

# Introduction to Congenital Bleeding Disorders

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University of Toronto

**Transfusion Medicine Boot Camp Day #4**

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Medicine  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

**St. Michael's**

Inspired Care. Inspiring Science.

# Disclosures



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- No relevant conflicts of interest.
- Acknowledgement
  - Dr. Michelle Sholzberg – adaptation of her slides.

# Objectives

1

Review the basics of hemostasis

2

Review the basics of routine coagulation

3

Review selected disorders of hemostasis and the treatment principles

- Von Willebrand Disease
- Hemophilia A and B

# Basics of Hemostasis

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# Updated Coagulation Cascade

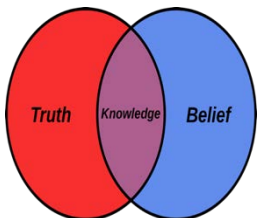
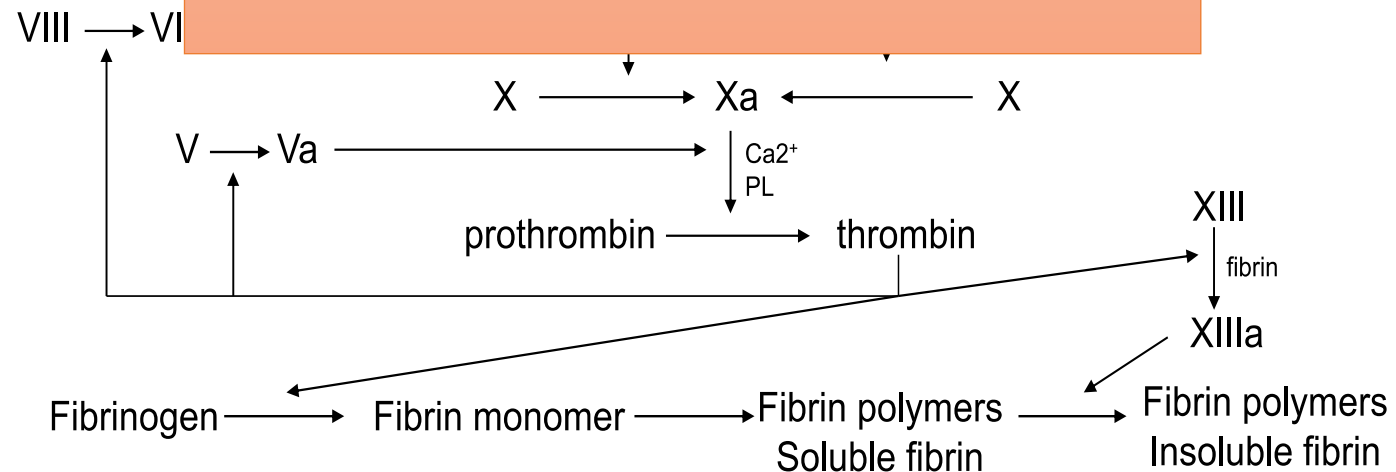
Intrinsic Pathway

surface  
HMW/K

Extrinsic Pathway



**BIG  
PROBLEM!**



# Hemostasis Simplified

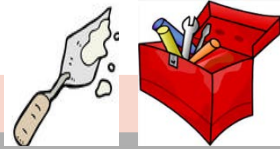
**Trauma to the  
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TRIGGER**

**Platelets 1<sup>st</sup> on  
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VWF glues  
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**Coagulation  
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assemble to  
make a clot**

**Additional  
factors stabilize  
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**Fibrinolytic  
system breaks  
down clot**



# Basics of Routine Coagulation Tests

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# Basic Clot-Based Tests

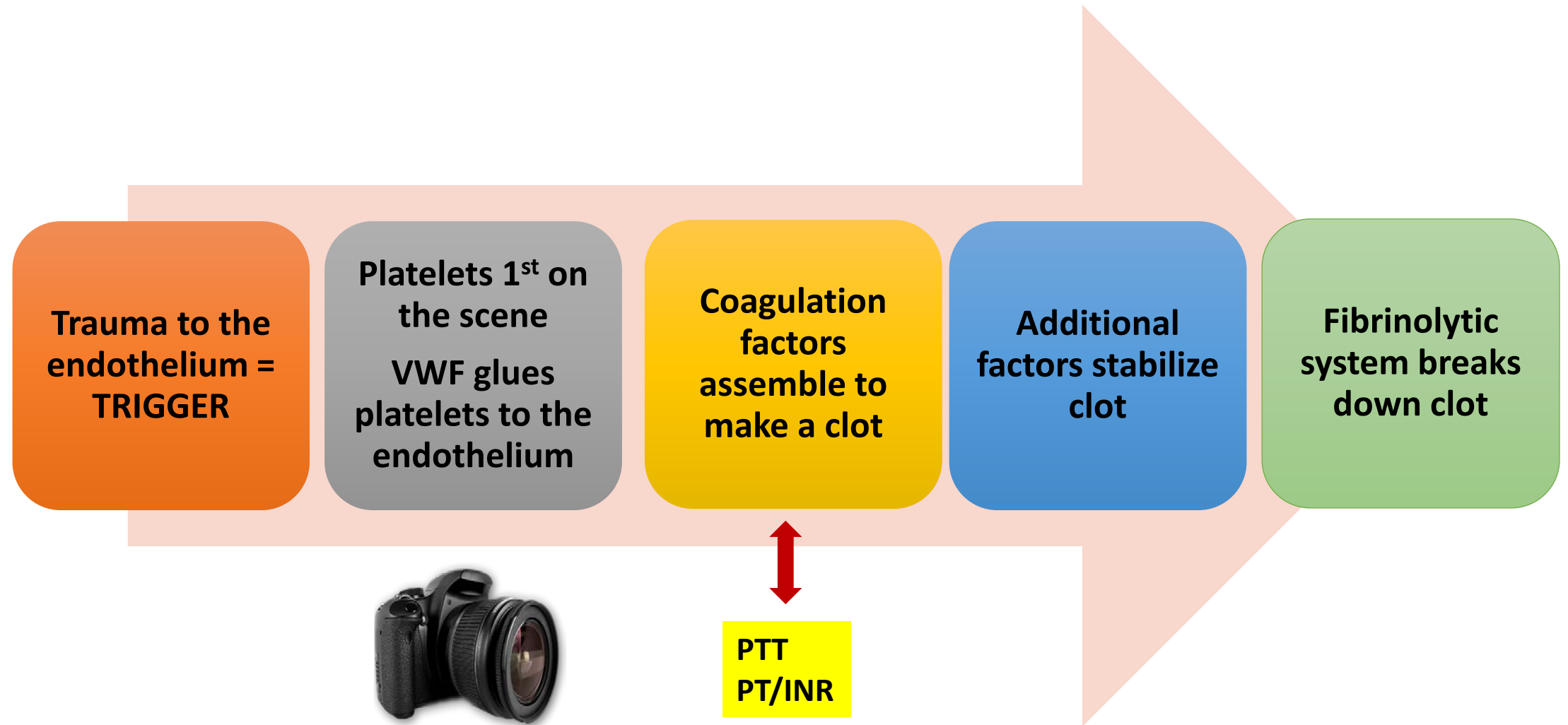
- Prothrombin Time (PT)
  - International Normalized Ratio (INR)
- Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time (aPTT)

**END RESULT – CLOT FORMATION**

**Sensitivity of 1-2% → normal PT/PTT does not rule out a bleeding disorder**



# Hemostasis Simplified: *STATIC* Assays



# Importance of the Bleeding History

## Utility of Bleeding Assessment Tools (BATs)

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# How important is the bleeding history?

