Bleeding Disorders AWARENESS WEEK

11-17 OCTOBER 2020

WHAT IS A BLEEDING DISORDER?

Haemophilia

- A rare genetic bleeding disorder where the blood doesn't clot properly
- Caused by an alteration in the gene making clotting factor VIII (8) or IX (9)
- Usually inherited, but 1/3 of people have no previous family history
- A lifelong condition and can be life-threatening without treatment
- Treatment can help prevent repeated bleeding into muscles and joints, which causes arthritis and joint problems
- Most people diagnosed with haemophilia are male
- Women and men can have the genetic alteration causing haemophilia and pass it on to their children
- Some females who carry the gene also have bleeding problems; some have haemophilia.

How common?

- In Australia there are more than 6,000 people diagnosed with haemophilia, von Willebrand disease or other related inherited bleeding disorders.

Von Willebrand disease (VWD)

- An inherited bleeding disorder
- Occurs when people do not have enough of a protein called von Willebrand factor in their blood or it does not work properly
- Most people with VWD have mild symptoms but some people have a more severe form. With all forms of VWD there can be bleeding problems and some people bleed quite often
- Many people are not aware they have the disorder and are currently undiagnosed
- Both men and women can have VWD and pass it on to their children.

Other Bleeding Disorders

- Other bleeding disorders include rare clotting factor deficiencies and inherited platelet disorders
- Factor XI deficiency is the most common of the rare bleeding disorders, estimated at 1 in 100,000 people, and is the third most common bleeding disorder to affect women after von Willebrand disease and haemophilia.

1800 807 173

www.haemophilia.org.au

HAEMOPHILIA FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA