

von Willebrand disorder – update on Treatment and Care

Prof James O'Donnell



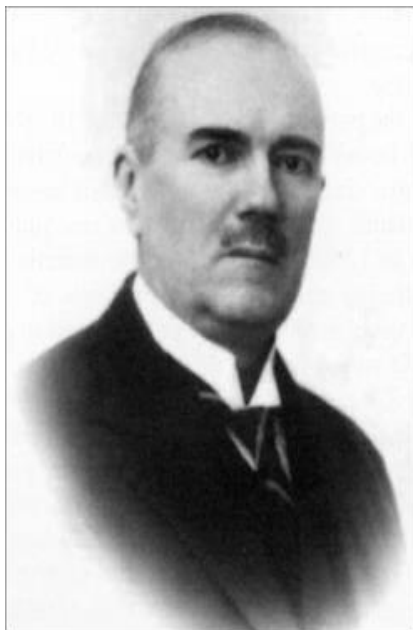
Overview

- 1. Introduction to von Willebrand disorder**
- 2. Best practise for VWD treatment and care – 2023**
- 3. Important VWD questions we need to answer**
- 4. New advances in VWD treatment – the future**
- 5. Conclusions**

Overview

- 1. Introduction to von Willebrand disorder**
2. Best practise for VWD treatment and care – 2023
3. Important VWD questions we need to answer
4. New advances in VWD treatment – the future
5. Conclusions

Dr Erik von Willebrand



FINSKA LÄKARESÄLLSKAPETS
HANDLINGAR

BEFODRADE AV
PROF. RICHARD SEIERS
BAND LXVIII

1926 FEBRUARI 1926

INNEHÅLL:

Originalartiklar.

E. A. v. Willebrand, Hereditär pseudohefili. (Öfver Diskontinuitets-
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FINL. SÄM. SÄM.

HESSENORDETS 1926
HARGATORY TRYCKERI ARTIELIOLAD

FINSKA LÄKARESÄLLSKAPETS HÅNDLINGAR. BAND LXVIII. N:o 2.

ORIGINALARTIKLAR.

(Öfver Diskontinuitetsbränna i Heltögfors medicinska redning.
Docent E. A. v. WILLEBRAND.)

Hereditär pseudohefili.

Av
E. A. v. Willebrand.
(Med 2 figurer i texten.)

o. Sjukdomsbegrepp. Tidigare observerade fall.

I sitt nya stora arbete öfver de hemorragiska diateserna fram-
håller E. FRANK (Breslau), att den klassiska hemofilien är en
så kallad hereditär—familjär anomali, att det kan ifråga-
sättas, huruvida öfver huvud sporadiska fall av sjukdomen
existera. Däremot är, säger han, den klassiska trombopenien
så utpräglat sporadisk, att man kan diskutera, om en familjär
form av densamma alls förekommer. Med trombopeni äro
här den sjukdom, som sålunda genomtalt här namnet morbus macu-
lans WALKHOUT eller purpura hæmorrhagica och som på senaste
tid av FRANK och en del andra forskare betecknats såsom
essentiell trombopeni.

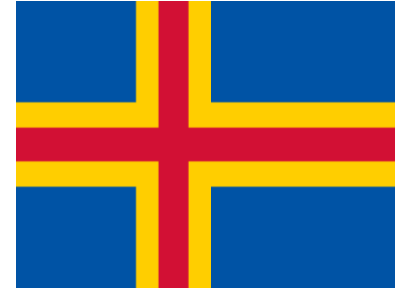
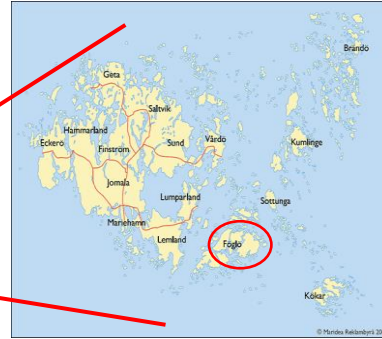
Hittills har man velat betrakta åfärlig blodarejukdom och
hemofili såsom synonyma begrepp. Men om man genomgår
hithörande litteratur, skall man finna, om och i ett fåtal fall,
beskrifningar öfver en familjär form av hemorragisk diates,
som redan därigenom skiljer sig från äkta hemofili att den äro
förekommer bland kvinnor och, såsom det tyckes, t. o. m. oftare
än bland män. Men även i andra utseenden kan man draga
en skarp grans mellan ifrågakommande familjära lifande
hemofilien. Thron mera länge fram i kap. 6 om diagnosen.

(Fortsättningen på sidan 100.)

Erik Adolf von Willebrand (1870-1949)

- 13 year old girl – fatal bleeding with 4th period
- Family with significant bleeding from Åland islands

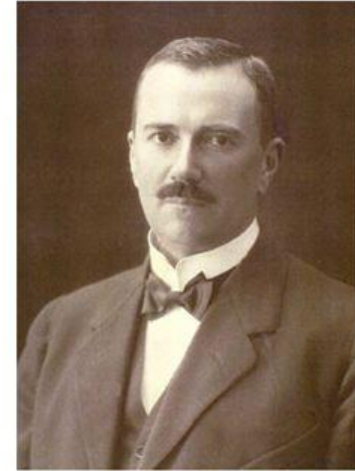
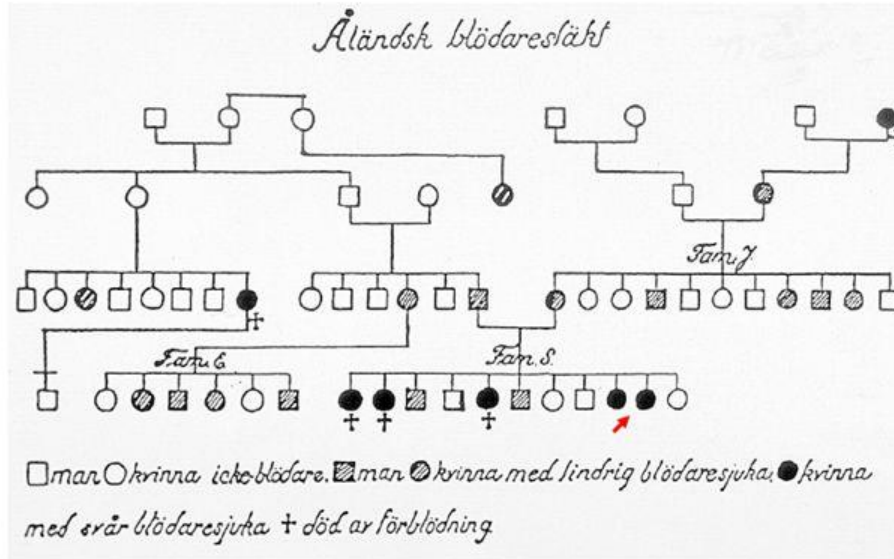
von Willebrand factor



Åland archipelago consists of ~300 islands

- Autonomous region of Finland
- Language – Swedish
- Population 28,000

Von Willebrand disease

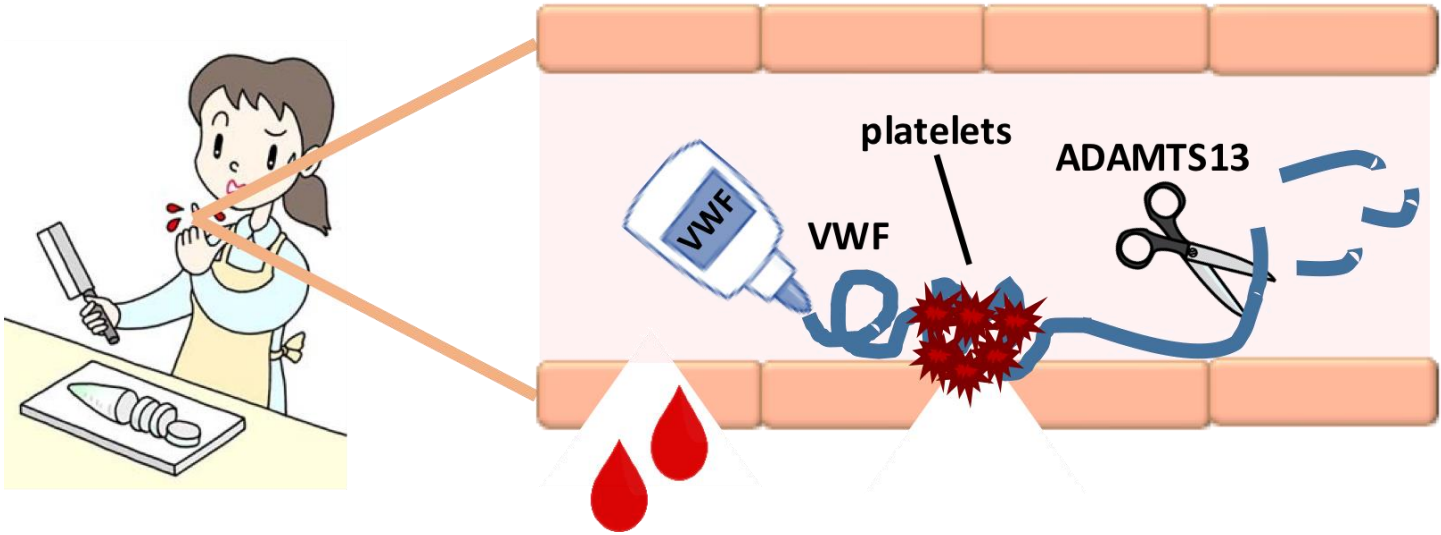


E. A. von Willebrand, *Finska Läkaresällskapets Handlingar* 1926; **68**: 7-112

. TROSSAERT, DIU Lyon 2012

- **Interesting things - unlike haemophilia**
 - Both males and females affected
 - Heavy periods & nose bleeds rather than joint bleeding

What is von Willebrand factor ?



