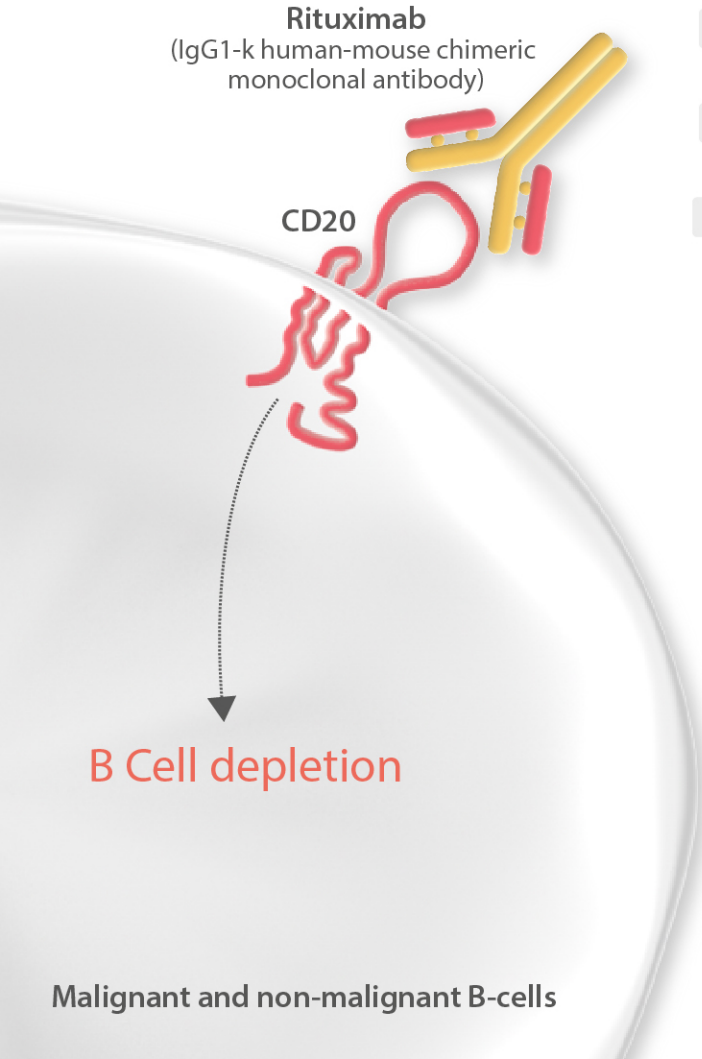
# The use of rituximab for the treatment of immune thrombocytopenia




**1951** Milestone role of autoantibodies in the pathogenesis of immune thrombocytosis (**ITP**)

**late 80s** **Rituximab** was introduced for the treatment of B-cell lymphomas

**2001** First successful use of **rituximab** for the treatment of **ITP** associated with a low-grade non-Hodgkin lymphoma

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**375mg/m$^2$ weekly for 4 weeks is the rituximab "standard dose" in autoimmune diseases**

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**Marked reduction of malignant and non-malignant B-cells in peripheral blood and BM**

- Overall response rate and complete responses are up to 60% and 50%, respectively
- Only 20- 30% of patients maintain the remission
- No significant changes are observed using different dose schedules and timing of administration
- Combination with other drugs (e.g. dexamethasone) are promising
- Higher response rates have been observed in young women before the chronic phase

Lucchini *et al.*, Haematologica, 2019