysis  
Cell-damaging effect  
Apoptosis induction

**Regulators:**  
Protein S and Clusterin

# Thrombotic microangiopathies (9)

- Hereditary (mutations)
  - ADAMTS13 deficiency (TTP)
    - Plasma infusion
  - Complement-mediated
    - Plasma inf, PEX, anticomplement agent
  - Metabolism-mediated
    - Vitamin B12, folinic acid
  - Coagulation-mediated
    - Plasma infusion
- Acquired
  - ADAMTS13 deficiency (TTP)
    - PEX, immunosuppression
  - Shiga-toxin (ST-HUS)
    - Supportive care
  - Drug-mediated (immune)
    - Removal of drug, supportive
  - Drug-mediated (toxic dose)
    - Removal of drug, supportive
  - **Complement-mediated (A-HUS)**
    - **PEX, immunosuppression, anticomplement agent**

# Therapeutic possibilities of aHUS

MODS: liver, kidney (HD), respiration (NIV), haemostasis, 6x parenteral antihypertensive treatment.

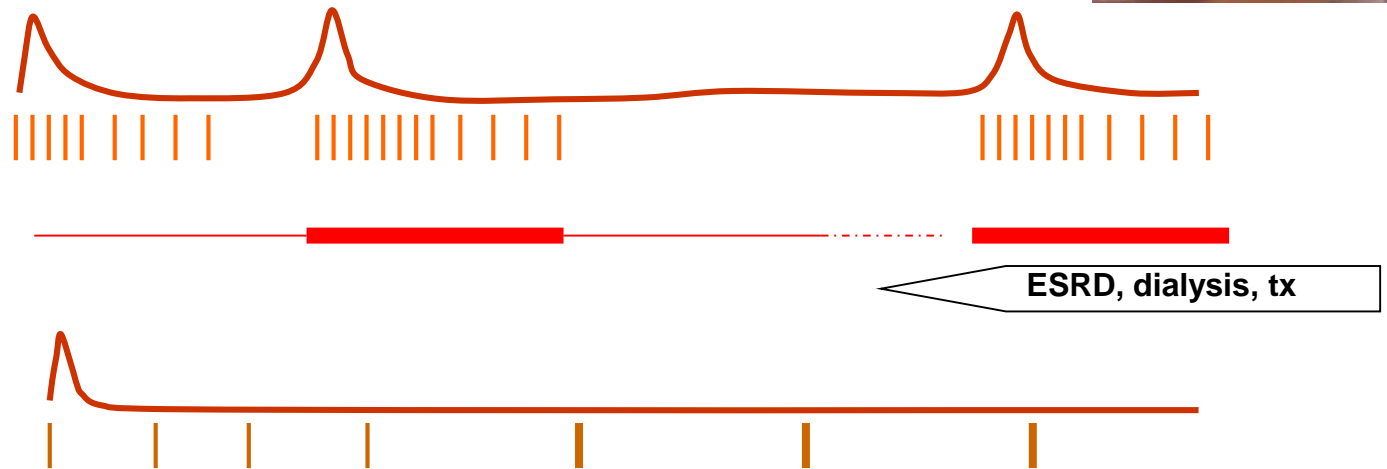
The illness is characterized by recurrent exacerbations (hemolysis, fragmentocytes,  $\uparrow$ LDH,  $\downarrow$ plt)

Therapy:

PEX

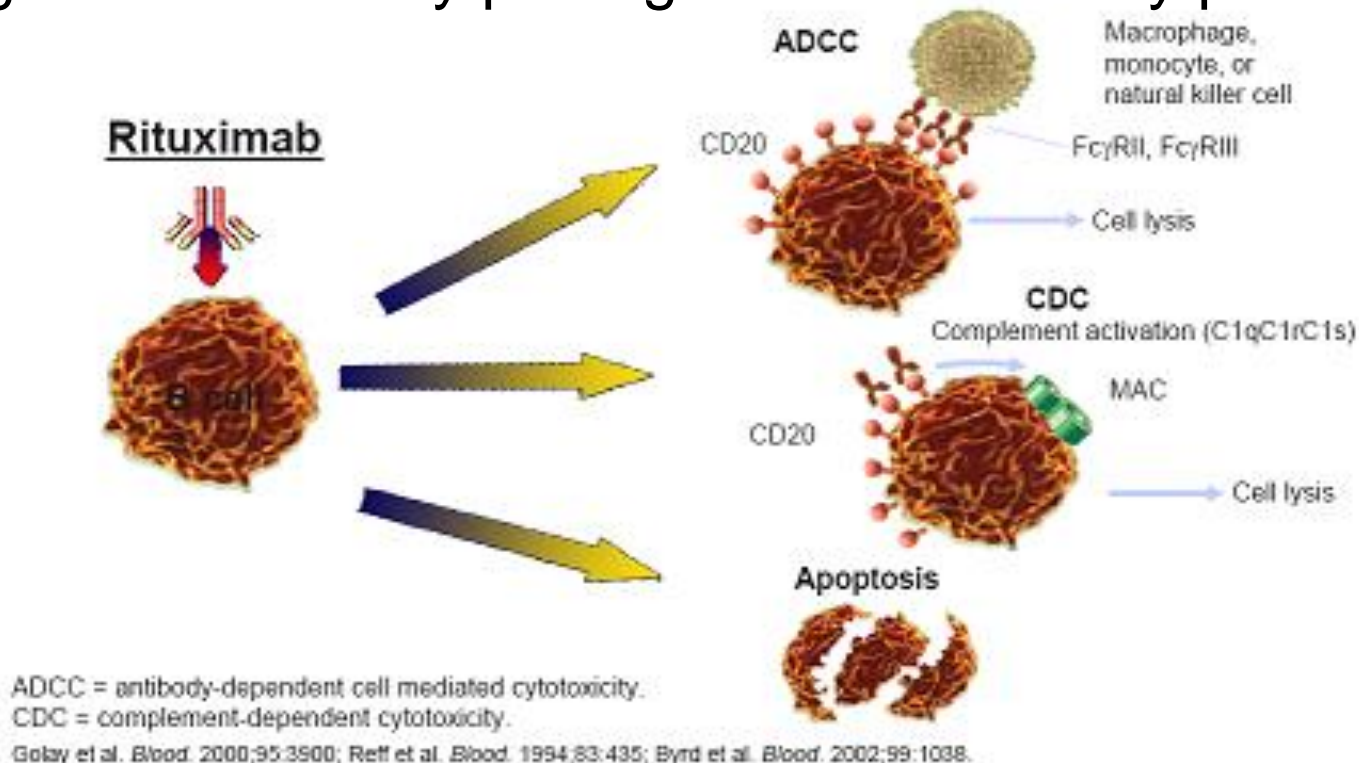
Immune suppression  
Cytostatic drugs  
Rituximab

