

Treatment for Rare Bleeding Disorder

Von Willebrand disease is considered the most common inherited bleeding disorder. Von Willebrand factor (VWF), is a protein that is important for normal blood clotting. A mutation on the gene responsible for the production of VWF leads to this condition. When a deficiency in VWF occurs, platelets are not able to stick together in response to an injury, leading to excessive bleeding. Although many individuals with the condition do not experience symptoms, some may experience abnormal bleeding such as with nose bleeds, excessive bleeding following a cut, and or bleeding from the gums. Type 1 Von Willebrand is the most common and mild form. Type 2 is characterized by malfunctioning of the VWF. Type 3 is a rare form of the condition, in which there is a total deficiency of the VWF protein.

Desmopressin is a synthetic form of antidiuretic hormone. It increases the release of VWF that is stored in the blood vessel lining. This medication is available as an injection and as a nasal spray (*Stimate*).

Antifibrinolytic medications, such as aminocaproic acid (*Amicar*) and tranexamic acid (*Cyklokapron*), decrease the breakdown of clotting factors, thereby preserving the formed clot. These medications are sometimes prescribed before a dental procedure or surgery.