

MEDICATION NAME: DANAZOL
BRAND: DANOCRINE

HOW IS IT GIVEN:	Oral capsule.
HOW DOES IT WORK:	A synthetic attenuated androgen (modified testosterone). Mechanism of action not fully established. May reduce destruction of antibody-coated platelets initially and act as an immunosuppressant with long-term use.
COMMON DOSING REGIMENS:	200 mg, 2-4 times a day (10-15mg/kg/d).
COMMON SIDE EFFECTS:	Weight gain, fluid retention, muscle pain, rash, and hair loss. This drug disrupts the production of estrogen and can have a masculinizing effect on women leading to hirsutism, deeper voice, and menstrual irregularities. In men it can affect sperm production.
RARE BUT SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS:	Liver damage and hypoglycemia (low blood sugar).
TYPICAL TIME TO RESPONSE:	1-6 months.
LIKELIHOOD OF INITIAL RESPONSE:	Estimated 40-70%
LIKELIHOOD OF LONG-TERM RESPONSE (3-5 YEARS):	The prevalence of sustained response off treatment has not been established.
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:	Doses as low as 50 mg per day have been shown to maintain efficacy in some patients. Not well tolerated in adolescent female patients due to virilizing effects.

References:

1. Lui, W., Gu, X., Fu, R., Li, Y., Lv, M., Sun, T., Lv, C., Liu, X., Xue, F., Zhang, L., and Yang, R. (2016). The effect of Danazol in primary immune thrombocytopenia: An analysis of a large cohort from a single center in China. *Clinical and Applied Thrombosis/Hemostasis*, 22(8): 727-733.
2. Maloisel, F., Andres, E., Zimmerman, J., Noel, E., Zamfir, A., Koumariou, A., and Dofour, P. (2004). Danazol therapy in patients with chronic idiopathic thrombocytopenia purpura: long-term results. *American Journal of Medicine*, May 1:116(9):590-594.
3. Platelet Disorder Support Association. <https://www.pdsa.org/modified-testosterone.html>
4. Stasi, R., and Provan, D. (2004). Management of Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura in Adults. *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*. April 79:504-522.