

MEDICATION NAME: VINCRISTINE  
**BRAND: ONCOVIN, VINCASAR.**

HOW IS IT GIVEN:	IV push.
HOW DOES IT WORK:	Inhibits the ability of actively dividing cells to complete the process of cell division. Thought to increase platelet count by decreasing destruction of antibody-coated platelets.
COMMON DOSING REGIMENS:	0.03mg/kg per week over 1-4 weeks.
COMMON SIDE EFFECTS:	Peripheral neuropathy (nerve pain), constipation, hair loss.
RARE BUT SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS:	Serious skin reactions have been reported if the medication gets under the skin when infusing instead of staying in the vein.
TYPICAL TIME TO RESPONSE:	1 week.
LIKELIHOOD OF INITIAL RESPONSE:	10-40%
LIKELIHOOD OF LONG-TERM RESPONSE (3-5 YEARS):	Unlikely.
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:	May increase the risk of infertility. May cause harm to the developing fetus and should not be used in pregnancy

**References:**

1. Koehler, Y.K. (1982). Vincristine therapy in refractory chronic idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura. *Annals Academy of Medicine Singapore*. 11(2):290-293.
2. Platelet Disorder Support Association. <https://www.pdsa.org/chemotherapy.html>