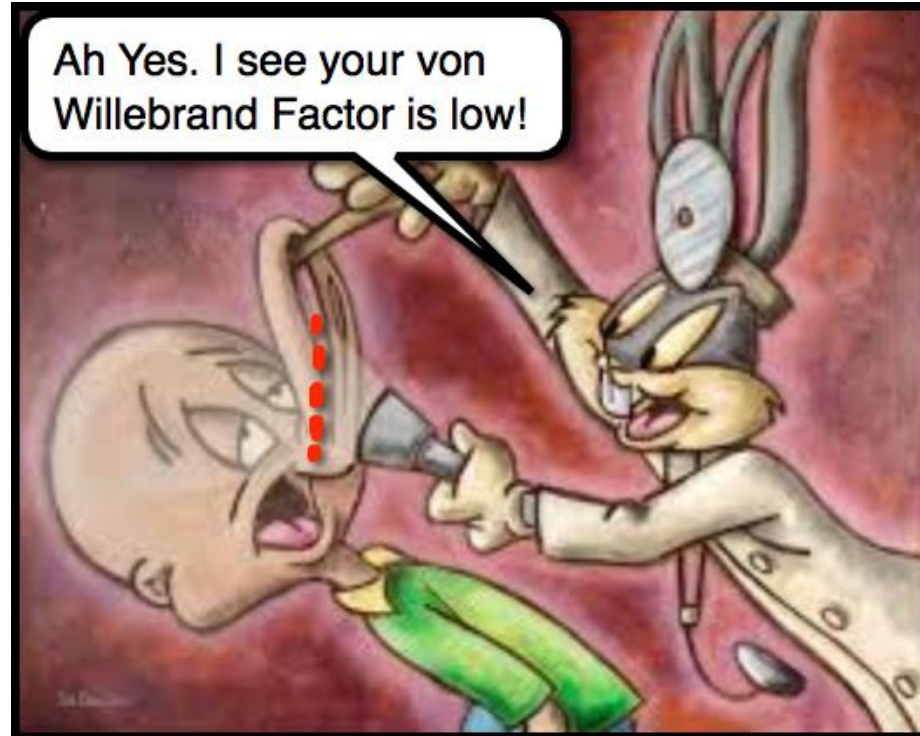
von Willebrand Disorder

Definition:

A defect in VWF that causes a bleeding tendency

- a reduced amount of VWF in the blood;
- a VWF protein that does not work properly in clotting

Patients with VWD are at increased risk for bleeding



Why is VWD important ?

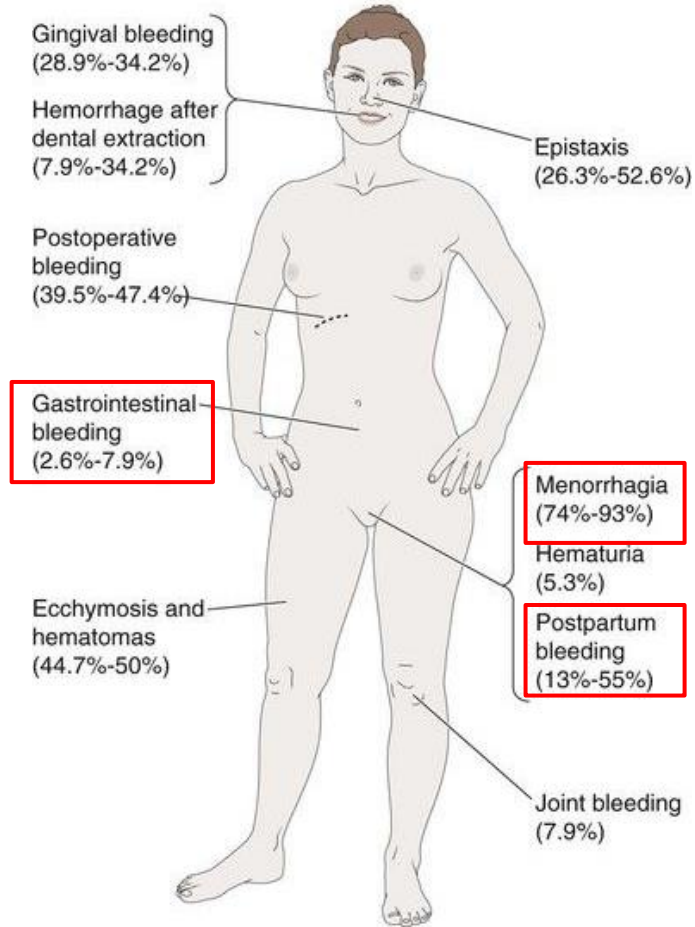
Commonest inherited bleeding disorder

- 1 in 1000 people have low VWF levels and significant bleeding
- **Males & females equal chance of inheriting**
- **All races affected**

Bleeding in VWD

- **Characterised by muco-cutaneous bleeding**
 - Nose bleeds / gum bleeding
 - Easy bruising
 - Menorrhagia
 - Bleeding after trauma / dental / surgery
- **Rare patients with type 3 VWD**
 - Joint & muscle bleeds

Bleeding in VWD



bleeding Disorders

aren't just for boys.



[girls **bleed** too]

I went 26 years without knowing
I had a **bleeding disorder.**



- Woman with von Willebrand Disease

In spite of its importance – VWD isn't well known !



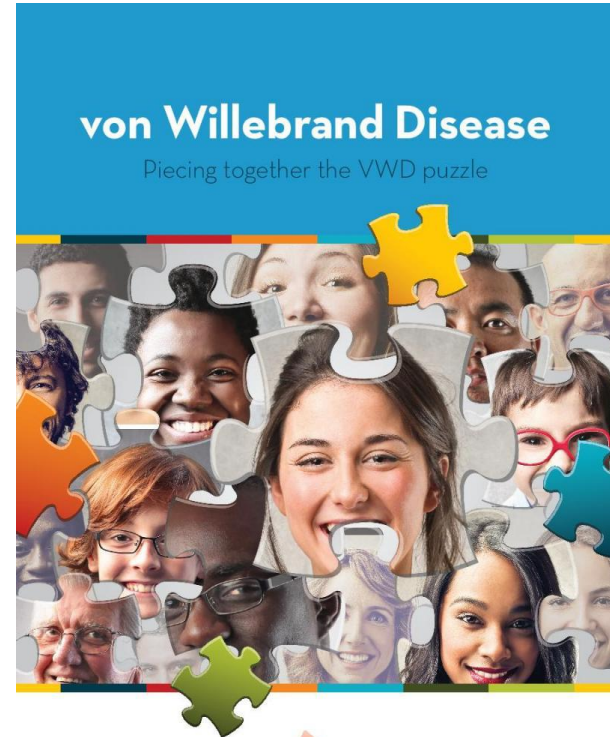
1-2% of people live with
von Willebrand Disease (vWd) in the US

A person with vWD...

- Affects males and females equally
- Can't form a platelet plug
- Is *not* contagious
- Has treatment, but no cure



www.hemophiliafed.org



NATIONAL HEMOPHILIA FOUNDATION

for all bleeding disorders

Diagnosis of VWD can be difficult

Plasma VWF levels vary widely in normal population –

Influenced by variety of factors

- Age
- Ethnicity
- Stress
- Exercise
- Infection
- Inflammation
- Malignancy
- Pregnancy

ABO blood group influences VWF levels

ABO type	VWF levels
O	74 %
A	106 %
B	117 %
AB	123 %

VWD classification overview

VWD sub-classified as either quantitative or qualitative

Quantitative VWD accounts for $\approx 75\%$ cases

- Proportionate VWF protein and function



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Leading the world
to better health

Quantitative VWD sub-classification

- Normal plasma VWF:Ag levels 50 – 150 IU/dL

Quantitative VWD	
1. Type 1 VWD	More significant reduction in plasma VWF:Ag levels (< 50 IU/dL)
2. Type 3 VWD	Virtually complete deficiency of VWF (<3 IU/dL)

VWD Classification 2019

Qualitative VWD accounts for $\approx 25\%$ cases

- Characterized by production of a dysfunctional VWF molecule
 - Disproportionate reduction in VWF function compared to protein



Qualitative VWD sub-classification

- Subdivided on the basis of specific phenotypic characteristics

Qualitative VWD	
Type 2A	Qualitative VWF variants with reduced platelet adhesion and loss of HMW multimers
Type 2M	Qualitative VWF variants with reduced platelet adhesion not caused by loss of HMW multimers
Type 2B	Qualitative VWF variants with increased affinity for platelet GpIb α
Type 2N	Qualitative VWF variants with decreased affinity for FVIII

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VWD studies in recent years

VWD studies

- EU MCMDM-1VWD
- UK-HCDO
- Canada
- Italy
- USA - Zimmerman program
- Willebrand in the Netherlands (WiN) study
- **Ireland - LoVIC study**

VWD papers

- **PubMed search on 'VWD' \approx 14,000 papers**



RCSI

UNIVERSITY
OF MEDICINE
AND HEALTH
SCIENCES

Low VWF Irish Cohort (LoVIC) study

CONSILIO





1784

MANUQUE








LOW VON WILLEBRAND IN IRELAND COHORT (LOVIC) STUDY

DID YOU KNOW?



-  Van Willebrand Factor is an essential blood clotting protein that helps stop bleeding following injury
-  The LOVIC study is the first study worldwide which solely focuses on people with Low Von Willebrand Factor (LWF) levels
-  Up to 1/1000 people worldwide may have reduced Von Willebrand Factor levels
-  Today in Ireland only 1/10,000 people have been identified with Low VWF which suggests that many more people may not yet be diagnosed

WHAT DID WE FIND OUT?

People with Low VWF appear to make less Von Willebrand Factor which increases their risk of bleeding

-  8/10 women in the study have heavy periods
-  In 40% of patients we identified a change in their Von Willebrand Factor gene
-  Over 70% of people enrolled in this study had an increased bleeding tendency
-  5/10 participants gum bleeding or bleeding after teeth being pulled
-  3/10 participants describe bleeding with surgery, childbirth, easy bruising if scratched

WHO GOT INVOLVED?

-  Over 150 adults in Ireland have been involved in this study
-  Almost 90% were female and have blood group O

What happens to your Von Willebrand Factor levels as you get older?

We have found that Von Willebrand Factor levels increase as you age and may even normalise






However it is not clear whether this stops the bleeding tendency

How can we prevent bleeding during operations and procedures?





We have shown that the medication "Desmopressin" (DDAVP), given via drip, boosts Von Willebrand Factor levels

This medication works very well for people with Low VWF to prevent bleeding at time of surgery

What is next?

-  The study continues to enrol new patients and investigate further the causes of Low VWF
-  The aim is to develop new and better treatments for our patients
-  In 2018 we are excited to commence the children's Low VWF project - LOVIC-kids through our paediatric service in Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin
-  This study will be the first of its kind
-  The outcome of the children's study will improve the understanding of the Low VWF for future generations to come.

HOW WILL THIS STUDY HELP OTHER PEOPLE WITH LOW VWF?

