

Webinars



European
von Willebrand Disease
Community

Von Willebrand disease

Topic on focus
ERN-EuroBloodNet

Ageing

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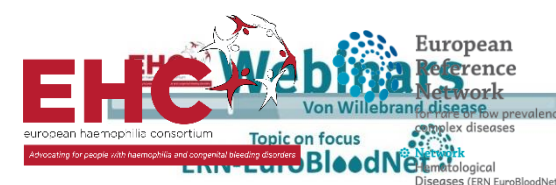
European
Reference
Network
for rare or low prevalence



European
von Willebrand Disease
Community



European
von Willebrand Disease
Community



European
Reference
Network
for rare or low prevalence
complex diseases

Topic on focus
ERN-EuroBloodNet

ERN-EuroBloodNet
Haematological
Diseases (ERN EuroBloodNet)



Co-funded by
the Health Programme
of the European Union



Disclosure conflict of interest: Cathy Harrison

Consultancy/speakers fees:	CSL, Novo Nordisk, Pfizer, Sobi, Roche-Chugai, Takeda
Event Sponsorship:	CSL, Roche-Chugai
Voluntary:	WFH Nurses Committee, EHC, Editorial Board Journal of Haemophilia Practice, The Haemophilia Society MASAG





Age-Related Risks and Complications

- Increased Risk of Stroke and Cardiovascular Events
- Vascular Health Concerns Specific to Older Adults with VWD

Comprehensive Management Approaches

- Strategies for Managing Bleeding Episodes in Older Adults
- Preventative Care and Routine Monitoring for Complications

Joint Health and Mobility

- Impact of VWD on Joint Health Over Time
- Best Practices for Managing Joint Pain and Preventing Degeneration

Comorbid Conditions and Treatment Strategies

- Common Comorbidities in Aging VWD Patients (e.g., arthritis, osteoporosis)
- Tailored Treatment Plans to Address Multiple Health Conditions

Menopause

Changes in Factor Levels with Age

- Understanding the Rise in Factor Levels and Its Implications
- Re-Evaluating Diagnosis and Treatment in Older Patients

Revisiting Diagnosis and Long-Term Care Needs

- Considerations for Maintaining or Adjusting a VWD Diagnosis in Later Life

Long-Term Monitoring and Care Recommendations





Learning objectives



Identify the role of MDT & the Specialist Nurse in ageing VWD care



Identify the most common presenting bleeding symptoms



Discuss how we can manage the most common presenting issues



Explore health promotion strategies for people ageing with VWD





Why Comprehensive Care?



To provide as much as possible on one site to meet all the patients' needs.



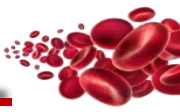
To bring together experts in all areas in partnership with affected individuals & families to avoid complications associated with the underlying bleeding disorder.



‘to minimise disability & prolong life, to facilitate general, social & physical well-being, & to help each patient achieve full potential, whilst causing no harm’
World Federation of Hemophilia, 1989







Patient & public perspective

Consistently rate specialist nurses higher than any other health and social care professional:

- Understanding patient needs
- Designing and implementing care pathways
- Obtaining patient feedback
- Being transparent and honest
 - RCN, 2010; IPSOS, 2022 (specifically nurses)

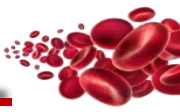




Benefits of Specialist Nurses

- Reduced waiting times
- Prevent hospital admissions/readmissions
- Reduced post op hospital stay times
- Free up consultant appointments
- Provide services at the point of need
- Reduced patient treatment drop out rates
- Education of health and social care professionals
- Introduce innovative service delivery frameworks
- Direct specialist advice given to patients and families
- Deliver cost-effective, high-quality care with optimal patient outcomes
- Provide health promotion & maintenance through assessment, diagnosis & management of acute & chronic patient problems





Most common reasons to call

Epistaxis (Nose Bleeds)

Heavy Menstrual Bleeding
including relating to
Menopause

Gastrointestinal bleeding





VWD, bleeding and Quality of Life

Increased bleeding:

- Reduced Quality of life
- Reduced Social function
- Increased pain
- Reduced General health
- Reduced Physical function





Management of Heavy Menstrual Bleeding

- Monitoring with replacement iron therapy
- Tranexamic acid
- Hormonal therapy including Mirena coil
- DDAVP or Replacement Clotting Factor Therapy
- Pain relief/anti-inflammatory drugs
- Surgery
- Joint approach to management through collaboration of services



Curry et al (2022) Gynaecological management of women with inherited bleeding disorders: A UK Haemophilia Centre Doctors' Organisation Guideline. *Haemophilia* 28(6): 917-937.

Turan et al (2024) Review of interventions and effectiveness for heavy menstrual bleeding in women with moderate and severe von Willebrand disease. *Haemophilia* 30: 1177-1184

Du et al (2023) VWD epidemiology, burden of illness and management: A systematic review. *Journal of Blood Medicine* 14: 189-208



What about bleeding during perimenopause?

Abnormal uterine bleeding is common.

Causes are numerous, from decreasing/unstable ovarian function to premalignant & malignant conditions.

Benign findings e.g. endometrial polyps & myomas increase with age.

Cervical & vaginal causes of abnormal bleeding should be excluded by speculum examination.

Transvaginal ultrasound scans should be considered.

Endometrial biopsy or hysteroscopy may be necessary.

Treat resulting iron deficiency +/- anaemia.

Treat per Heavy menstrual bleeding management – mirena coil, endometrial ablation or surgery may be considered.

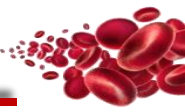




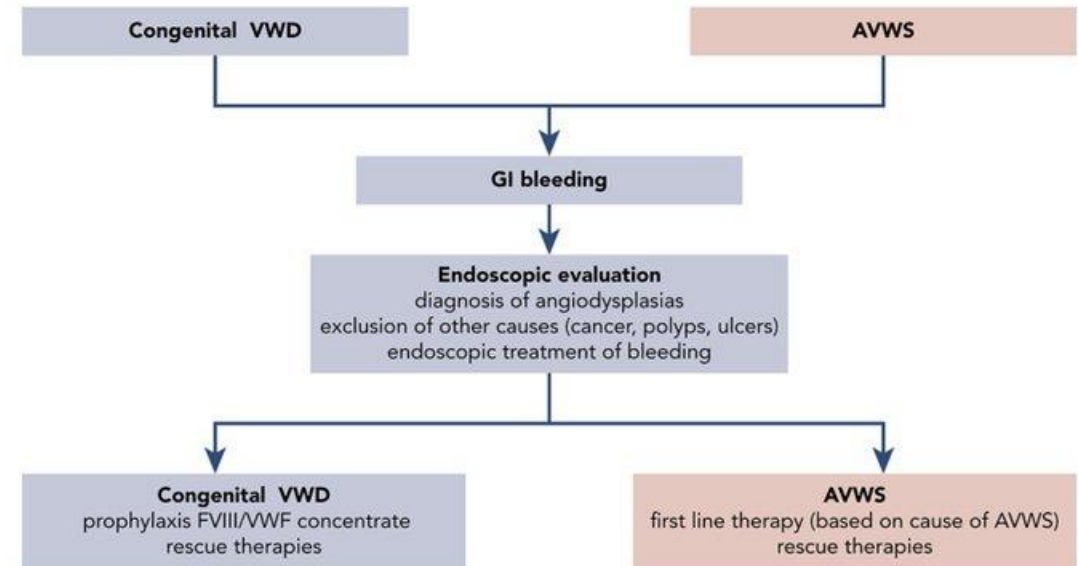
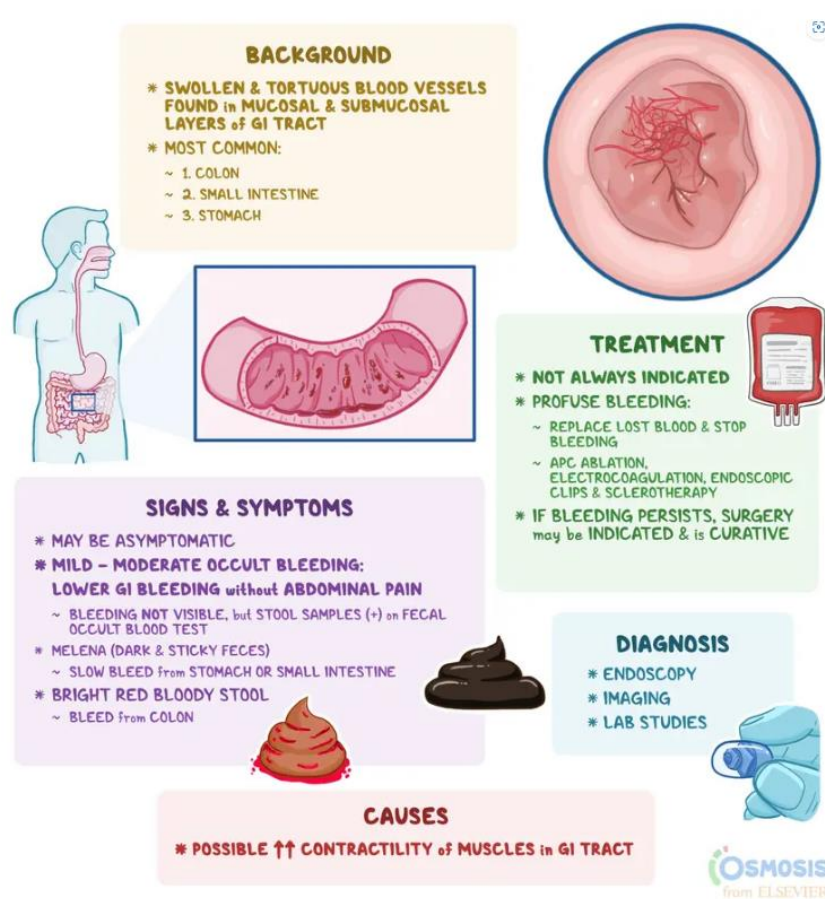
What about peri-menopause & VWD?

- 58yo woman, T1 VWD Act 32 IU/dL
- Ehlers Danlos Syndrome
- Recurrent, heavy, prolonged PV bleeding
- HRT (Estradot & Utrogestan) caused significant increase in bleeding
- Investigated to rule out malignant causes
- Side effects with progesterone
- Consider mirena coil – possible risk of perforation with EDS
- Using tranexamic acid & on demand Veyvondi
- Consider GNRH analogues to induce full menopause





Gastrointestinal bleeding





Type 2 VWD

- 58yo, woman, 2A VWD Act 5-10 IU/dL
- Bleeding history:
 - Heavy menstrual bleeding
 - Nose bleeds
 - GI bleeding at 52yrs
 - Angiodysplasia diagnosed at 54yrs
- Treatment history:
 - DDAVP – peak 18IU/dL
 - Tranexamic acid
 - Mirena coil
 - Haemate P/Voncento on demand
 - Prophylaxis Voncento 25IU/kg once weekly at 54yrs for 9 months
 - APC & clipping of large angioectasia
 - On demand Voncento
- 59yo, woman, 2M VWD Act 5 IU/dL
- Bleeding history:
 - Heavy menstrual bleeding
 - Oral bleeding
 - GI bleeding at 47yrs
 - Nose bleeds
 - Severe widespread bruises
- Treatment history:
 - Tranexamic acid
 - On demand Haemate P/Voncento
 - APC for AVM in duodenum at 48yrs
 - Endometrial ablation at 40yrs
 - Tertiary prophylaxis Voncento 25IU/kg once 1-2 weekly *'feels like life is calm again, that they are back in control'*





Epistaxis

LOCAL CAUSES



**LOCAL
TRAUMA**



**ANATOMICAL
IRREGULARITIES**



INFLAMMATION



**FACIAL
TRAUMA**



**TOPICAL
NASAL SPRAYS**
(incorrect/excessive use)

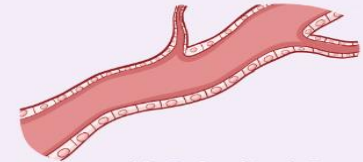


TUMORS
(rare)

SYSTEMIC CAUSES



**HIGH BLOOD
PRESSURE**



**VASCULAR
MALFORMATIONS**



**CARDIOVASCULAR
DISEASES**



**BLEEDING
DISORDERS**

 OSMOSIS.org



**European
Reference
Network**

for rare or low prevalence
complex diseases

 **Network**
Hematological
Diseases (ERN EuroBloodNet)



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Public perception of 'healthy ageing'

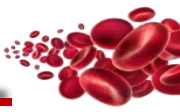
<u>Theme 1:</u> Healthy diet and lifestyle are components of healthy ageing	<u>Theme 2:</u> Maintaining normal bodily functions	<u>Theme 3:</u> Preventive care
Topic 1: Eating well (65.4%)	Topic 2: Mental cognition and brain health (4.3%)	Topic 3: Genetic contributions (1.3%)
Topic 4: Health benefits of yoga (1.3%)	Topic 8: Maintaining skin appearance (1.2%)	Topic 15: Immunization against flu and other respiratory viruses (0.5%)
Topic 5: Health supplements (1.2%)	Topic 10: Hearing impairment (0.7%)	Topic 16: Preventing falls (0.5%)
Topic 6: Arts and music (1.2%)	Topic 11: Maintaining sleep (0.7%)	
Topic 7: Healthy ageing month (1.2%)	Topic 12: Gut health (0.7%)	
Topic 9: Social integration (0.8%)	Topic 13: Bone health (0.7%)	
Topic 14: Healthy ageing events (0.6%)		





Nurses' role to support navigation of healthcare systems





Take home messages

Evidence of care management in ageing people with VWD is limited, we need to do more research and share experiences.

