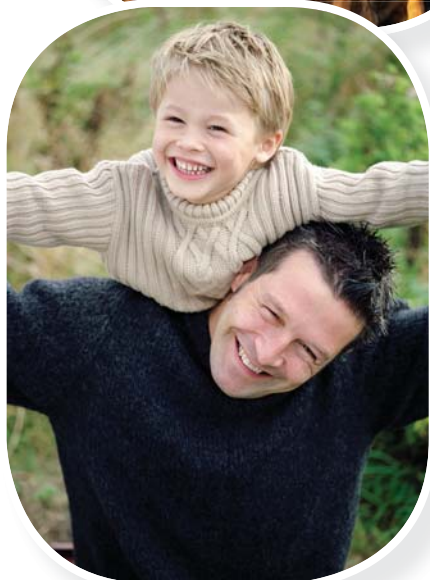


Von Willebrand Disease Facts



What Is Bleeding Disorders Logic?

Bleeding Disorders Logic™ is a medication and specialty care management program for our patients on therapy for hemophilia and von Willebrand disease. Bleeding Disorders Logic™ teaches patients about their bleeding disorder and how to effectively deal with and manage their disease and their bleeding disorder medications.

What Is von Willebrand Disease?

- Von Willebrand disease is an inherited disorder, passed from parent to child. It is the most common inherited bleeding disorder.
- People with von Willebrand disease may have very little of or a defective clotting protein in their blood. A clotting protein is a building block in the blood that tells the blood how to stick together and get thick, for example – when injured. This clotting protein is called von Willebrand factor.
- If there is too little of clotting factors, or the factors do not work correctly, it may take a long time to stop bleeding after an injury.
- Von Willebrand disease affects men and women equally.

What Is a Clotting Factor?

Clotting factors are proteins (building blocks) in the blood. These proteins work together with very small pieces in the blood called platelets. Platelets are small, colorless, flat disc-shaped parts of the blood. The proteins and platelets work together in order to help the blood to clot. The tubes carrying blood to and away from the heart are called blood vessels. When these blood vessels are injured or broken, clotting factors help the platelets (the small discs) stick together to plug cuts and breaks at the site of the injury.

When clotting factors are missing, or your body does not have enough of these factors, it may take a long time for your blood to clot after an injury or accident.

Is There More Than One Type of von Willebrand Disease?

There are three types of von Willebrand disease:

- Type 1 is the most common and the mildest form of the disease.
- Type 2 is usually a mild-to-moderate form of the disease.
- Type 3 is very rare and is the most severe form of the disease.

Von Willebrand Disease Facts

What Are the Signs and Symptoms of von Willebrand Disease?

Depending on what type of von Willebrand disease you have, the signs and symptoms will be different. Most cases of von Willebrand disease are mild.

How Is von Willebrand Disease Diagnosed?

Blood tests are used to find out if someone has von Willebrand disease. These tests check how much time it takes for your blood to clot and how much of the von Willebrand factor your blood has, as well as how well the von Willebrand factor in your blood is working.

Severe von Willebrand disease can cause serious bleeding problems in small children or infants. Because of this, the doctors usually find out which people have severe von Willebrand disease during the first year of life. People who have milder forms may not have serious bleeding problems. Because of this, they may be adults before the disease is found and doctors confirm it.

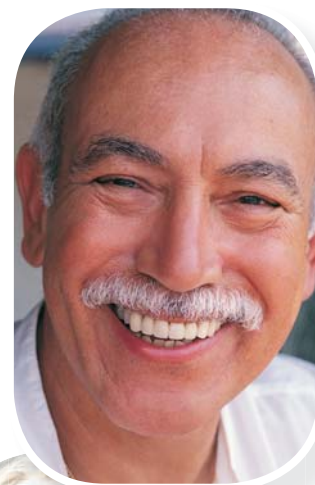
How Is von Willebrand Disease Treated?

Most cases of von Willebrand disease are mild and often do not need to be treated. Treatment may only be needed after a surgery, having a tooth pulled or an accident. For people who need treatment, one or more of the following treatments may be used:

- Medication to help the body make more of the von Willebrand factor
- Medication to stop the body from breaking down clots
- Medication to control heavy menstrual bleeding in women
- Injection of concentrated clotting factor medication containing von Willebrand factor and factor VIII (8)

Once the doctor finds out what type of von Willebrand disease you have, your doctor will decide what treatment you will need. How strong your symptoms are will also help decide what treatment is best for you.

It is important to follow your treatment plan and see your doctor regularly. Contact your doctor if you have any questions or concerns.



Sources:

- Materials published by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). The NHLBI is a part of the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Disclaimer: The purpose of this information is to teach readers about their disease and its treatment. It is not given as medical advice. Persons should always talk to their doctor for diagnosis, treatment and answers to their specific questions.

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