

44°

CONVEGNO NAZIONALE  
di Studi di Medicina Trasfusionale

Rimini | Palacongressi, 3-5 maggio 2022



**TROMBOCITOPENIA ALLOIMMUNE FETO-NEONATALE:  
DIAGNOSI E GESTIONE CLINICA**

*Antonella Matteocci*

*A.O. S. Camillo – Forlanini*

*ROMA*

naitbabies.org  
neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia



La sottoscritta, Antonella Matteocci in qualità di Relatore

**dichiara che**

*nell'esercizio della Sua funzione e per l'evento in oggetto, **NON È** in alcun modo portatore di interessi commerciali propri o di terzi; e che gli eventuali rapporti avuti negli ultimi due anni con soggetti portatori di interessi commerciali non sono tali da permettere a tali soggetti di influenzare le sue funzioni al fine di trarne vantaggio.*

# INTRODUCTION

Thrombocytopenia is a very common finding in the neonatal period, especially in critically ill and preterm newborn infants (NBIs). It is present in 1-5 % of babies at birth and in 20-50 % of critically ill newborns.

The current definition of thrombocytopenia, at any age, is a platelet count (PC) below  $100 \times 10^9 /L$ .  
A PC below  $50 \times 10^9 /L$  is considered severe, which occurs in 0.1-0.5 % of cases.

There are three groups, based on the most common causes:

- a) **Intrauterine onset:** immune thrombocytopenia, intrauterine infection, chromosomal abnormalities;
- b) **Early onset (less than 72 hours of life):** placental insufficiency, perinatal asphyxia, perinatal infection, immune thrombocytopenia, disseminated intravascular coagulation;
- c) **Late onset (more than 72 hours of life):** late-onset sepsis, necrotizing enterocolitis, amegakaryocytic thrombocytopenia, giant hemangioma.

Arch Argent Pediatr 2021

# NEONATAL ALLOIMMUNE THROMBOCYTOPENIA

NAIT is uncommon, it is the primary cause of severe thrombocytopenia within 48 hours after delivery ( $<30.000/\mu\text{l}$ ) and intracranial hemorrhage (ICH) in term newborns. It is reported in 40-50 % of first borns (75% at delivery).

The incidence of NAIT is 1 in every 1000-2000 live births.

Clinically significant intracerebral hemorrhage (ICH) occurs in 3 – 10 per 100 000 pregnancies within 96 hours after delivery.

The process of maternal IgG antibody transfer begins as early as 15 weeks' gestation targeting foreign HPA antigens that are paternally inherited, thereby eliciting platelet destruction in the fetus.

In some cases, a simultaneous suppression of megakaryocytopoiesis may also occur.

Infants with severe thrombocytopenia have a mortality rate of 10%, increasing to 33% with ICH.

*Neonatal Alloimmune Thrombocytopenia, 2021*





# PATOGENESI DELLA FNAIT

Espressione antigeni piastrinici fetali :  
**14-16 settimane** di gestazione

Espressione su sinciziotrofoblasto:  
**I trimestre**

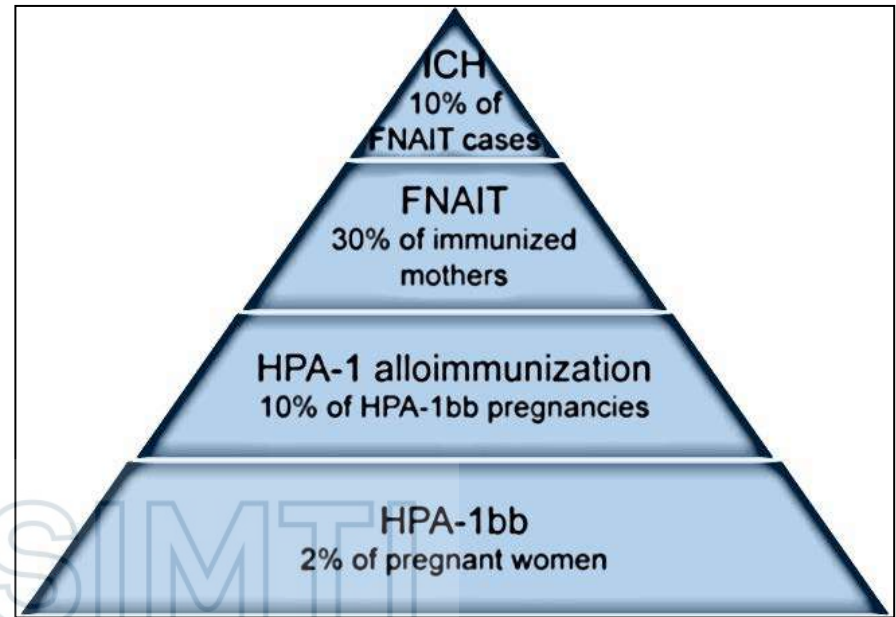
**HLA DRB3\*01:01**

- Alta affinità del peptide Leu33 sulla GP IIIa con il peptide del sito di presentazione di DRB3\*0101

HLA DRB3\*01:01 Positive Predictive Value 17 – 35%

Negative Predictive Value 96-100%

Quadri severi di FNAIT in caso di ovodonazione  
con neonato HPA 1 a/a  
(procreazione medicalmente assistita)  
*Peterson et al, BJH 2013*



Fetal/neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia: a systematic review of impact of HLA-DRB3\*01:01 on fetal/neonatal outcome

28 JULY 2020 • VOLUME 4, NUMBER 14 • blood advances



### Anticorpi anti-HPA1a materni

**QUANTITA'**

No correlazione lineare tra piastrinopenia e ICH

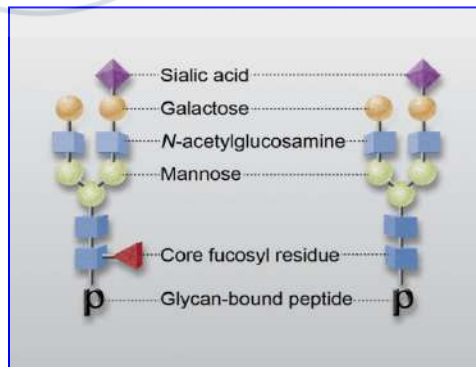
**QUALITA'**

Concentrazione - Titolo

PPV 54%, NPV 95%

Sottotipo IgG:>IgG1  
Grado fucosilazione  
Specificità (aII $\beta$ 3,  $\beta$ 3, av  $\beta$ 3)  
Tipi di legame con cellule (densità)  
(piastrine feto-neonatali, trofoblasto, cellule endoteliali)

Non sempre correlazione tra titolo e piastrinopenia, tra titolo e ICH ??



*Anticorpi con piccole quantità di fucosio presentano un legame ad alta affinità con i recettori Fc $\gamma$ RIIIa/b (aumentata fagocitosi e lisi). Correlano con maggiore severità della FNAIT e bassa conta piastrinica neonatale.*

# CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS

Common clinical manifestations include ecchymosis, petechiae, and purpura, which are often identified on the infant's skin and mucous membranes postnatally.

Bleeding can occur in various locations throughout the body including the intracranial space, genitourinary system, gastrointestinal system, lungs, eyes, and spinal cord, and varies based on the severity of thrombocytopenia.

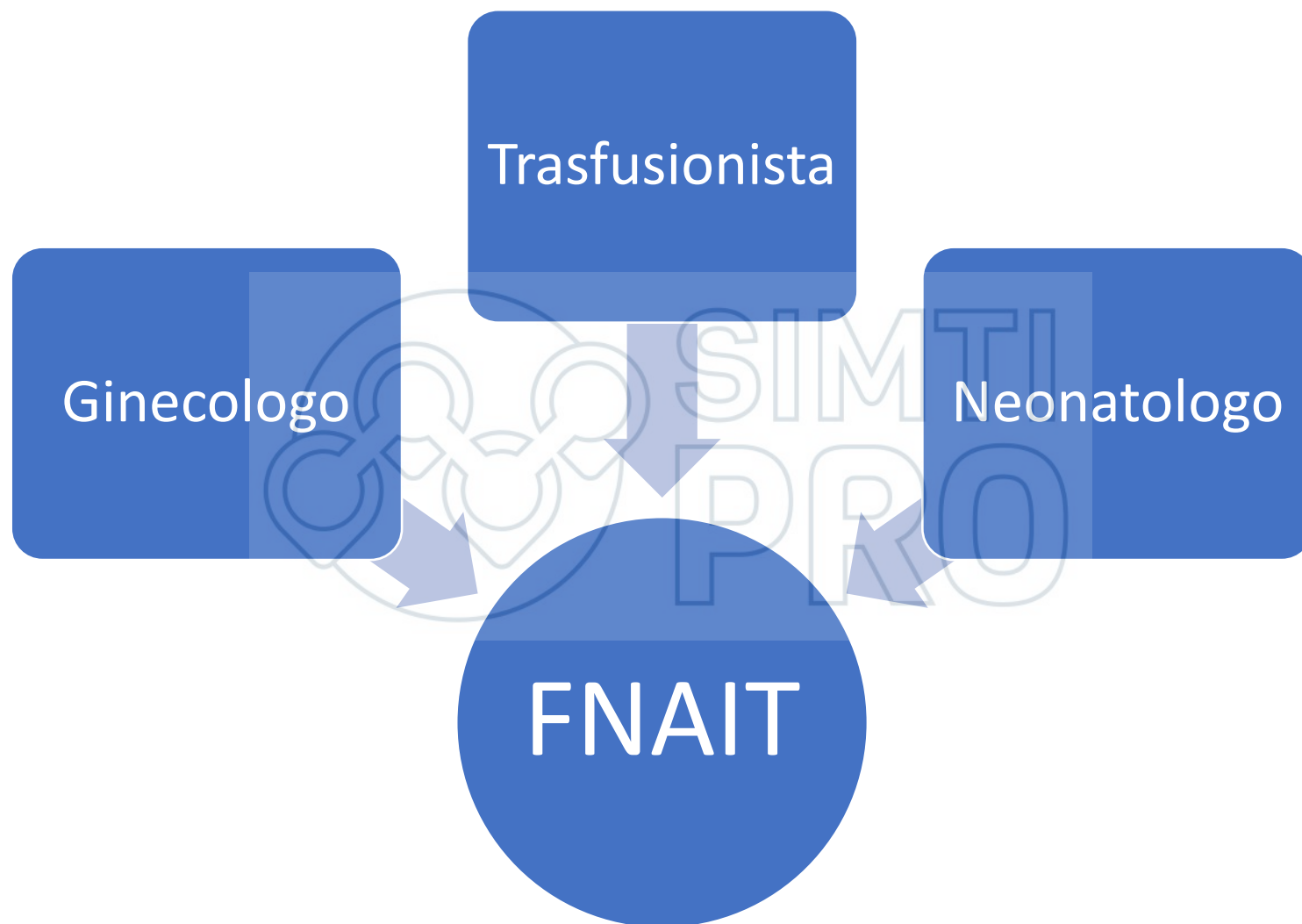
ICH is a serious complication that has been identified in utero as early as 20 weeks' gestation. It is estimated that 10% of infants who suffer from ICH as a result of NAIT will develop long-term neurological deficits and developmental delays.

It has been estimated that it develops in utero, which may sometimes lead to porencephaly or hydrocephalus.