-  The results of this study are being presented to help educate other doctors about Low VWF
-  We have already presented results from this study at medical educational conferences in Ireland, Europe and the USA
-  We plan to present to patients at upcoming Irish Haemophilia Society meetings
-  This study has also recently been published in the top ranking haematology journal *Blood*, helping reach a wider audience globally

Thank you to all the patients and staff involved



Low Von Willebrand in Ireland Cohort study

June 2015

Prospective longitudinal cohort study

> 250 patients with mild to moderate reductions in plasma VWF levels

Regular Article



THROMBOSIS AND HEMOSTASIS

Novel insights into the clinical phenotype and pathophysiology underlying low VWF levels

Michelle Lavin,^{1,2,*} Sonia Aguila,^{2,*} Sonja Schneppenheim,³ Niall Dalton,² Kenneth L. Jones,⁴ Jamie M. O'Sullivan,² Niamh M. O'Connell,¹ Kevin Ryan,¹ Barry White,¹ Mary Byrne,¹ Marie Rafferty,¹ Mairead M. Doyle,¹ Margaret Nolan,¹ Roger J. S. Preston,⁵ Ulrich Budde,³ Paula James,⁶ Jorge Di Paola,⁴ and James S. O'Donnell^{1,2}

REGULAR ARTICLE



Significant gynecological bleeding in women with low von Willebrand factor levels

ORIGINAL ARTICLE



Management of elective procedures in low von Willebrand factor patients in the LoVIC study

Dearbhla Doherty^{1,2} | Michelle Lavin^{1,2}  | Jamie M. O'Sullivan²  | Kevin Ryan¹ | Niamh M. O'Connell¹ | Alison Dougal^{1,3} | Mary Byrne¹ | Marie Rafferty¹ | Mairead M. Doyle¹ | Jorge Di Paola⁴ | Paula D. James⁵ | James S. O'Donnell^{1,2,6} 

Regular Article

THROMBOSIS AND HEMOSTASIS

Increased galactose expression and enhanced clearance in patients with low von Willebrand factor

Sonia Aguila,^{1,*} Michelle Lavin,^{1,2,*} Niall Dalton,¹ Sean Patmore,¹ Alain Chion,¹ George D. Trahan,³ Kenneth L. Jones,³ Catriona Keenan,² Teresa M. Brophy,² Niamh M. O'Connell,² Kevin Ryan,² Mary Byrne,² Margaret Nolan,² Anjali Patel,^{1,2} Roger J. S. Preston,¹ Paula James,⁴ Jorge Di Paola,² Jamie M. O'Sullivan,² and James S. O'Donnell²

STIMULUS REPORT



Enhanced VWF clearance in low VWF pathogenesis: limitations of the VWFpp/VWF:Ag ratio and clinical significance

Dearbhla Doherty,^{1,2} Michelle Lavin,^{1,2} Mary Byrne,¹ Margaret Nolan,¹ Jamie M. O'Sullivan,² Kevin Ryan,¹ Niamh M. O'Connell,¹ Sandra L. Haberichter,³⁻⁵ Pamela A. Christopherson,³ Jorge Di Paola,⁶ Paula D. James,⁷ and James S. O'Donnell,^{1,2,8} on behalf of the Zimmerman Program Investigators

How I Treat

How I treat low von Willebrand factor levels

Michelle Lavin and James S. O'Donnell

Zimmerman Program on von Willebrand disease biology



National Heart, Lung,
and Blood Institute

Project Program Grant (PPG) award

Total funding: \$12,000,000

Principal Investigators

Prof. Bob Montgomery – Blood Center Wisconsin, USA

Prof. David Lillicrap – Queens University, Kingston, Canada

Prof. James O'Donnell - RCSI



Expert guidelines on VWD

US NHLBI 2008

GUIDELINES

von Willebrand disease (VWD): evidence-based diagnosis and management guidelines, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Expert Panel report (USA)¹

W. L. NICHOLS,* M. B. HULTIN,† A. H. JAMES,‡ M. J. MANCO-JOHNSON,§
R. R. MONTGOMERY,¶ T. L. ORTEL,** M. E. RICK,†† J. E. SADLER,‡‡ M. WEINSTEIN§§
and B. P. YAWN¶¶

EUVWD 2013

Principles of care for the diagnosis and treatment of von Willebrand disease

Giancarlo Castaman,¹ Anne Goodeve,² and Jeroen Eikenboom,³ on behalf of the European Group on von Willebrand disease (EUVWD)

¹Department of Cell Therapy and Hematology, San Bortolo Hospital, Vicenza, Italy; ²Haemostasis Research Group, Department of Cardiovascular Science, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom; ³Department of Thrombosis and Hemostasis, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands

UKHCDO 2014

The diagnosis and management of von Willebrand disease: a United Kingdom Haemophilia Centre Doctors Organization guideline approved by the British Committee for Standards in Haematology

Mike A. Laffan,¹ Will Lester,² James S. O'Donnell,³ Andrew Will,⁴ Robert Campbell Tait,⁵ Anne Goodeve,⁶ Carolyn M. Millar¹ and David M. Keeling⁷

Joint initiative to update VWD guidelines




WORLD FEDERATION OF HEMOPHILIA
FÉDÉRATION MONDIALE DE L'HÉMOFILIE
FEDERACIÓN MUNDIAL DE HEMOFILIA




- Clinicians / scientists interested in VWD assembled into 2 panels
- Strong patient input into both panels

An international survey to inform priorities for new guidelines on von Willebrand disease

Mohamad A. Kalot¹  | Mohammed Al-Khatib¹ | Nathan T. Connell² | Veronica Flood³ | Romina Brignardello-Petersen⁴ | Paula James⁵ | Reem A. Mustafa^{1,4} | For the VWD working group

Survey to identify topics of highest importance to stakeholders

- 601 responses 
- 49% patients / caregivers
- 51% healthcare providers



VWD guidelines methodology

Highest priority topics identified were:

- Diagnostic criteria / classification
- Bleeding assessment tools
- Treatment options for women and surgical patients

Based on survey responses - developed a series of PICO questions

- 10 questions addressed by Diagnosis panel
- 12 questions addressed by Management panel

Systematic review of evidence

- strict methodology led by University of Kansas

ASH ISTH NHF WFH 2021 guidelines on the diagnosis of von Willebrand disease

Paula D. James,¹ Nathan T. Connell,² Barbara Ameer,^{3,4} Jorge Di Paola,⁵ Jeroen Eikenboom,⁶ Nicolas Giraud,⁷ Sandra Haberichter,⁸ Vicki Jacobs-Pratt,⁹ Barbara Konkle,^{10,11} Claire McLintock,¹² Simon McRae,¹³ Robert R. Montgomery,¹⁴ James S. O'Donnell,¹⁵ Nikole Scappe,¹⁶ Robert Sidonio Jr,¹⁷ Veronica H. Flood,^{14,18} Nedaa Husainat,¹⁹ Mohamad A. Kalot,¹⁹ and Reem A. Mustafa¹⁹

ASH ISTH NHF WFH 2021 guidelines on the management of von Willebrand disease

Nathan T. Connell,^{1,*} Veronica H. Flood,^{2,*} Romina Brignardello-Petersen,³ Rezan Abdul-Kadir,⁴ Alice Arapshian,⁵ Susie Couper,⁶ Jean M. Grow,⁷ Peter Kouides,⁸ Michael Laffan,⁹ Michelle Lavin,¹⁰ Frank W. G. Leebeek,¹¹ Sarah H. O'Brien,¹² Margareth C. Ozelo,¹³ Alberto Tosetto,¹⁴ Angela C. Weyand,¹⁵ Paula D. James,¹⁶ Mohamad A. Kalot,¹⁷ Nedaa Husainat,¹⁷ and Reem A. Mustafa¹⁷



ASH ISTH NHF WFH 2021 guidelines on the diagnosis of VWD

Rec 1 - Panel recommend use of BAT in primary care.

Rec 2 - Panel suggest no need for BAT in patients referred to specialist centre.

Rec 3 - Panel suggest no need for BAT in patients with a family history.

Rec 4 - Panel suggest newer VWF activity assays (VWF:Gp1bM / R) over VWF:RCo.

Rec 5 - Panel suggest reconsidering diagnosis where VWF levels normalize with age.

Rec 6 - Panel recommend type 1 VWD diagnosis of VWF < 30 or VWF 30-50 IU/dl with bleeding.

Rec 7- Panel suggest desmopressin trial with 1 and 4 hour tests rather than VWFpp/VWF:Ag ratio.

Rec 8 - Panel suggest VWF:Ac/VWF:Ag ratio cut off of 0.7 for type 2 VWD subtyping.

Rec 9 - Panel suggest either multimer analysis or VWF:CB/VWF:Ag for type 2 VWD.

Rec 10 - Panel suggest genetic testing over low dose RIPA for type 2B VWD.

Rec 11 - Panel suggest wither VWF:FVIIIIB or genetic testing for type 2N VWD.

ASH ISTH NHF WFH 2021 guidelines on the management of VWD

Rec 1 - Panel suggest use of long term prophylaxis for patients with severe frequent bleeds.

Rec 2 - Panel suggest performing a desmopressin trial in VWD patients.

Rec 3 - Panel suggest antiplatelet or anticoagulant therapy for VWD with CVD.

Rec 4 - Panel suggest target FVIII & VWF:Ac > 50 IU/dL for min 3 days after major surgery.

Rec 5 - Panel suggest desmopressin or concentrate and TA for minor surgery.

Rec 6 - Panel suggest OCP / Mirena coil / TA over desmopressin for HMB.

Rec 7- Panel suggest target VWF:Ac 50-150 IU/dL for neuraxial anesthesia.

Rec 8 - Panel suggest postpartum TA in type 1 VWD.

State of the Art for VWD in 2023 ...

ASH ISTH NHF WFH 2021 guidelines

- Exemplar model of how guidelines should be produced

Two new guidelines based on > 13,000 peer-reviewed publications



ASH ISTH NHF WFH 2021 guidelines on the diagnosis of VWD

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Interpretation of strong and conditional recommendations

	Strong recommendation <i>'The panel recommends...'</i>	Conditional recommendation <i>'The panel suggests...'</i>
For patients	Most individuals want the intervention	A majority of individuals would want the intervention but many would not.
For clinicians	Most individuals should follow the recommended course of action	Different choices will be appropriate for individual patients depending on values and preferences. Need for shared decision making.



Guidelines serve to highlight the critical need for further research in the VWD field

	Strong recommendation <i>'The panel recommends...'</i>	Conditional recommendation <i>'The panel suggests...'</i>
For researchers	The recommendation is supported by credible research that make additional research unlikely to alter the recommendation.	The recommendation is likely to be strengthened by additional research - Helps to identify possible research gaps.

What are the key gaps in VWD understanding ?