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**THE BLEEDING HISTORY IS  
THE MOST IMPORTANT...**

**TEST OF HEMOSTASIS**



# Hemostasis Simplified: *BAT*



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**BAT**

## Table 1: Condensed MCMDM-1VWD Bleeding Questionnaire

	-1	0	1	2	3	4
<b>Epistaxis</b>	–	No or trivial (≤ 5 per year)	> 5 per year or more than 10'	Consultation only	Packing or cauterization or antifibrinolytic	Blood transfusion or replacement therapy or desmopressin
<b>Bruising</b>	–	No or trivial (≤ 1 cm)	> 1 cm and no trauma	Consultation only	–	–
<b>Bleeding from minor wounds</b>	–	No or trivial (≤ 5 per year)	> 5 per year or more than 5'	Consultation only	Surgical hemostasis	Blood transfusion or replacement therapy or desmopressin
<b>Oral cavity</b>	–	No	Reported, no consultation	Consultation only	Surgical hemostasis or antifibrinolytic	Blood transfusion or replacement therapy or desmopressin
<b>Gastrointestinal bleeding</b>	–	No	Associated with ulcer, portal hypertension, hemorrhoids, angiodysplasia	Spontaneous	Surgical hemostasis, blood transfusion, replacement therapy, desmopressin, antifibrinolytic	–
<b>Tooth extraction</b>	No bleeding in at least 2 extractions	None done or no bleeding in 1 extraction	Reported, no consultation	Consultation only	Resuturing or packing	Blood transfusion or replacement therapy or desmopressin
<b>Surgery</b>	No bleeding in at least 2 surgeries	None done or no bleeding in 1 surgery	Reported, no consultation	Consultation only	Surgical hemostasis or antifibrinolytic	Blood transfusion or replacement therapy or desmopressin
<b>Menorrhagia</b>	–	No	Consultation only	Antifibrinolytics, oral contraceptive pill use	Dilation & curettage, iron therapy, ablation	Blood transfusion or replacement therapy or desmopressin or hysterectomy
<b>Postpartum hemorrhage</b>	No bleeding in at least 2 deliveries	No deliveries or no bleeding in 1 delivery	Consultation only	Dilation & curettage, iron therapy, antifibrinolytics	Blood transfusion or replacement therapy or desmopressin	Hysterectomy
<b>Muscle hematomas</b>	–	Never	Post-trauma, no therapy	Spontaneous, no therapy	Spontaneous or traumatic, requiring desmopressin or replacement therapy	Spontaneous or traumatic, requiring surgical intervention or blood transfusion
<b>Hemarthrosis</b>	–	Never	Post-trauma, no therapy	Spontaneous, no therapy	Spontaneous or traumatic, requiring desmopressin or replacement therapy	Spontaneous or traumatic, requiring surgical intervention or blood transfusion
<b>Central nervous system bleeding</b>	–	Never	–	–	Subdural, any intervention	Intracerebral, any intervention

The bleeding score is determined by scoring the worst episode for each symptom (each row) and then summing all of the rows together. "Consultation only" refers to a patient consulting a medical professional (doctor, nurse, dentist) because of a symptom but no treatment being given.

Bowman M et al. Generation and Validation of the Condensed MCMDM-1VWD Bleeding Questionnaire. J Thromb Haemost 2008; 6: 2062-6.

For VWD, a bleeding score ≥ 4 has a sensitivity = 100%, specificity = 87%, positive predictive value = 0.20, negative predictive value = 1.00.

More info at [www.path.queensu.ca/labs/james/bq.htm](http://www.path.queensu.ca/labs/james/bq.htm)

# Selected Disorders of Hemostasis

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Von Willebrand Disease  
Hemophilia A and B

# Von Willebrand Factor

- Large multimeric glycoprotein
- Synthesized by megakaryocytes and endothelial cells
- Cleared by macrophages in the liver and spleen

## Storage:

1. Circulating VWF released from Weibel Palade Bodies in endothelial cells
2. VWF stored in platelet alpha granules and released on platelet activation