Morbidity and mortality are high; the mortality rate has been reported to be 12-14 % without treatment. Neonatal Alloimmune Thrombocytopenia, 2021



# APPROCCIO MULTIDISCIPLINARE



Presently 37 HPAs have been identified on 6 platelet glycoprotein membrane surfaces as early as 14 weeks' gestation.

All races are susceptible to NAIT; HPA-1a, identified in 80% to 85% of diagnosed NAIT among Caucasians, is seldom identified in other races.

The second most commonly identified HPA associated with NAIT is HPA-5b, accounting for 10% to 15% of diagnosed NAIT among the African American population

Neonatal Alloimmune Thrombocytopenia, 2021

Laboratory Test	Results
<i>CBC: Supportive diagnosis</i>	
Infant <sup>11</sup>	Platelet count: $<30 \times 10^9/L$ <sup>6,11</sup>
Maternal <sup>6,11</sup>	Platelet count: normal ( $150-450 \times 10^9/L$ ) <sup>6,11</sup>
<i>Platelet testing (MAIPA): Definitive diagnosis</i>	
Maternal <sup>3,11,14</sup>	HPA-1a negative; antiplatelet antibodies present <sup>3,11,14</sup>
Paternal <sup>3,11,14</sup>	HPA-1a positive <sup>3,11,14</sup>
Paternal genotype <sup>6,11,14</sup> : <i>Definitive diagnosis</i>	100% recurrence rate to homozygous father (HPA-1a/1a) <sup>6,14</sup> 50% recurrence rate to heterozygous father (HPA-1a/1b) <sup>6,14</sup> with HPA-1a negative partner
<i>Abbreviations: CBC, complete blood count; HPA, human platelet antigen; MAIPA, monoclonal antibody immobilization of platelet antigen.</i>	
<i><sup>a</sup>From Bertrand and Kaplan,<sup>3</sup> Akpan et al,<sup>6</sup> Sillers et al,<sup>11</sup> and Zdravic et al.<sup>14</sup></i>	

>HPA-9b in  
Caucasici, FNAIT  
SEVERA+ICH



>HPA-6b e >HPA-21b in Asiatici  
con >HPA-4b



Associazione  
>HPA-1a con  
>HPA-25b



HPA-26b altera la  
funzione di  
GPIIb/IIIa e HPA-13b di GPIa/IIa  
con produzione  
anticorpi

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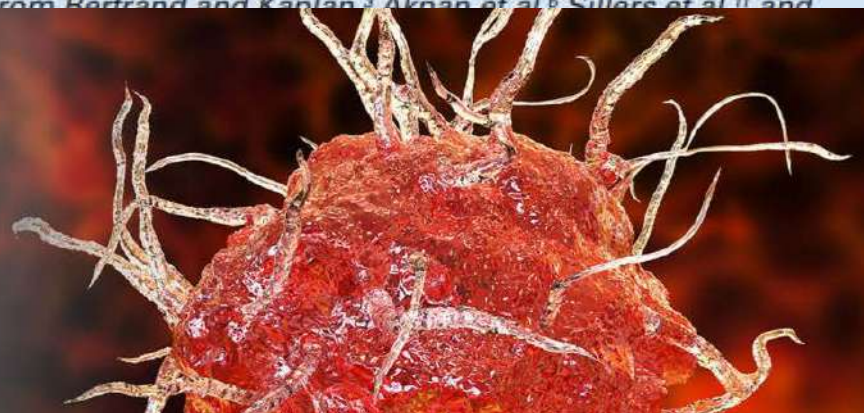
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## Human Platelet Antigen (HPA) Database

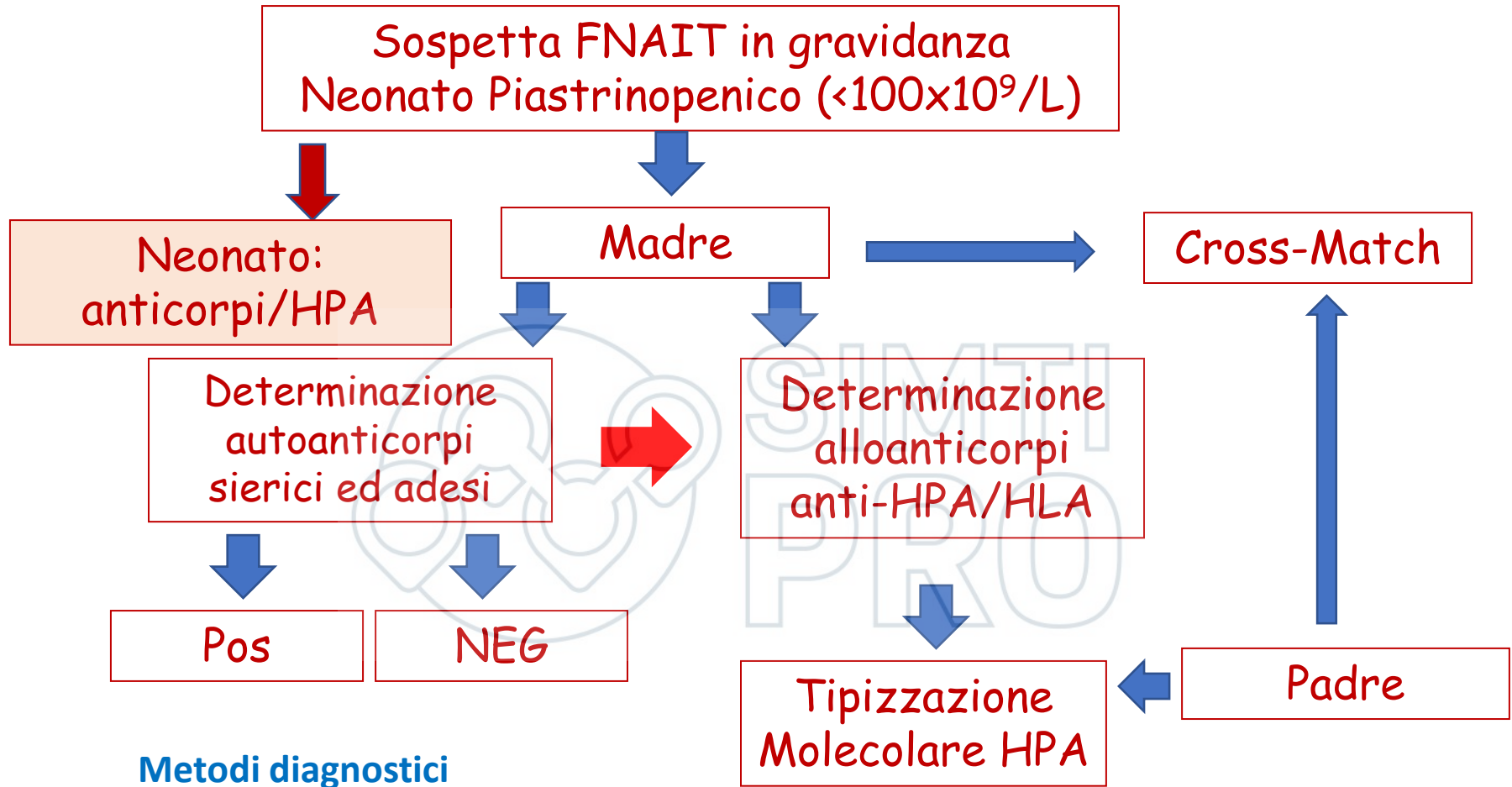
The database provides a centralized repository for discovered and known human platelet antigens.

[Browse Database](#)





