



HEMOPHILIA AND BLEEDING DISORDERS CLINIC

What is Hemophilia?

- There are low levels of clotting proteins in the blood.
- It is seen mostly in boys (rarely in girls).
- Very few people have it.
- There are about 400 babies with hemophilia born in the U.S. each year.
- About one in every 20,000 men in the U.S. have hemophilia.
- About 80% of those with hemophilia have hemophilia A (factor 8 deficiency) and 20% have hemophilia B (factor 9 deficiency).
- Hemophilia occurs in all races and social groups.
- Women may carry the gene that is passed on to her children.
- People with hemophilia are born with the disorder.
- Hemophilia is a lifelong bleeding disorder that currently does not have a cure.

How can medications help?

- They can help prevent or stop bleeding.
- By using medicine and visiting a hematologist regularly, a person with hemophilia can expect to live a long and healthy life.

What happens when someone has an injury?

- ✓ The injured blood vessel gets smaller (vasoconstricts) to let less blood through.
- ✓ Platelets rush to the site and stick together to form a platelet plug.
- ✓ Clotting factor proteins in the blood work together to make threads of fibrin (a protein produced by the body). The fibrin weaves itself into a clot over the platelet plug. This makes a strong seal.

How are injuries different when someone has Hemophilia?

- People with hemophilia can't make a fibrin clot.
- The first two steps to stop bleeding usually work fine in a person with hemophilia. The blood vessel gets smaller and the platelets make a plug.
- A person with hemophilia has problems when a fibrin clot is needed to stop the bleeding. People with hemophilia don't have enough of certain clotting factors.
- The fibrin clot is not made or is so thin that the bleeding continues.
- Someone with hemophilia does not bleed faster than someone without hemophilia. However, the person with hemophilia will bleed longer.

Why is this a problem?

- Bleeding inside the body is more of a problem for people with hemophilia than bleeding on the outside from a cut or scrape.
- Inside the body, the blood can go into spaces in joints, muscles, and organs.
- Over time, this can cause great damage, especially if the bleeding is not treated or happens often.