

MEDICATION NAME:	DAPSONE (DIPHENYLSULFONE) <b>BRAND: AVLOSULFON</b>
HOW IS IT GIVEN:	Oral pill.
HOW DOES IT WORK:	Mechanism of action is not established. May work by inducing “mild” hemolysis and thereby divert splenic macrophages from clearing antibody-coated platelets.
COMMON DOSING REGIMENS:	Initial dose 50-100 mg/day.
COMMON SIDE EFFECTS:	Mild hemolysis (destruction of red blood cells) causing anemia and itching.
RARE BUTSERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS:	Severe hemolytic anemia, methemoglobinemia (an abnormal type of hemoglobin), Stevens-Johnson syndrome (severe skin rash).
TYPICAL TIME TO RESPONSE:	1-3 months.
LIKELIHOOD OF INITIAL RESPONSE:	Ranges from 10-60%.
LIKELIHOOD OF LONG-TERM RESPONSE (3-5 YEARS):	Most studies have reported relapse within six months of stopping dapsone.
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:	Contraindicated in patients with G6PD deficiency (prior genetic or enzyme testing should be considered). Need to monitor for evidence hemolysis.  Reproduction studies have shown an adverse effect on fetal development in animal studied. No well controlled studies in humans to date.

**References:**

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2. Khan, Y.B., Ahmed, A., Geelani, S.S., Mir, S.A., Bhat, J.R., Bashir, N., and Bhat, J.I. (2014). Dapsone as a cheap and safe second-line drug for chronic immune thrombocytopenia in developing countries: A prospective cohort study. Journal of Applied Hematology. 5(3):86-90.
3. Matzdorff, A., Meyer, O., Ostermann, H., Krefeld, V., Eberi, W., Kuhn, T., Pabinger I., and Rommel, M. (2018). Immune Thrombocytopenia – Current Diagnostics and Therapy: Recommendations of a Joint Working Group of DGHO, OGHO, SGH, GPOH, and DGTI. Oncology Research Treatment. 41(suppl 5):1-30.
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5. Rodrigo, C., and Gooneratne, L. (2013). Dapsone for primary immune thrombocytopenia in adults and children: an evidence-based review. Journal of thrombosis and haemostasis. 11(11): 1946-1953.
6. Song, J. (2017) Dapsone therapy for immune thrombocytopenia purpura: old but still unfamiliar. Blood Research June 52(2):77-78.