

# Approccio terapeutico al paziente con malattia di Von Willebrand

Eugenia Biguzzi, MD

Centro Emofilia e Trombosi A. Bianchi Bonomi  
Milano

# VWD

- VWD 1: quantitative deficiency, normal multimers
  - 1C (Vicenza, increased clearance, presence of ULM)
- VWD 2: qualitative deficiency
  - 2A: loss of HMWM
  - 2B: increased affinity for gp1b, loss of HMWM
  - 2M: normal HMWM
  - 2N: reduced binding to FVIII
- VWD 3: severe quantitative deficiency, loss of HMWM

# VWD: therapy

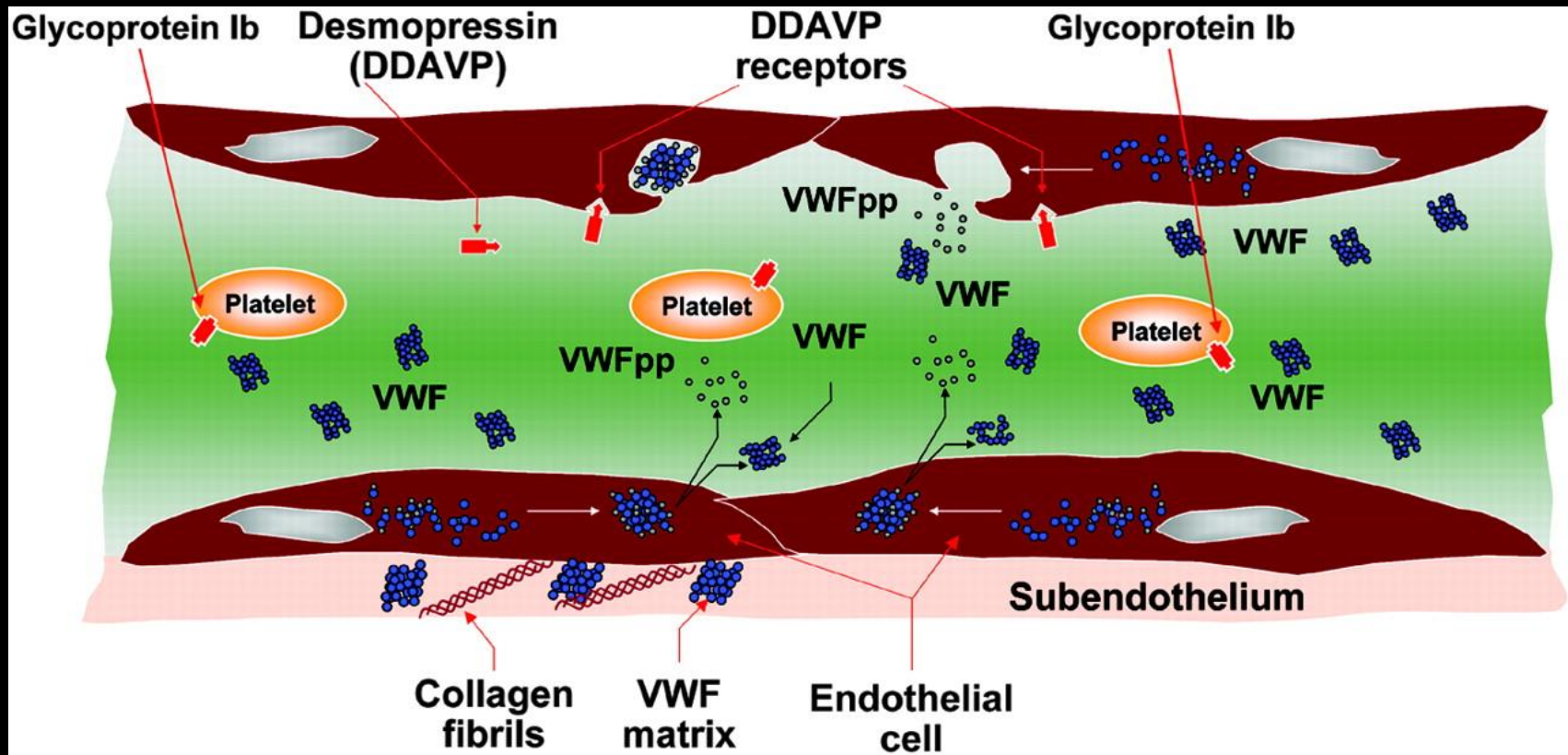
- Correction of VWF levels
- DDAVP
- concentrates
- Adjunctive therapy
- Tranexamic acid
- Women issues
- Menorrhagia
- Pregnancy

