

MEDICATION NAME:	DAPSONE (DIPHENYLSULFONE) BRAND: AVLOSULFON
HOW IS IT GIVEN:	Oral tablet.
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. Thought to be immunosuppressive as well.
COMMON DOSING REGIMENS:	Initial dose 1-2 mg/kg/day.
COMMON SIDE EFFECTS:	Mild hemolysis (destruction of red blood cells) causing anemia and itching.
RARE BUT SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS:	Severe hemolytic anemia, methemoglobinemia (an abnormal type of hemoglobin), Stevens-Johnson syndrome (severe skin rash). Testing for deficiency of a red blood cell enzyme called G6PD should be performed prior to use as those with the enzyme deficiency may be subject to more severe hemolysis.
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.

References:

1. Esteve et al. (2017). Efficacy and safety of dapsone as second line therapy for adult immune thrombocytopenia: A retrospective study of 42 patients. PLoS ONE. 12(10): e0187296.
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.

4. Patel, A., and Patil A.S. (2015). Dapsone for immune thrombocytopenic purpura in children and adults. *Platelets*. 26(issue2):164-167.
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.