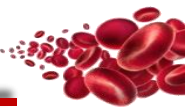
Bleeding presentations vary significantly and may improve or deteriorate with age, but when occurring add a heavy burden on the individual affecting overall quality of life.

Access to timely diagnosis & provision of specialist services is key.

Listen to the impact of bleeding on the individual.

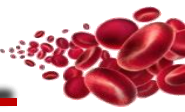
Work to create an individualised care plan, including the consideration of prophylaxis.





TAKE HOME MESSAGES





Disclosures (Last two years)

Employment	NONE
Research support	NONE
Scientific advisory board	BAYER, BIOVIIIIX, BIOMARIN, CSL-BEHRING, LFB, TAKEDA, NOVO NORDISK, PFIZER, ROCHE, SOBI
Consultancy	CSL BEHRING
Speakers bureau	BIOMARIN, BIOVIIIIX, CSL-BEHRING, LFB, NOVO NORDISK, TAKEDA, ROCHE, SOBI
Major stockholder	NONE
Patents	NONE
Honoraria	NONE
Travel support	NONE
Other	NONE





Risk of bleeding in general population and Von Willebrand Disease (VWD) and age

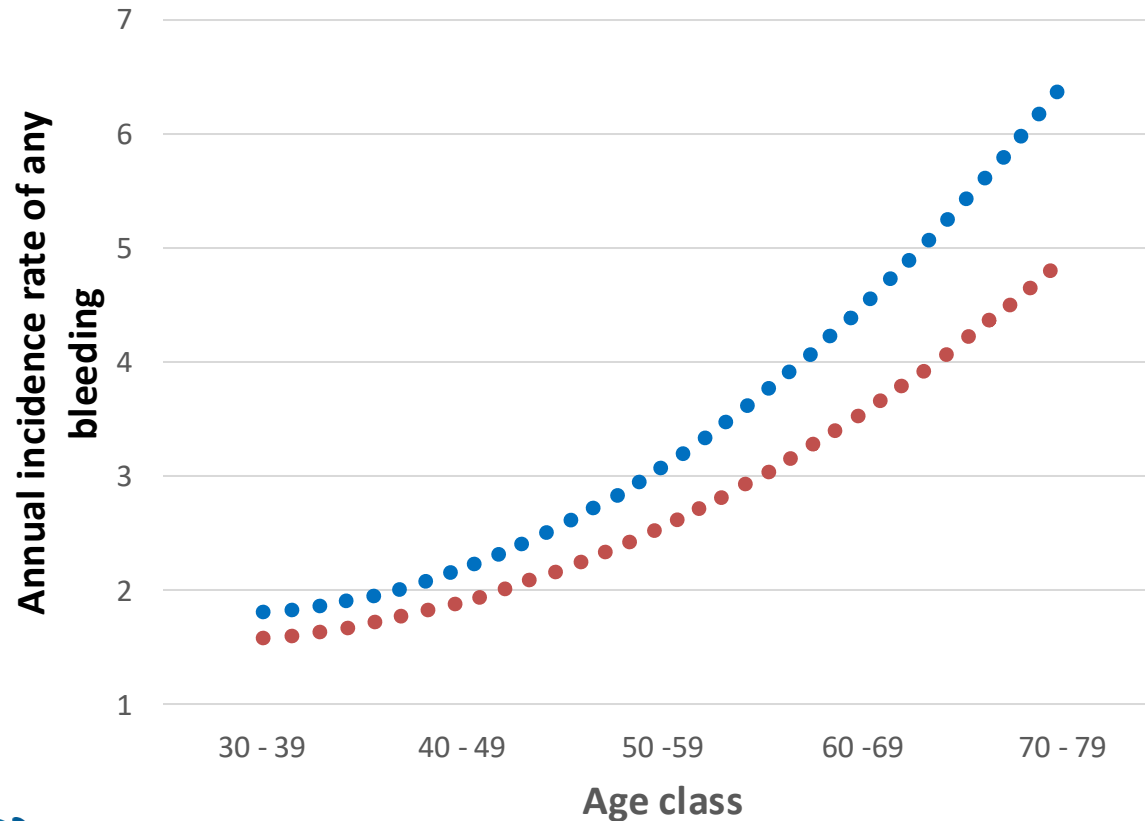


Does age influence the bleeding risk?

JAMA | Original Investigation

Annual Risk of Major Bleeding Among Persons Without Cardiovascular Disease Not Receiving Antiplatelet Therapy

Vanessa Selak, PhD; Andrew Kerr, MD; Katrina Poppe, PhD; Billy Wu, MPH; Matine Harwood, PhD; Feina Crow, MD; David Jackson, PhD; Susa Wallis, PhD



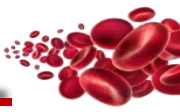
3.0%

Median annualized incidence for any bleeding in males

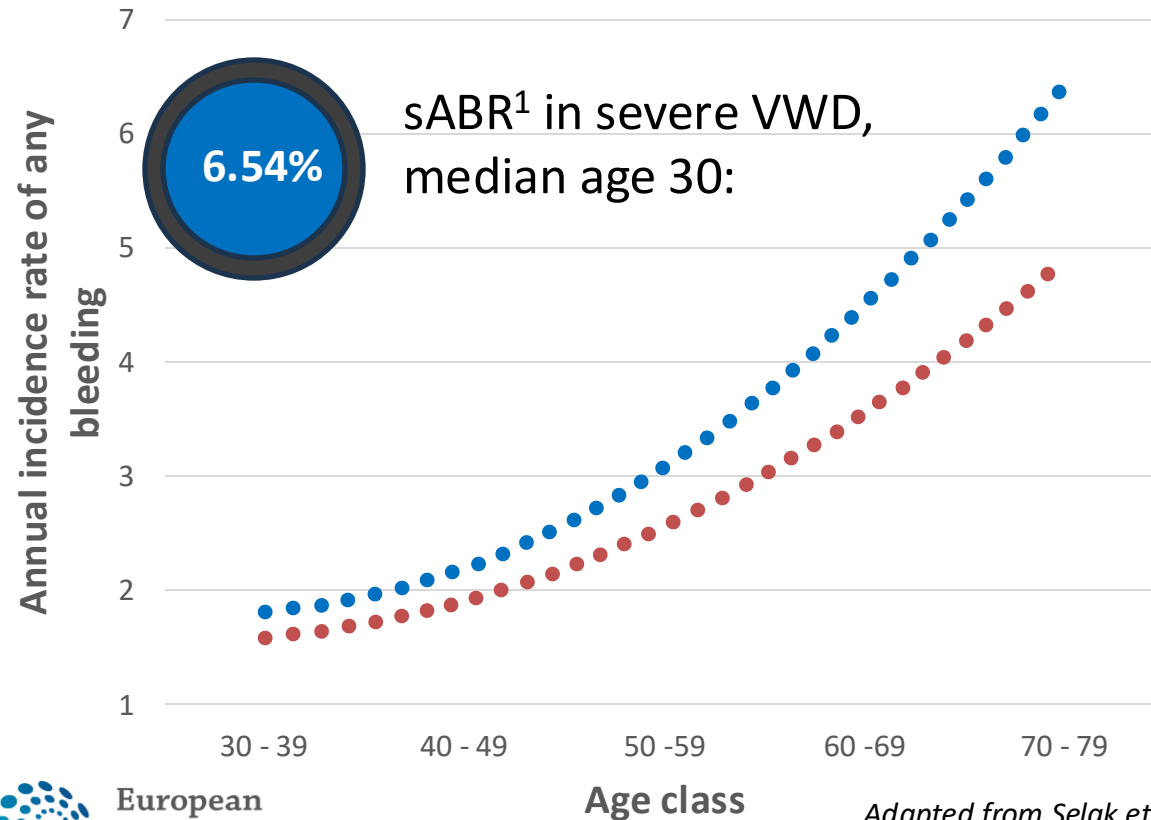
2.8%

Median annualized incidence for any bleeding in females





What about VWD?



3.0%

Median annualized incidence for any bleeding in males

2.8%

Median annualized incidence for any bleeding in females





CLASSIFICATION OF VON WILLEBRAND DISEASE

Quantitative deficiency of VWF

Type 1	Partial quantitative deficiency (60-70%), including 1C
Type 3	Virtual absence of VWF (1-2%)

Type 2: Qualitative VWF abnormalities (25-30%)

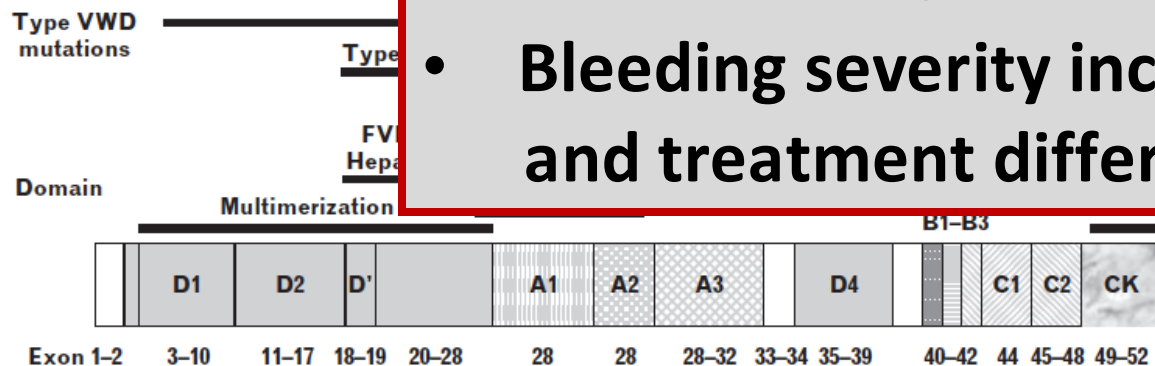
VWD Type 2A
Decreased platelet binding
Loss of HMWM

VWD Type 2N
Decrease FVIII binding
Low FVIII levels

- VWD is a very heterogeneous bleeding disorder
- Bleeding severity increases from type 1 to 3 and treatment differs

VWD Type 2B
Increased platelet binding
Thrombocytopenia

VWD Type 2M
Decreased platelet binding
Normal multimers





WiN (Willebrand in Netherlands)