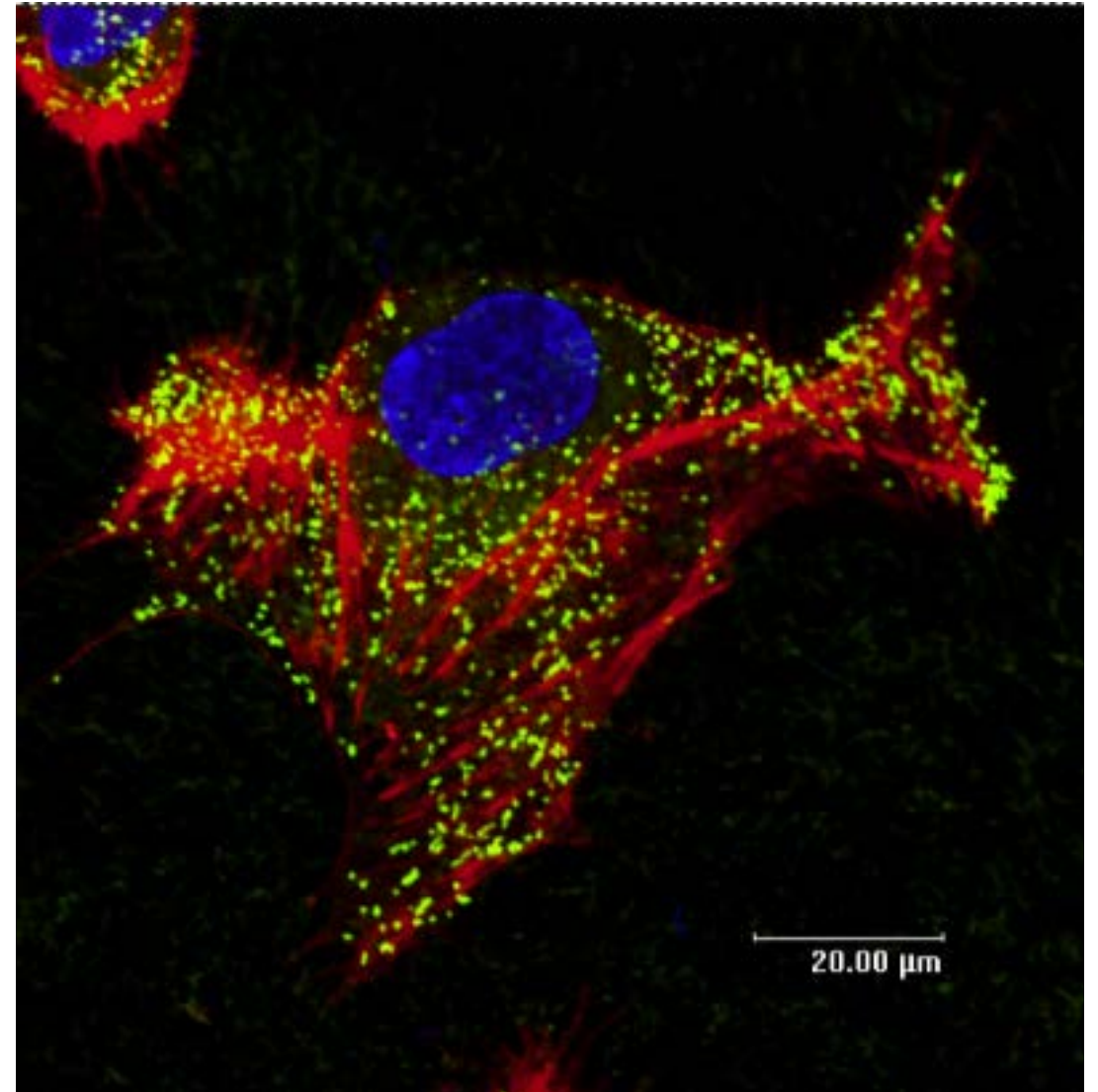
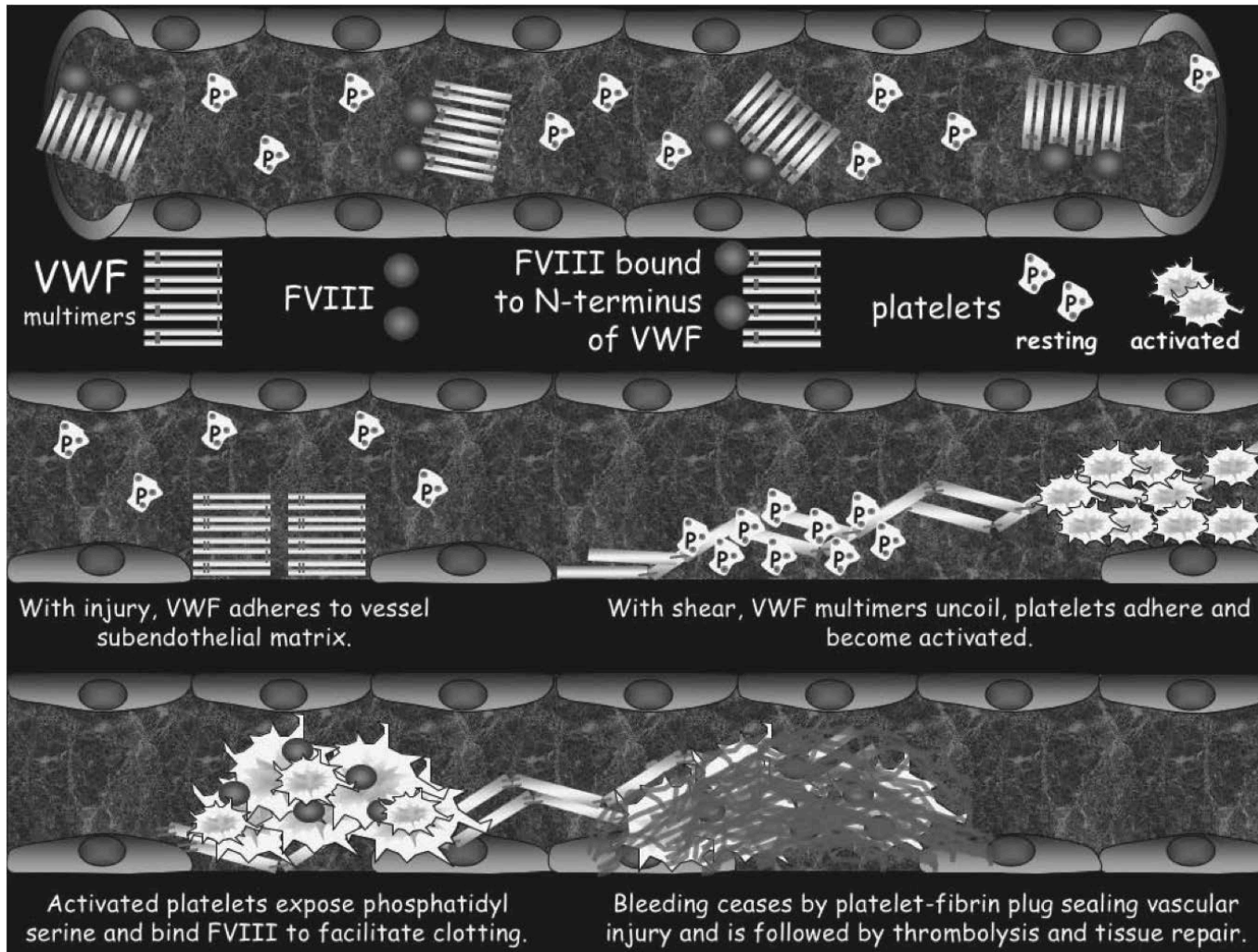


Image courtesy of Dr. Paula James



# Role in Hemostasis



## Primary Hemostasis

- Promote platelet adhesion to exposed endothelium
- Promote platelet aggregation