# DDAVP, desmopressin

(1-desamino-8-D-arginin vasopressin)

- Synthetic derivative of the human antidiuretic hormone vasopressin
- It raises FVIII and VWF plasma levels (2-3 folds, secretion from Weibel-Palade bodies of the endothelial cells)

# DDAVP, desmopressin (1-desamino-8-D-arginin vasopressin)



# DDAVP, desmopressin

(1-desamino-8-D-arginin vasopressin)

- Test to evaluate response: evaluate FVIII and VWF after 1 hour and 4 hours
- Dose: 0.3microg/kg (intravenous or subcutaneous), generally every 24 hours;
- Capped dose 15 or 20microg for patients >50kg (*Siew et al 2014*)
- Commercial preparations: Emosint 4microg, Emosint 20microg, Minirin 4microg
- Immediate side effects: flushing, headache, hypotension/hypertension
- Side effects after repeated doses: hyponatremia and seizures, tachyphylaxis

# type of VWD

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# DDAVP response

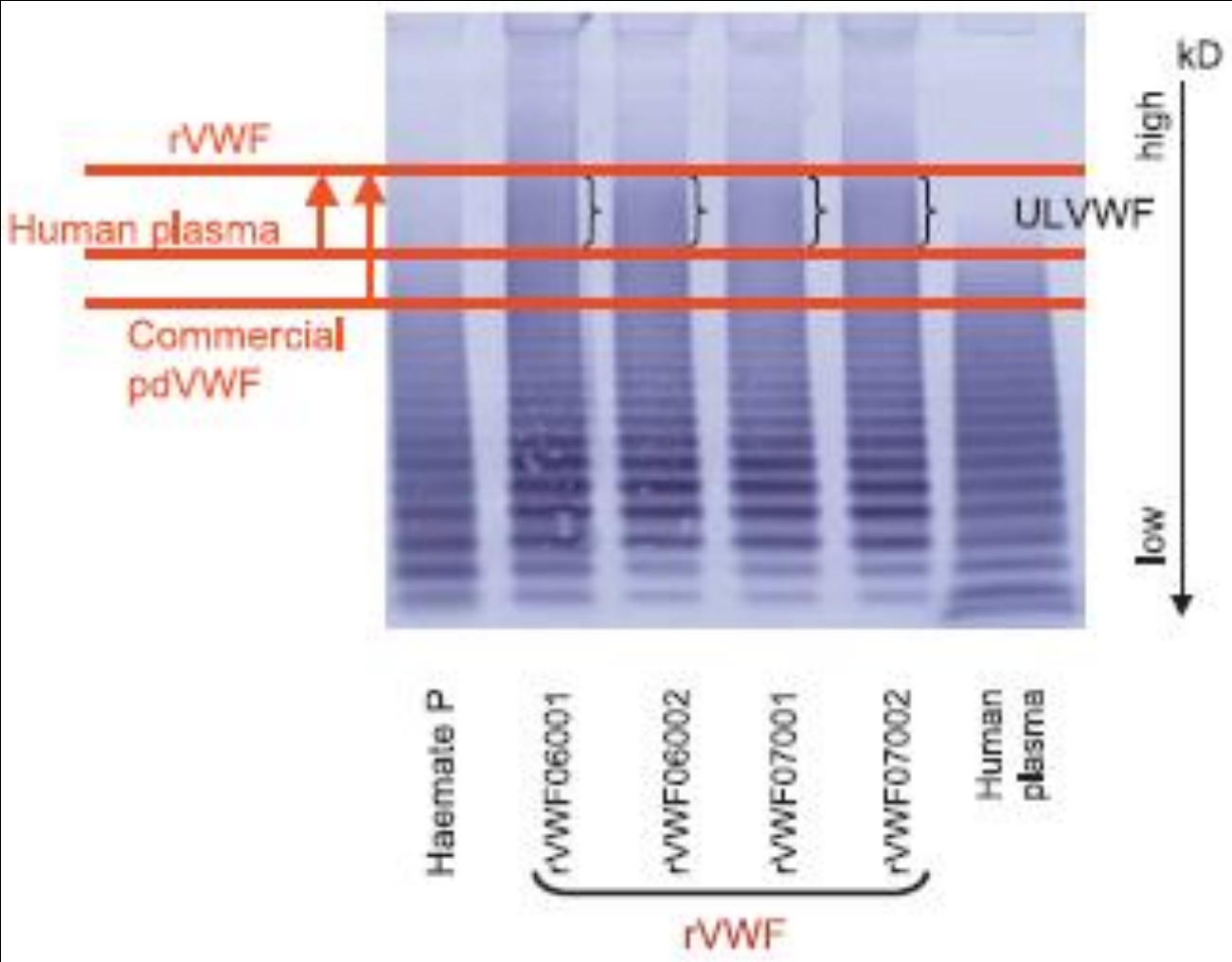
- usually good
  - very good response that is lost after 2 hours, limited use
  - 2A: poor response
  - 2B: contraindicated
  - 2M: variable response
  - 2N: good response but short, limited use
- not indicated