Bleeding score according to type of VWD

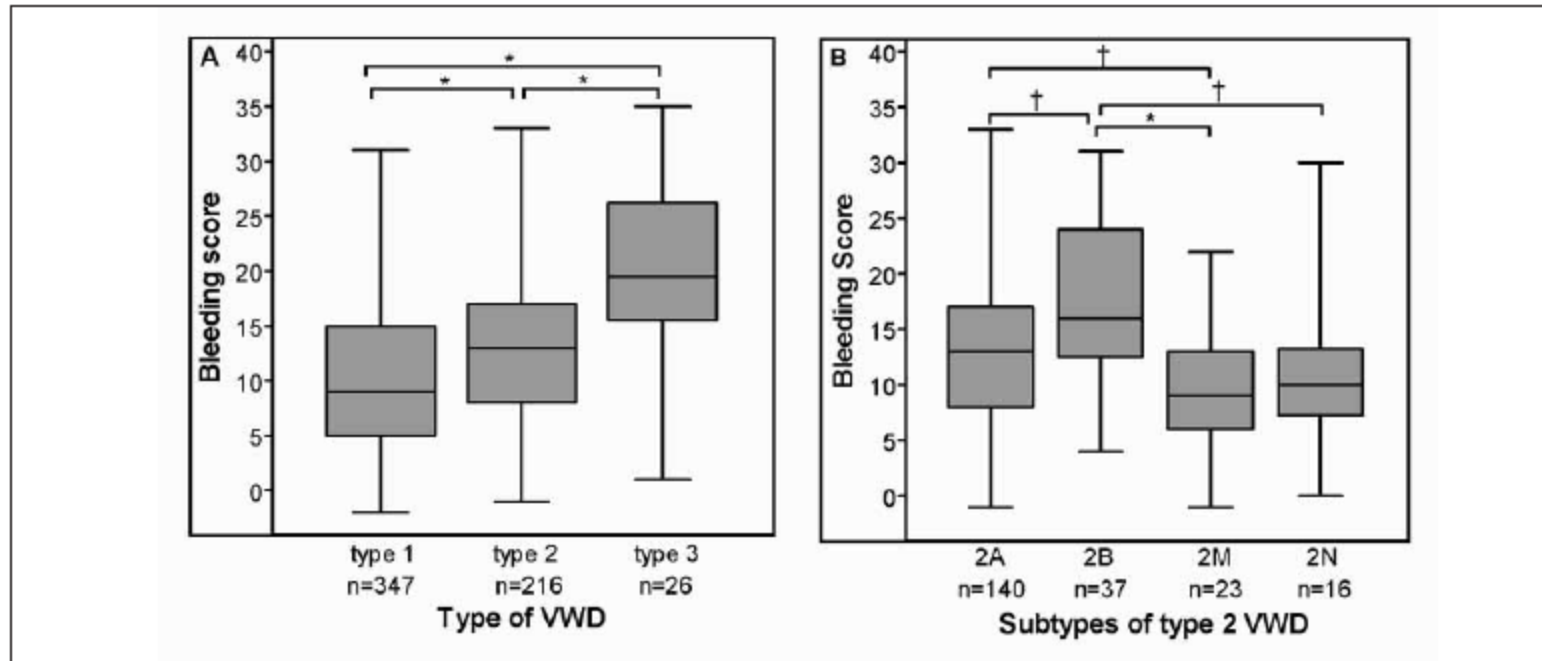
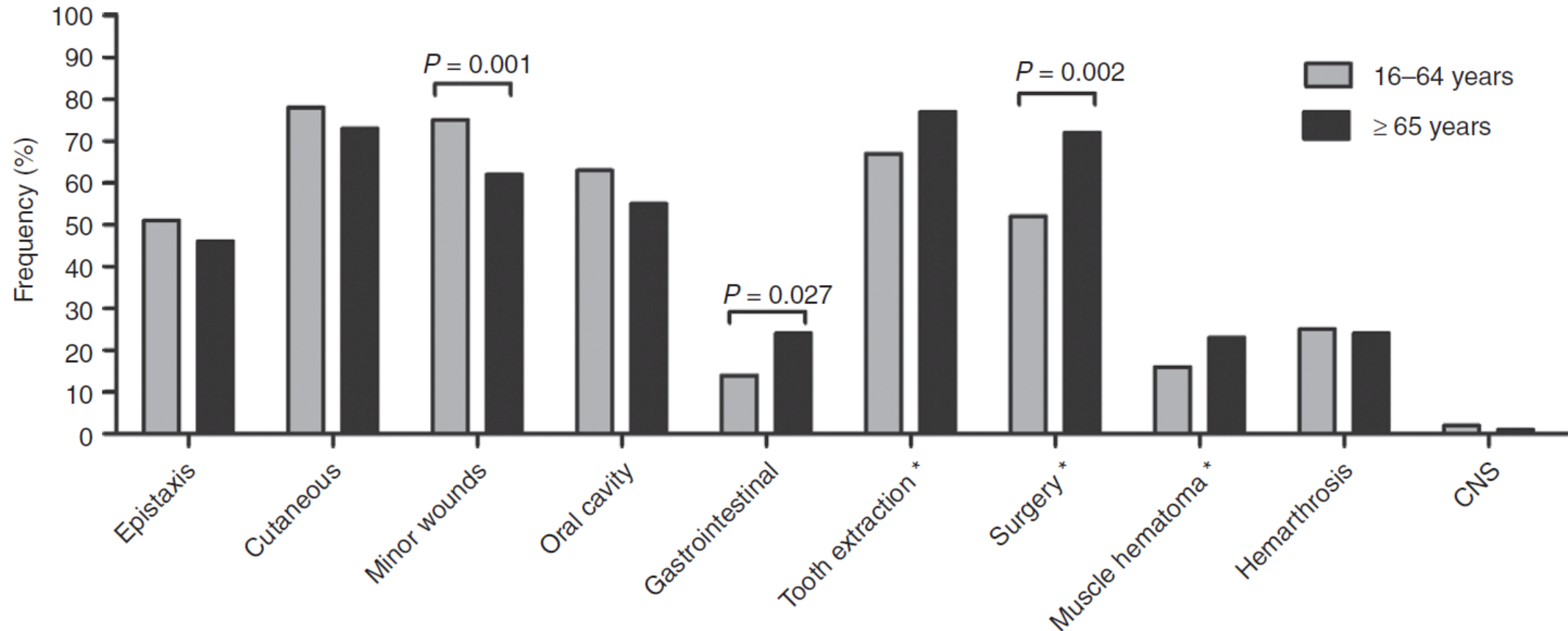


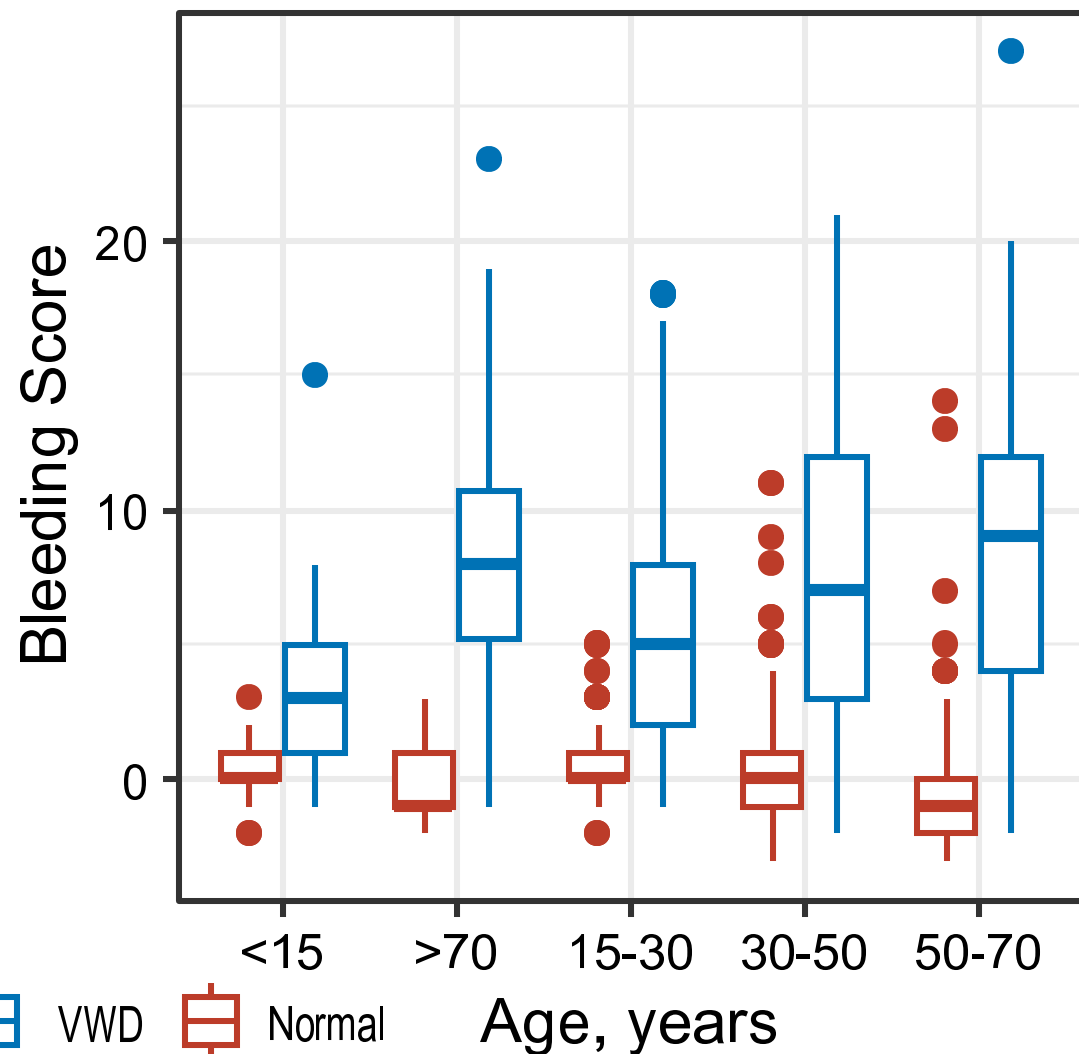
Figure 2: Bleeding score according to type of VWD. A) Bleeding score according to type of VWD. B) Bleeding score according to type 2 variants in patients with VWD. * $p < 0.001$; † $p < 0.01$.