## Secondary Hemostasis

- Act as a chaperone for factor VIII in plasma





# Hemostasis Simplified: VWD

## VWD



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# Diagnoses

123

Bleeding symptoms

Family History

Laboratory results

**Bleeding  
Assessment Tool  
(MCMDM-1)**

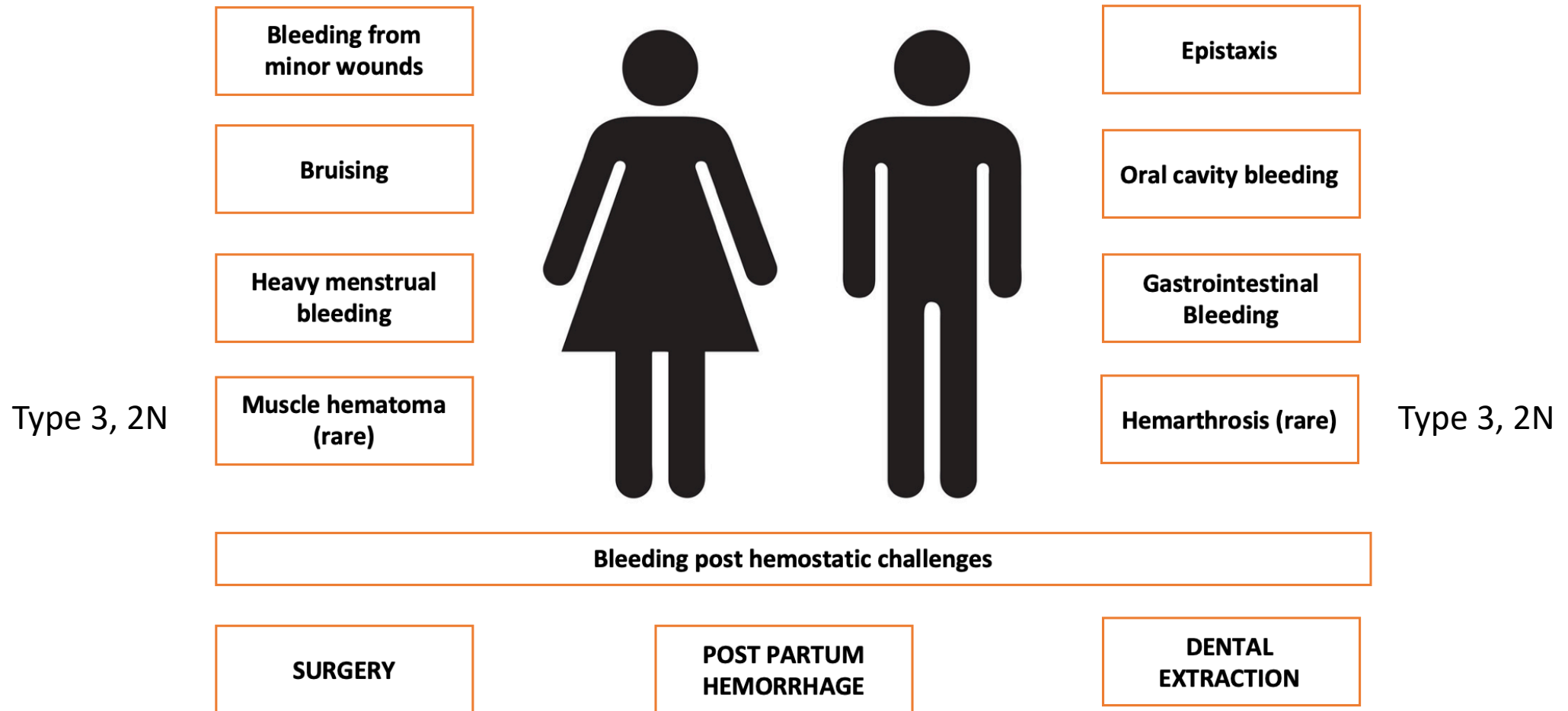


**Laboratory**

- Complete blood count
- PT/INR, aPTT, fibrinogen
- VWF-related testing
  - VWF Antigen
  - VWF Activity
  - FVIII Activity
  - (Multimers)

**VWD  
Subtype**

# Bleeding Symptoms

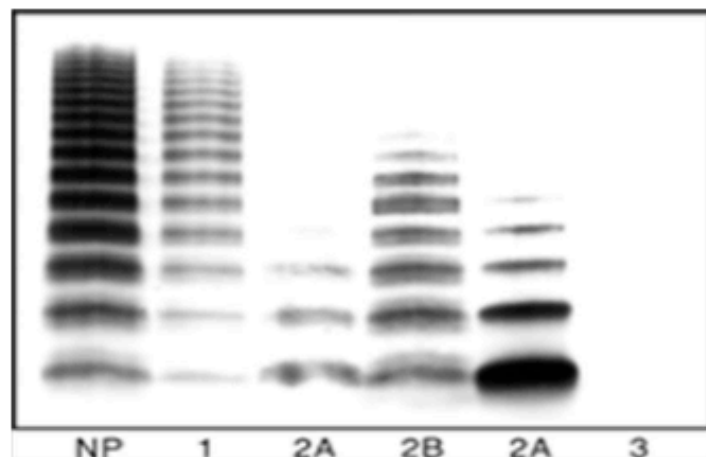


# Laboratory Tests

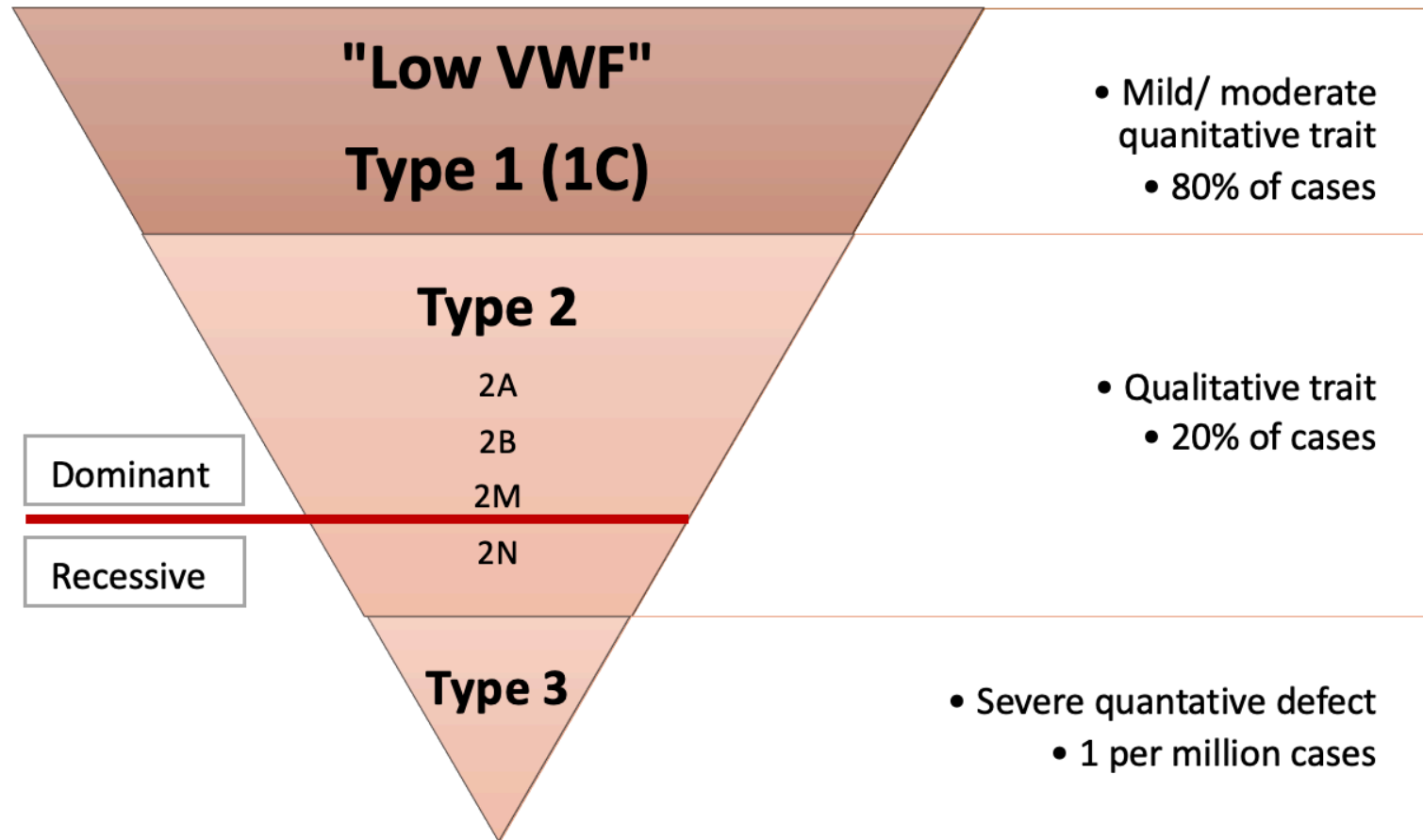
123

- CBC, INR normal, PTT often normal
- 1. VWF Antigen (*how much VWF?*) → decreased
- 2. VWF Ristocetin Cofactor Activity (*does do its job in primary hemostasis?*) → decreased
- 3. Factor VIII activity (*does VWF do its job in secondary hemostasis?*) → decreased