# RUOLO DEL LABORATORIO NELLA FNAIT



## Metodi diagnostici

Screening  
SPRCA

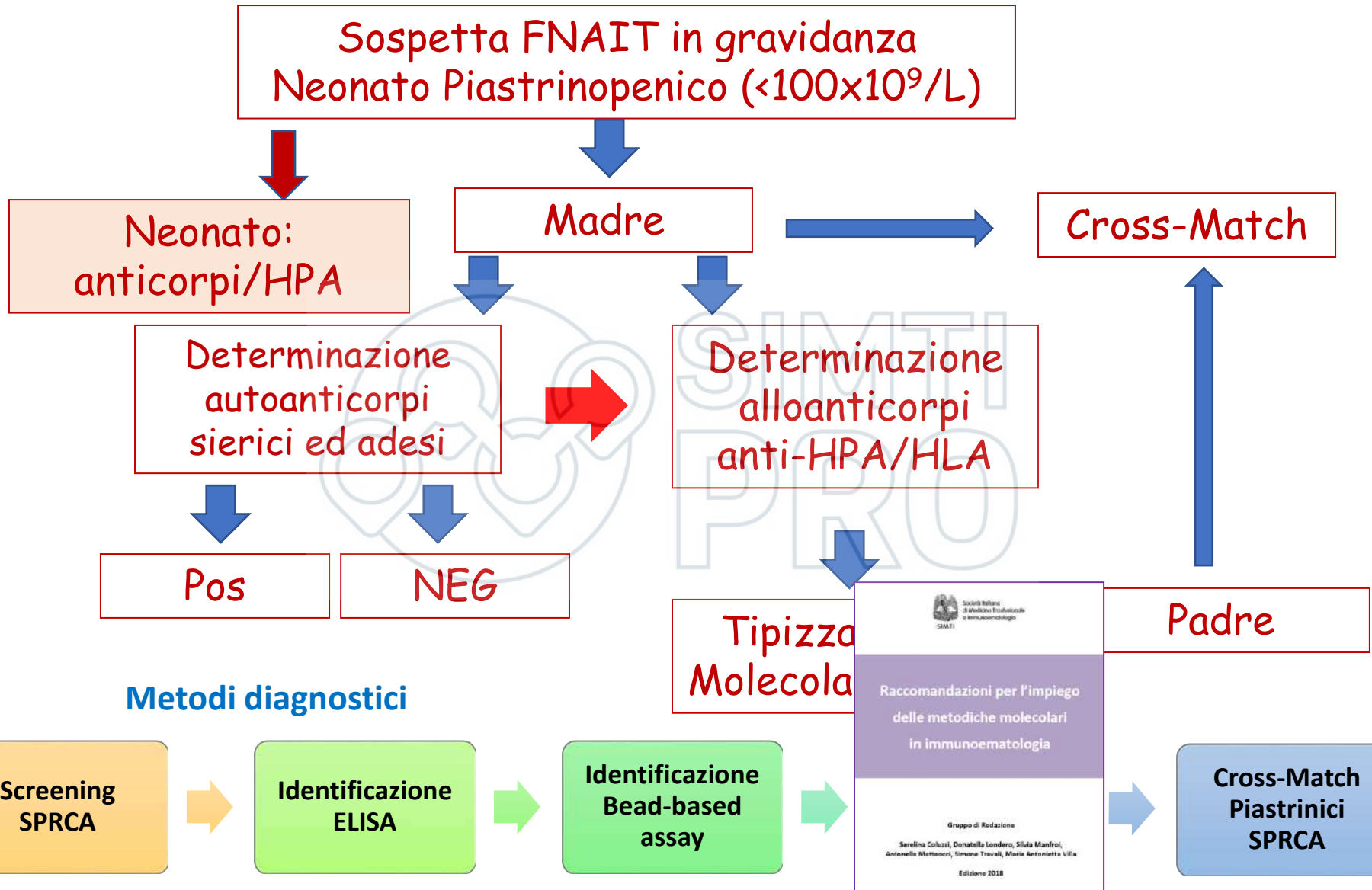
Identificazione  
ELISA

Identificazione  
Bead-based  
assay

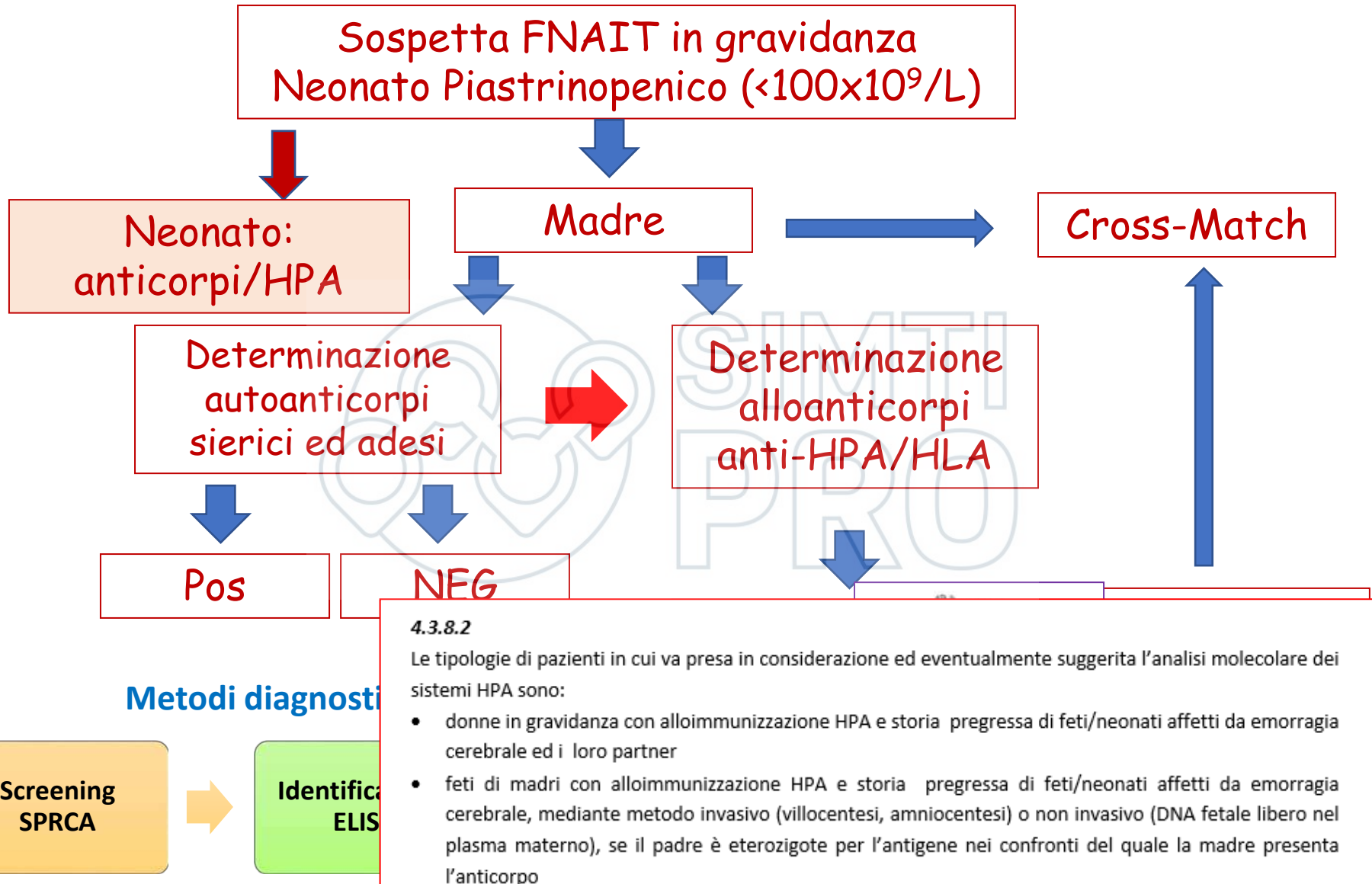
Biologia  
Molecolare  
DNA Microarray

Cross-Match  
Piastrinici  
SPRCA

# RUOLO DEL LABORATORIO NELLA FNAIT



# RUOLO DEL LABORATORIO NELLA FNAIT





Anti-HPA1a  
75-90%

Anti-HPA5b  
8-15%



Anti-HPA 15b ,  
HPA 1b  
4%

Anti-HPA 3a  
anti-HPA 5a  
2%

Anti-GP IV  
Atg bassa  
frequenza

## Clinical characteristics of human platelet antigen (HPA)-1a and HPA-5b alloimmunised pregnancies and the association between platelet HPA-5b antibodies and symptomatic fetal neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia

British Journal of Haematology, 2021 Volume: 195, Issue: 4, Pages: 595-603,

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Eva Pajkrt,<sup>5</sup> Dick Oepkes,<sup>3</sup>  
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Received 28 April 2021; accepted for publication 13 July 2021

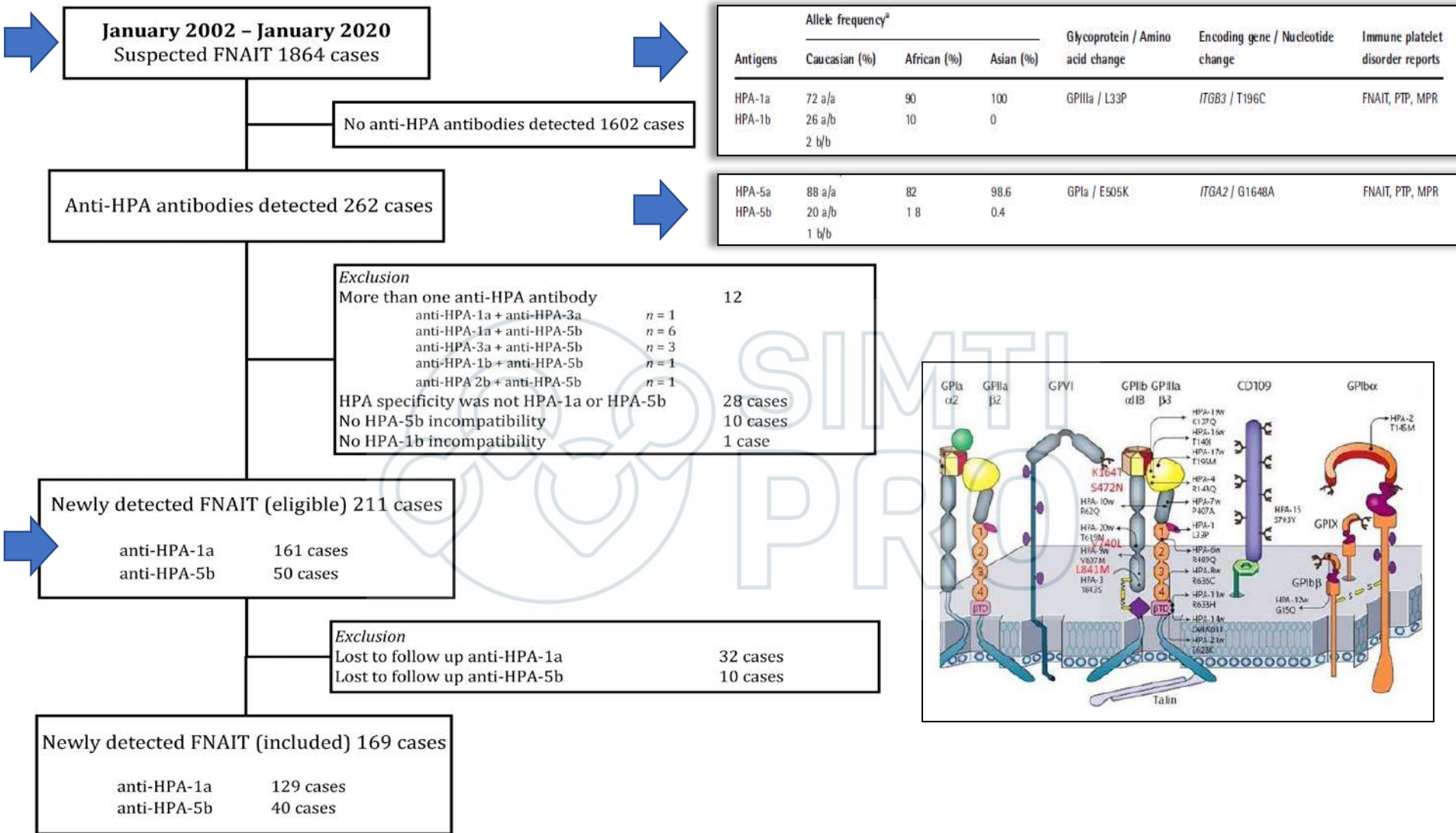
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E-mail: t.w.de\_vos@lumc.nl

### Summary

Fetal neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia (FNAIT) is caused by maternal alloantibodies directed against the human platelet antigens (mostly HPA-1a or HPA-5b) of the (unborn) child and can lead to severe bleeding. Anti-HPA-1a-mediated FNAIT shows a severe clinical outcome more often than anti-HPA-5b-mediated FNAIT. Given the relatively high prevalence of anti-HPA-5b in pregnant women, the detection of anti-HPA-5b in FNAIT-suspected cases may in some cases be an incidental finding. Therefore we investigated the frequency of anti-HPA-5b-associated severe bleeding in FNAIT. We performed a retrospective nationwide cohort study in cases with clinical suspicion of FNAIT. HPA antibody screening was performed using monoclonal antibody-specific immobilisation of platelet antigens. Parents and neonates were typed for the cognate antigen. Clinical data were collected by a structured questionnaire. In 1 864 suspected FNAIT cases, 161 cases (8.6%) had anti-HPA-1a and 60 (3.2%) had anti-HPA-5b. The proportion of cases with severe bleeding did not differ between the cases with anti-HPA-1a (14/129; 11%) and anti-HPA-5b (4/40; 10%). In multi-gravida pregnant women with a FNAIT-suspected child, 100% (81/81) of anti-HPA-1a cases and 79% (38/48) of anti-HPA-5b cases were HPA-incompatible, whereas 86% and 52% respectively were expected, based on the HPA allele distribution. We conclude that anti-HPA-5b can be associated with severe neonatal bleeding symptoms. A prospective study is needed for true assessment of the natural history of anti-HPA-5b mediated FNAIT.

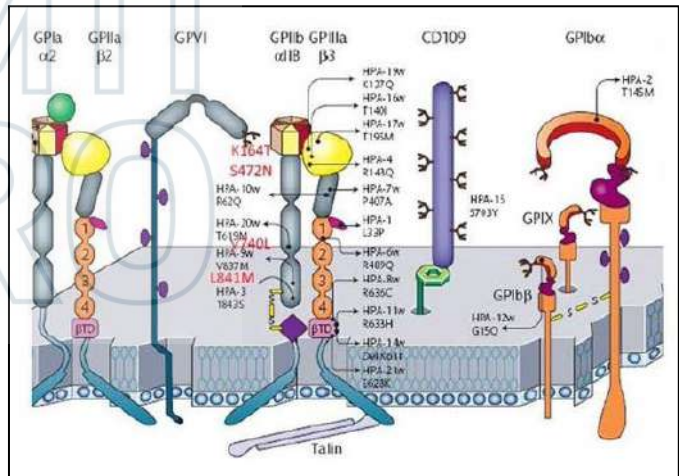
**Keywords:** alloimmune thrombocytopenia, neonatology, alloimmunisation during pregnancy, human platelet antigen.