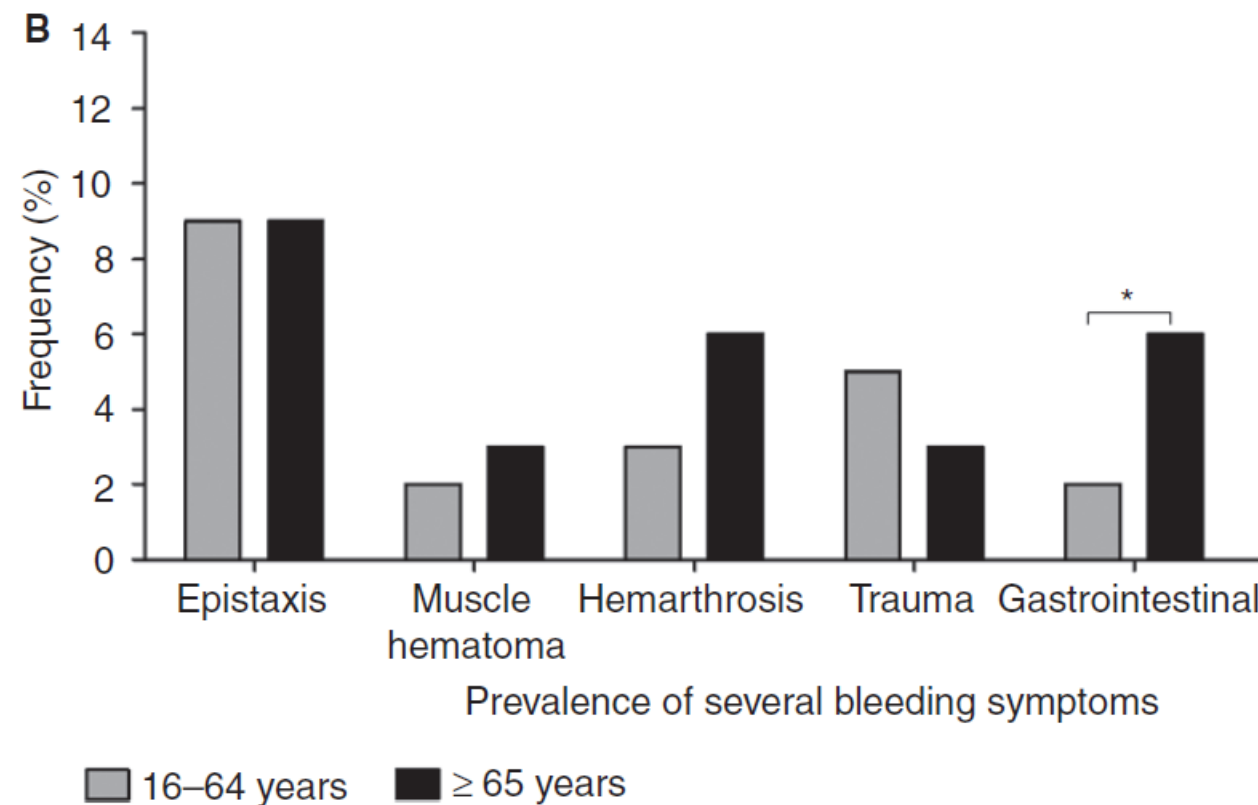


In VWD, the impact of bleeding symptoms varies by age





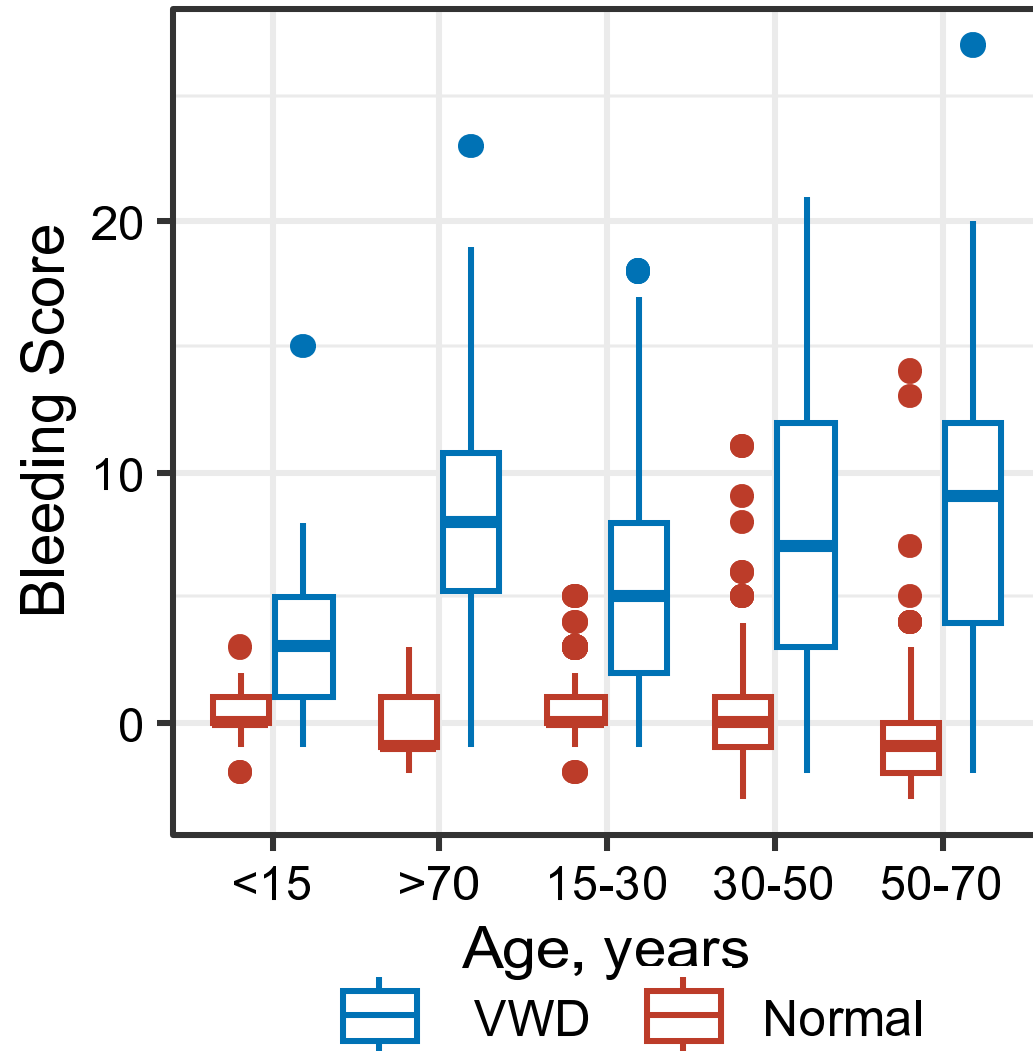
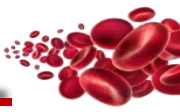
Prevalence of bleeding that required DDAVP or replacement therapy in the year preceding inclusion in the study ²



 VWD  Normal



Unpublished data from MCMDM-1 study, 1146 normal subjects and 418 type 1 VWD; 2 Sanders et al. J Thromb Haemost, 2014

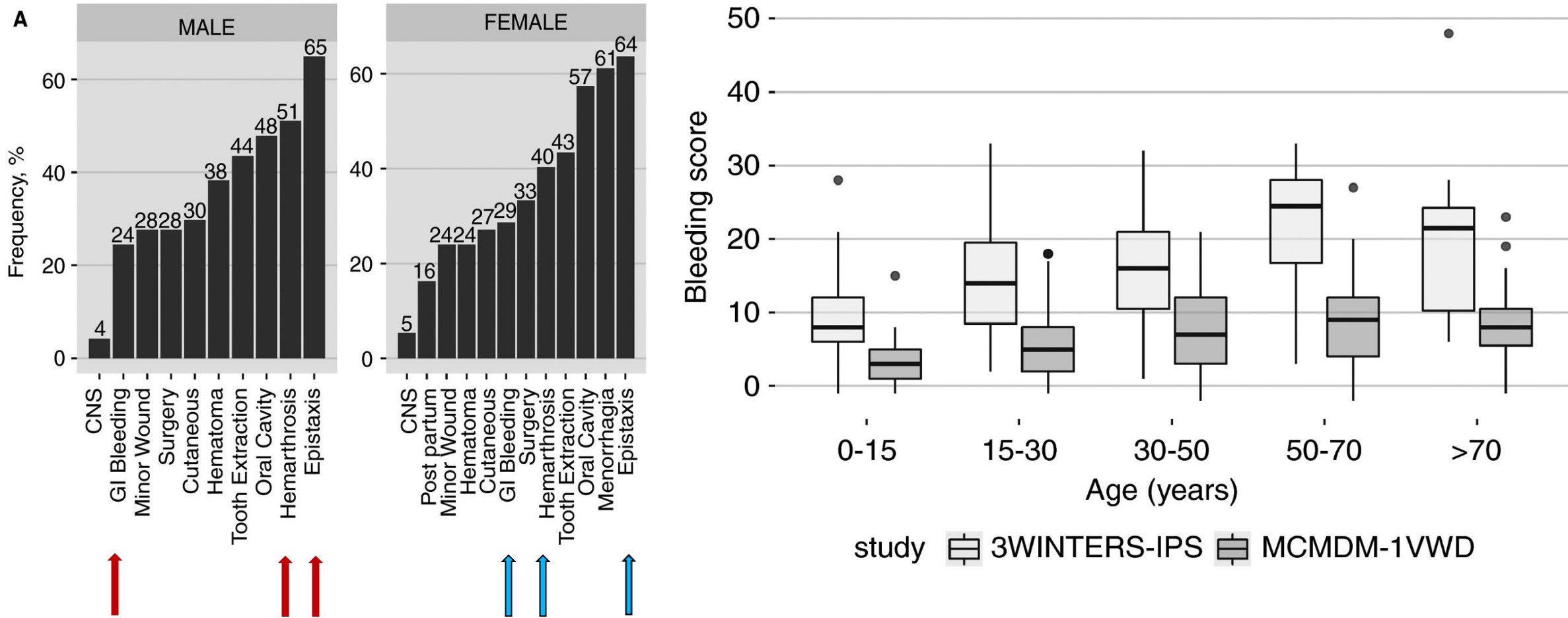


Conclusions:

- The incidence of bleeding symptoms is **two- to three-fold** increased in the elderly in the general population
- If the same increase applies to VWD patients, this means that elderly VWD patients may have an estimated **bleeding incidence of $\approx 10\%$ pt-year**, making them a high-risk population



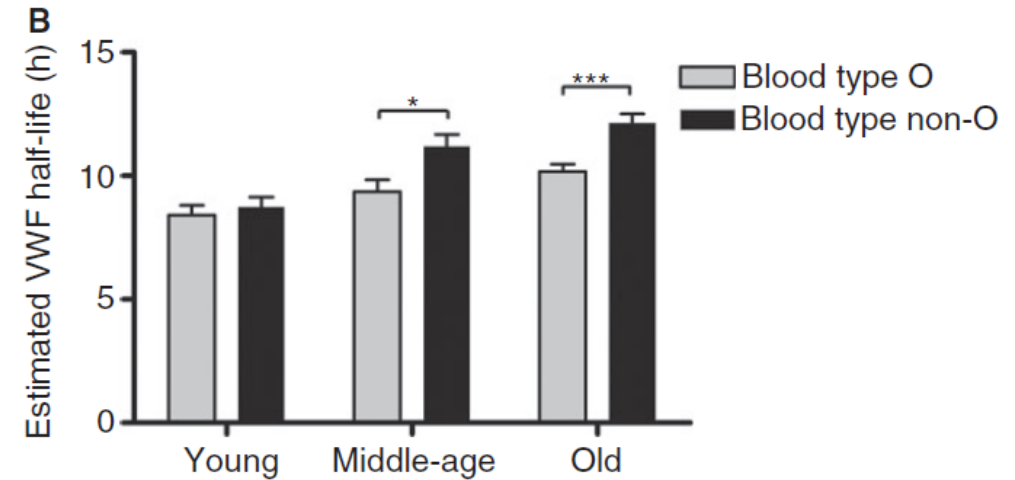
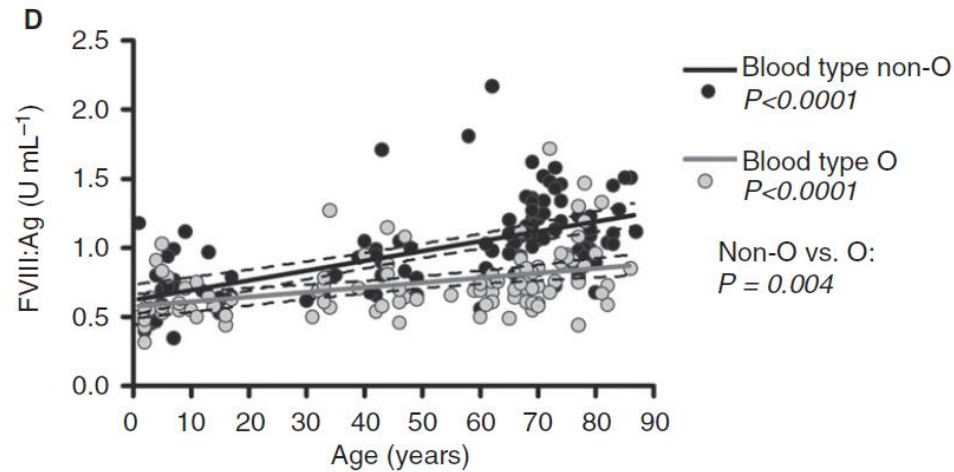
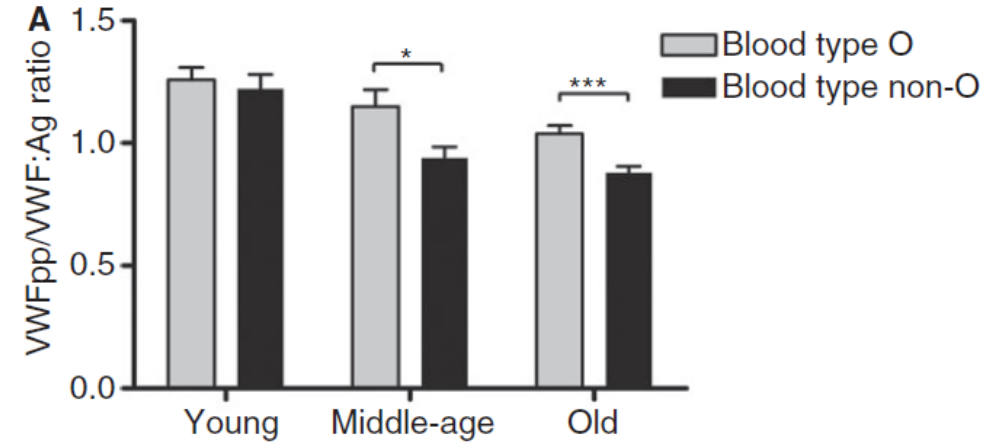
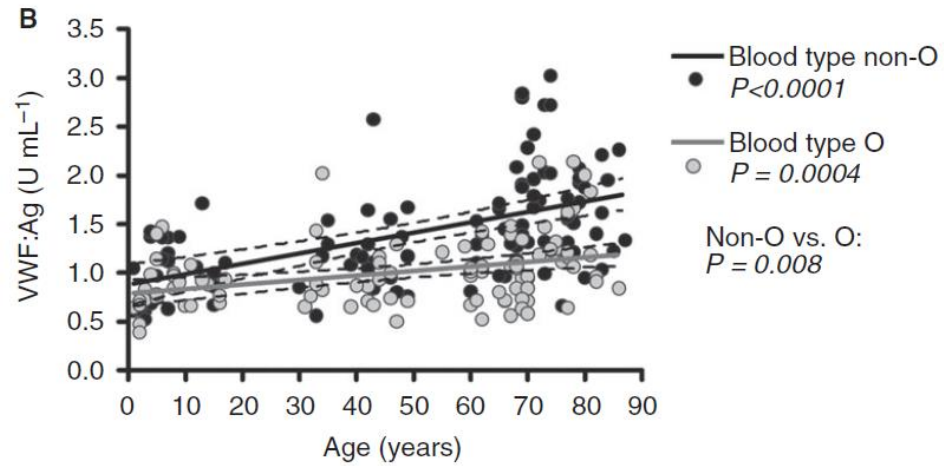
**Bleeding symptoms in patients with type 3 von Willebrand disease:
Results from 3WINTERS-IPS study compared to type 1**