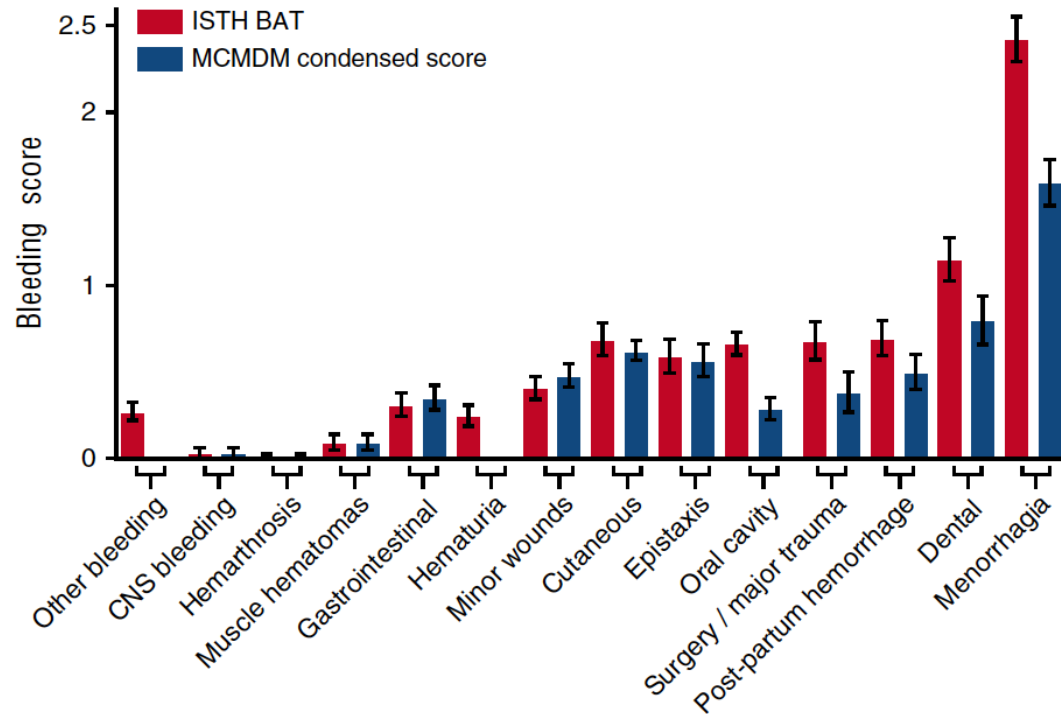
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4. New advances in VWD treatment – the future
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1. Why is heavy menstrual bleeding & post-partum hemorrhage such a problem in VWD ?



HMB and PPH in Irish women with mild to moderate reductions in VWF levels



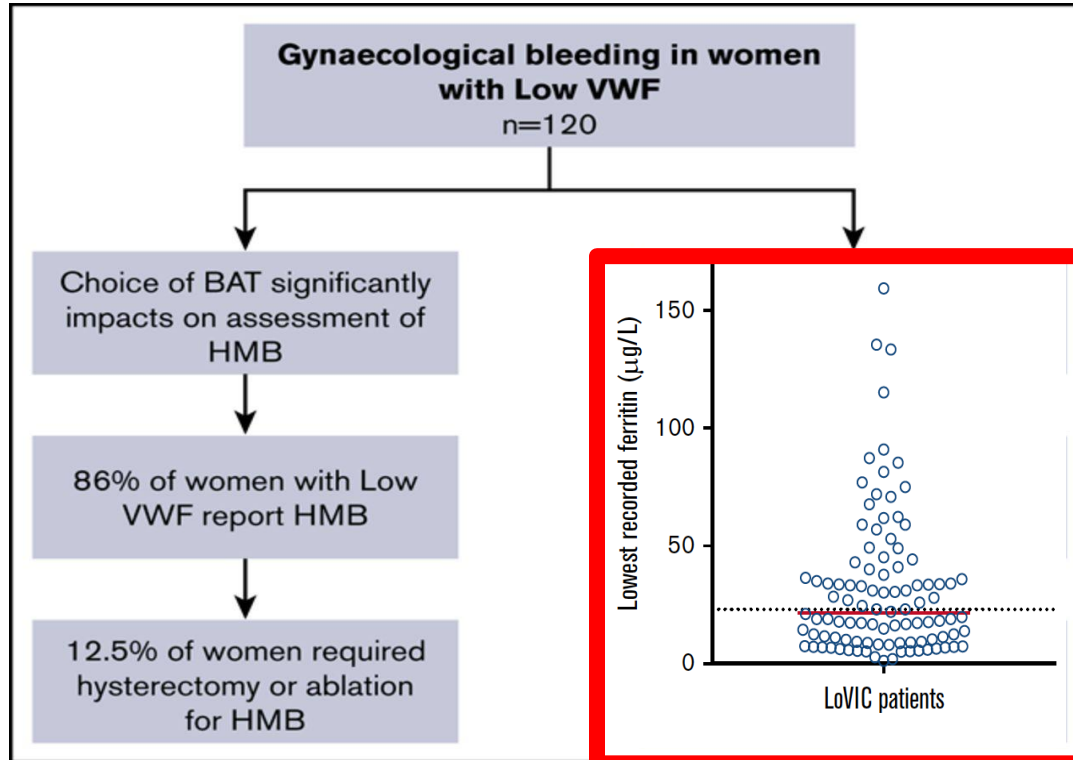
HMB in women with Low VWF – clinical significance

Of the LoVIC patients with menorrhagia

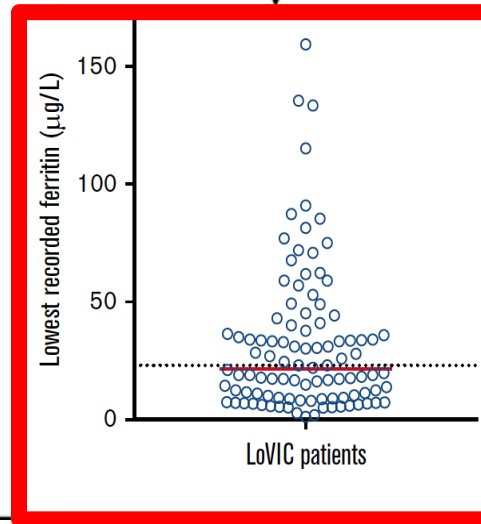
- 67% had been treated with hormonal therapy
- 36% had required treatment with iron

- 24% with significant menorrhagia underwent Dilation and Curettage (D&C)
- 8% had undergone a hysterectomy for menorrhagia

Menstrual bleeding in VWD is of clinical significance



Objective evidence



- Even after diagnosis and registration in Coagulation centre
- 46% LoVIC females had reduced ferritin
- 22% LoVIC females had iron deficiency anemia

HMB in Low VWF is of clinical significance

- 111 post-menarchal adolescent females – all aged < 21 years
- Low VWF levels 30-50 IU/dL

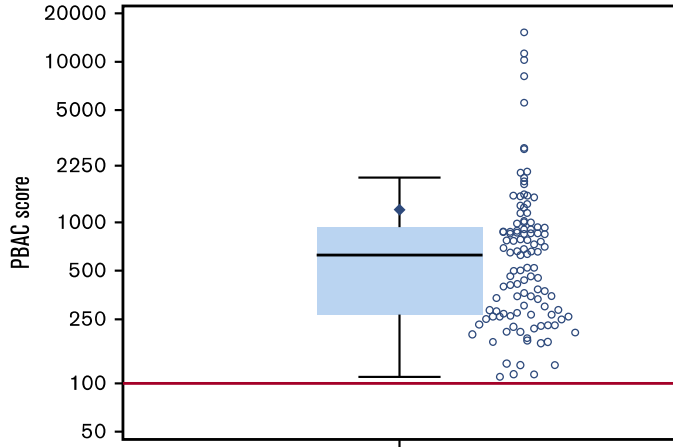
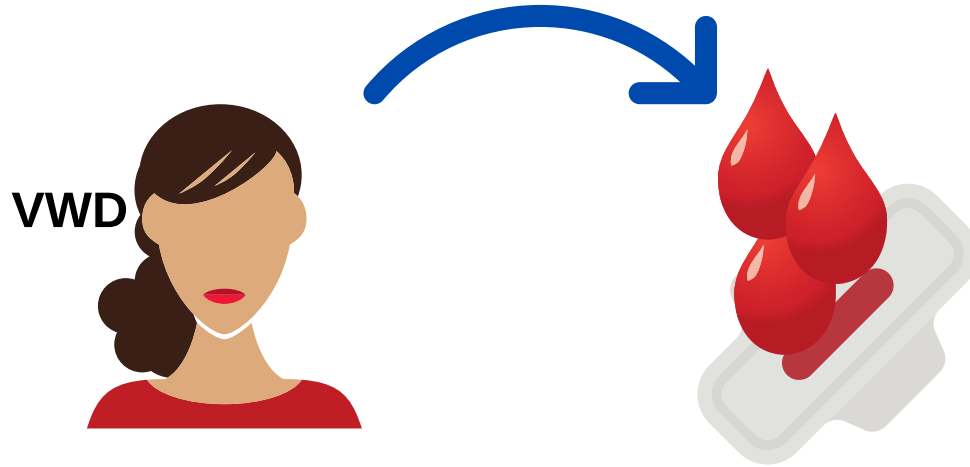


Table 2. Bleeding complications in adolescents with low VWF-associated HMB

Bleeding complication	n/N (%)
Iron deficiency (ferritin <20 ng/mL)	62/108 (60)
Anemia (hemoglobin <12 g/dL)	23/110 (21)
Red blood cell transfusion	13/108 (12)
Hospitalization for HMB	11/109 (10)

HMB is common in women with VWD



Up to 80% of women with VWD experience HMB^{1,2,3}

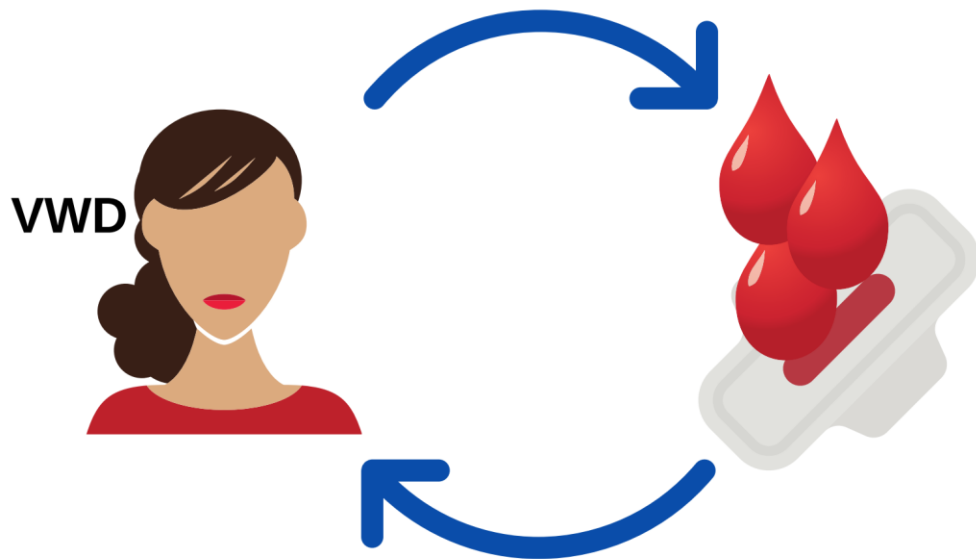
~50% have depleted iron stores and iron-deficiency anemia¹

1. Ragni Am Soc Hematol Educ Program 2019

2. Lavin et al, *Blood Advances* 2018

3. Byams et al, *Haemophilia* 2011

VWD is common in women with HMB



Adult HMB clinics
= 13% VWD¹

Adolescents
= 18² – 35%³

? hemostatic screening

1. Shankar et al. *Br J Obstet Gynaecol*. 2004
2. O'Brien et al, *J Pediatr Adolesc Gynecol*, 2019
3. Mikhail et al *Haemophilia* 2007

HMB – Socio-economic burden

USA alone

- 3 million GP visits per annum
- 1.8 million prescriptions per annum
- 125,000 hysterectomies per annum
- 35,000 EA procedures per annum (2000)
- **TOTAL direct costs > \$1 billion pa (conservative !)**

HMB – Socio-economic burden

USA alone

- 3 million GP visits per annum
- 1.8 million prescriptions per annum
- 125,000 hysterectomies per annum
- TOTAL direct costs > \$1 billion pa (conservative !)