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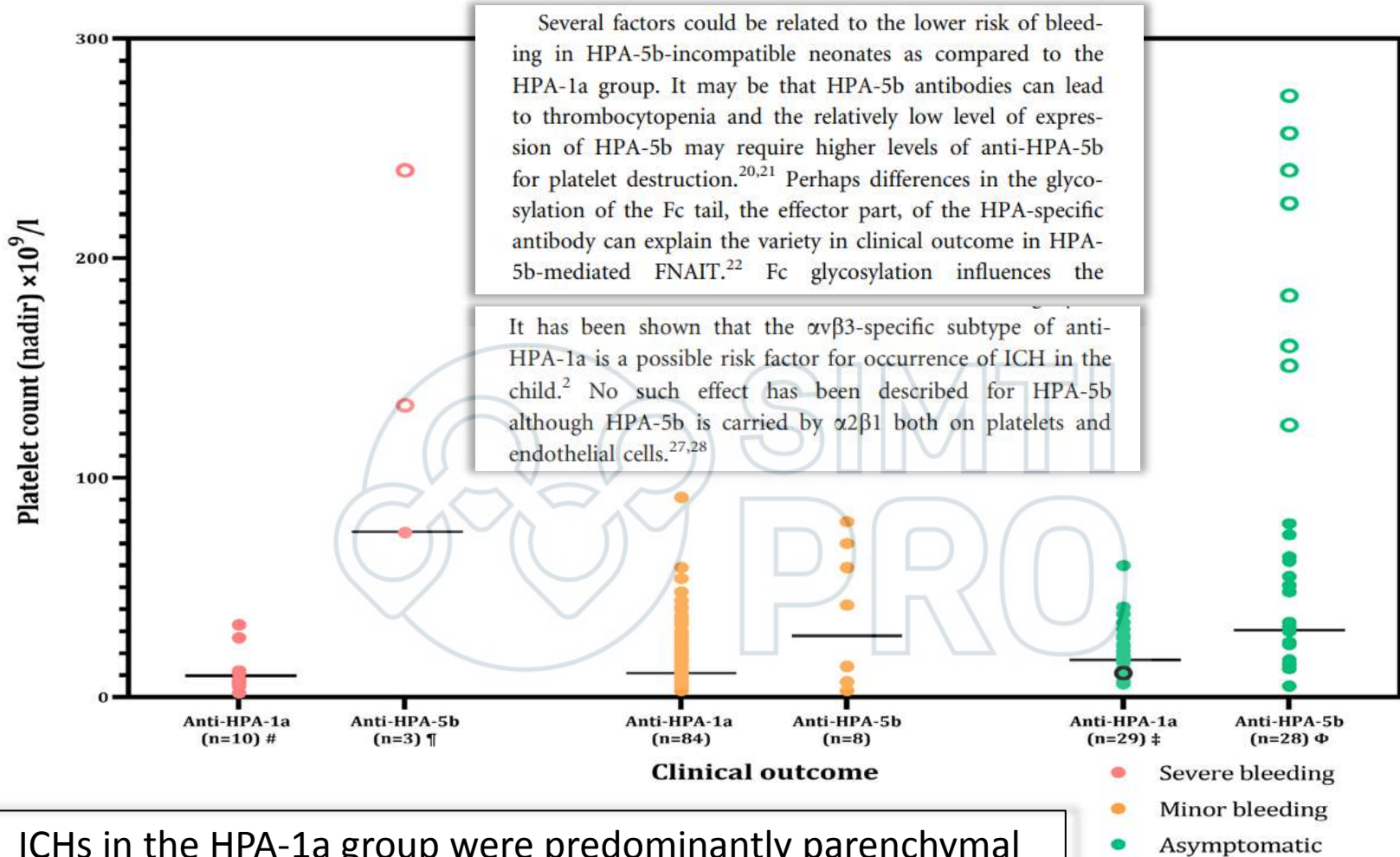
Antigens	Allele frequency <sup>a</sup>			Glycoprotein / Amino acid change	Encoding gene / Nucleotide change	Immune platelet disorder reports
	Caucasian (%)	African (%)	Asian (%)			
HPA-1a	72 a/a	90	100	GP1IIa / L33P	ITGB3 / T196C	FNAIT, PTP, MPR
HPA-1b	26 a/b 2 b/b	10	0			

HPA-5a	88 a/a	82	98.6	GP1a / E505K	ITGA2 / G1648A	FNAIT, PTP, MPR
HPA-5b	20 a/b 1 b/b	1.8	0.4			



British Journal of Haematology, 2021 Volume: 195, Issue: 4, Pages: 595-603,

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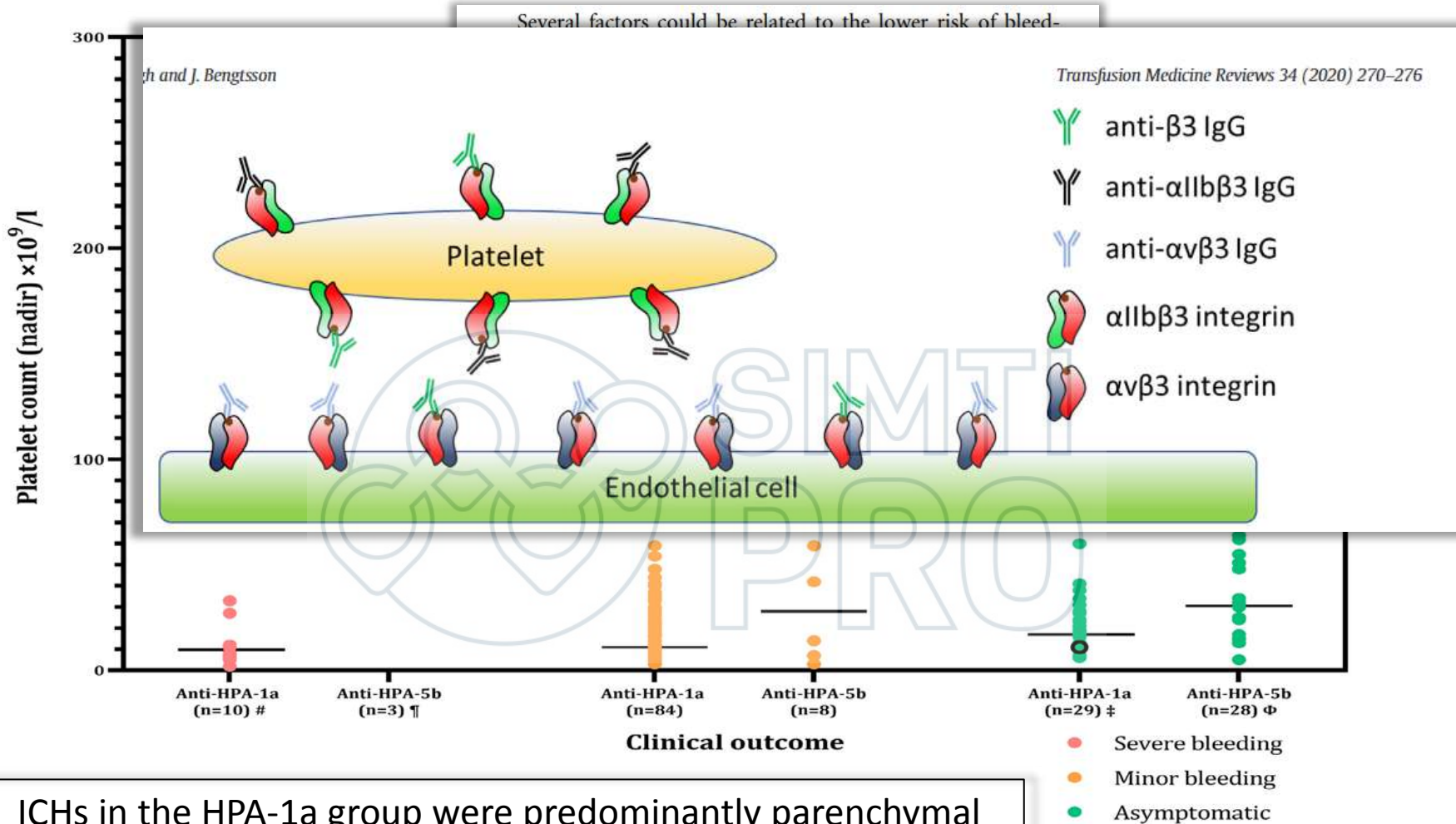


ICHs in the HPA-1a group were predominantly parenchymal and were mostly of intraventricular origin in the HPA-5b