Von Willebrand Factor and age

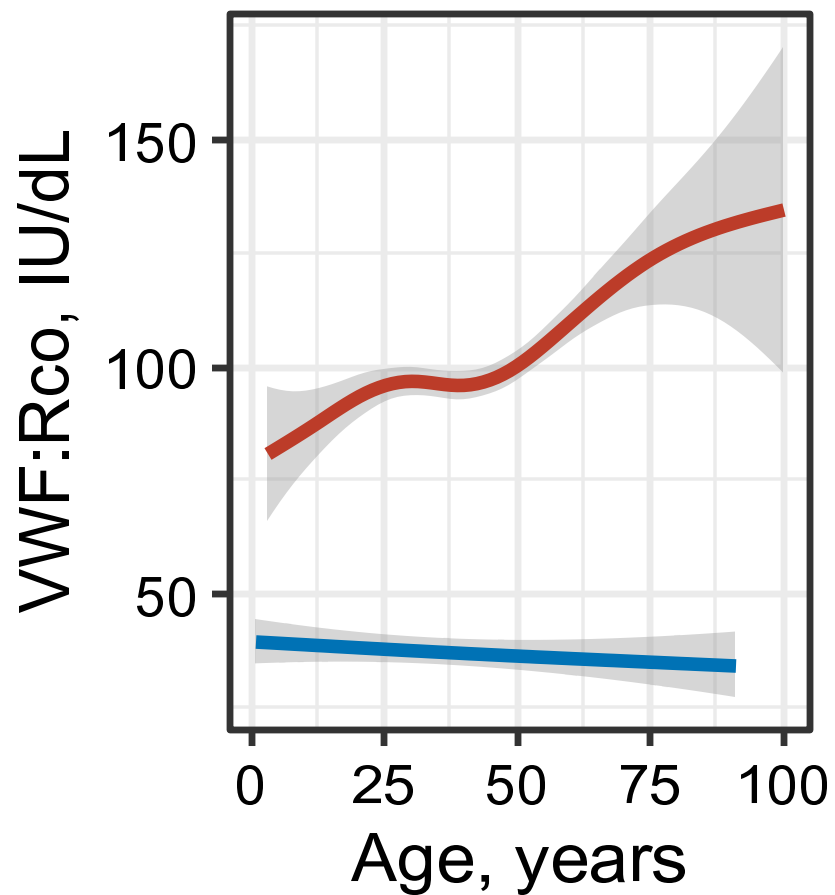




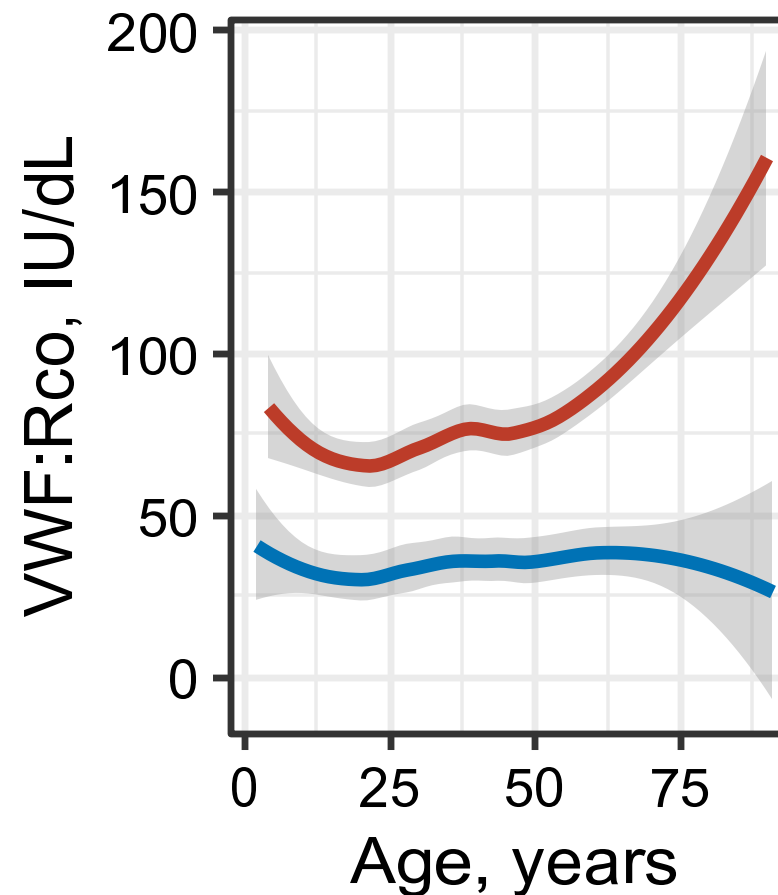
Elderly ABO non-O subjects show a more pronounced increase in VWF/FVIII, associated with prolonged VWF half-life

Albáñez et al. *J Thromb Haemost*, 2016





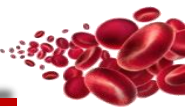
— Normal — VWD



mut — No — Yes

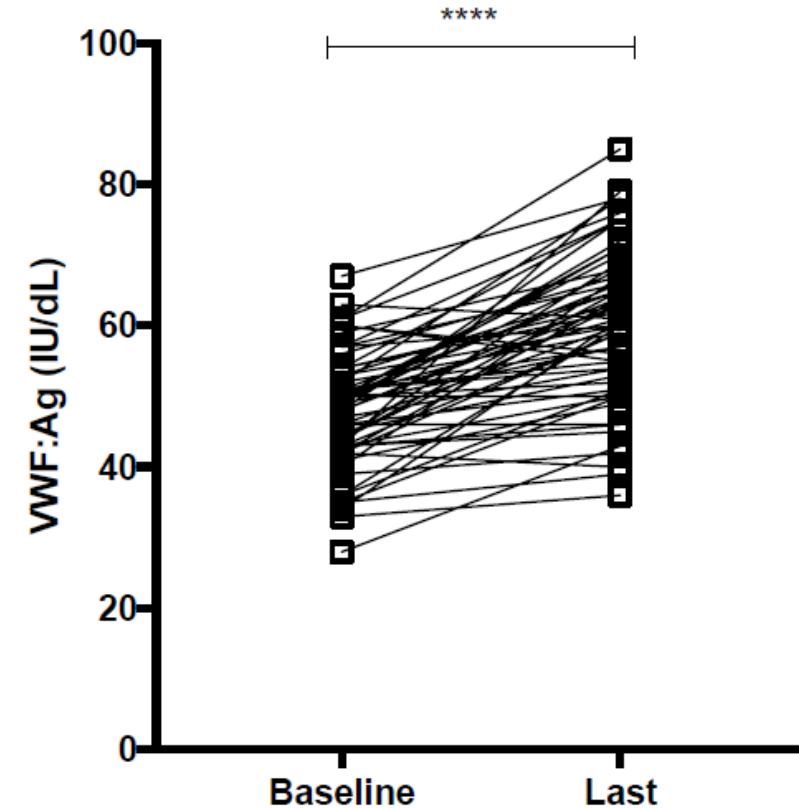
Unpublished data from MCMDM-1 study.; 1146 normal subjects and 418 type 1 VWD





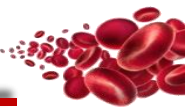
In patients with “low” VWF, normalization of VWF is possible

- An increase of VWF level is frequently observed
- Age-dependent effect
- Need for repeated testing to avoid over-diagnosis

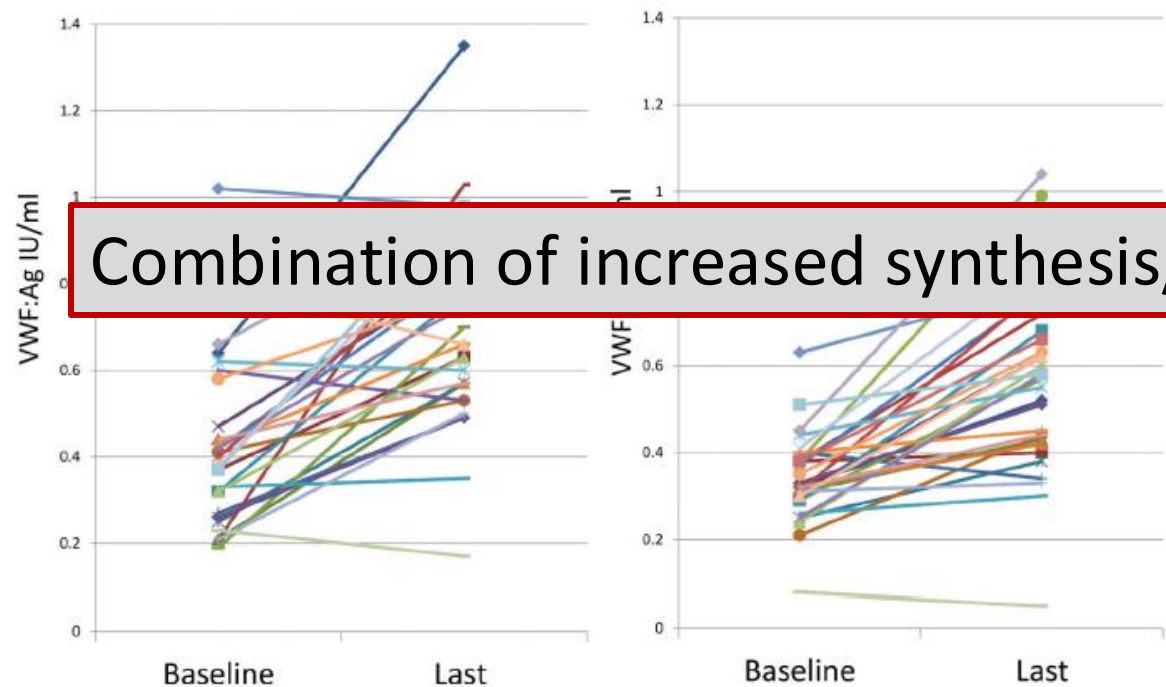


Lavin et al. Blood, 2017.





