ITP vs TTP

Two causes of low platelets that share initials but differ greatly in severity and management

ITP Immune (ITP)

- peripheral destruction by autoantibodies
- normal marrow
- isolated thrombocytopenia, petechiae, no systemic involvement

TTP Thrombotic (TTP)

- ADAMTS13 deficiency
- thrombocytopenia + hemolytic anemia with schistocytes + neurological signs + renal failure + fever

ITP
Isolated, usually benign: corticosteroids or immunoglobulins

TTP
Severe microangiopathy: plasmapheresis

No platelets
In TTP platelets are NOT transfused

ITP = isolated thrombocytopenia · TTP = ADAMTS13 microangiopathy with the classic pentad