- 
- Multimers
  - Ristocetin Induced Platelet Agglutination (2B)
  - VWF:FVIII binding activity
  - VWF:Collagen binding activity
  - VWF propeptide antigen
  - Genetic testing – Types 2 and 3

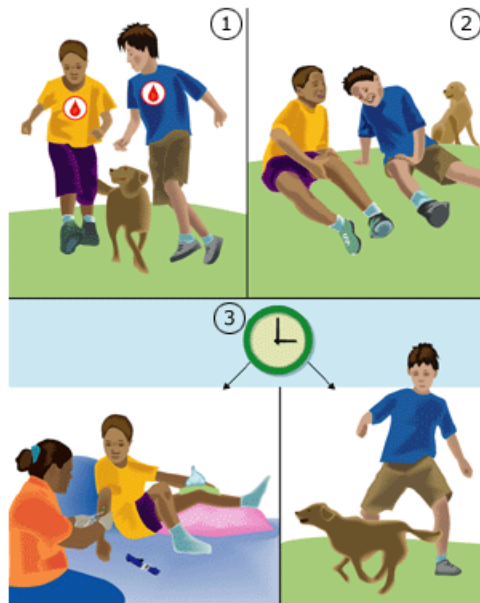


# ISTH VWD Classification

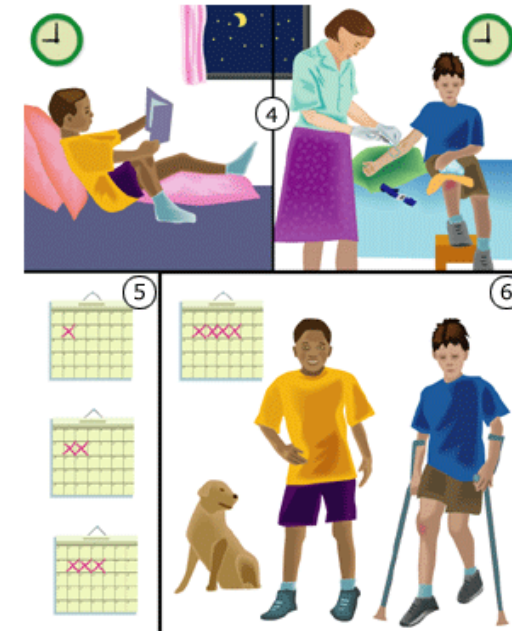


# Principles of Bleed Management

## 1. TREAT FIRST!



## 2. INVESTIGATE LATER!





## Remember... FactorFirst

**PROMPT INFUSION** will halt bleeding, minimize long-term complications and can save life. If bleeding persists, follow the guidelines for life or limb-threatening bleeds and call the:

### Hemophilia Treatment Centre

Physician: \_\_\_\_\_

Nurse: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Night Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Delay in the restoration of hemostasis to the patient with hemophilia or von Willebrand disease may be life or limb-threatening.**

#### • PROMPT TRIAGE AND ASSESSMENT.

- Determine the severity of the bleed.
- Recognize that bleeding in the head, spine, abdomen or pelvis may initially be occult and potentially life-threatening.

#### • TREAT FIRST AND INVESTIGATE LATER – “FACTOR FIRST”.

- Avoid invasive procedures such as arterial punctures unless the patient has factor replacement.
- **NO** IM injections and **NO** ASA.
- The patient or guardian may be your most important resource, so do ask about specific treatment protocols.
- Contact the patient's Hemophilia Treatment Centre where a hematologist is always on call.
- Provide clear discharge instructions and arrange a follow-up plan or admit to hospital if necessary.

#### Patient Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_

Severity: \_\_\_\_\_ Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Response to desmopressin (DDAVP): ☐ no ☐ yes to \_\_\_\_\_ %

Inhibitors: ☐ no ☐ yes

Other Medical Information: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Physician \_\_\_\_\_

#### Recommended Treatment:

Product and Dose/kg for Life or Limb-threatening Bleeds:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

### Use Universal Precautions

#### LIFE OR LIMB-THREATENING BLEEDS

- Head (intracranial) and neck
- Chest, abdomen, pelvis, spine
- Iliopsoas muscle and hip
- Massive vaginal hemorrhage
- Extremity muscle compartments
- Fractures or dislocations
- Any deep laceration
- Any uncontrolled bleeding

#### MODERATE/MINOR BLEEDS

- Nose (epistaxis)
- Mouth (including gums)
- Joints (hemarthroses)
- Menorrhagia
- Abrasions and superficial lacerations

#### TREATMENT FOR LIFE OR LIMB-THREATENING BLEEDS

##### PATIENT MUST RECEIVE PRODUCT URGENTLY

**Hemophilia A: (all severities)**  
Recombinant factor VIII concentrate 40-50 units/kg

**Hemophilia B: (all severities)**  
Recombinant factor IX concentrate 100-120 units/kg >15 yrs  
Recombinant factor IX concentrate 135-140 units/kg <15 yrs  
The dosage for recombinant factor IX is substantially higher because of its lower recovery, particularly in children.

**Von Willebrand Disease:**  
A VWF factor concentrate containing factor VIII such as Humate-P 60-80 Ristocetin cofactor units/kg

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Dosages are patient specific – these are general guidelines only. Round doses up to the nearest vial. If the products listed are not available, please call the nearest Canadian Blood Services or Héma-Québec Centre.

#### TREATMENT FOR MODERATE/MINOR BLEEDS

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Desmopressin (Octostim/DDAVP) 0.3 mcg/kg (max. 20 mcg) -SC/IV

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Tranexamic Acid (Cyklokapron) 25 mg/kg po tid 1-7 days (contraindicated if hematuria)

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## St. Michael's

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#### Recommended Treatment:

Severe Bleed/Major Trauma

Mild/Moderate Bleed

Please contact the clinic for further information

Physician's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Physician's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Give replacement therapy **immediately** for obvious or suspected bleeding or major trauma. Treat first, and then investigate.



