Skin rash

A 24-year-old woman presented with 2 weeks rash on her lower limbs. The rash is cherry red in color, pin-head in size and extensive on her lower extremities and trunk. She has also noted that her gums bleed following brushing of her teeth and, this morning, she observed some reddish spots in her mouth. She denies any unusual bleeding during her last menstrual period 3 weeks ago and does not report any blood in her urine or stools. There is no history of preceding fever or upper respiratory tract infection. She does not take any non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) or any other medication and has not sought medical care for many years, as she felt she was healthy. She is single.

1. **What would your differential diagnosis include before examining the patient?**

Examination and initial investigations

On general physical examination, the patient appears healthy, conscious and well-oriented, though anxious. She is of average body weight and height. Her blood pressure is 110/70 mmHg, her pulse is 84/min, regular and she is afebrile. Her hands, lips and conjunctivae are not pale and she does not have jaundice. There are no palpable lymph nodes in her neck, axillae or groins. Examination of her mouth reveals some evidence of gum bleeds with no hyperplasia, with a red spot on the inner aspect of her left cheek. Examination of her lower limbs and trunk reveals an extensive non-palpable purpuric eruption. Examination of her chest, heart and abdomen reveal no abnormalities and neurological examination is normal.

The results of the initial laboratory work-up are shown

Initial Investigations	
Haemoglobin	135 g/L (13.5 g/dL)
Total leukocyte count	7.2×10^9/L (10^3/mm³)
Differential count	
Neutrophils	85%
Lymphocytes	11%
Eosinophils	2%
Basophils	0%
Monocytes	2%
Blood smear	Severe thrombocytopenia, normal haemoglobin, white cell count and differential count with no abnormal cells
Platelet count	22×10^9/L (10^3/mm³)

2. **Does this narrow down your differential diagnosis?**
3. **How will you treat this patient?**