Anticomplement  
Eculizumab  
900 mg/week for 4 weeks,  
then 1200 mg/two weeks



# Rituximab (Rituxan, MabThera)

- is a chimeric monoclonal antibody against the protein CD20, which is primarily found on the surface of B cells. Rituximab destroys B cells and is used to treat diseases which are characterized by excessive numbers of B cells, overactive B cells, or dysfunctional B cells.
- The goal is to destroy pathogenic autoantibody producing B cells



# Targeted inhibition of pathologic complement activation

**Classical pathway** (Immune complexes)

**Regulators:**

C1-inhibitor, C4-binding protein, factor I

**Lectin pathway** (carbohydrate structure)

Opsonization  
Antigen presentation  
Antibody production

Anaphylatoxins C3a, C5a  
Inflammatory effect  
Chemotaxis

C3 activation

C5 activation

Terminal reaction  
pathway

Lysis

Cell-damaging effect  
Apoptosis induction

**Alternative pathway** (spontaneous C3 activation)  
Factor B, D

**Regulators:**

MCP, CD59, factors H, I

**Alternative pathway amplification**  
C3b

**Eculizumab**

(humanized murine  
monoclonal antibody  
against C5)

the most expensive drug in  
the world:

614.736 \$ / year of ongoing  
treatment

(2.343.408 RON)

# Therapy-outcome

- IVIG ineffective
- For this reason there is no point in trying Rituximab
- Cyclophosphamid ?
- Eculizumab? Targeted therapy, but the most expensive drug of the world
- Application for approval of financial guarantee to the National Health Insurance Fund- very complex administration
- „Kidney transplantation is cheaper”



## NICE draft guidance recommends eculizumab (Soliris) for treatment of very rare life-threatening blood disorder

Ecuzumab (Soliris, Alexion), a drug to treat a very rare blood disorder affecting around 200 people in England, has been recommended by NICE in further draft guidance.

A drug to treat a very rare blood disorder affecting around 200 people in England has been recommended by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

NICE  
UK body

'Soliris' high cost

Share Print

“ Ecuzumab radically improves the quality of life of the small number of people with aHUS. NICE Chief Executive Sir Andrew Dillon ”

# Therapy-outcome



- Full recovery with IVIG, PEX and steroid! (?)
  - Permanently negative anti-FH level
  - Resolving complement profile and normal FH, C3 levels
  - Kidney function goes back to normal within 6 weeks
- Examination of the samples from the newborn did not show transplacental transport of anti FH autoantibodies, normal complement profile was detected.
- Either the patient does not know the textbook, or the textbook does not know the disease



# Do we just over/look or actually can see the disease?

- HELLP definition 1982
- Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP)
  - Disease 1924
  - ADAMTS13 deficiency 1982
  - PEX efficiency 1991
- Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)
  - Disease 1975
  - Enhanced complement activation 1998
  - Complement factor H autoantibodies 2005
  - Rituximab 2007, Eculizumab (FDA, EMA) 2011

# Summary

- Mortality of HELLP sy. can be as high as 86%, but in this case role of TMA should be considered
- If there is no improvement within 48h with PEX, TMA should be considered
- Extensive laboratory diagnostics and close monitoring of trends is needed, the clinical picture is insufficient on its own.
- Many types of TMA became treatable with targeted therapies (not jut with steroids, cytostatic drugs)
- Possibilities: substitution, non-specific inhibition, targeted inhibition

**I can do things you cannot,**

**You can do things I cannot,**

**Together we can do great things!**

***Mother Teresa***