# Treatment Basics – Acute Bleed

- *Call Hematology / Transfusion Medicine*

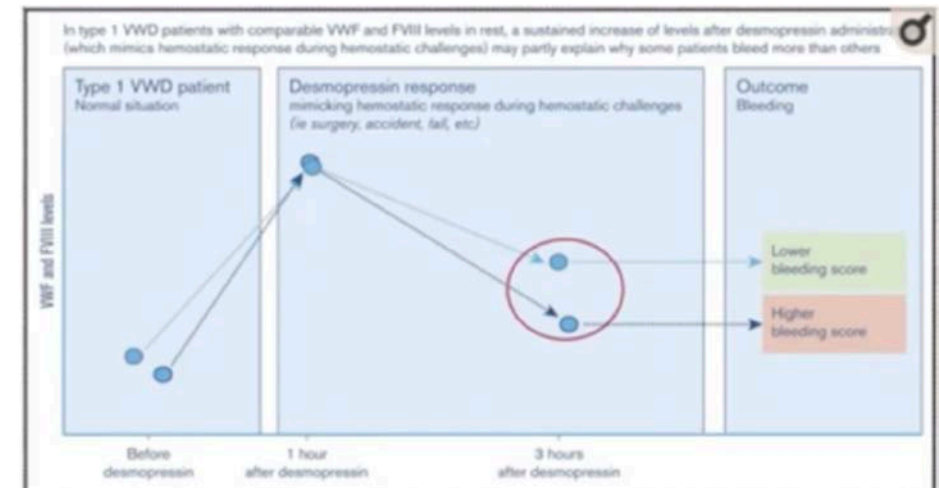
- 1) Increase or 2) Replace VWF

- Medications

- DDAVP (Desmopressin)
- VWF:FVIII Concentrate (Humate P, Wilate)
- Adjunctive anti-fibrinolytic agent (TXA)

- Consider prophylaxis

- Severe recurrent bleeding
- Hemarthrosis
- Angiodysplasia with recurrent GIB
- Heavy menstrual bleeding





# Hemophilias: X-linked

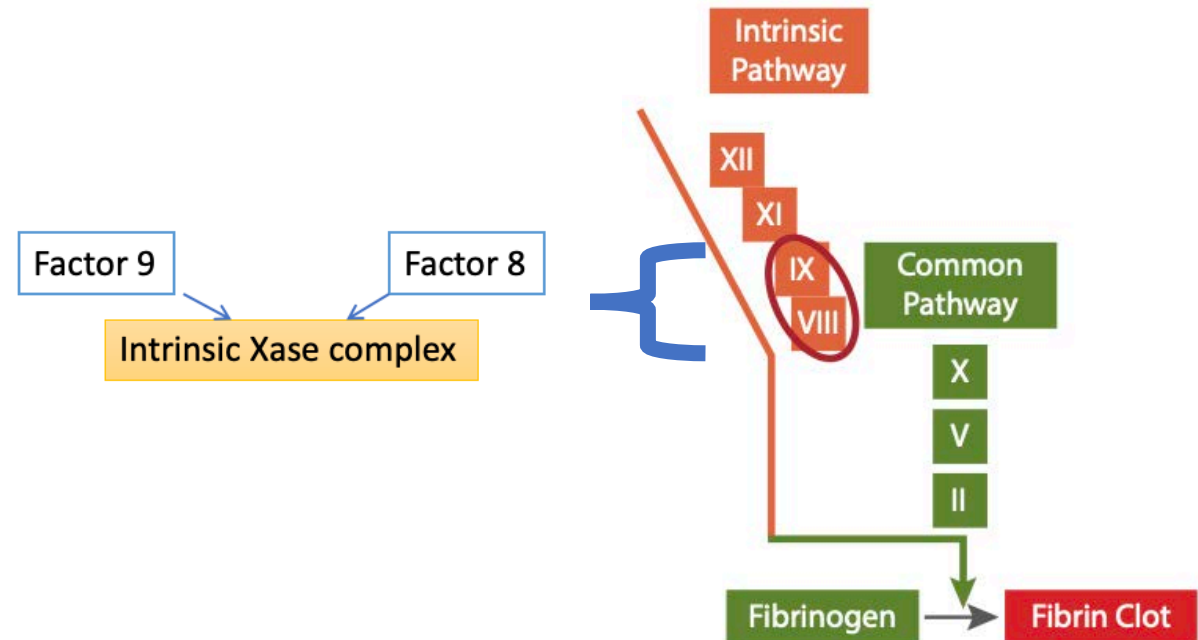
## Hemophilia A

- FVIII deficiency
- 1 in 30,000 males

- ~ 4000 in Canada
- No family history in ~30% of cases
- Males predominantly affected
- Female carriers can be symptomatic

## Hemophilia B

- Factor IX deficiency
- 1 in 5000 males



# Hemostasis Simplified: Hemophilia

## Hemophilias



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# Bleeding Symptoms

- Classically, musculoskeletal bleeding
  - Hemarthrosis
  - Intramuscular hematoma
  - Soft tissue hematoma
- Mucosal bleeding: mouth bleeding, epistaxis
- CNS (intracranial) bleeding
- Excessive and prolonged bleeding with trauma, procedures, surgery
- HMB symptomatic carriers



# Grades of Severity

Severe  
FVIII <1%

- Spontaneous bleeding into joints/muscles
- Severe bleeding with minimal trauma/surgery

Moderate  
FVIII 1-4%

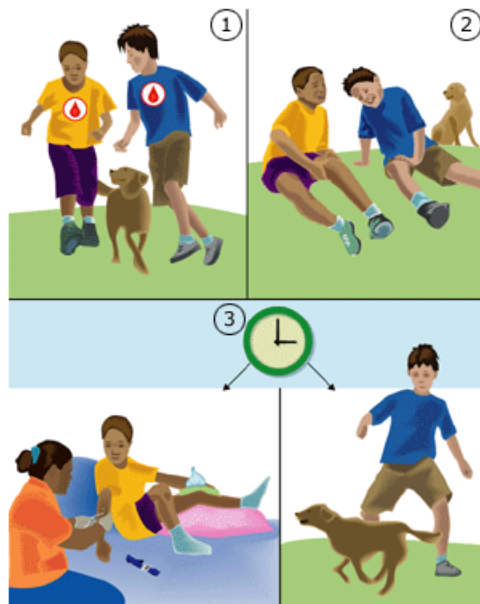
- Occasional spontaneous bleeding
- Severe bleeding with trauma/surgery

Mild  
FVIII 5-40%

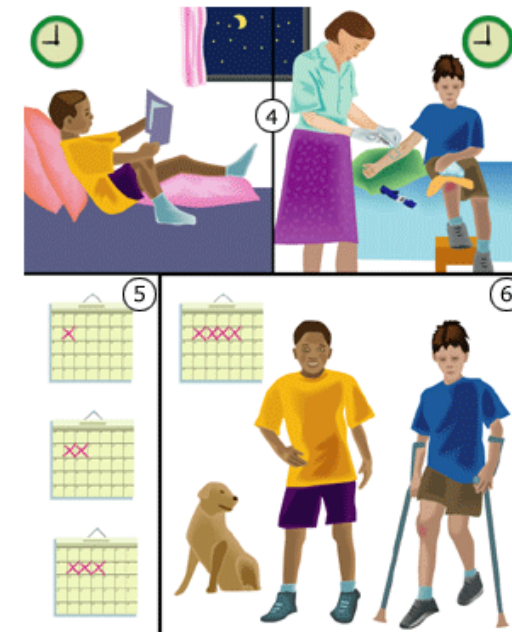
- Severe bleeding with major trauma/ surgery