Type 1 VWD/Low VWF: VWF:Ag and VWF:RCo changes with age



Combination of increased synthesis/reduced clearance

Mean observation period: 11 years (range 5-26)

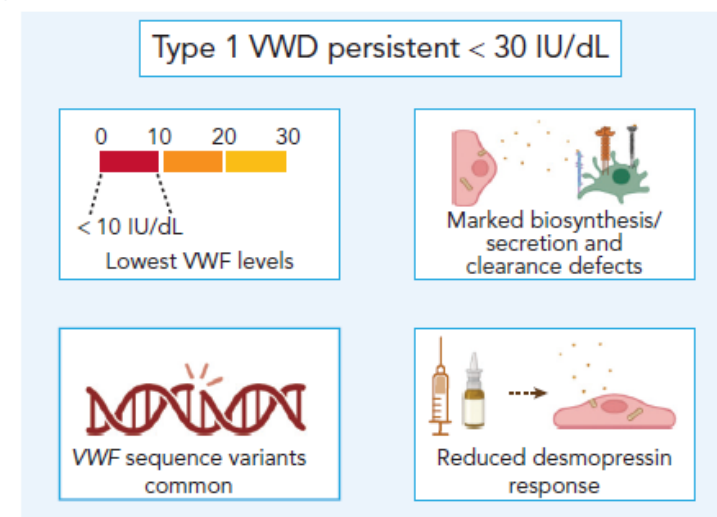
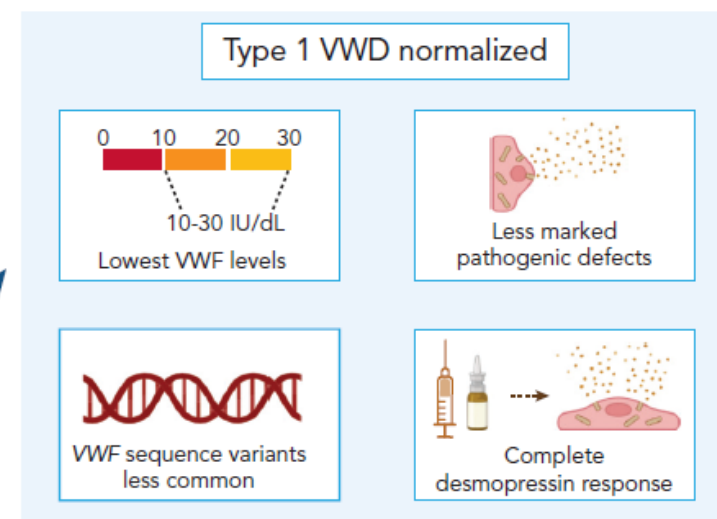
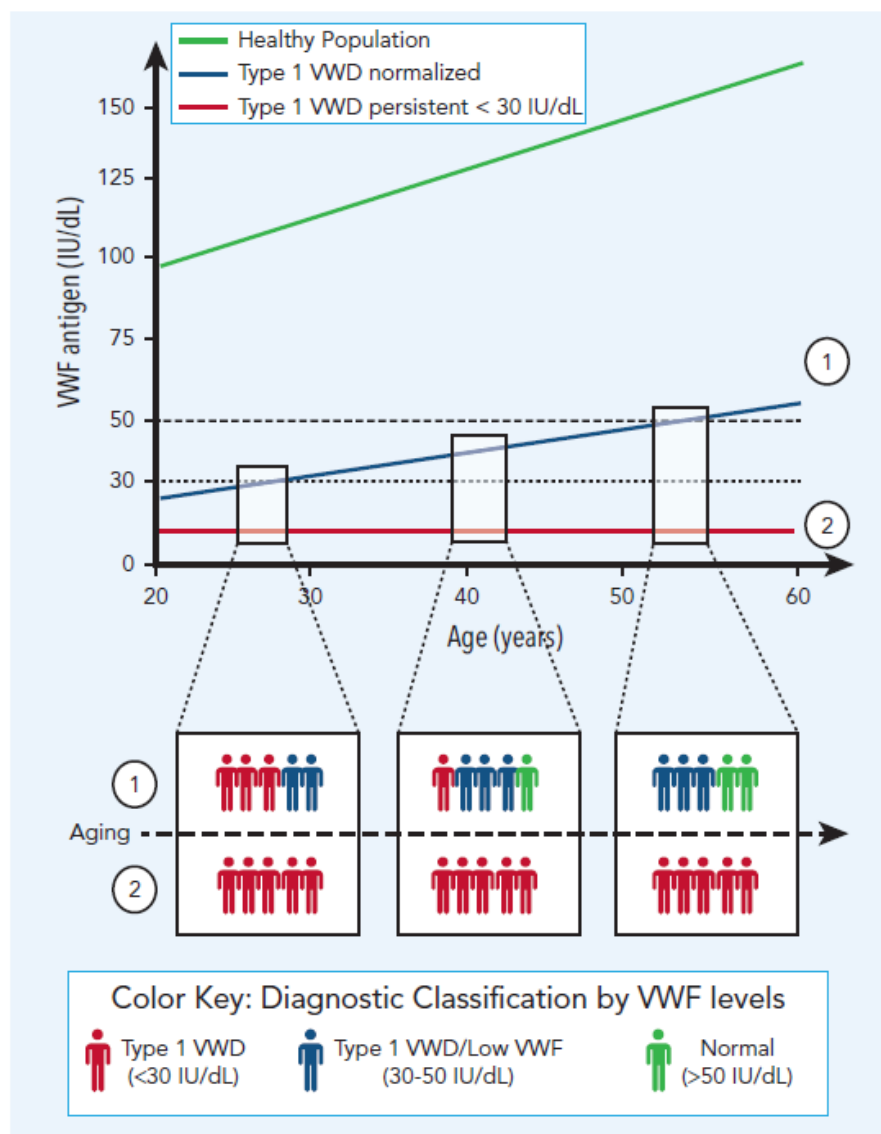
Comparison of Baseline and Last VWF levels

	Baseline, IU/ml Mean (range)	Last, IU/ml Mean (range)	P
A. All patients (n=31)			
VWF:Ag	0.75 (0.24-1.55)	0.90 (0.22-1.41)	<0.0001
VWF:RCo	0.29 (0.08-0.4)	0.42 (0.05-0.72)	<0.0001
FVIII:C	0.60 (0.24-0.81)	0.80 (0.26-1.37)	0.0081
B. Patients with VWF:Ag <0.30 IU/ml (n=8)			
VWF:Ag	0.23 (0.19-0.27)	0.57 (0.17-1.03)	0.0071
VWF:RCo	0.29 (0.08-0.4)	0.42 (0.05-0.72)	0.046
FVIII:C	0.60 (0.24-0.81)	0.80 (0.26-1.37)	0.021

58% of patients normalized VWF:Ag and VWF:RCOF

VWF level does not change in patients with severe type 1, type 2 and 3







VWD, VWF, AGE AND TYPE 1 DIAGNOSIS

VWF levels that normalize with age. RECOMMENDATION 5.

The panel *suggests* reconsidering the diagnosis as opposed to removing the diagnosis for patients with previously confirmed type 1 VWD who now have VWF levels that have normalized with age (conditional recommendation based on very low certainty in the evidence of effects ⊕○○○).

Remarks:

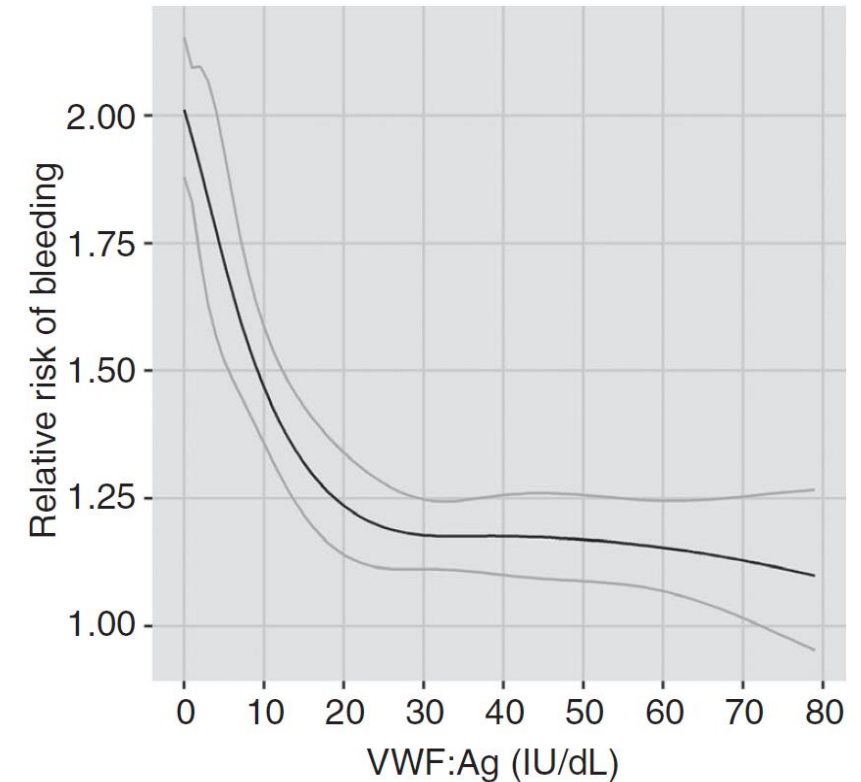
- With this recommendation, the panel worked under the assumption that the original diagnosis of type 1 VWD was accurate.
- Aging and comorbidities are known to increase VWF levels. However, the association between the increased VWF levels and bleeding symptoms is not established.
- Decisions about reconsidering or removing the diagnosis should consider the patient's values and preferences and be informed by a shared decision-making process.





What are the minimal VWF/FVIII levels required for safe hemostasis?

- We don't know – no evidence that elderly people have different hemostatic requirements
- Bleeding symptoms are associated with VWF levels < 20 IU/dL ¹
- Guidelines suggest VWF levels above 50 IU/dL for at least three days after surgery ²⁻⁴



1. Tosetto et al. *J Thromb Haemost*, 2020; 2. Connell et al. *Blood Adv*, 2021; 3. Castaman et al. *Haematologica*, 2013





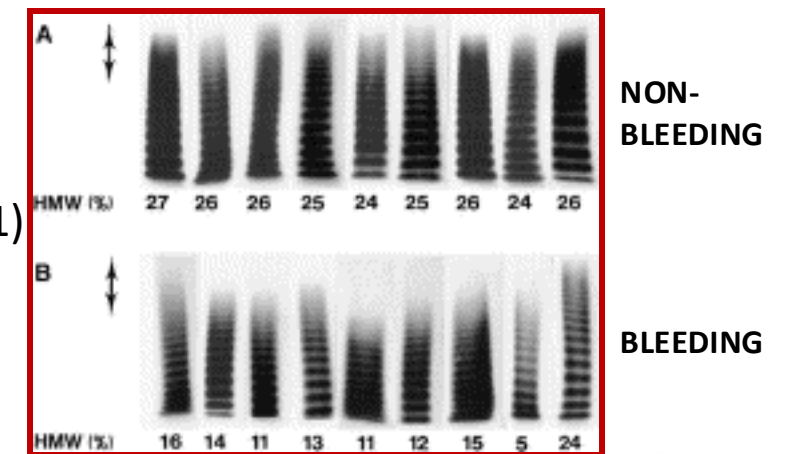
Most critical bleeds in elderly VWD patients