# FVIII/VWF concentrates

Product	Purification	Viral inactivation	VWF:RCO /FVIII
Haemate-P, CSL	Multiple precipitation	Pasteurization (60°C, 10h)	1.04
Fanhdi/Alpha nate, Grifols	Heparin ligand chromatography	S/D + dry heat (80°C, 72h)	2.45
Wilate, Octapharma	Ion exchange + affinity	S/D + dry heat (100°C, 2h)	1.0
Wilfactin, LFB	Ion exchange + affinity	S/D, 35nm filtration + dry heat (100°C, 2h)	≈50
rVWF, Baxter	rVW coexpressed with rFVIII in CHO cells; rVWF +rfurin to remove propeptide; purification		Only VWF



# FVIII/VWF concentrates:multimers prophile



# Bleeding events and VWF levels

Clinical situation	Target trough level of VWF	Desmopressin responsive: DDAVP 0.3mcg/kg every 12-24h until bleeding stops	Desmopressin unresponsive: 30-50U/kg FVIII/VWF concentrate immediately, then every 24h until bleeding stops	Tranexamic acid: 15-25mg/kg every 8-12 hours
Clinically relevant non-major bleeding	>30	X	X	X
Major (life-threatening) bleeding	>50		X	X
Tooth extraction	>50	Single dose	Single dose	X
Minor surgery	>30	X	X	X
Major surgery	>50		X	X

# Prophylaxis: from hemophilia A to VWD

- It is logical to translate the success of prophylaxis obtained in hemophilia A to severe VWD: prophylaxis could be implemented early in life in a home setting, and prevention of bleeding and its consequences could be possible
- Nevertheless, the documented experience with long-term prophylaxis in VWD is limited

# PRO.WILL: preliminary data

*(Federici, Haemophilia 2007)*

11 PATIENTS

type 3 (n=5; 4 pts for joints bleeding, 1 for GI bleeding)

type 2A (n=4, GI bleeding)

type 2M (n=1, GI bleeding)