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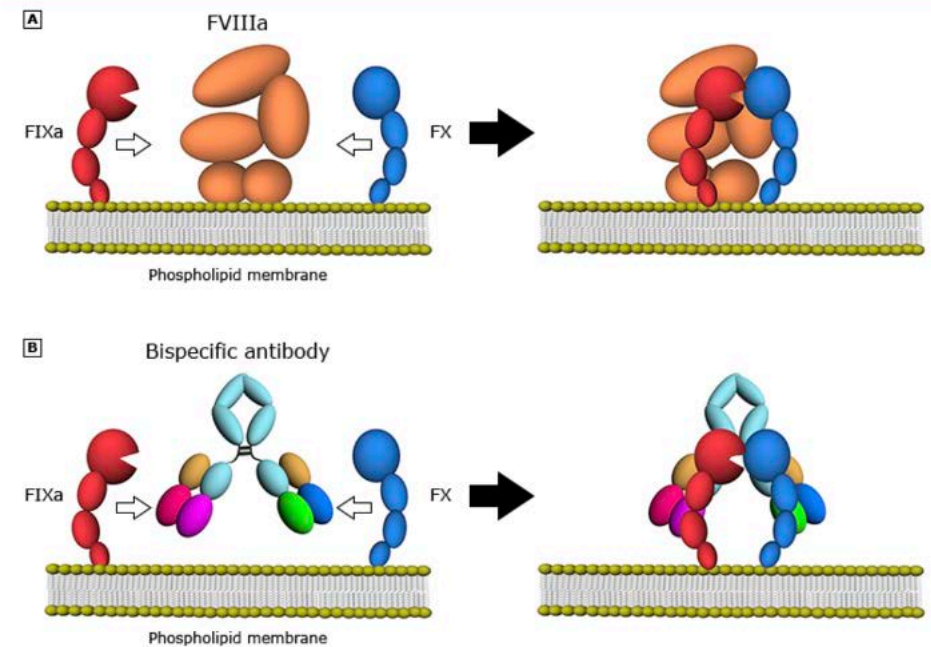
## 2. INVESTIGATE LATER!



# Treatment Basics – Acute Bleed

- **Call Hematology / Transfusion Medicine**
- Increase deficient factor
- Medications:
  - Factor VIII: Xyntha, Kovaltry, Nuwiq, Adynovate, Jivi,
  - Factor IX: Benefix, Rebinyn
  - Adjunctive anti-fibrinolytic agent (TXA)
  - DDAVP (Desmopressin) – mild hemophilia (FVIII>10%)
- Non-factor therapies: Emicizumab
  - Avoid PCC – risk of thrombosis
  - Inhibitor present - rVIIa
  - No inhibitor – FVIII concentrate
- Role for prophylaxis

Bispecific antibody that could be used to replace the function of FVIIIa



Refer to UpToDate content on treatment of hemophilia for further details.

(A) In normal hemostasis, FVIIIa (orange) forms a complex with FIXa (red) and promotes interaction between FIXa and FX (blue) by binding to both factors on the phospholipid membrane.

(B) A bispecific antibody that can simultaneously bind to FIXa (red) and FX (blue) could mimic the activity of FVIIIa and promote interaction between FIXa and FX on the phospholipid membrane.



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Severity: \_\_\_\_\_ Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Response to desmopressin (DDAVP): ☐ no ☐ yes to \_\_\_\_\_ %

Inhibitors: ☐ no ☐ yes

Other Medical Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Physician \_\_\_\_\_

### Recommended Treatment:

Product and Dose/kg for Life or Limb-threatening Bleeds:

Product and Dose/kg for Moderate/Minor Bleeds:

### LIFE OR LIMB-THREATENING BLEEDS

- Head (intracranial) and neck
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### MODERATE/MINOR BLEEDS

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### Recommended Treatment:

Severe Bleed/Major Trauma

Mild/Moderate Bleed

Please contact the clinic for further information

Physician's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Physician's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Give replacement therapy **immediately** for obvious or suspected bleeding or major trauma. Treat first, and then investigate.





## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR L&D and POST-PARTUM MANAGEMENT OF MOTHER AND BABY

**St. Michael's**  
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### Demographics:

Name: XXX  
DOB: XXX  
MRN: XXX

### Bleeding Disorder Diagnosis:

Hemophilia A Carrier

Baseline Factor VIII level 69%. Auto-correction (normalization) during pregnancy Factor VIII level 146% on January 25, 2016.

### Expected Delivery Date:

June 15, 2016 - Plan for spontaneous vaginal delivery

Carrying a female baby therefore 50% chance of being a carrier and is unlikely to experience bleeding complications at birth.

### OB Recommendations:

1. Avoidance of invasive instrumentation (forceps, vacuum, scalp electrodes) and prolonged labour.
2. Vaginal delivery as per usual OB indications.

### Anesthesia Recommendations:

1. Does not require additional hemostatic coverage prior to any intervention.
2. Provide neuraxial anesthesia as per protocol.

### Hematology Recommendations - Care of Mother:

*Mother is at **risk for post-partum hemorrhage** – her factor VIII levels can drop rapidly post-partum*

1. No upfront administration of hemostatic agents needed (whether C-section or vaginal delivery) → factor VIII level normal at **146%** (spontaneous correction of factor deficiency in pregnancy).
2. First dose of post-partum tranexamic acid (cyklokapron) to be given **1 hour post-partum** – 1 g PO.
3. Continue post-partum tranexamic acid (cyklokapron) at 1 gram PO TID for a total of **10 days**.
4. CBC and Factor VIII activity assay to be drawn daily in the AM.
5. Call hematology on-call during off hours or Dr. Sholzberg directly, during regular hours, at XXX-XXX-XXXX.

### Hematology Recommendations - Care of the Newborn:

1. Pediatrics to attend delivery and perform an immediate physical examination to assess for signs of bleeding. Given the inheritance pattern of hemophilia in family, a female baby has a 50% chance of being a carrier.
2. Draw cord blood for CBC, INR, PTT and factor VIII assay.
3. Should there be any clinical signs of excessive bruising or bleeding, an urgent head ultrasound should be done.
4. Avoid any unnecessary instrumentation or blood draws.
5. Vitamin K may be given IM using a small gauge needle and apply pressure x 5-10 minutes post injection.
6. Contact SickKids Pediatric Hematology Fellow on-call at XXX-XXX-XXXX in the event you suspect or confirm bleeding in the neonate.

Georgina Floros  
Nurse Coordinator

Dr. Michelle Sholzberg  
Adult Hematology

Dr. Filomena Meffe  
OB/GYN

Dr. Rachel Martin  
Anesthesia

Dr. Jillian Baker  
Pediatric Hematology



# Conclusion

Routine coagulation tests  
(PT and aPTT) have a **very poor sensitivity** for  
assessing bleeding risk

**Diagnosis** of a bleeding  
disorder largely hinges on  
the bleeding history using  
a **validated BAT**

Clinical **management**  
requires an  
**understanding of disease**  
**mechanisms** and  
therapeutic properties

**Treat first! Investigate  
Later!**

Do not delay treatment in  
patients with bleeding  
disorders. **BELIEVE THEM.**

**Consult**  
**hematology/transfusion**  
**medicine** and consider  
transferring to a HTC

## Question

A young male with inherited severe hemophilia A (no inhibitor) presents to the emergency room post-motor vehicle accident complaining of a headache and neck pain. The most appropriate course of action is the following:

1. Administer recombinant factor VIIa at 90 mcg/kg IV and arrange for a CT scan of the head to rule out intracranial bleed
2. Arrange for a CT scan to rule out intracranial bleed and infuse recombinant factor VIII at 30 U/kg IV if positive
3. Infuse Recombinant factor VIII at 50 U/kg IV and arrange for a CT head thereafter to rule out intracranial bleed
4. Draw blood for factor VIII activity level and treat with factor VIII based on the result when obtained

# Helpful Materials

# Target: Outpatient Setting

## BLEEDING ASSESSMENT TOOL (BAT): HOW TO ADMINISTER AND INTERPRET

St. Michael's  
Inspired Care.  
Inspiring Science.

