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Accepted: July 31, 1987

Acta haemat. 19688;79:56

Reply

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We are pleased to reply to the letter of Prof. Öz-soylu about the use of high-dose methylprednisolone in chronic ITP. Although our experience concerning the administration of Danazol in refractory ITP was substantially negative [1], we are not prone to try Öz-soylu's schedule of treatment with high-dose intravenous steroids in adult patients. In fact, we think that there are other alternative therapeutic approaches in chronic ITP refractory either to steroids at conventional dosages (0.5–1.5 mg/kg/day prednis-one) or to splenectomy [2]. In these patients, many authors experienced quite successfully the use of immunosuppressive drugs other than steroids, such as azathioprine [3], cyclophosphamide [4], and in the last 5 years high-dose intravenous immunoglobulins[5].

We think that high-dose immunoglobulins are really effective especially when hemorrhagic episodes occur or before surgical operations in patients severely thrombocytopenic. In addition, we did not experience relevant side effects during and after the administration of intravenous immunoglobulins.

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