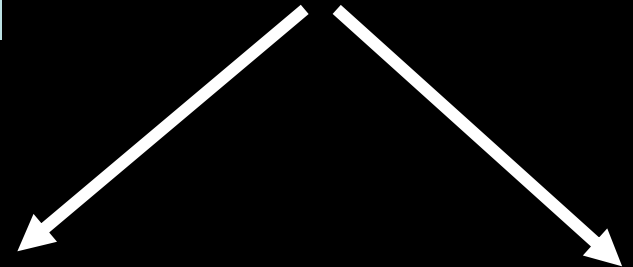
type 1 (n=1, GI bleeding)



prophylaxis

3-15

months



8 PATIENTS

complete bleeding prevention

3 PATIENTS

reduced hospitalization

# Von Willebrand Disease Prophylaxis network (VWD PN): VWD International Prophylaxis Study (VIP)

*(Abshire et al, update Haemophilia 2013)*

61 patients enrolled

analysis: 59 patients (10 countries, from 2008 to 2011)

Retrospective design

Median age 22.4ys (2.3-77.2)

type 3 (n=34) ; type 2 (n=20) ; type 1 (n=5); 2 excluded

Median time  
on prophylaxis

2.2 ys

**32 PATIENTS**

bleeding episodes/year prior to prophylaxis 12 (IQR 6-24)

bleeding episodes/year during prophylaxis 3.6 (IQR 0.96-9.4)

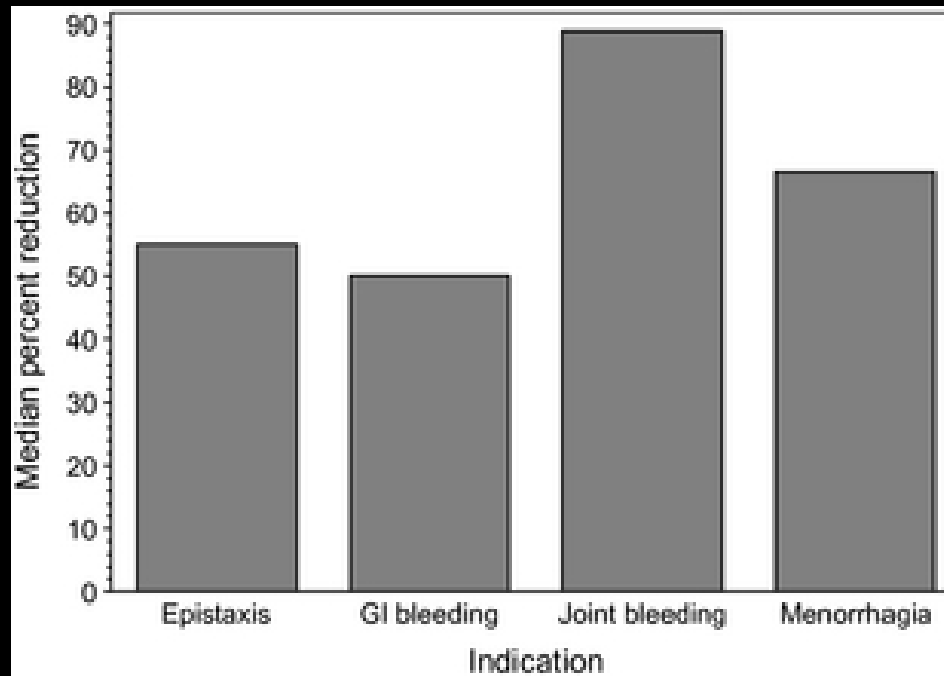
**1 PATIENT**

inhibitor  
development

(after 48 exposure days)

# Von Willebrand Disease Prophylaxis network (VWD PN): VWD International Prophylaxis Study (VIP)

*(Abshire et al, Haemophilia 2012)*



Outcomes measured as percent reduction in bleeding within individuals during prophylaxis, according to primary indication for treatment.