British Journal of Haematology, 2021 Volume: 195, Issue: 4, Pages: 595-603,

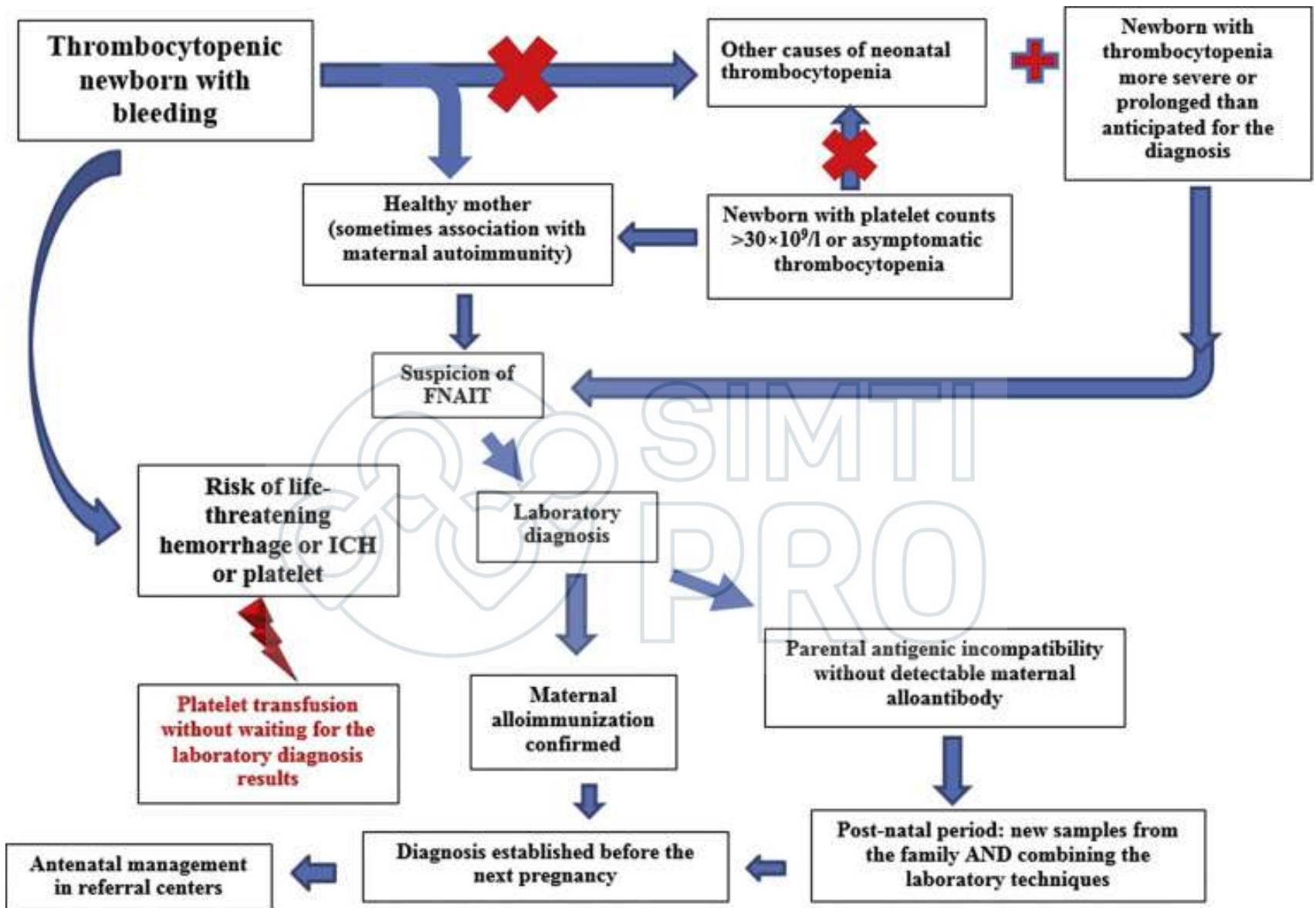


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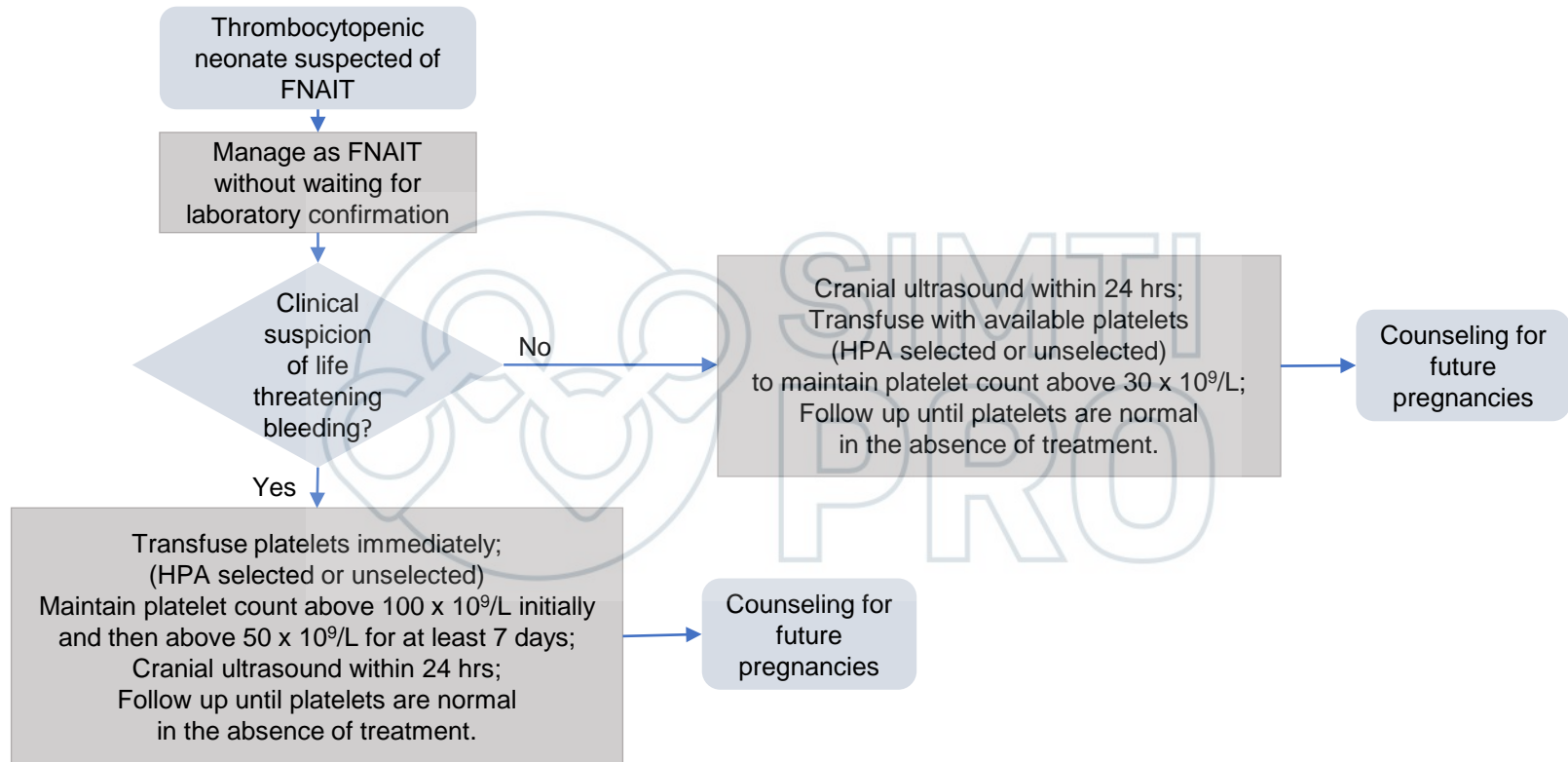


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# Postnatal algorithm

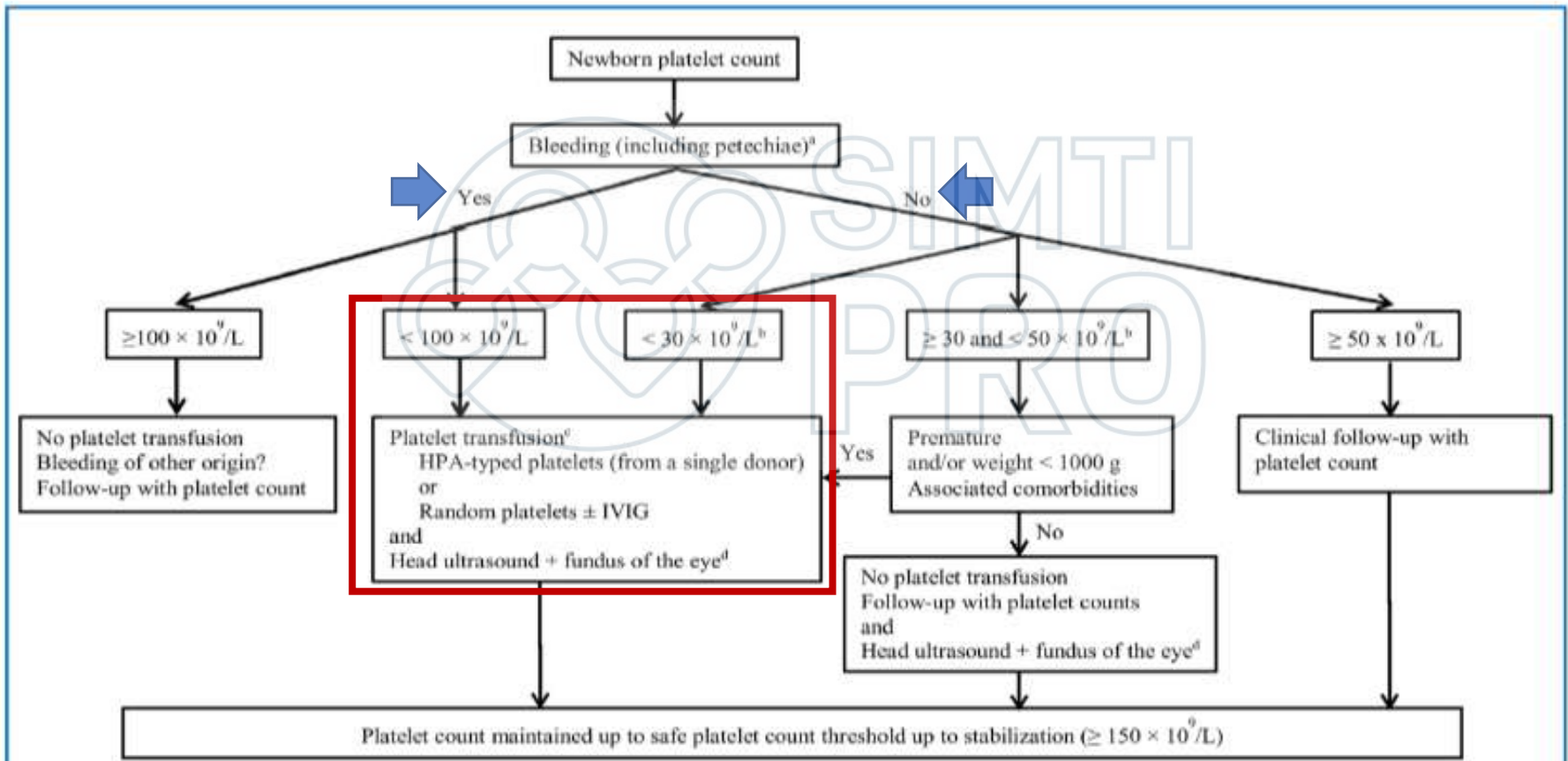


British Journal of Haematology, 2019, 185, 549–562



# Algoritmo trattamento FNAIT (GFHT)

Management of neonatal thrombocytopenia in a context of maternal antiplatelet alloimmunization: Expert opinion of the French-speaking working group



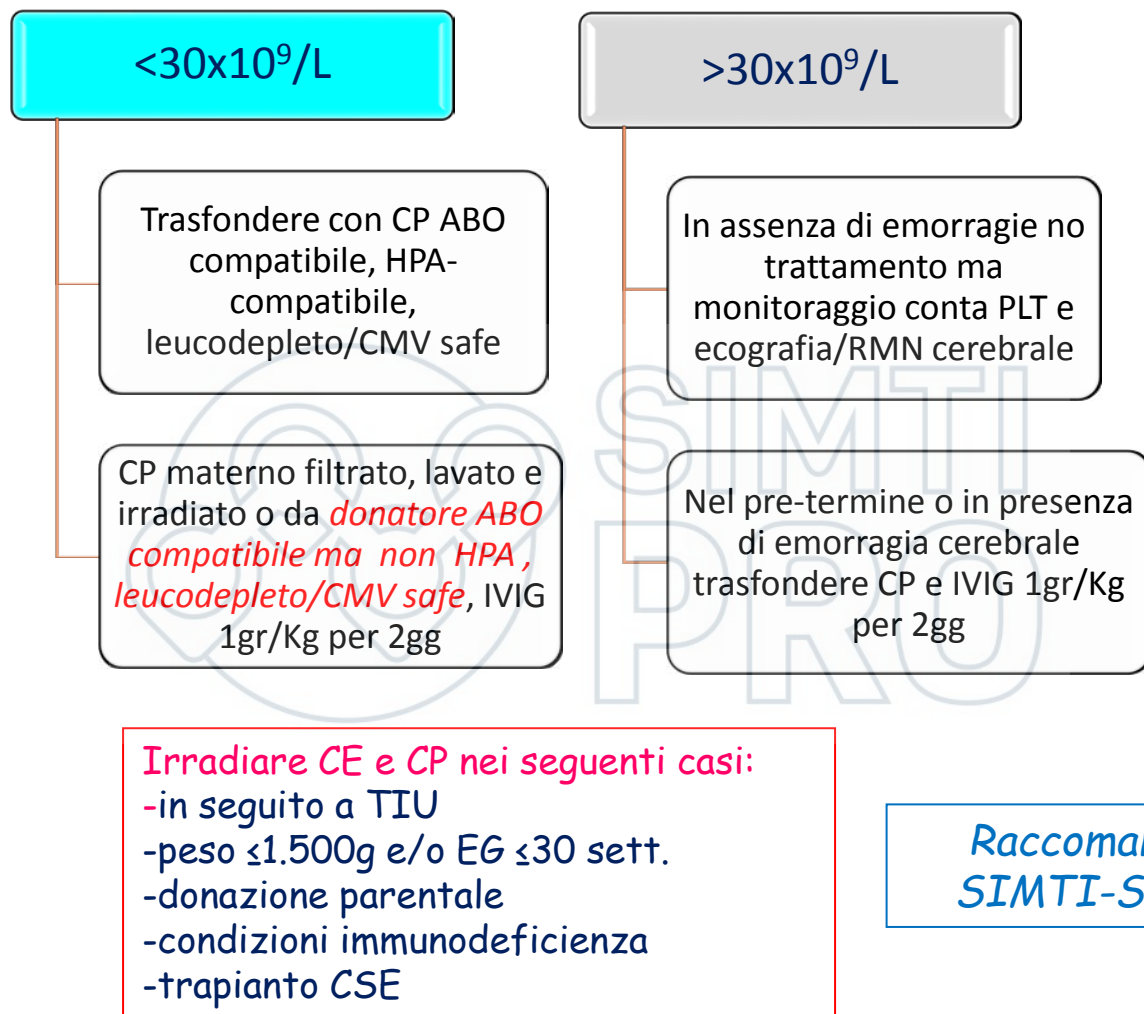
a) In case of bleeding, other coagulation tests have to be performed.

b) In case of platelet count below  $50 \times 10^9/L$ , it is recommended to confirm the platelet count on a second sampling.

c) Maternal platelet transfusion is another option, even if rarely available (platelet concentrate must be deplasmated and irradiated).

d) If possible.