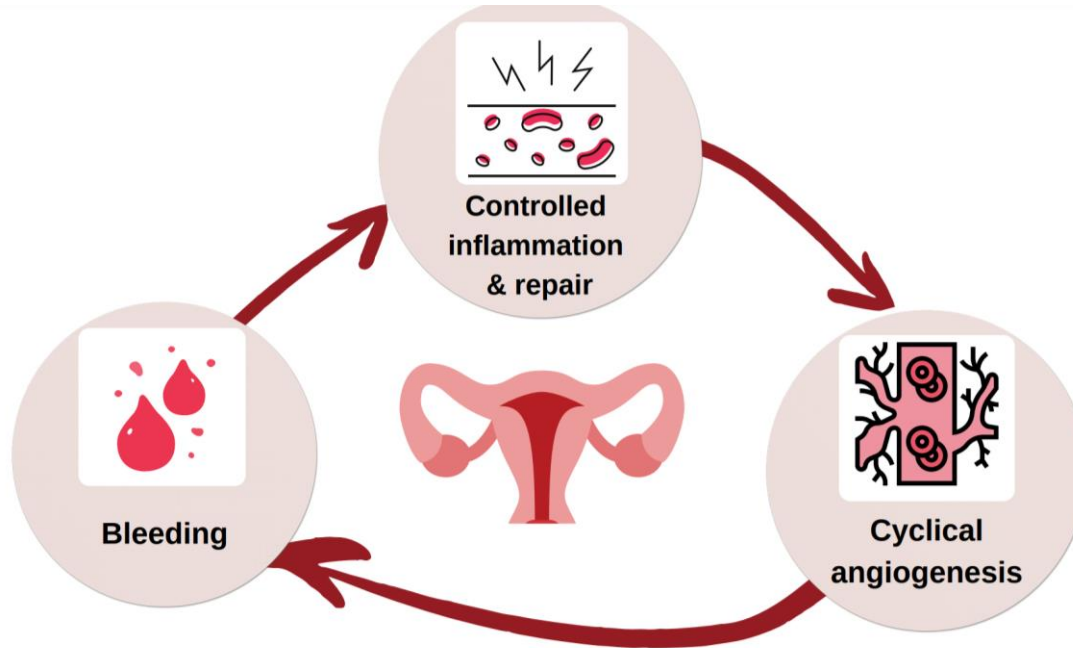
Indirect costs

- HMB associated with 3.6 weeks fewer work per year
- Cost \$1692 pa (2005)
- Lower estimate of prevalence (10%) = 7.2 million women with HMB in USA
> \$12 billion per year
- Higher estimate of prevalence (30%) = 21.6 million women with HMB in USA
> \$36 billion per year

HMB is more common in women with VWD compared to other bleeding disorders

Bleeding disorder	VWD	Carriers < 40 IU/dL	Carriers > 40 IU/dL	Platelet function defect	Other bleeding disorder
Reported HMB	70%	51%	41%	57%	54%

Heavy menstrual bleeding



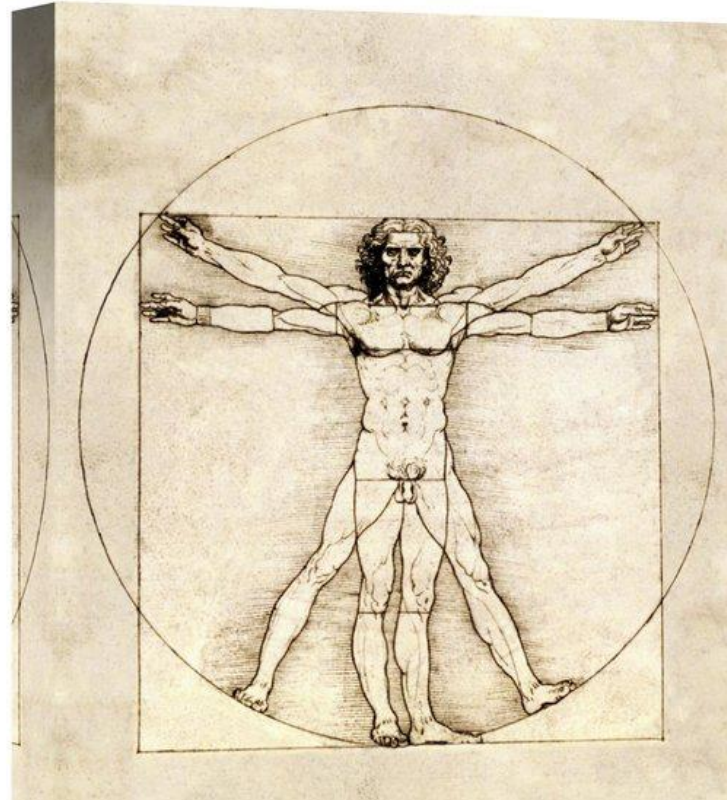
New biological roles for VWF beyond hemostasis

INFLAMMATION

ANGIOGENESIS

WOUND HEALING

Cell proliferation

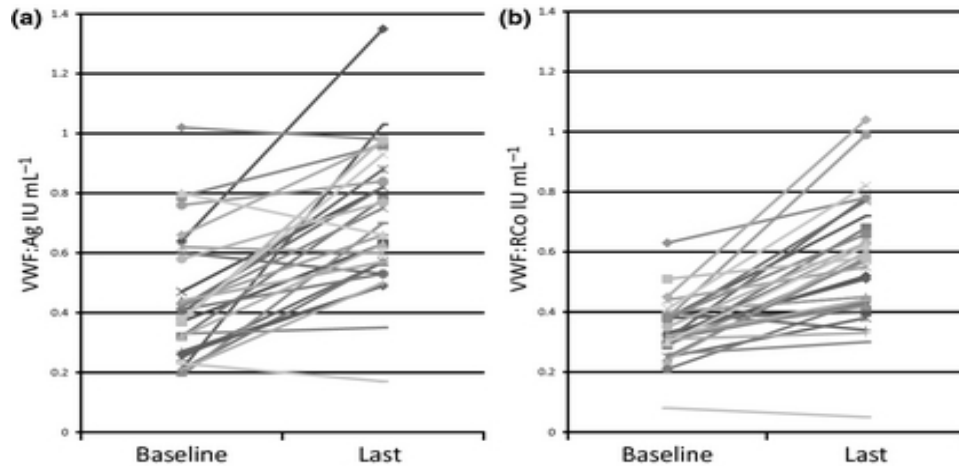


2. What happens as persons with VWD get older ?



Age influences plasma VWF levels

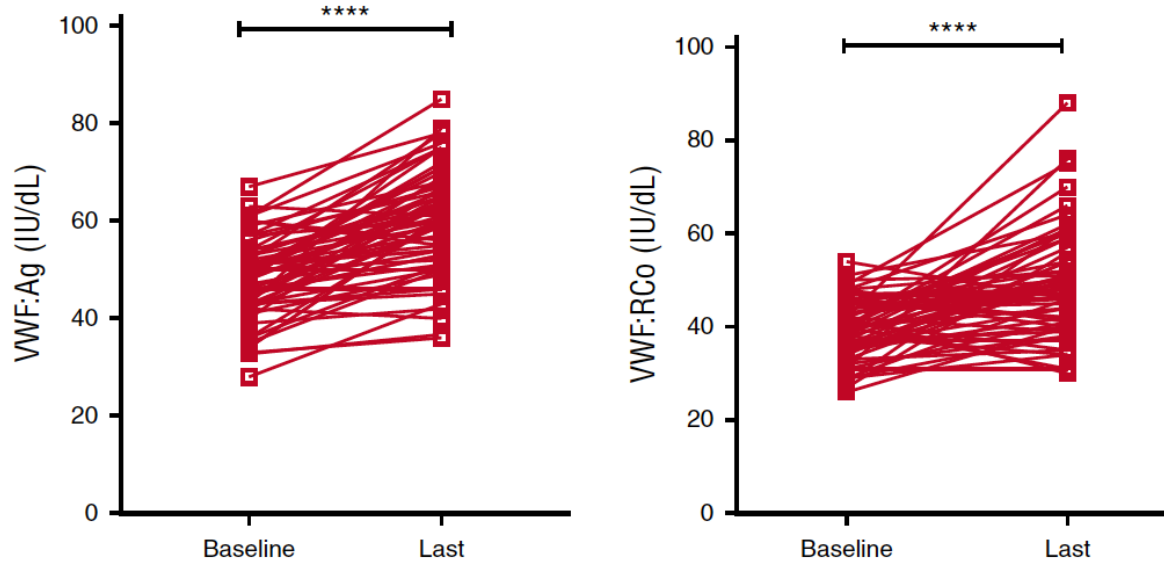
- Plasma VWF levels increase in normal population with age (> 10IU/dL per decade)



Plasma VWF levels increase with age in some patients with VWD

- 31 VWD– followed for > 5 years (mean 11 years)
- 18/31 patients had VWF levels increased into normal range
- No age-related increase in type 2 VWD (Sanders *et al*, JTH 2014)