# Prophylaxis escalation in severe VWD

*(Abshire et al, JTH 2015)*

13 patients enrolled  
analysis: 11 patients (5 VWD3; 6 VWD2A)  
prospective design, Median age 34.6ys (3.1-80.6);  
ABR 25.0 (IQR 12-51.2)



Time on prophylaxis: 1 year  
ABR 4.0 (IQR 0-27.7)



**TREATMENT LEVEL 1**  
(50U Rco/kg once/week)  
4 epistaxis  
(2 type 3, 2 type 2A)

**TREATMENT LEVEL 2**  
(50U Rco/kg twice/week)  
1 epistaxis, 1 GI, 1 joint  
(1 type 2A, 2 type 3)

**TREATMENT LEVEL 3**  
(50U Rco/kg 3/week)  
1 epistaxis, 1 GI, 1 joint  
(1 type 3, 2 type 2A)

+ 1 patient (type 2A): 50U/kg every other day

# Prophylaxis in VWD: open questions

- Indications to begin (VWF & FVIII:C levels or bleeding severity?)
- When to begin (young age for type 3 with joints bleeds or frequent mucosal bleeding? older age for type 2 with frequent mucosal bleeds? fertile age for type 3 or type 2 women looking for pregnancy?)
- What frequency, what dosage, what concentrate (minimal VWF:Rco and FVIII:C before the next infusion? minimal VWF:Rco and FVIII:C levels between the infusions to avoid imprecision due to very low levels of VWF:Ricof?)
- When to stop (puberty for males with type 3? switching to oral oestrogens for young females at puberty?)
- Role of VWF/FVIII concentrates in GI bleeds (prevention of bleeding by maintaining higher levels of VWF and FVIII:C? prevention of GI artero-venous malformations?)
- Inhibitor development (mutations predisposing to inhibitor development? Relation with factor dosage?); thrombotic complications



# Severe VWD and menorrhagia

Severe = unresponsive to DDAVP (type 3, type 2, type 1)

<b>Response to oral contraceptive treatment for menorrhagia</b>	Type 3 n=23	Type 2 n=9	Type 1 n=12	<b>TOTAL n=44</b>
<b>Treated</b>	13	6	11	<b>30</b>
<b>Good response N°</b>	10	4	8	<b>22</b>
<b>No response N°</b>	0	1	2	<b>3</b>
<b>Not reported N°</b>	3	1	1	<b>5</b>

# Menorrhagia and quality of life

	VWD	Other bleeding disorders	VWD
N°	<b>259 females</b> <b>type 2/3: 37 (14%)</b>	<b>59 females</b>	<b>97 males</b> <b>type 2/3: 37 (31%)</b>
Health related quality of life * <b>Mean (SD)</b>	<b>0.70 (0.27) §</b>	<b>0.78 (0.22)</b>	<b>0.77 (0.25)</b>

Women VWD Menarche - 45ys	Menorrhagia	No Menorrhagia
N°	<b>84</b>	<b>104</b>
Health related quality of life * <b>Mean (SD)</b>	<b>0.64 (0.28) §</b>	<b>0.82 (0.20)</b>