Gastrointestinal bleeding and angiodysplasia

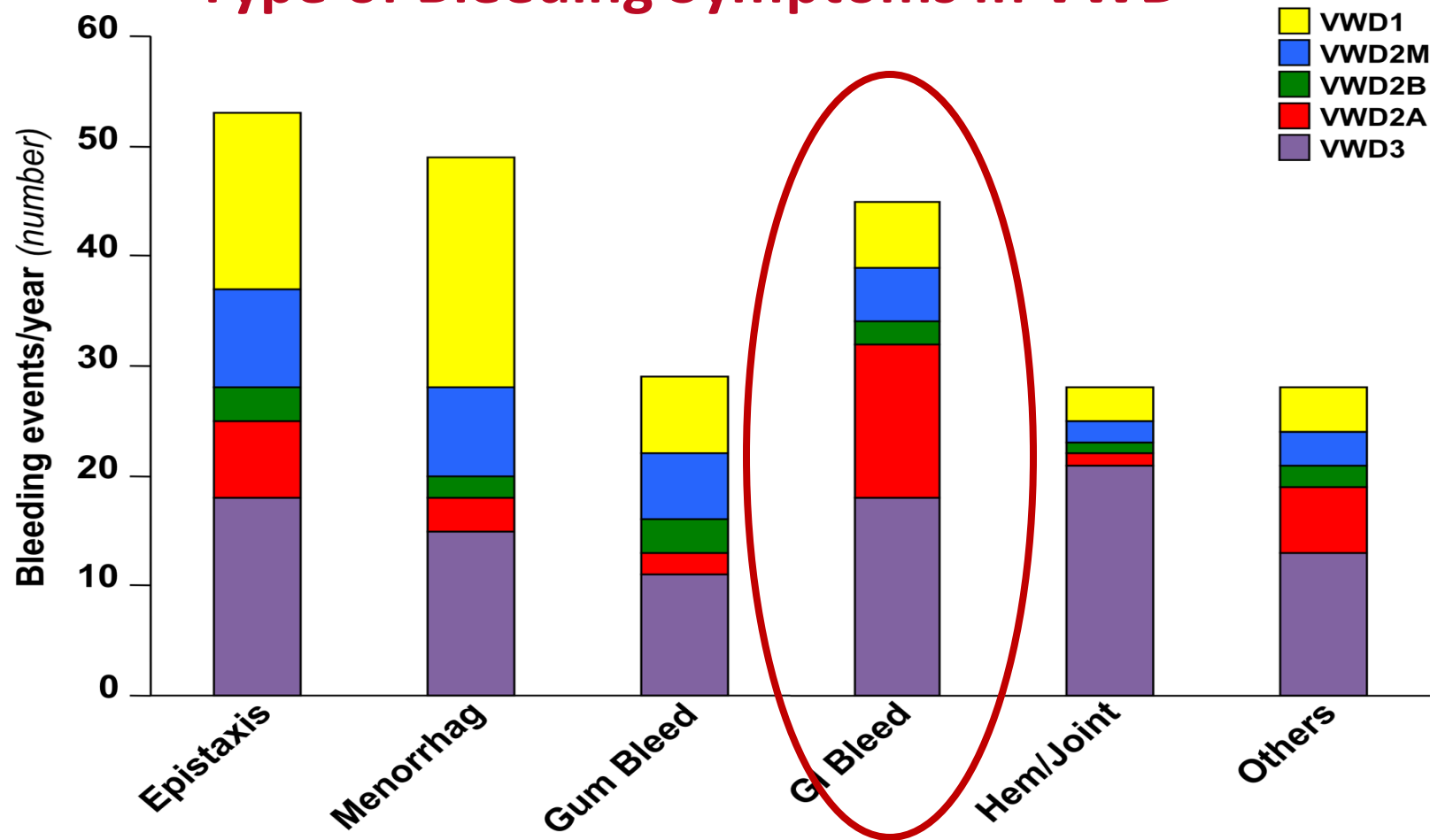
- Mostly acquired as a degenerative aging process
- Fortuitous endoscopic findings in ~ 3 % of nonbleeding individuals > 65 years (Meyer et al, 1981)
- GI bleeding due to angiodysplasia major cause of digestive tract bleeding in the general population and commonly observed in elderly people, with incidences ranging from 2.6% to 6.2% in endoscopies for bleeding (Danesh et al, 1987; Sharma & Gorbien, 1995)
- A proportion of patients with GI bleeding and angiodysplasia have a deficiency of the largest HMW VWF multimers, mainly associated with aortic valve stenosis (Veyradier et al, 2001)



The bleeding score predicts clinical outcomes and replacement therapy in adults with von Willebrand disease: a prospective cohort study of 796 cases

Augusto B. Federici, Paolo Bucciarelli, Giancarlo Castaman, Maria G. Mazzucconi, Massimo Morfini, Angiola Rocino, Mario Schiavoni, Flora Peyvandi, Francesco Rodeghiero and Pier Mannuccio Mannucci

Type of Bleeding Symptoms in VWD





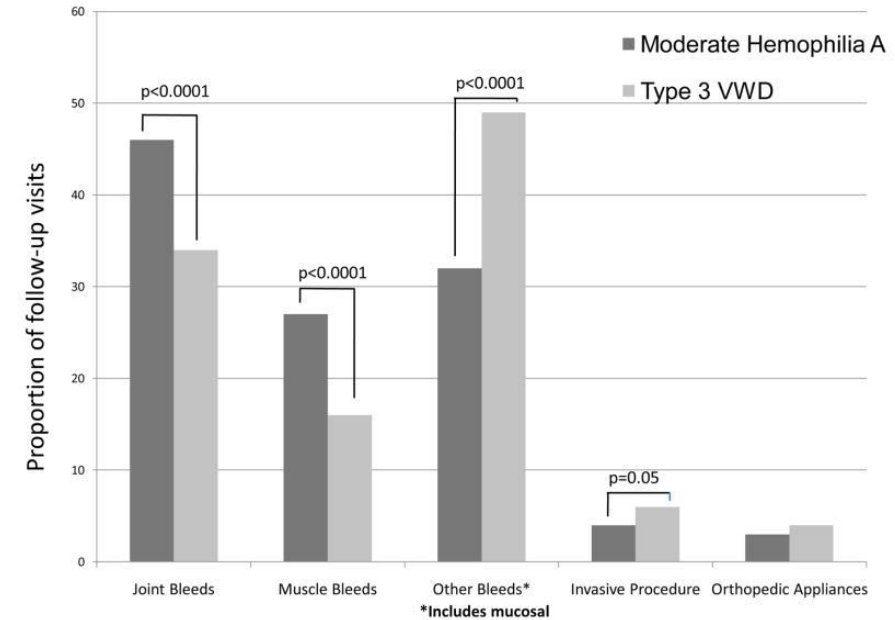
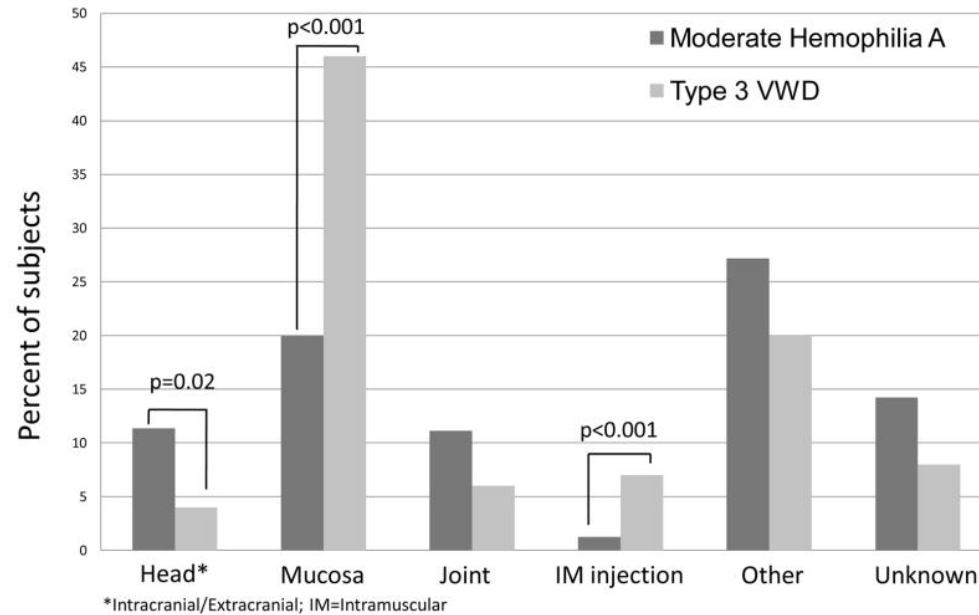
Joint bleeding

- Joint bleeds are reported by almost a quarter of patients with moderate and severe VWD, start mostly before the age of 16 years and occur in all three types of moderate to severe VWD (Van Galen et al, 2015)
- JB in VWD are associated with more severe VWD, male sex, more CFC consumption, more self-reported and X-ray recorded joint damage and lower HR-QoL
- Prophylaxis reduces joint bleed frequency and is likely to prevent joint damage when more than five JB occur





Similar rates of joint function limitation between Type 3 VWD and moderate HA



- No difference in joint ROM loss over time between individuals with VWD and moderate HA.
- Higher FVIII level was associated with preserved joint ROM ($p < 0.001$).
- Lower FVIII level correlated with a higher rate of joint ($p < 0.001$) and muscle ($p < 0.001$), but not mucosal bleeding ($p=0.10$).



[haematologica reports]
2005;1(4):30-31

Session III • Pharmacological Treatment of VWD

Long-term prophylaxis in von Willebrand disease. Experience from Sweden

- 35 patients (28 type 3, 3 2B, 2 2A, 1 type 1 on prophylaxis for 11 yr (2 - 45)
- Once-thrice weekly infusions (25 U/Kg FVIII)
- 17 patients on prophylaxis for hemarthrosis had **1-4 episodes/year**
- **Most developed chronic arthropathy by clinical-radiologic evidences**
- Improved QoL, no thrombosis

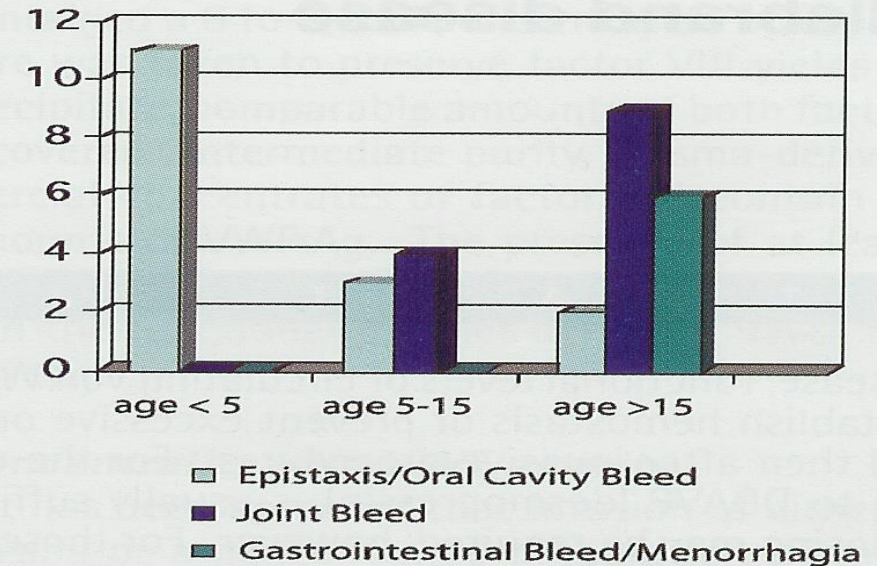


Figure 1. Clinical indication for prophylaxis by age at commencement of therapy.