## TRATTAMENTO NEONATALE



# Management NAIT

EXPERT REVIEW OF HEMATOLOGY, 2017  
VOL. 10, NO. 8, 729–737  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17474086.2017.1346471>



REVIEW

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## Fetal and neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia: evidence based antenatal and postnatal management strategies

Dian Winkelhorst <sup>a,b</sup>, Dick Oepkes<sup>a</sup> and Enrico Lopriore<sup>c</sup>

**Table 1.** Overview antenatal and postnatal management strategies in FNAIT.

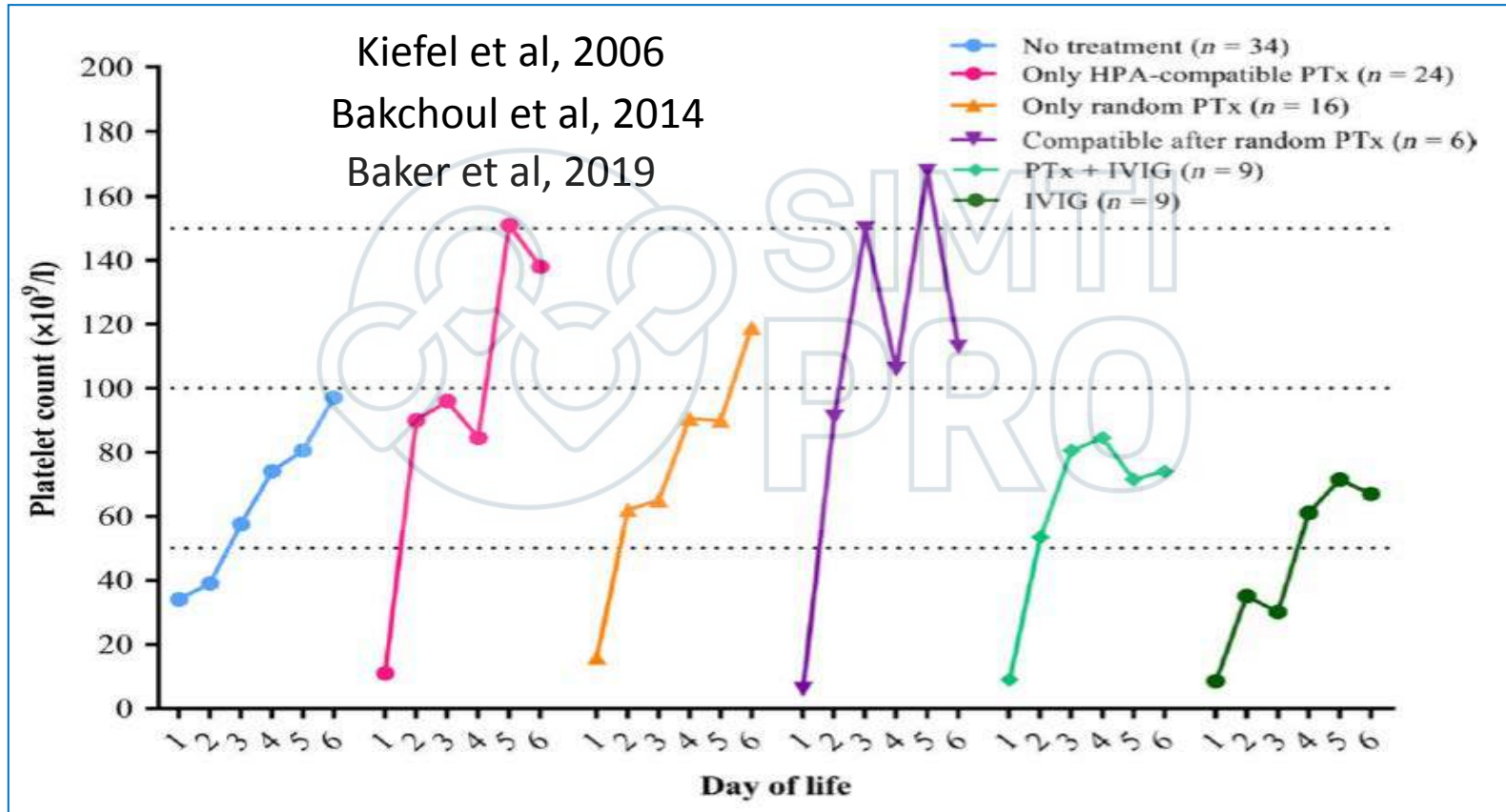
Treatment	Indication/Dose	Antenatal		Postnatal		
		Benefit	Risk	Indication/Dose	Benefit	Risk
Platelet transfusion	Various, from weekly to predelivery only	Treatment monitoring Prevents thrombocytopenia	High complication rate (fetal loss, emergency delivery)	First choice PLT < 20–30 prophylaxis PLT < 50–100 when bleeding	Direct effect on platelet count	Infections Allergic or febrile reactions
IVIg	First choice 0.5 g or 1 g/kg/wk	Noninvasive Prevents ICH	Blind administration Expensive	In addition to random PTx 1 g/kg/day for 2–5 days Not after antenatal IVIG	Prolongs and optimizes effect of random PTx	Delay in response
Corticosteroids	In addition to IVIG Prednisone 0.5 mg	Noninvasive, otherwise benefit unclear	Dose-related side effects Oligohydramnios	No indication Methylprednisone 1 mg iv every 8 h	Benefit unclear	No evidence

PLT: platelet count,  $\times 10^9/L$ ; PTx: platelet transfusion; IVIG: intravenous immunoglobulins; ICH: intracranial hemorrhage.

# Trattamento post-natale e outcome

Treatment and outcomes of fetal/neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia: a nationwide cohort study in newly detected cases

British Journal of Haematology, 2019, 184, 1011–1070



**Postnatal intervention for the treatment of FNAIT: a systematic review *Journal of Perinatology* (2019)**

...«Available studies do not clearly demonstrate a benefit for addition of IVIG to platelet transfusion»

# Antenatal algorithm

Successive gravidanze:

-se precedente FNAIT: FNAIT rischio 100%

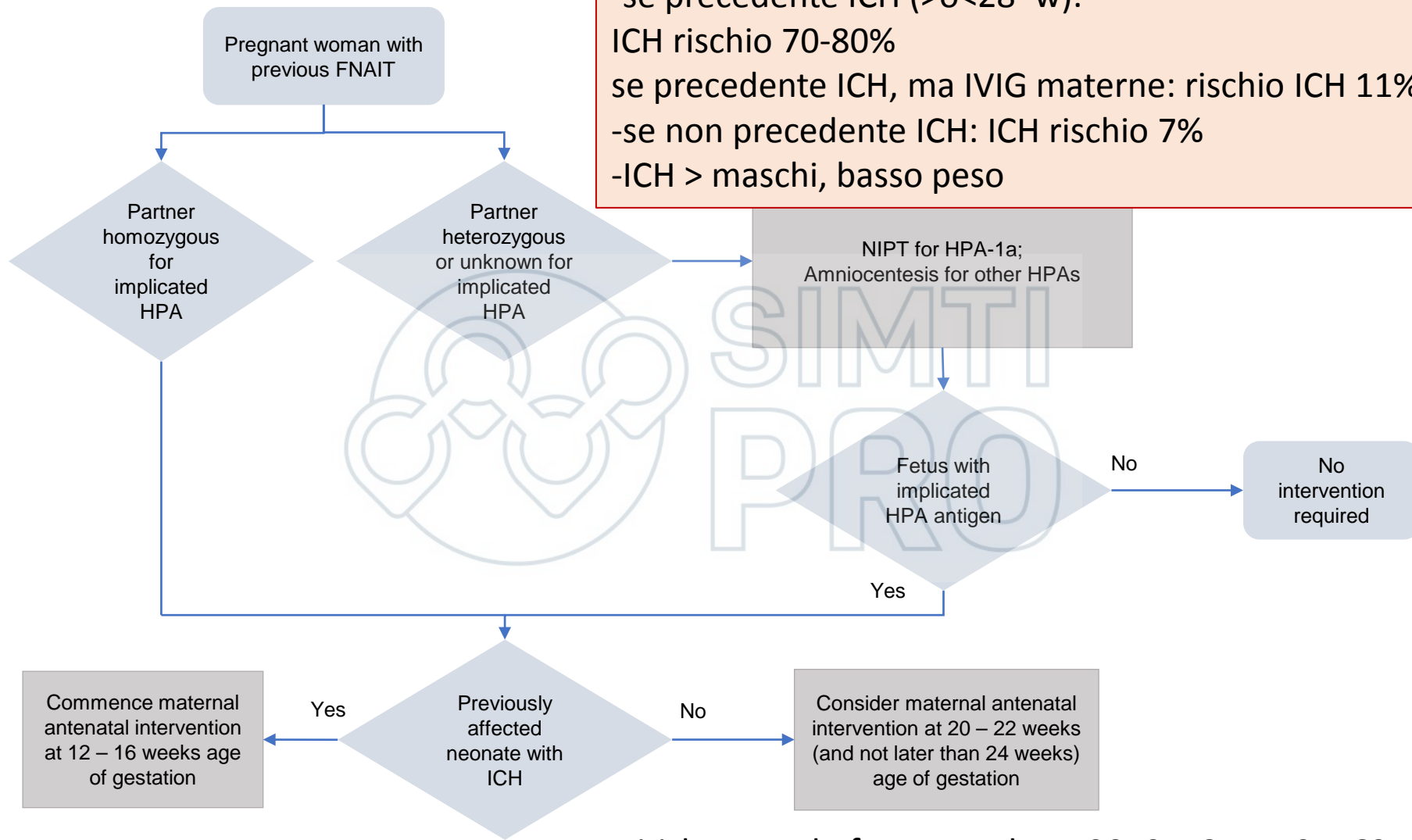
-se precedente ICH (>0<28^w):