\* dead=0, perfect health=1; § significantly different p<0.05

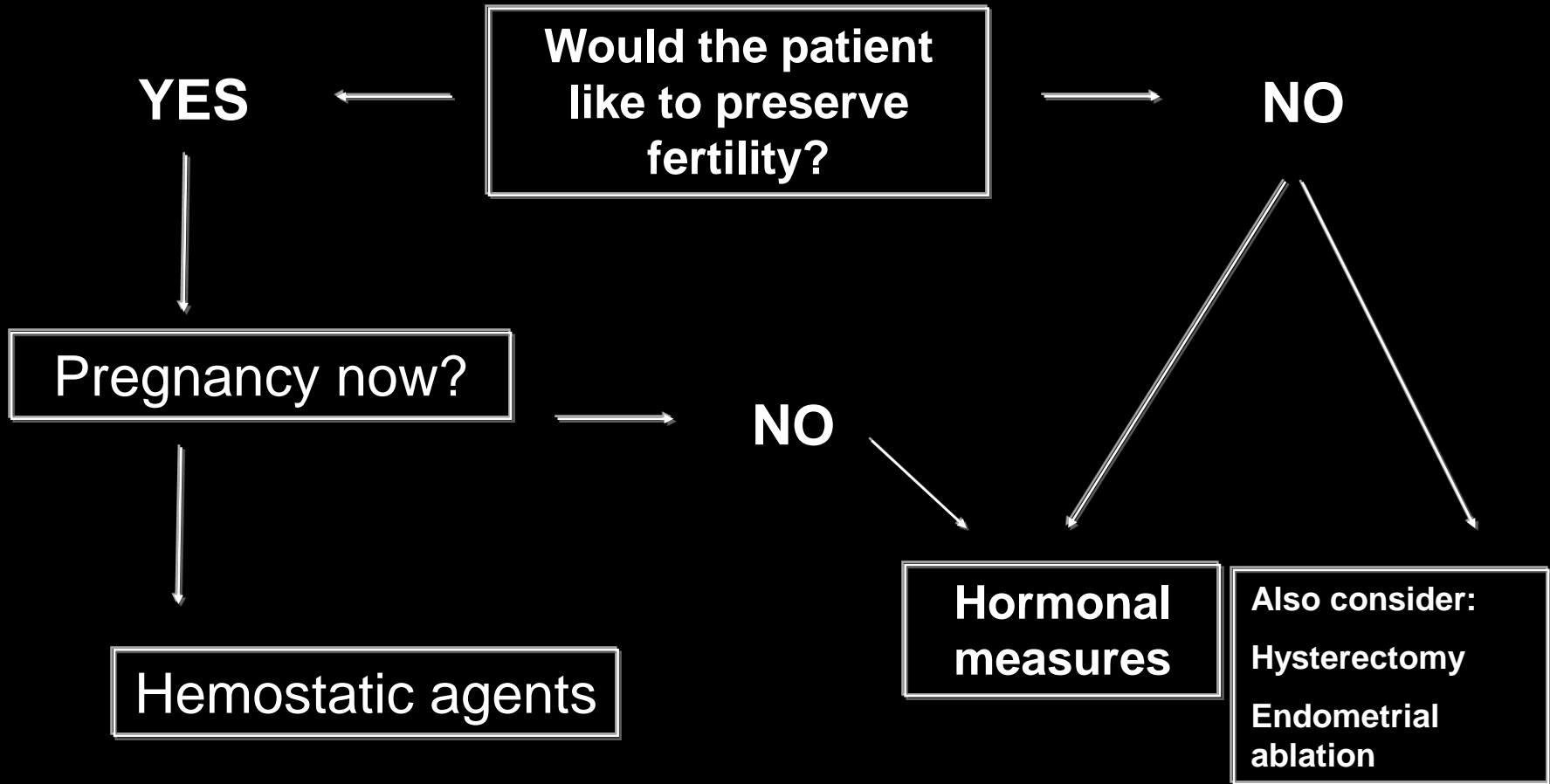
# VWD and menorrhagia

- 423 women VWD  $\geq 16$ ys
  - ✓ 64% type 1, 32% type 2, 4% type 3
- Menorrhagia: 81%
  - ✓  $\geq 2$  symptoms: subjective excessive blood loss/ blood clots / iron therapy or blood transfusion / heavy menstrual flow that interferes with daily life / periods longer than 7 days
- Gynecologist consultation: 85%
- Some treatment for menorrhagia: 99% (68% hormonal therapy)
- Hysterectomy 20%

