

MEDICATION NAME:	VINCRIStINE/VINBLASTINE <b>BRAND: ONCOVIN, VINCASAR.</b>
HOW IS IT GIVEN:	IV push or IV infusion.
HOW DOES IT WORK:	Inhibits the ability of actively dividing cells to complete the process of cell division or to activate. Thought to increase platelet count by decreasing destruction of antibody-coated platelets by its effects on macrophages.
COMMON DOSING REGIMENS:	0.03mg/kg per week over 1-4 weeks.
COMMON SIDE EFFECTS:	Peripheral neuropathy (nerve pain) and motor nerve blockage , constipation, hair loss with vincristine; less neuropathy and more marrow suppression with vinblastine.
RARE BUT SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS:	Serious skin reactions have been reported if the medication leaks out of the vein when infusing instead of remaining in the vein.
TYPICAL TIME TO RESPONSE:	1-2 weeks.
LIKELIHOOD OF INITIAL RESPONSE:	10-60%
LIKELIHOOD OF LONG-TERM RESPONSE (3-5 YEARS):	Unlikely.
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:	May increase the risk of infertility in adolescent populations.

**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.htmls>