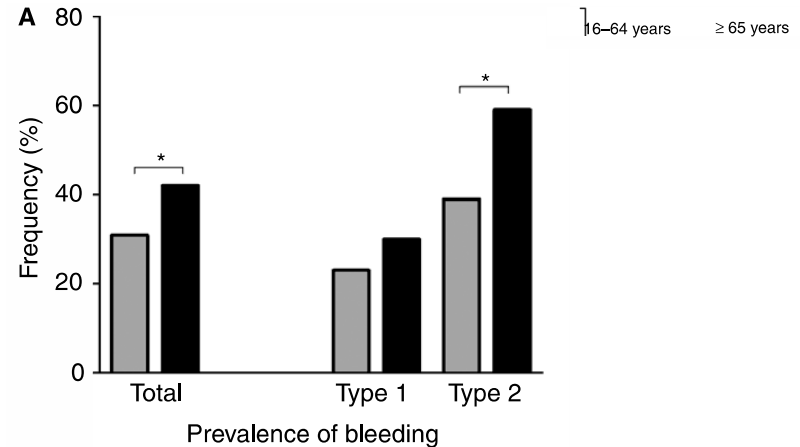
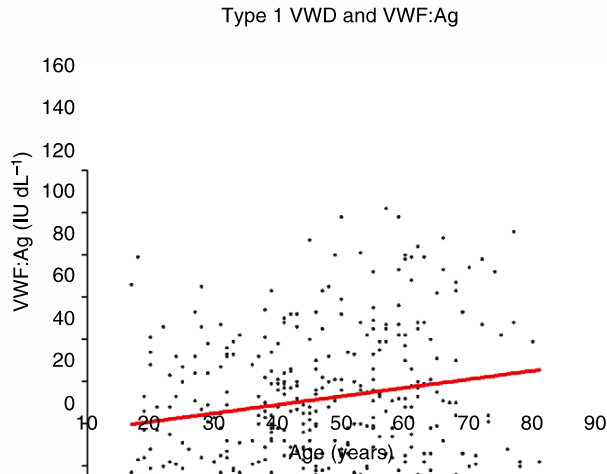
Plasma VWF levels increase into the normal range with ageing in some Low VWF patients



- 64 VWD patients with Low VWF – followed for > 5 years (mean 8.5 years)
- 29 patients corrected to within the normal VWF levels

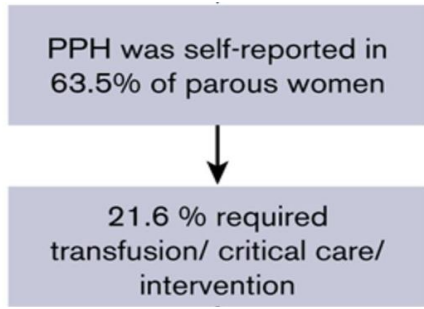
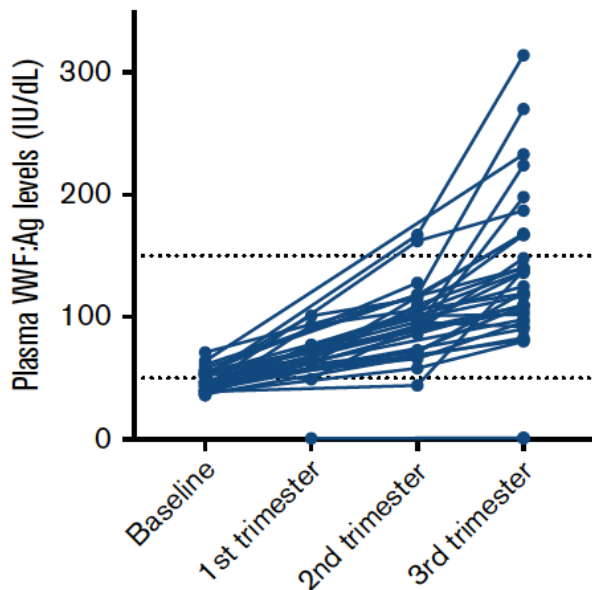
Bleeding phenotype is not necessarily corrected in VWD patients despite age-related 'normalization' in VWF levels

- WiN study – patient reported bleeding episodes in the year preceding inclusion and during life



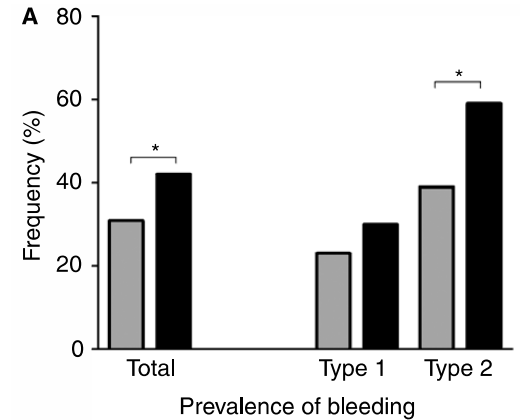
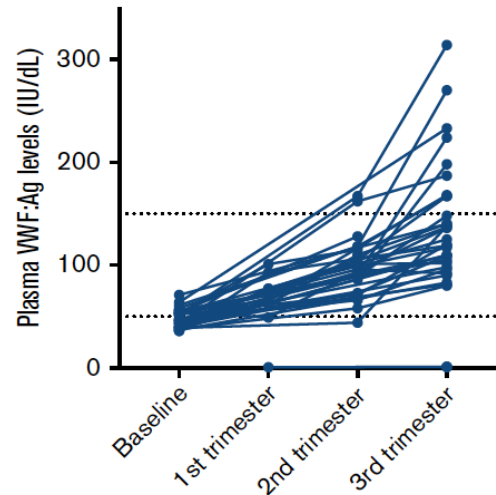
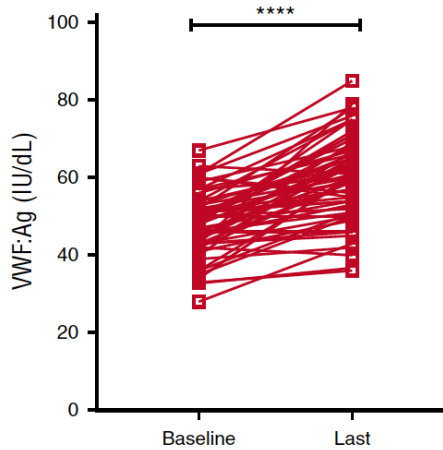
- Not necessarily associated with a correction in bleeding

Plasma VWF:Ag levels increase into 'normal' range during pregnancy in majority of LoVIC patients



- Not necessarily associated with a correction in bleeding phenotype

Management of bleeding and hemostatic challenges following '*normalization*' of VWF levels ?



- How to define optimal therapeutic targets ?
- May differ for individual patients ?

Overview

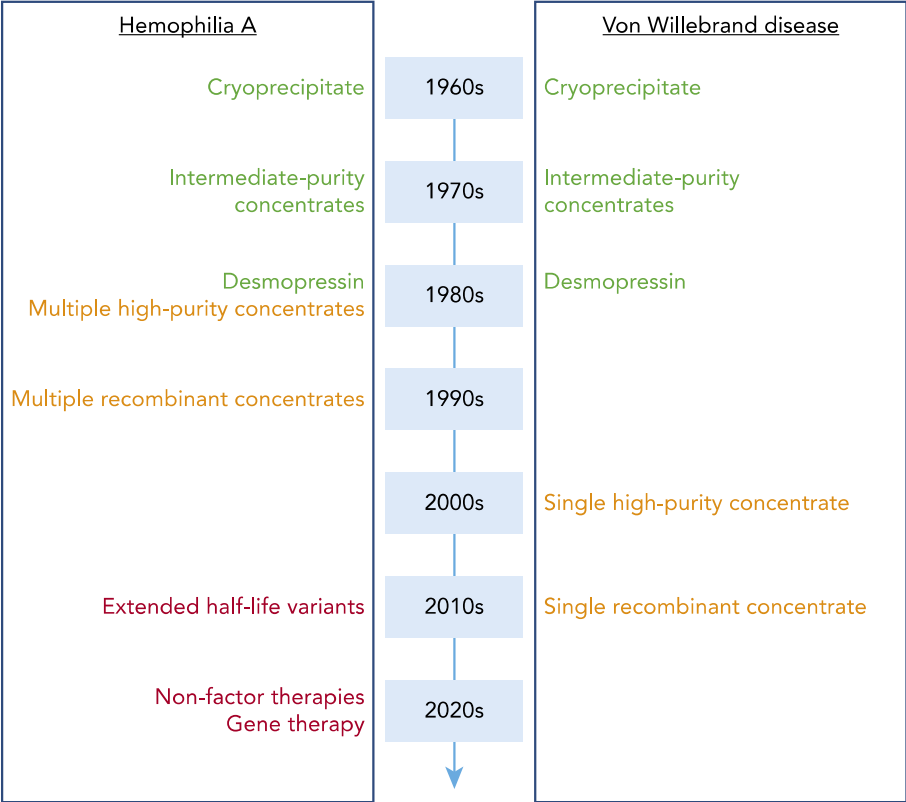
1. Introduction to von Willebrand disorder
2. Best practise for VWD treatment and care – 2023
3. Important VWD questions we need to answer
- 4. New advances in VWD treatment – the future**
5. Conclusions

Treatment of patients with VWD

Options

1. Antifibrinolytics
 - Tranexamic acid / Aminocaproic acid
2. Desmopressin / DDAVP
3. Plasma-derived VWF containing concentrates
4. Platelet transfusion
5. Adjunctive therapies
 - Oral contraceptive / Intrauterine contraceptive
6. Recombinant VWF
 - VONVENDI® or VEYVONDI® – Takeda

Treatment for VWD has lagged behind advances in the hemophilia field





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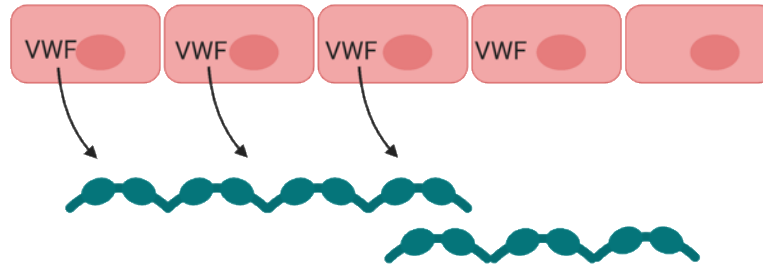
Developing better therapies for treating VWD

