

How is TTP diagnosed?

When doctors suspect TTP, they will carry out several tests, including:

- Full blood count – checks platelets, red cells, and haemoglobin
- Reticulocyte count – measures new (immature) red blood cells
- Clotting screen – assesses how well your blood clots
- Kidney and liver function tests
- LDH (lactate dehydrogenase) – a marker of tissue breakdown
- ADAMTS13 test – measures the level and activity of the ADAMTS13 enzyme, which is usually very low in TTP
- Viral screen – tests for infections such as HIV or hepatitis (TTP can occur as a secondary condition in these cases and needs specific treatment)
- Blood group – to plan for any blood transfusions
- Pregnancy test – as pregnancy can sometimes trigger TTP



ttpnetwork.org.uk



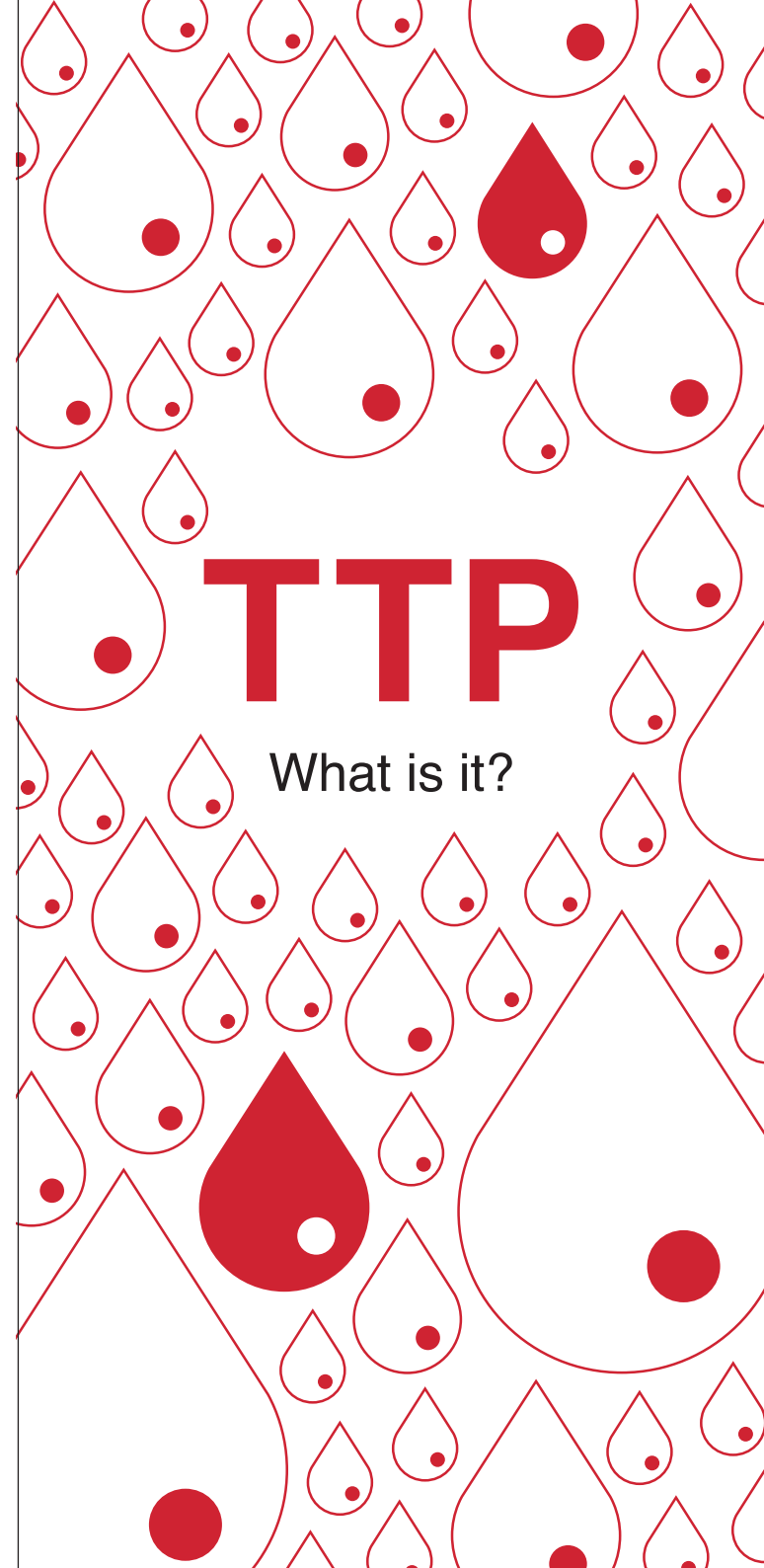
About TTPNetwork

TTPNetwork is a UK-based patient support and advocacy group for people affected by Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura.

We work to connect patients and families, share knowledge, and promote better care and understanding of this rare condition.

You may like to support our work:

www.ttpnetwork.org.uk/donate



TTP

What is it?

What is TTP?

Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (TTP) is a rare blood disorder that affects around 6–10 people in every million.

In most cases, it is an autoimmune condition – meaning the body’s immune system attacks its own cells.

With early diagnosis and prompt treatment, survival rates are now about 80%.



What do the words mean?

- T** THROMBOTIC
Clotting of the blood
- T** THROMBOCYTOPENIC
A low number of blood platelets
- P** PURPURA
Bleeding under the skin causing purple spots or rashes

What happens in TTP?

People with TTP do not have enough of an important enzyme called ADAMTS13.

This enzyme’s job is to break down a protein in the blood called von Willebrand Factor, which works with platelets to stop bleeding when you are injured. When ADAMTS13 isn’t working properly, platelets become too sticky and form tiny clots inside small blood vessels.

These clots can block the blood supply to vital organs such as the brain and heart, which can be very dangerous and lead to strokes or organ failure. Because platelets are used up forming these clots, there are fewer platelets available to help if you get a cut or injury.

The small clots also make it hard for red blood cells to travel around the body. As they squeeze past, they can break apart, a process called fragmentation.

Find out more

Visit ttpnetwork.org.uk to:

- Learn more about TTP and its treatments
- Connect with other patients and families
- Join our support group



Example of Purpura rash

Symptoms

TTP can cause a wide range of symptoms. Some are quite general, such as feeling tired or having flu-like symptoms.

Other symptoms may include:

- Headaches
- Confusion
- Anxiety or irritability
- Stomach upset
- Fever
- Disturbed or blurred vision
- Stroke-like symptoms
- Chest pain
- Unexplained bruising or purple rashes on the skin