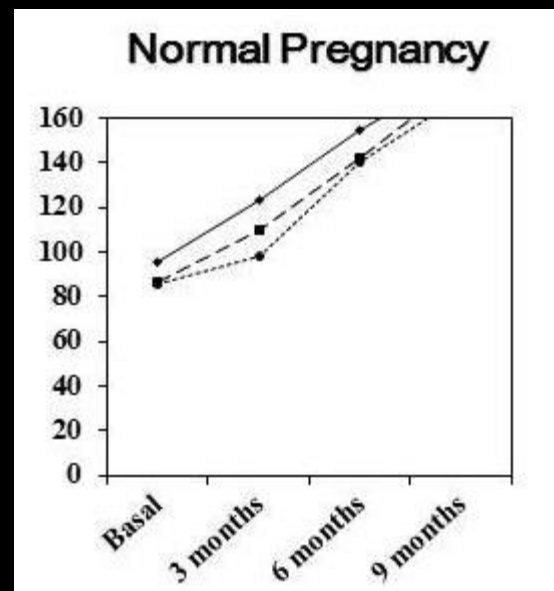
# Women issues

- Menorrhagia
  - Combined oral contraceptives
  - Levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine device (Mirena) (Chi et al, 2011)
  - Prophylaxis with FVIII/VWF concentrate
  - Tranexamic acid
  - Endometrial ablation and hysterectomy

# VWD and menorrhagia: consensus on management



# VWF and normal pregnancy



◆ FVIII:C ; ■ VWF:Ag ; ● VWF:RCo (IU/dL)

# Severe VWD and pregnancy

Severe = unresponsive to DDAVP (type 3, type 2, type 1)

	Type 3	Type 2	Type 1	TOTAL
N° women with pregnancy	11	7	13	31
N° pregnancies	15	13	41	69
Miscarriage	1	2	12	15
N° patients with miscarriage	1	2	5	8
Therapy* used at delivery	13/14	7/10	5/31	
Bleeding	3 (treated) +1 (not treated)	2 (treated)	10 (not treated)	

\*Therapy: FFP, cryoprecipitate or FVIII concentrate

# Natural course of post-partum hemorrhage in VWD

Enrollment and bleeding score before diagnosis of VWD

(clear autosomal dominant type 1VWD, confirmed in at least one family member)

POST-PARTUM BLEEDING SCORE				
	0 no or trivial	1 present requiring medical attention iron therapy	2 dilatation suturing curettage blood transfusion	3 hysterectomy
Type 1 VWD N=37	16 (43%)	9 (24%)	6 (16%)	6 (16%)
Normal controls N=105	102 (97%)	1 (1%)	2 (2%)	0



# PPH risk in VWD

- Case-control study: 62 deliveries in 33 women with VWD (7 type 2, no type3), 124 controls (matched for age at delivery, parity and year of delivery); years: 1949-2005 (Aberdeen registry)

- PPH: blood loss  $\geq$  500ml

- The majority of patients did not receive DDAVP or factor replacement

- All VWD patients

- ✓ PPH 19% VWD vs 12% controls

- ✓ crude OR for PPH: 1.62 (95% CI 0.75-3.49)

- ✓ adjusted\* OR for PPH: 1.31 (95% CI 0.48-3.60)

- VWD patients (diagnosed before pregnancy, n=24)

- PPH 29% VWD vs 12% controls

- crude OR for PPH: 2.78 (95% CI 1.03-7.49)

- adjusted OR for PPH: 3.41 (95% CI 1.07-10.9)

*\*adjusted for: placental abruption, placenta praevia, emergency cesarean, elective cesarean, retained placenta, episiotomy, multiple pregnancy, pre-eclampsia, multiparity, previous PPH, operative vaginal delivery, prolonged labour, big baby, obesity, pyrexia*

# PPH risk in VWD

- Pregnancy-related discharge codes years 2000-2003 (NIS: largest all-payer inpatient database)
- Aim of the study: to determine the incidence of bleeding events and other complications in women with VWD
- Deliveries = 16,824,897; deliveries & VWD = 4067
- OR for PPH → 1.5 (95% CI 1.1-2.0)
- OR for ante-partum bleeding → 10.2 (95% CI 7.1-14.6)
- OR for receiving a transfusion → 4.2 (95% CI 3.2-7.0)
- OR for perineal hematoma → 3.3 (95% CI 0.8-13.4)
- 5 deaths in VWD patients (123/100,000 vs 12.7/100,000)