### BACKGROUND

- BATs are good screening tests for bleeding disorders
- The Condensed MCMDM-1\* BAT is the one used at St. Michael's hospital
- Validated for use in von Willebrand disease, platelet disorders, hemophilia carriers, and other mild bleeding disorders (sensitivity: 85-100%, NPV: 0.92-1.0)<sup>1-5</sup>

### ADMINISTRATION

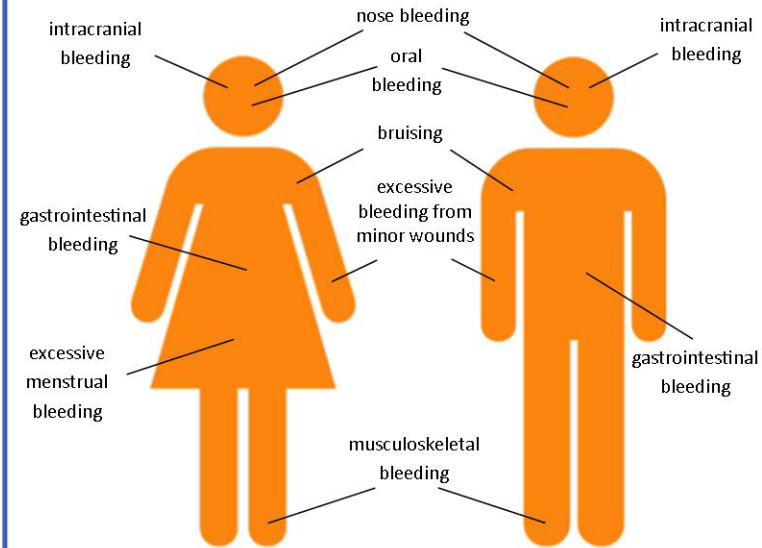
- Time to complete: 5-10 minutes
- Expert administered (MD, NP, or RN)

### INTERPRETATION

- Negative BAT score (<4 for adults, <2 for children)  
AND negative family history of bleeding  
⇒ no additional hemostatic evaluation required
- Positive BAT score (≥4 for adults, ≥2 for children)  
AND/OR positive family history of excessive bleeding  
⇒ **Hematology referral suggested**

### BLEEDING SYMPTOM CATEGORIES

#### 1. Spontaneous Bleeding



#### 2. Bleeding with Challenges

- Surgery
- Dental Extraction
- Childbirth

\*MCMDM-1 = Molecular and Clinical Markers for the Diagnosis and Management of Type 1 von Willebrand disease

1. Bowman et al. (2008) 2. Tosetto et al. (2011) 3. Azzam et al. (2012) 4. Rydz and James (2012) 5. Paroskie et al. (2015)

# Target: Acute Care Setting

## WHEN TO ORDER COAGULATION TESTS (PT/INR & aPTT)

St. Michael's  
Inspired Care.  
Inspiring Science.

PT = Prothrombin Time  
INR = International Normalized Ratio  
aPTT = Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time

- Warfarin therapy
- Liver disease
- Risk factor for vitamin K deficiency (e.g. malnutrition, fat soluble vitamin malabsorption, cholestasis, prolonged antibiotics)

**CONSIDER PT/INR**

- IV heparin monitoring
- IV argatroban monitoring
- Suspected hemophilia A/B, Factor XI deficiency, severe von Willebrand disease

**CONSIDER aPTT**

- Bleeding patient
- Suspected severe DIC
- Active trauma patient (Trauma panel)
- Patient requiring a Massive Transfusion Protocol (MTP or MTP-Trauma panel)
- Patient who will receive thrombolytic therapy

**CONSIDER BOTH PT/INR & aPTT**

### TOP 5 REASONS NOT to ORDER PT/INR or aPTT

1. As routine blood work.
2. As a routine pre-op screen in a patient without a personal/family bleeding history.
3. For monitoring of direct oral anticoagulant (DOAC) therapy (e.g. dabigatran, rivaroxaban, apixaban).
4. For monitoring of low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) therapy (e.g. dalteparin, enoxaparin, tinzaparin, fondaparinux).
5. For monitoring of thromboprophylaxis (e.g. heparin 5000 U SC BID; dalteparin 5000 U SC QD).

# Target: Inpatient Care Setting

## WHEN TO ORDER COAGULATION TESTS (PT/INR & aPTT)

St. Michael's  
Inspired Care.  
Inspiring Science.

PT = Prothrombin Time  
INR = International Normalized Ratio  
aPTT = Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time

- Warfarin Therapy
- Liver Disease
- Risk factor for vitamin K deficiency (e.g. malnutrition, fat soluble vitamin malabsorption, cholestasis, prolonged antibiotics)

**CONSIDER PT/INR**

- IV heparin monitoring
- IV argatroban monitoring
- Suspected Hemophilia A/B, Factor XI deficiency, severe von Willebrand disease

**CONSIDER aPTT**

- Bleeding patient

**CONSIDER BOTH  
PT/INR & aPTT**

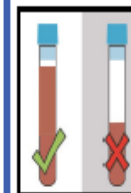
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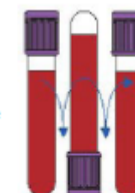
## ORDER OF DRAW

Tube Closure Color	Collection Tube	Mix by Inverting	Min. Clot Time
	Blood Cultures - SPS	8 to 10 times	N/A
	Citrate Tube (Light Blue)	3 to 4 times	N/A
	Serum Separator Tubes (Gold and Tiger)	5 times	30 minutes
	Serum Tube (Red)	5 times (plastic) None (glass)	60 minutes
	Rapid Serum Tube (Orange)	5 to 6 times	5 minutes
	Plasma Separator Tube	8 to 10 times	N/A
	Heparin Tube (Green)	8 to 10 times	N/A
	EDTA Tube (Lavender)	8 to 10 times	N/A
	PPT Separator Tube (Pearl)	8 to 10 times	N/A
	Fluoride Tube (Gray)	8 to 10 times	N/A

## BLOOD DRAW REMINDERS



1. Draw a discard tube first.
2. Fill the entire tube.
3. Invert the tube several times.
4. DO NOT draw from an IV.



# Thank you!

- "Principles of Management of Urgent Bleeding in Hemophilia" - developed by Dr. Jerry Teitel

<http://www.stmichaelshospital.com/programs/hemophilia/resources-urgent-bleeding.php>

- Illustrated Review of Bleeding Assessment Tools and Coagulation tests (Elbaz, Sholzberg)  
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/rth2.12339>