CONSILIO

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MANUQUE

VWF lifecycle in normal individuals

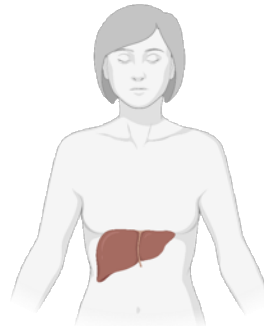


Endothelial cells line the blood vessel wall

VWF is then secreted into the blood

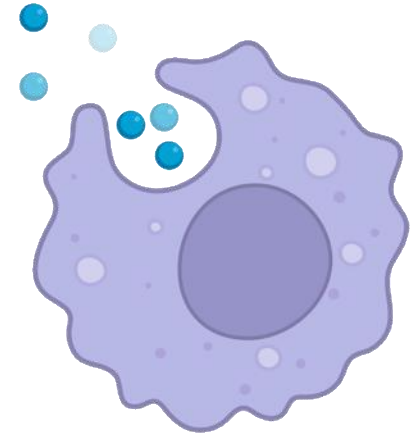
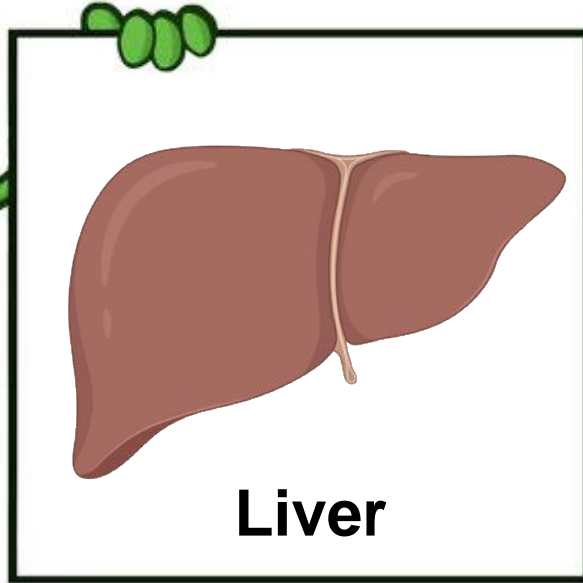


VWF circulates in blood



VWF is removed by liver after 12-18 hours

Macrophages are liver cells that clear VWF



**Liver
macrophage**



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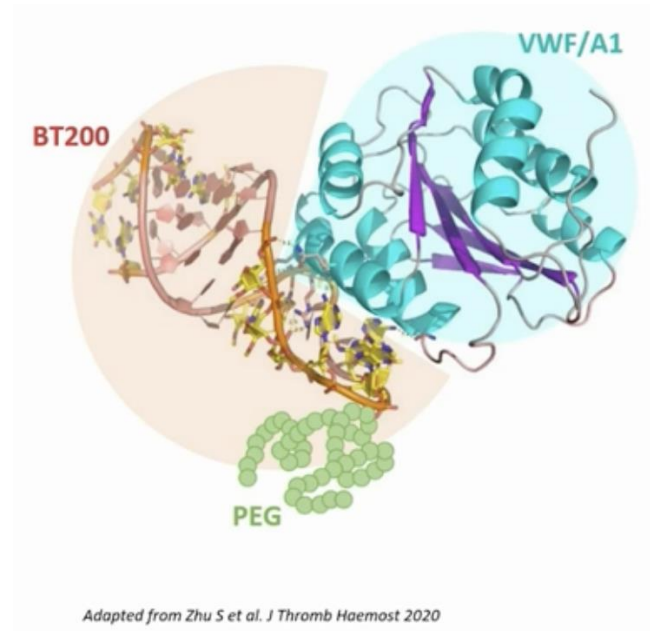
Developing longer-lasting VWF therapies for treating VWD

CONSILIO

1784

MANUQUE

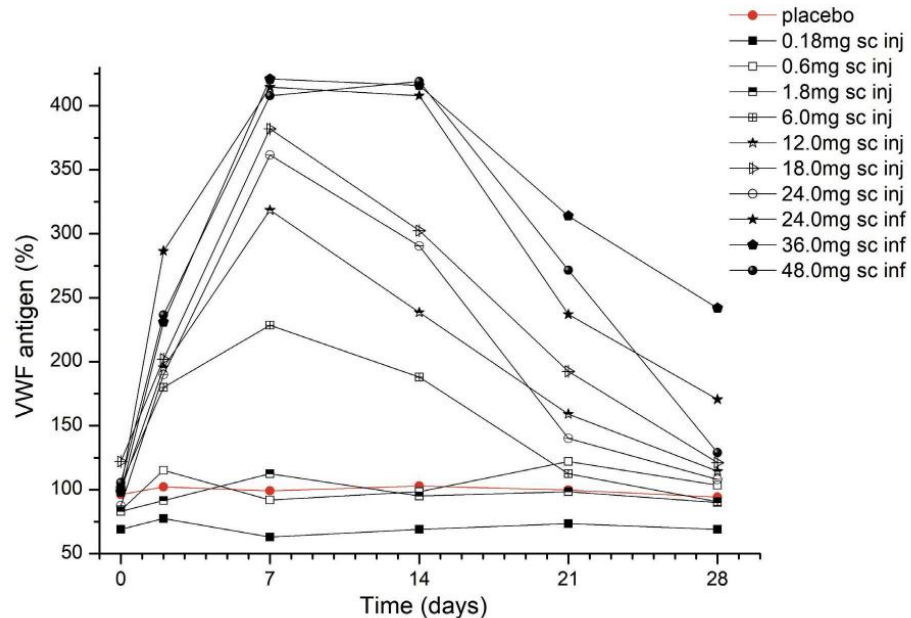
Rondoraptivon pegol (BT200) – pegylated aptamer to VWF



- **Synthetic molecule**
- **Long half-life 7-12 days**
- **Subcutaneous**

Developed as a VWF inhibitor to use as an anticoagulant in stroke

In human studies – single dose of BT200 causes a 3-4 fold increase in VWF levels



In human studies – BT200 causes a 3-4 fold increase in plasma FVIII levels

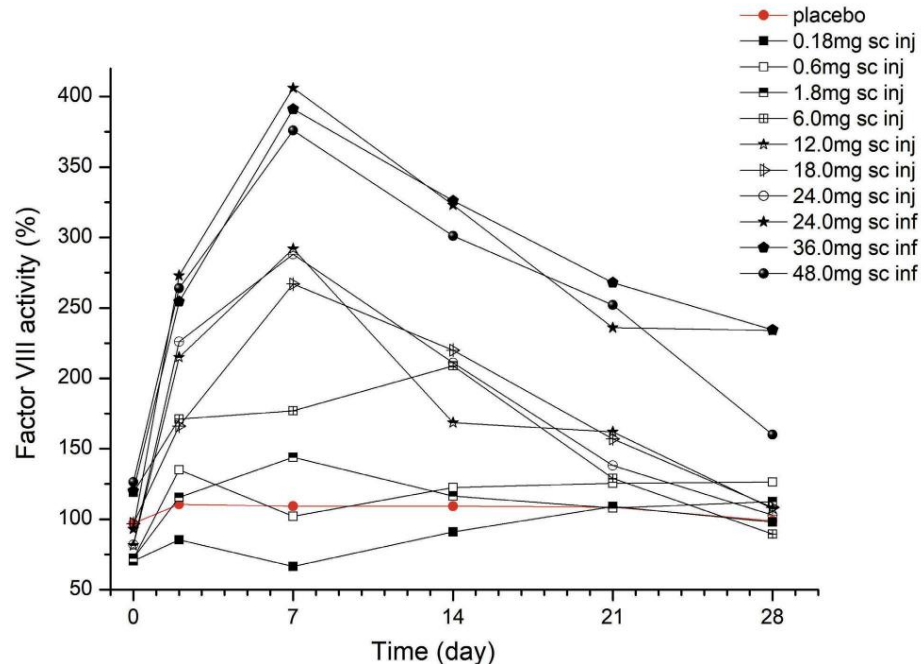


Figure 5. Factor VIII activity levels after single doses of BT200. Data are mean values without error bars for better visibility (n=6 for BT200 groups, n=20 for placebo). sc: subcutaneous; inj: injection; inf: infusion.

In human studies – multiple weekly doses of scut BT200

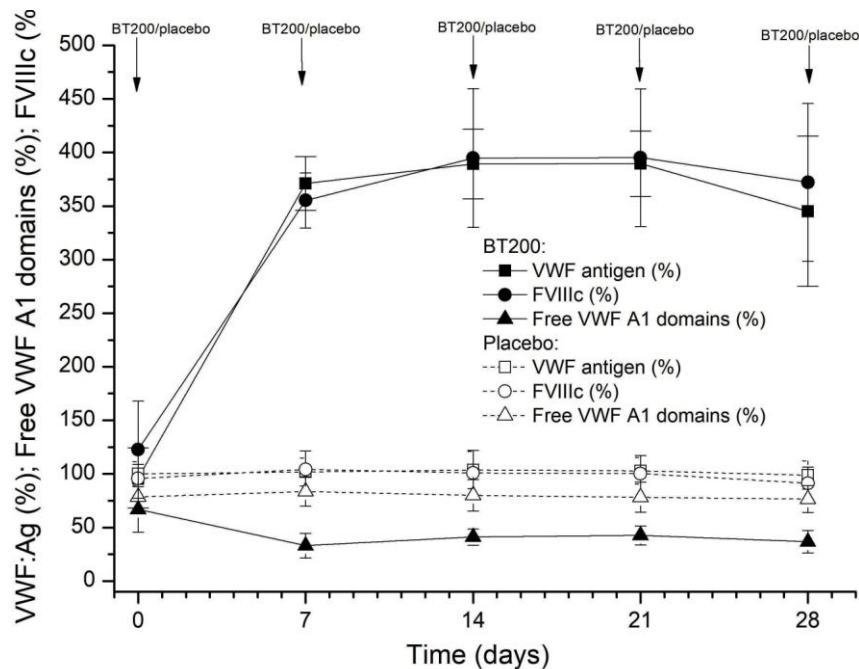


Figure 4. von Willebrand factor antigen levels, free A1-domains and factor VIII activity (%) after multiple doses of BT200. Subjects received 12 mg BT200 intravenously plus 12 mg subcutaneously on the first day and 12 mg subcutaneously weekly or placebo. Data are presented as mean values with 95% confidence intervals (n=6 for BT200 groups, n=20 for placebo). VWF: von Willebrand factor; Ag: antigen; FVIIIc: factor VIII activity.

Patients with VWD are heterogeneous

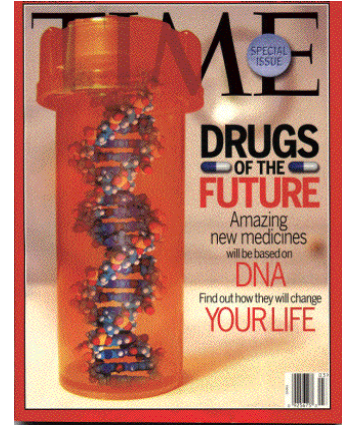


One size treatment for VWD does not fit all ...



