

HEMOPHILIA

What is hemophilia?

Hemophilia is a bleeding disorder caused by a problem in blood's ability to form a clot. Hemophilia causes to bleed more and longer than normal. Certain blood cells and substances normally form clots and stop from bleeding too much. These include platelets, clotting factors, vitamin K, and fibrinogen. Clotting factors are proteins that work with platelets to clot the blood. Hemophilia usually occurs only in men.

What are the types and levels of hemophilia?

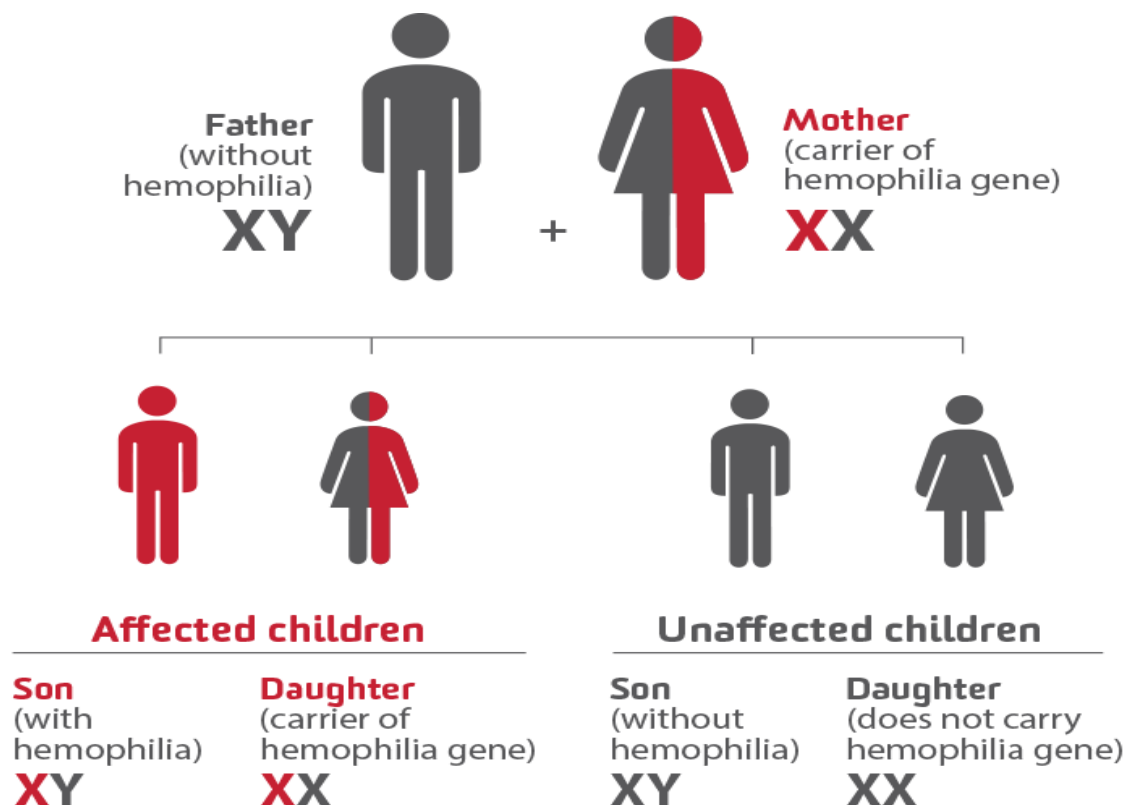
The 2 common types of hemophilia are hemophilia A and hemophilia B.

- Hemophilia A means the level of clotting factor VIII (eight) is lower than normal.
- Hemophilia B means the level of clotting factor IX (nine) is lower than normal.

Hemophilia can be mild, moderate, or severe. This is based on the amount of clotting factor or the kind of bleeding episodes. A bleeding episode is bleeding that lasts longer than several minutes. Bleeding episodes can occur with or without injury.

What causes hemophilia?

Person is born with hemophilia. Hemophilia A and B are usually inherited. This means that hemophilia runs in patients family. The gene is passed from a parent to the child. A woman may carry and pass the gene that causes hemophilia, but not have hemophilia.



What are the signs and symptoms of hemophilia?

- Frequent bleeding from gums or nose
- Heavy bleeding from injuries or after surgeries or dental work
- Painful bruises that form easily after bump a body area
- Bowel movements that are black
- Urine that is pink or red
- Stiff, painful, or swollen joints

How is hemophilia treated?

There is no cure for hemophilia. Treatment is based on the type and symptoms. Treatment is given to improve clotting:

- **Replacement therapy:**
Certain blood cells, called factor concentrates, help the blood to clot and the bleeding to stop. They replace the missing clotting factor in blood. For severe hemophilia, this treatment may be scheduled for 2 or more times each week.
- **Medicines:**
 - **Antifibrinolytic proteins:** These medicines keep blood clots from breaking down. They may be used to stop bleeding in mouth, nose, or abdomen.
 - **Desmopressin:** This is medicine that will help increase the amount of clotting factors in blood.
 - **Steroid medicine:** This may be given to decrease swelling in joints or tissues.
- **Physical and occupational therapy:**
Patient may need physical therapy if joints or muscles have been damaged from bleeding. Occupational therapy may also be needed.
- **Surgery:**
Patient may need surgery such as arthroplasty to repair damage caused by bleeding into joints.

What are the risks of hemophilia?

- Body may react badly to blood products, causing new blood cells to attack healthy cells. This can lead to allergic reactions and trouble breathing. If patient have a central venous catheter or a port, he may get an infection or blood clots. It may bleed into lungs or chest, have an irregular heartbeat, or blood may collect around heart.
- If hemophilia is not treated, patient may bleed often and lose too much blood. Bleeding can occur in muscles, joints, or in mouth. Joint bleeding causes joint pain and swelling. Patient may lose too much blood and develop a condition called anemia. Bleeding in brain, abdomen, chest, neck, or throat is very serious and can be life-threatening. Heavy blood loss can damage organs and be life-threatening.

Reference: Micromedex's Care Notes System Online 2.0