ICH rischio 70-80%

se precedente ICH, ma IVIG materne: rischio ICH 11%

-se non precedente ICH: ICH rischio 7%

-ICH > maschi, basso peso



British Journal of Haematology, 2019, 185, 549–562

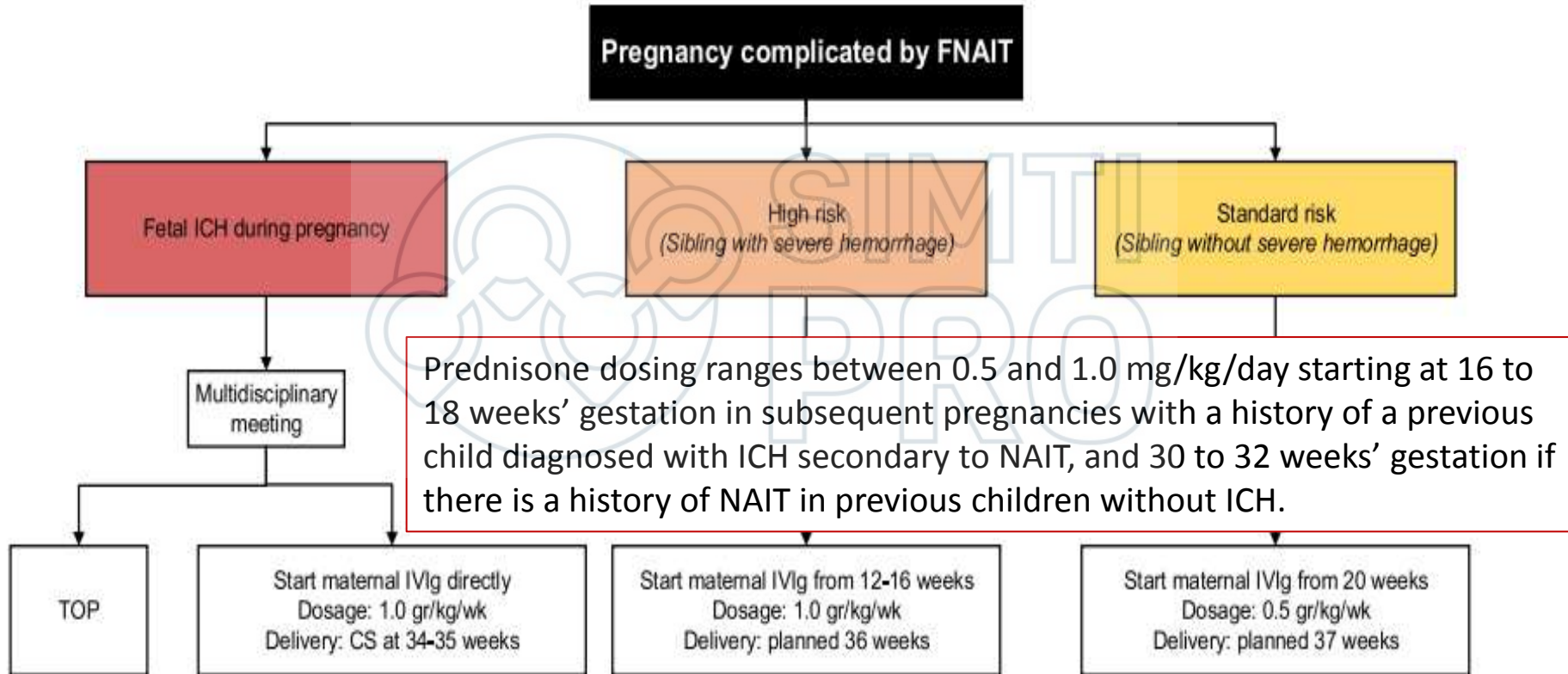


# Epidemiology and management of fetal and neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia

PII: S1473-0502(19)30277-0

*Transfusion and Apheresis Science*, 31 December 2019

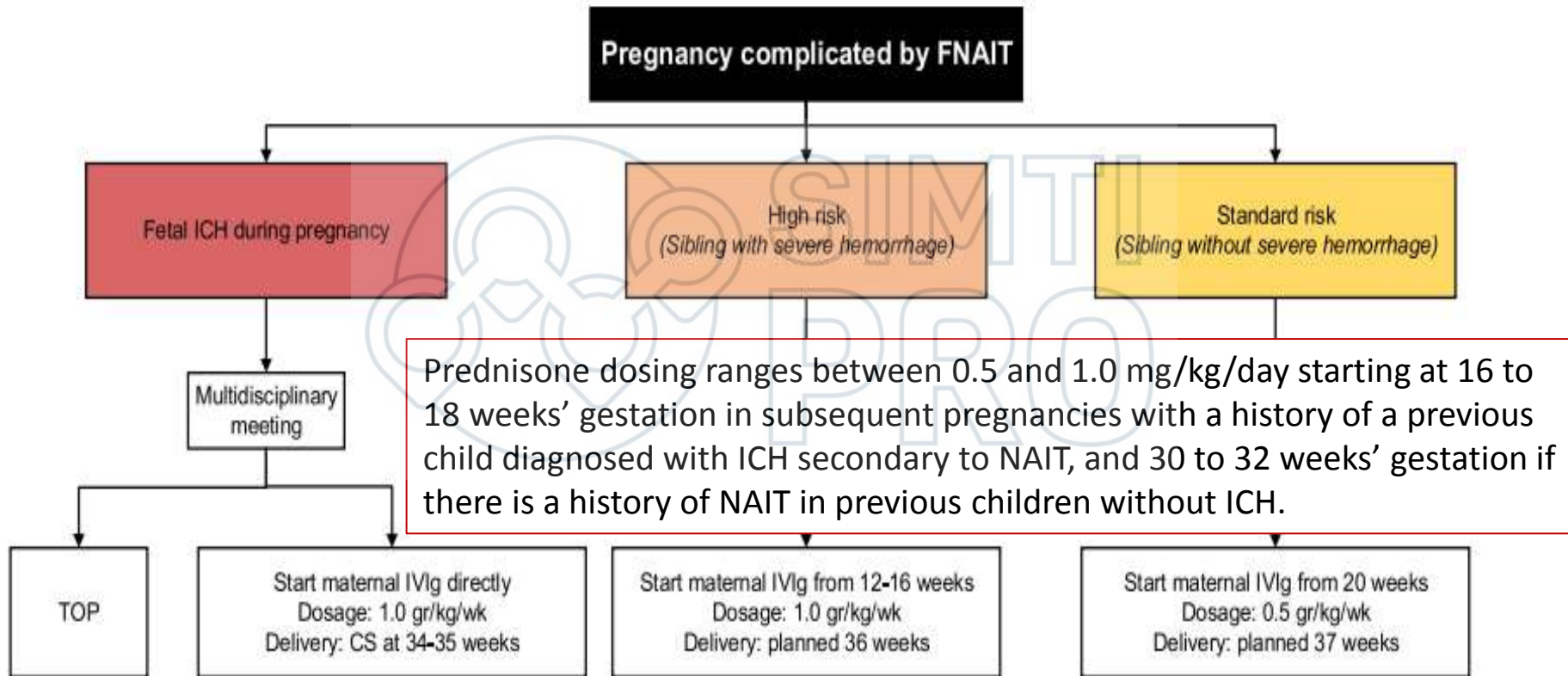
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.transci.2019.102704>



To date, there are no trials of the most appropriate mode of delivery. Both modes of delivery continue to be used at different sites.



**Adverse effects** associated with IVIG therapy are rare but can include headache, rash, hemolytic anemia, renal failure, aseptic meningitis, and thrombosis in the mother. Despite these risks, **no adverse effects** from maternal treatment have been noted in the fetus.



To date, there are no trials of the most appropriate mode of delivery. Both modes of delivery continue to be used at different sites.

# Management NAIT

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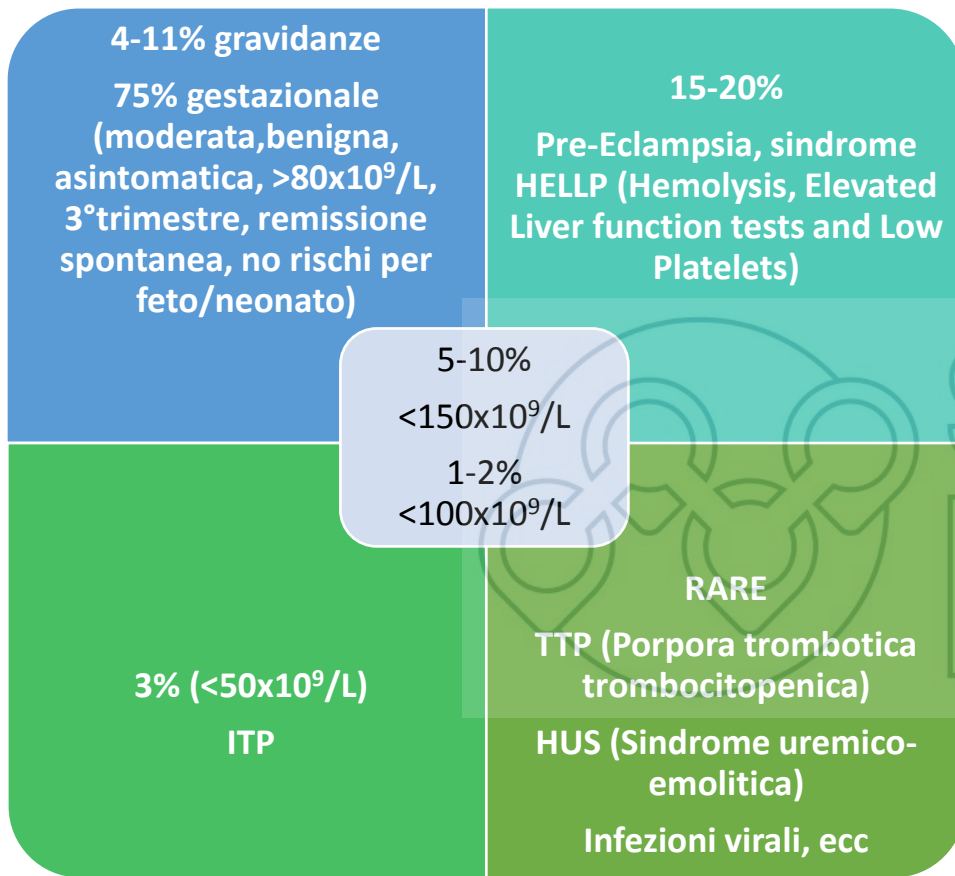
## B) EMATOLOGIA

### Trombocitopenia alloimmune fetale e neonatale

**Trattamento per le madri in gravidanza:** uso consentito, la dose massima non deve superare 1 g/kg/settimana.

**Trattamento per i neonati:** in caso di sanguinamento potenzialmente fatale o conta piastrinica inferiore a  $30 \times 10^9 /L$ , laddove non sia possibile una trasfusione di piastrine (selezionate per l'antigene piastrinico umano [HPA] o meno)

# PIASTRINOPENIA IN GRAVIDANZA



Platelet counts during pregnancy.  
N Engl J Med 2018

## Neonatal Immune Thrombocytopenia (NITP)

- Passaggio transplacentare di autoanticorpi da madre con diagnosi di ITP (3%)
- 10-15% dei neonati: piastrinopenia transitoria  $<100 \times 10^9/L$
- 10% dei neonati: piastrinopenia  $<50 \times 10^9/L$
- 1-5 % dei neonati: piastrinopenia  $<20 \times 10^9/L$
- 5-15% richiede terapia
- 0-1% casi di emorragia cerebrale
- Mortalità neonatale  $<1\%$
- Trattamento con IVIG e CP se  $PLT < 30 \times 10^9/L$
- Gli anticorpi possono persistere per 12 settimane

Thrombocytopenia in pregnancy

BLOOD, 23 NOVEMBER 2017 • VOLUME 130, NUMBER 21



# LIFESPAN IMPLICATIONS

Clearance of maternal antibodies occurs over the first few weeks up to 3 months of life, without further implications on the newborn.