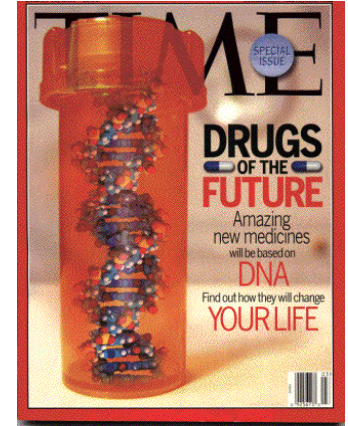
Personalized Medicine in VWD

- **Treatment tailored specifically for individual patient**
- Guideline recommendations
- Patient-specific aspects



Personalized Medicine in VWD

- **Treatment tailored specifically for individual patient**
- Guideline recommendations
- Patient-specific aspects



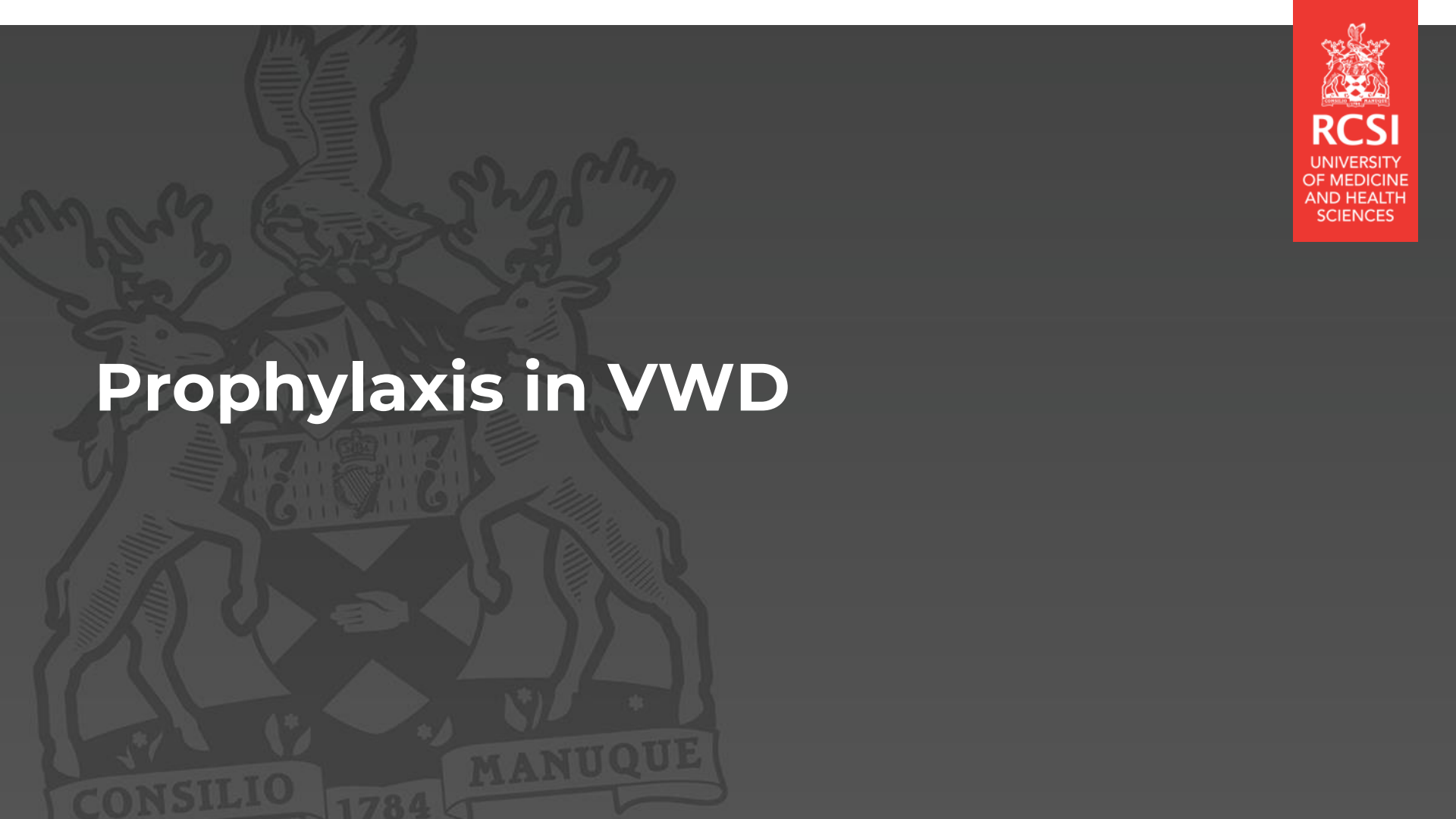
Patient preferences need to be considered
– empowered to be actively involved in decision making process



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Prophylaxis in VWD



Prophylaxis in VWD

Significant clinical experience of primary and secondary prophylaxis in patients with severe hemophilia

- Data on prophylaxis in VWD are limited

Retrospective studies - VWD Prophylaxis Network (VWD PN)

- Enrolled 61 patients from 10 countries
- > 90% type 2 or type 3 VWD

- Median age starting prophylaxis = 22.4 years / median duration 2.2 years
- Typical VWF dose ~ 50U/kg given 2-3 times per week

- **Significant reduction in annualized bleeding rates ($p < 0.0001$)**
 - Prophylaxis was more effective in preventing some types of bleeding (e.g. hemarthrosis) than others (e.g. gastrointestinal bleeding)

ASH/ISTH/NHF/WFH guidelines - prophylaxis in VWD

Recommendation 1

In patients with VWD with a history of severe and frequent bleeds, the guideline panel *suggests* using long-term prophylaxis rather than no prophylaxis (conditional recommendation based on low certainty in the evidence of effects ⊕⊕○○).

Remarks:

- Bleeding symptoms and the need for prophylaxis should be periodically assessed.

Prophylaxis in VWD

Recommendation 1

In patients with VWD with a history of severe and frequent bleeds, the guideline panel **suggests** using long-term prophylaxis rather than no prophylaxis (conditional recommendation based on low certainty in the evidence of effects ⊕⊕○○).

Remarks:

- Bleeding symptoms and the need for prophylaxis should be periodically assessed.

Important unanswered questions:

- Selection of patients ?
- Optimal prophylaxis treatment regimen ?
- Personalized based upon PK ?
- Pharma-economic analysis ?

Need for future adequately powered clinical trials



‘What got us to where we are today is not going to get us to where we need to go tomorrow’



- Small studies – inadequately powered
- Single centre
- Retrospective
- Non-randomized
- Hemophilia study end-points
- Limited science

‘What got us to where we are today is not going to get us to where we need to go tomorrow’



- Large international collaborative studies
- VWD is NOT a rare disorder
- Subgroup stratification and multivariate analyses
- Prospective and randomized
- State-of-the-art science
- Multiomic strategies
- Not solely dependent upon pharma funding

‘What got us to where we are today is not going to get us to where we need to go tomorrow’

2005



Updates - 1

LOW VON WILLEBRAND IN IRELAND COHORT (LOVIC) STUDY

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Willebrand factor is an essential blood clotting protein that helps stop bleeding following surgery.
- The LoVIC study is the first study worldwide which only focuses on people with Low Von Willebrand factor (VWF) levels.
- Up to 1000 people worldwide may have undiagnosed low Willebrand Factor levels.
- Thanks to research into VWF, people have been identified with low VWF which suggests that operations could now not be delayed!

WHAT DID WE FIND OUT?

People with Low VWF appear to have an increased risk of bleeding.

- 870 women have been recruited.
- 540 participants are being followed up over time.
- 870 participants are being followed up over time to see how they are doing.
- Over 80% of patients are female and in the study for a long time.
- Over 80% of patients are female and in the study for a long time.

WHO GOT INVOLVED?

- Over 150 adults in Ireland have been involved in this study.
- Almost 90% were female and have blood group O.

What happens to your Von Willebrand Factor levels as you get older?

- We have found that Von Willebrand Factor levels increase as you age and may even increase.
- However, it is not clear whether this stops the bleeding.

How can we prevent bleeding during operations and procedures?

- We have found that the medication "Desmopressin" (DDAVP) given orally, boosts Von Willebrand Factor levels.
- This medication works very well for people with Low VWF to prevent bleeding at time of surgery.

HOW WILL THIS STUDY HELP OTHER PEOPLE WITH LOW VWF?

- The results of this study are being presented to the UK, a national conference in Ireland, Europe and the USA.
- We have already presented results from the study at national conferences in Ireland, Europe and the USA.
- We plan to present to national conferences in Ireland, Europe and the USA.
- This study has also been presented to a wide audience globally.

What is next?

- The study continues to recruit new patients and investigate further the causes of Low VWF.
- The aim is to develop new and better treatments for our patients.
- In 2019 we are excited to commence the children's Low VWF project - LoVIC Kids through our paediatric centre in the Lady's Children's Hospital, Dublin.
- This study will be the first of its kind.
- The outcomes of the children's study will improve the understanding of Low VWF for future generations to come.

Thank you to all the patients and staff involved

NCC **HRB** **RCSI** **National Women's Hospital**



LoVIC Progress study 2024

Updates – 2

COMMENTARY



TO THE EDITOR:

von Willebrand disease: proposing definitions for future research

Nathan T. Connell,^{1,*} Paula D. James,^{2,*} Romina Brignardello-Petersen,³ Rezan Abdul-Kadir,⁴ Barbara Ameer,^{5,6} Alice Arapshian,⁷ Susie Couper,⁸ Jorge Di Paola,⁹ Jeroen Eikenboom,¹⁰ Nicolas Giraud,¹¹ Jean M. Grow,¹² Sandra Haberichter,¹³ Vicki Jacobs-Pratt,¹⁴ Barbara A. Konkle,^{15,16} Peter Kouides,¹⁷ Michael Laffan,¹⁸ Michelle Lavin,¹⁹ Frank W. G. Leebeek,²⁰ Claire McLintock,²¹ Simon McRae,²² Robert Montgomery,²³ Sarah H. O'Brien,²⁴ James S. O'Donnell,¹⁹ Margareth C. Ozelo,²⁵ Nikole Scappe,²⁶ Robert Sidonio Jr,²⁷ Alberto Toso, ²⁸ Angela C. Weyand,²⁹ Mohamad A. Kalot,³⁰ Nedaa Husainat,³⁰ Reem A. Mustafa,³⁰ and Veronica H. Flood²³

'Severe' VWD ????????

Conclusions

1. Significant advances in understanding of VWD
2. Key clinical questions remain to be addressed in terms of diagnosis and management.
3. Unmet clinical need – associated with significant global morbidity
4. VWD field has lagged behind recent advances in hemophilia
5. Recent ASH/ISTH/NHF/WFH guidelines highlight the issues
6. Finally, new treatments are in development



Acknowledgements



Thank you



IRISH HAEMOPHILIA SOCIETY

Cumann Haemifile Na hEireann

*Representing people living with haemophilia, von Willebrand's
and other inherited bleeding disorders*