Long-term prophylaxis in VWD with a VWF concentrate

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

jth

Management of von Willebrand disease with a factor VIII-poor von Willebrand factor concentrate: Results from a prospective observational post-marketing study

Jenny Goudemand¹ | Françoise Bridey² | Ségolène Claeysens³ |
Nathalie Itzhar-Baïkian⁴ | Annie Harroche⁵ | Dominique Desprez⁶ | Claude Négrier⁷ |
Pierre Chamouni⁸ | Hervé Chambost⁹ | Céline Henriët² | Sophie Susen^{1,10} |
Annie Borel-Derlon¹¹

	GI bleeds (13 patients)	Joint bleeds (14 patients)
Infusions for prophylaxis	4,036	3,341
VWF infusion dose (IU/kg)	45.2 (22 – 55)	42.2 (26 – 76)
N. Infusions per week	2.5 (1 – 3)	1.9 (1.2 – 3.3)
ABR	1.1 (0.0 – 11)	0.8 (0.0 – 5.4)
Breakthrough bleeds	56/4,036 (1.4 %)	51/3,069 (1.7 %)



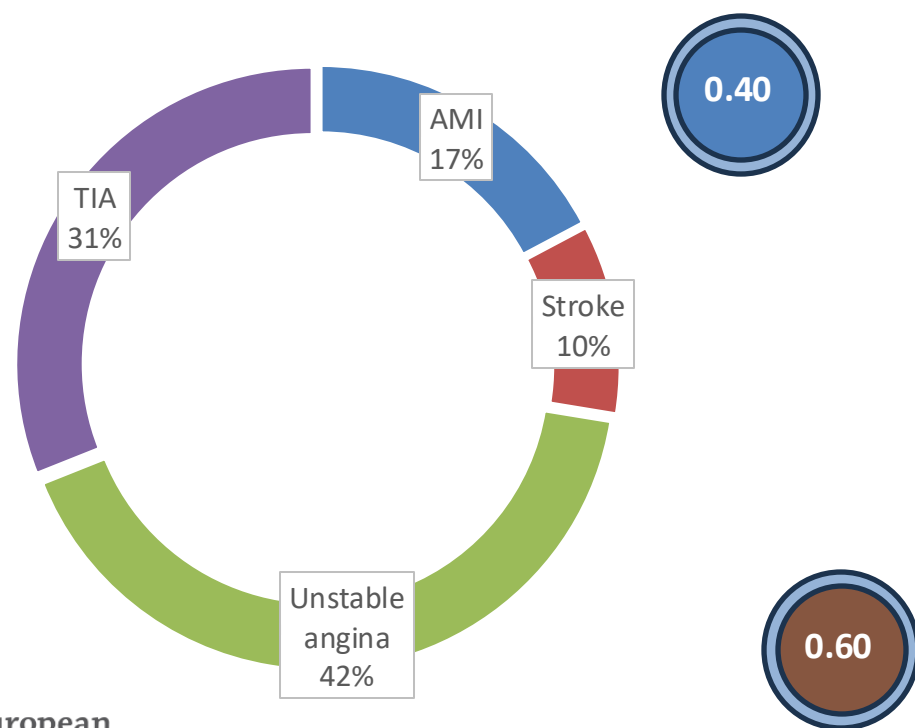
VWD, age and comorbidities: Cardiovascular risk and management



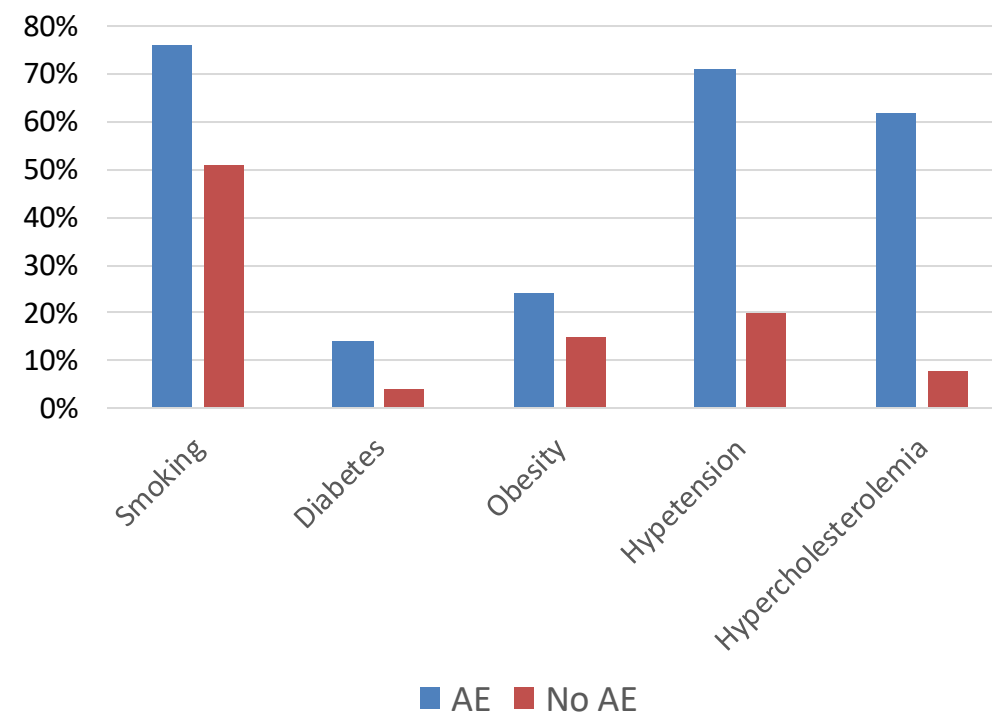


Prevalence of arterial thrombosis in VWD, WiN cohort

Arterial events (AE) and SMRs



Prevalence of risk factors



Sanders et al. Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis, 2013





ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Does deficiency of von Willebrand factor protect against cardiovascular disease? Analysis of a national discharge register

C. D. SEAMAN, *† J. YABES, ‡ D. M. COMER‡ and M. V. RAGNI*†

The prevalence of CVD in VWD patients was less than the prevalence of CVD in non-VWD patients (15.0% versus 26.0%).

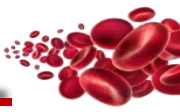
Table 4 Baseline characteristics of von Willebrand disease (VWD) patients with and without cardiovascular disease (CVD)

	VWD patients with CVD	VWD patients without CVD	P-value
Admissions	1138	6418	
Age (years)			
Mean (SE)	68.20 (0.41)	46.40 (0.24)	< 0.001
Gender (%)			
Male	39.62	21.90	< 0.001
Female	60.38	79.10	< 0.001
Length of stay (days)			
Mean (SE)	5.85 (0.2)	4.38 (0.07)	< 0.001
Inpatient mortality (%)	3.13	1.02	< 0.001
CVD risk factors (%)			
Hypertension	70.00	31.59	< 0.001
Hyperlipidemia	44.97	12.84	< 0.001
Diabetes mellitus	30.96	10.66	< 0.001
Obesity	10.55	8.99	< 0.001
Smoking	11.53	12.20	< 0.001

SE, standard error.

von Willebrand Disease
Community

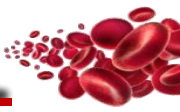




Recommendation for antithrombotic treatment in PWH

- FVIII 1–5 IU/dL for SAPT (aspirin or clopidogrel)
- FVIII \approx 20 IU/dL for DAPT or oral anticoagulation
- FVIII \approx 80 IU/dL for triple therapy (oral anticoagulation and DAPT)
- Clotting factor concentrates should be given to reach peak levels of FVIII 80-100 before PCI and maintain >50 IU/dL for 24–48 h
- Prevention programs for PWH are key





Prophylaxis

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.

Managing cardiovascular events

Recommendation 3

In patients with VWD and cardiovascular disease who require treatment with antiplatelet agents or anticoagulant therapy, the panel *suggests* giving the necessary antiplatelet or anticoagulant therapy over no treatment (conditional recommendation based on low certainty in the evidence of effects ⊕⊕○○).

Remark:

It is important to reassess the bleeding risk throughout the course of treatment.

Bleeding
Score

5

VWD
(Inherited/
Acquired,
clinically severe)

VWD,
Acquired or
Inherited «Mild»

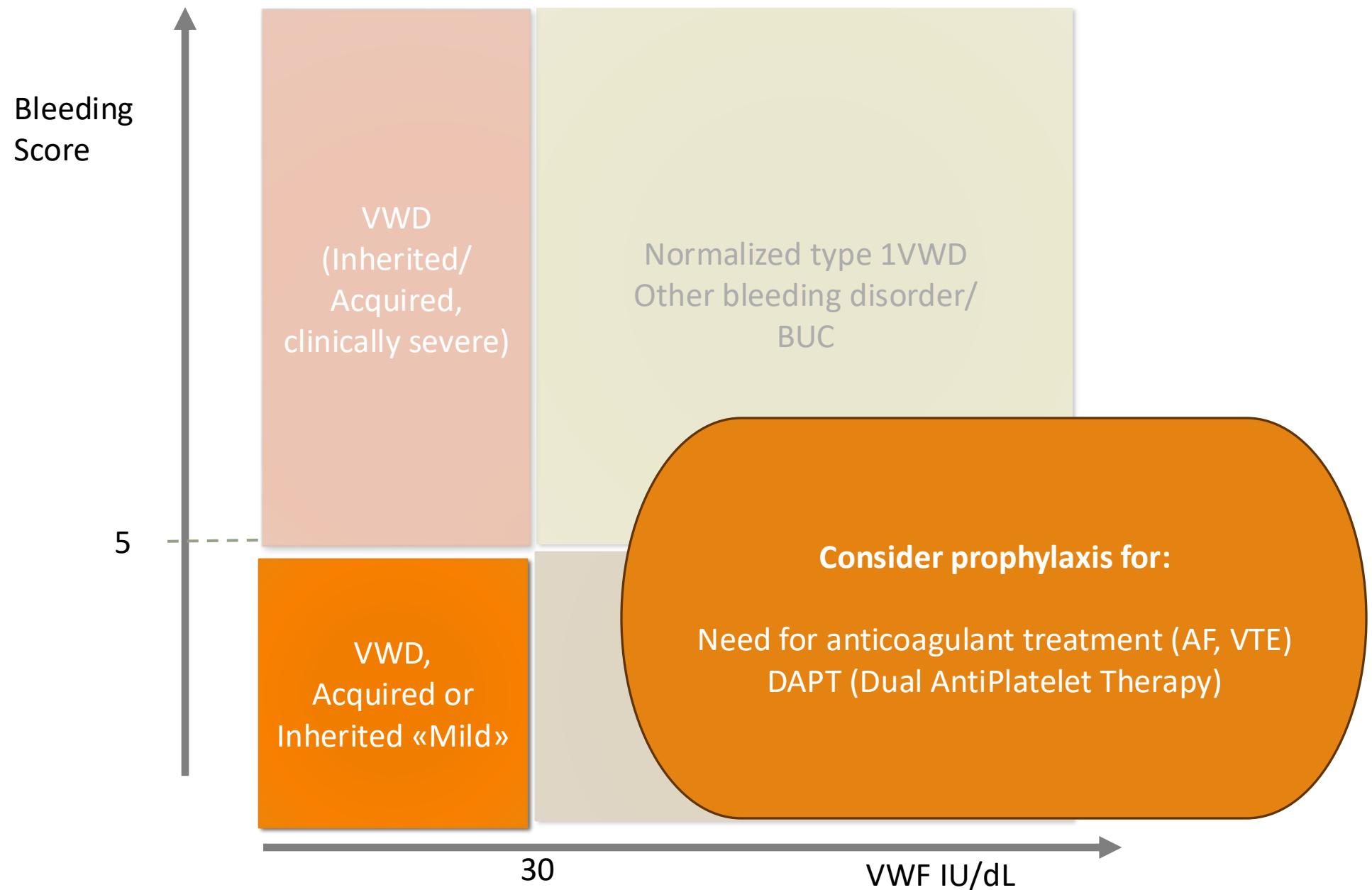
Normal, or
normalized type 1 VWD

Consider prophylaxis for:

Present History of Major Bleeding (e.g.,
angiodysplasia)
Need for anticoagulant treatment (AF, VTE)
DAPT (Dual AntiPlatelet Therapy)

30

VWF IU/dL



Bleeding
Score

5

VWD
(Inherited/
Acquired,
clinically severe)

Normalized type 1VWD

VWD,
Acquired or
Inherited «Mild»

Normal, or
normalized type 1 VWD

**Tranexamic Acid, 25mg/kg
3 times per day if VWF<50 IU/dL ± DDAVP if
not contraindicated**

30

VWF IU/dL



TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- Patients with VWD type 1 and VWF \geq 30 U/dL at diagnosis tend to normalize with age
- Bleeding phenotype over age risk should guide need for treatment
- Patients with VWD type 1 and VWF < 30 U/dL, type 2 and 3 do not show significant changes with age
- Bleeding risk remain substantially unchanged, little is known on normalized cases
- Co-morbidities may influence VWF levels and could influence bleeding risk
- Prophylaxis for recurrent bleeding/joint bleeding if not already ongoing
- Antithrombotic treatment should not be avoided if considered indicated





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EHC - European Haemophilia Consortium



European Haemophilia Consortium



@EHCTVChannel EHC Youtube channel



European
von Willebrand Disease
Community



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Eurobloodnet - European Reference Network on Rare Hematological Diseases



ERN-EuroBloodNet's EDUcational Youtube channel



This project is carried out within the framework of European Reference Network on Rare Haematological Diseases (ERN-EuroBloodNet)-Project ID No 101085717. ERN-EuroBloodNet is partly co-funded by the European Union within the framework of the Fourth EU Health Programme.



Co-funded by the
European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.