Infants diagnosed with ICH secondary to NAIT require medical treatment after thrombocytopenia has resolved, extending well into childhood or is lifelong depending on the severity of ICH.

Long-term implications from severe ICH include blindness, hydrocephalus, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, cognitive delays, and intellectual disability.

Developmental milestones should be closely monitored for the first 2 years of life in these children and genetic counseling offered to families.

*Neonatal Alloimmune Thrombocytopenia, 2021*

# Fetal and Neonatal Alloimmune Thrombocytopenia: Management and Outcome of a Large International Retrospective Cohort

**Objective:** To evaluate the management and outcome of a large international cohort of cases of pregnancies complicated by fetal and neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia (FNAIT). **Methods:** This was an observational prospective and retrospective cohort study of all cases of FNAIT entered into the international multicentre No IntraCranial Haemorrhage (NOICH) registry during the period of 2001–2010. We evaluated human platelet antigen (HPA) specificity, the antenatal and postnatal interventions performed, and clinical outcome. **Results:** A total of 615 pregnancies complicated by FNAIT from 10 countries were included. Anti-HPA-1a was the most commonly implicated antibody. Antenatal treatment was administered in 273 pregnancies (44%), varying from intrauterine platelet transfusion to maternal administration of immunoglobulins, steroids, or a combination of those. Intracranial haemorrhage was diagnosed in 23 fetus-

es or neonates (3.7%). Overall perinatal mortality was 1.14% (n = 7). **Conclusion:** This study presents the largest cohort of cases of FNAIT published. Our data show that antenatal treatment for FNAIT results in favourable perinatal outcome. Over time, in most centres, treatment for FNAIT changed from an invasive to a complete non-invasive procedure.

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## Perinatal Outcome and Long-Term Neurodevelopment after Intracranial Haemorrhage due to Fetal and Neonatal Alloimmune Thrombocytopenia

### Abstract

**Objectives:** To evaluate the perinatal and long-term neurodevelopmental outcome in a cohort of children with intracranial haemorrhage (ICH) due to fetal and neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia (FNAIT) and to clearly outline the burden of this disease. **Subjects and Methods:** We performed an observational cohort study and included all consecutive cases of ICH caused by FNAIT from 1993 to 2015 at Leiden University Medical Centre. Neurological, motor, and cognitive development were assessed at a minimum age of 1 year. The primary outcome was adverse outcome, defined as perinatal death or severe neurodevelopmental impairment (NDI). Severe NDI was defined as any of the following: cerebral palsy (Gross Motor Function Classification System [GMFCS] level  $\geq$  II), bilateral deafness, blindness, or severe motor and/or cognitive developmental delay ( $<-2$  SD). **Results:** In total, 21 cases of ICH due to FNAIT were included in the study. The perinatal mortality rate was 10/21 (48%).

Long-term outcome was assessed in 10 children (n = 1 lost to follow-up). Severe and moderate NDI were diagnosed in 6/10 (60%) and 1/10 (10%) of the surviving children. The overall adverse outcome, including perinatal mortality or severe NDI, was 16/20 (80%). **Conclusions:** The risk of perinatal death or severe NDI in children with ICH due to FNAIT is high. Only screening and effective preventive treatment can avoid this burden.

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Table 1. HPA specificity

HPA type	Cases, n (%)	Mean PC $\times 10^9/l$	NCH
HPA-1a	544 (88)	105	19
HPA-5b	23 (3.6)	136	2
HPA-3a	7 (1.1)	147	
HPA-5a	4 (0.6)	184	
HPA-15a	5 (0.8)	200	
HPA-1a + 5b	18 (3)	94	2
HPA-1a + other	5 (0.8)		
Negative	2 (0.03)		
Unknown	7 (1.1)		
<b>Total</b>	<b>615</b>		

PC = platelet count.



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Table 2. Intracranial haemorrhage characteristics and short-term outcome

Child No.	GA at birth	Antenatal IVIG	ICH location	Associated lesions	Mortality	Obstetric history
1	33 <sup>+4</sup>	no	extensive subarachnoid and unilateral parenchymal frontal/temporal/occipital	–	yes, neonatal	G1P0
2	35 <sup>+0</sup>	no	unilateral intraventricular and parenchymal	hydrocephalus	yes, neonatal	G2P1 healthy child
3	31 <sup>+5</sup>	no	bilateral parenchymal	–	yes, neonatal	G1P0
4	36 <sup>+5</sup>	no	extensive bilateral parenchymal	–	yes, neonatal	G3P1 healthy child, miscarriage
5	38 <sup>+1</sup>	no	extensive bilateral parenchymal	hydrocephalus	yes, fetal	G2P0 miscarriage
6	22 <sup>+0</sup>	no	bilateral parenchymal	hydrocephalus	yes, TOP	G2P0 miscarriage
7	32 <sup>+2</sup>	no	extensive subarachnoid	–	yes, neonatal	G2P1 child with trisomy 21
8	30 <sup>+0</sup>	no	bilateral intraventricular and parenchymal	hydrocephalus	yes, neonatal	G3P0 miscarriage, one TOP
9	19 <sup>+0</sup>	no <sup>1</sup>	extensive bilateral parenchymal	–	yes, TOP	G4P3 two healthy children, one child with FNAIT
10	19 <sup>+4</sup>	no	unilateral parenchymal and intraventricular	–	yes, TOP	G3P1 healthy child, miscarriage

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Table 3. Intracranial haemorrhage and long-term outcome

Child No.	Associated lesions	Age at evaluation	Cerebral palsy	Developmental test	Total IQ	Long-term outcome	Severe NDI	
11	none	8 years	–	WISC-III	86	attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	no	
12	hydrocephalus, VPD	2, 8, and 14 years	spastic tetraplegia, GMFCS level V	Bayley-III, Reynell-Zinkin, KID-N	49	bilateral blindness, severe cognitive and motor delay, epilepsy	yes	
13	porencephalic cyst hydrocephalus, VPD	20 years	spastic tetraplegia, GMFCS level V	not tested due to severe impairment	49	bilateral blindness, severe cognitive and motor delay, epilepsy	yes	
14	porencephalic cyst hydrocephalus, VPD	23 years	spastic tetraplegia, GMFCS level V	not tested due to severe impairment	49	bilateral blindness, hearing impairment, severe cognitive and motor delay	yes	
15	bilateral porencephalic cyst, cerebellar destruction hydrocephalus, VPD	3 years	spastic diplegia, GMFCS level IV	SON	60	severe cognitive and motor delay	yes	
16	none	5 years	–	WPPSI-III	110		no	
17	bilateral porencephalic cyst hydrocephalus, VPD	1 year	spastic hemiplegia, GMFCS level IV	KID-N	49	visual impairment, severe cognitive and motor delay, epilepsy	yes	
18	none	7 years	–	WISC-III	112		no	
19	hydrocephalus, unilateral porencephalic cyst	5 years	spastic hemiplegia, GMFCS level II	WPPSI-III	85	problems with behaviour and attention regulation	no	
20	hydrocephalus, bilateral porencephalic cysts	8 years	spastic diplegia, GMFCS level II	SON	50	severe cognitive and motor delay, epilepsy	yes	
21	none	loss of contact information, no long-term follow-up available						

Bayley-III, Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development third edition; GMFCS, Gross Motor Function Classification System; KID-N, Kent Infant Development Scale; NDI, neurodevelopmental impairment; SON, Snijders-Oomen Nonverbal Intelligence Test; VPD, ventriculoperitoneal drain; WISC-III, Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children third edition; WPPSI-III, Wechsler Preschool Primary Scale of Intelligence third edition.

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# FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN THE TREATMENT OF NAIT

Promising research led to the development of the PROFNAIT project in 2011 in Europe.

The goal of this project is to develop prophylaxis treatment that can successfully and safely prevent NAIT in pregnancy.

The drug, NAITgam, is developed from plasma donated by women who are HPA1a-immunized and have given birth to a child with NAIT.

Anti-HPA-1a IgG is collected from the donated plasma and when administered to pregnant women who are positive for HPA-1a antibodies, eliciting an antibody-mediated immune response, thereby preventing NAIT in the newborn.

HPA-1a prophylaxis could be available, pending completion of clinical trials, within the next 5 years.

Despite the prevalence and negative sequelae associated with NAIT, no universal screening protocol for pregnant women exists.

[Neonatal Alloimmune Thrombocytopenia, 2021](#)



All pregnant women should probably be screened for HPA-1b1b in their first pregnancy if the cost effectiveness of detection is acceptable and a management scheme is in place (low evidence, weak recommendation).

**Balance of harms and benefits:** Screening may detect women at increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes. Screening may expose women to unnecessary antenatal intervention. The clinical and cost effectiveness has not been established.

**Suggestions for practice:** If HPA incompatibility is identified in pregnancies by screening, women should be directed to comprehensive care centres. HPA alloantibody determination and HLA haplotypes for HPA-1 incompatibility can be used antenatally to determine risk and guide antenatal intervention. If an HPA alloantibody is present, serial titres may be useful to determine risk, e.g. increasing titres are associated with a risk of FNAIT. If an HPA-1a alloantibody is not present, HLA haplotypes may be used determine risk of alloimmunization. The absence of HLA DRB3\*01:01 is associated with very low risk of FNAIT. Alternatively, platelet products are made available on the day of delivery and neonatal platelet counts are determined immediately following delivery to determine if there is a need for platelet transfusion if antenatal intervention is not offered.

Open access

Protocol

**BMJ Open** HIP (HPA-screening in pregnancy) study: protocol of a nationwide, prospective and observational study to assess incidence and natural history of fetal/neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia and identifying pregnancies at risk

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# CONCLUSION

## Summary of Recommendations for Practice and Research

### What we know:

- NAIT is a platelet disorder caused by paternally inherited HPAs.
- Affects first pregnancies.
- Often undiagnosed prenatally due to lack of universal screening.
- Can cause devastating effects on the neonate such as ICH from severely low platelet counts.

### What needs to be studied:

- A universal screening protocol for all pregnant women using cell-free DNA should be implemented.
- HPA-1a prophylaxis

### What we can do today:

- Educate healthcare providers about the clinical manifestations and diagnosis of NAIT.
- Include NAIT in differential diagnoses for thrombocytopenia, especially in a full-term, otherwise healthy infant.
- Early diagnosis and treatment can minimize the severity of thrombocytopenia and deficits resulting from ICH.
- With suspected NAIT, the treatment of choice is donor-matched, HPA-negative platelets and IVIG; however, treatment should not be delayed while awaiting a diagnosis and random donor platelets are often used at first.

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**GRAZIE PER  
L'ATTENZIONE!**

