



## INTRODUCTION TO BLEEDING DISORDERS

Bleeding disorders (hemophilia, von Willebrand disease, and other clotting disorders) are rare disorders with only 30,000 - 33,000 hemophilia patients in the US and about 4,000 in California; there are approximately 3 million people with von Willebrand disease nationally and about 390,000 people in California. These disorders can be caused by a variety of factors, including genetic mutations, deficiencies in blood clotting factors, or certain medications.

Bleeding disorders make your body unable to form blood clots because you are missing specific clotting factors.

If your blood doesn't clot normally, you can experience:

- Bleeding into joints, muscles, and soft tissues
- Excessive bruising
- Prolonged, heavy menstrual periods
- Unexplained nosebleeds
- Extended bleeding after minor cuts, blood draws, vaccinations, surgery, or dental procedures

While there is no cure for bleeding disorders, treatment options such as replacement therapy and medication management can help to manage symptoms and prevent complications. Treatment includes IV infusions – as often as daily – with medication that costs on average \$300,000 annually for a person with severe hemophilia or even up to \$1 million if you also have an immune response to the replacement factor, which we call having an inhibitor.

It's important for individuals with bleeding disorders to work closely with their healthcare providers to develop a personalized treatment plan and manage their condition effectively.

What this means when living with hemophilia is... **[fill in your experience here]**.

