

COMMENT ON: ISOLATED THROMBOCYTOPENIA IN CHILDHOOD: WHAT IF IT IS NOT IMMUNE THROMBOCYTOPENIA?

Singapore Med J 2018; 59(9): 508 <https://doi.org/10.11622/smedj.2018113>

Dear Sir,

We read the article 'Isolated thrombocytopenia in childhood: what if it is not immune thrombocytopenia?' with great interest.⁽¹⁾ Lee presented case studies on interesting situations that might be misinterpreted as immune thrombocytopenia.⁽¹⁾ In fact, several pathologies can result in isolated thrombocytopenia in childhood. Although it is not common, non-immune thrombocytopenia is possible.

We agree with Lee's conclusion that "*secondary thrombocytopenia is not an uncommon diagnosis among children presenting with isolated thrombocytopenia and should be looked out for at the initial diagnosis and during the subsequent follow-up until thrombocytopenia resolves.*"⁽¹⁾ However, we would like to note another forgotten possibility that might result in a missed diagnosis of isolated thrombocytopenia. In laboratory medicine, a pre-analytical error may be an important cause of abnormal blood smear interpretation. With poor blood collection and mixing of specimen, the pseudopathology of anticoagulant-associated pseudothrombocytopenia might occur. Hence, before any further investigation, it is necessary to recheck the quality of the haematology laboratory process. Magnesium-anticoagulated blood samples should be used for confirmation, to rule out the problem of *in vitro* aggregation of platelets in the presence of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid as an anticoagulant.⁽²⁾

Yours sincerely,

Won [Sriwijitalai](#)¹, Viroj [Wiwanitkit](#)²

¹RVT Medical Center, Bangkok, Thailand, ²Dr DY Patil University, Pune, India. wonsriwi@gmail.com

REFERENCES

1. Lee AC. Isolated thrombocytopenia in childhood: what if it is not immune thrombocytopenia? Singapore Med J 2018; 59:390-3.
2. Kohlschein P, Bänsch D, Dreißiger K, Schuff-Werner P. Exclusion of thrombocytopenia as a contraindication for invasive radiofrequency ablation in a patient with paroxysmal atrial fibrillation by using magnesium anticoagulation instead of EDTA: another case of anticoagulant-induced pseudo-thrombocytopenia. Heart Surg Forum 2015; 18:E090-2.