# VWD and pregnancy: a practical approach

- Diagnose VWD before pregnancy
- Test DDAVP before pregnancy
- Preconceptual counselling (VWD type 3)
- Discuss possible chorionic villus sampling/amniocentesis
- Evaluation of FVIII and VWF levels during pregnancy (week 28 and 34)
- Management plan for labour and delivery
- Cesarean section is not indicated because of VWD
  
- **Work in team (obstetrician, gynecologist, midwife, anesthetist)!**

# Chorionic villus sampling/amniocentesis

- Case series: 32 women with low FVIII:C (years 1988-2002); 27 obligatory carriers of hemophilia with factor VIII deficiency + 5 type 1 VWD
- 20 chorionic villus sampling + 12 amniocentesis FVIII:C median value 18 U/dL; range, 10-35 U/dL
- Avoid excessive fluid intake and control body weight
- FVIII:C after DDAVP median 60 U/dL (range, 40-121 U/dL)
- No abnormal bleeding; side effects: mild facial flushing and headache

**DDAVP can be used during the first and second trimester of pregnancy; it is safe during invasive procedures that increase per se the risk of miscarriage.**

**No clinical sign of water intoxication or body weight increase in these women, who were warned to restrict fluid intake.**

# Delivery guidelines (I)

- Monitor factor levels (VWF:Ag, VWF:RCo and FVIII:C) at the beginning of pregnancy, 28 and 34 weeks and prior to invasive procedures
- Prophylactic treatment should be given when FVIII:C or VWF:Rco levels are <50% to cover invasive procedures and delivery
- Desmopressin can be used in normal pregnancy. Close monitoring for water retention must accompany its use
- Women with type 1 VWD generally do not require prophylactic treatment for delivery. In type 2 VWD, treatment is required for operative delivery or if there is perineal trauma. Women with type 3 VWD require treatment for all types of delivery.
- Epidural anaesthesia can be offered for use in majority of women with type 1 VWD whose VWF:RCo is >50%. It should be carried out by an experienced anaesthetist. It is generally not recommended for use in type 2 or 3 VWD.
- Women with VWF:RCo <50% should receive prophylactic treatment at the onset of labour or prior to planned caesarean section.

# Delivery guidelines (II)

- Fetuses affected with bleeding disorders are at higher risk of cranial bleeding during labour and delivery: fetal scalp electrodes and fetal blood sampling should be avoided
- Vacuum extraction, mid-cavity or rotational forceps delivery and prolonged second labour, especially during the second stage, should be avoided
- Inherited bleeding disorder is not an indication for cesarean section, but early recourse to it should be considered to minimize the risk of neonatal bleeding complications
- Factor levels should be monitored postdelivery and prophylaxis given to maintain VWF:RCo and FVIII levels >50% for at least 3 days, or 5 days following caesarean section. Tranexamic acid or COC pill should be considered to control prolonged and/or intermittent secondary PPH

# Peripartum use of DDAVP

- 31 pregnancies in 23 women (6 type 1, 6 type 1 Vicenza, 9 type 2A, 2 type 2N); 14 primiparous
- DDAVP test performed before pregnancy
- Basal levels: VWF:RCo <10% in 17/21 (type 2N excluded); FVIII:C <30% in 17/23
- 5 no anti-hemorrhagic prophylaxis → no bleeding
- 22 DDAVP (1-3 doses in the first 48 hours; 1 dose in 4; 2 doses in 13; 3 doses in 5 women with episiotomy)
- 4 FVIII concentrate (in one case because of bleeding albeit DDAVP):
  - ✓ 2 women with type 2A, VWF:RCo 3% (p. V1665E), delayed bleeding in one woman
  - ✓ 2 women with type 1 and VWF:RCo <5%: one woman first treated with DDAVP and then with concentrate (second delivery with DDAVP, no bleeding); one woman excessive bleeding (lochia), treated with tranexamic acid
- **No analgesia!**