Von Willebrand's Disease

Von Willebrand’s disease is the most common inherited bleeding disorder and affects 1 to 3% of all people. Von Willebrand’s disease is a deficiency or abnormality of the von Willebrand protein involved in the blood clotting process. Children with von Willebrand’s disease can have prolonged bleeding, either externally or internally into soft tissues. This bleeding disorder is diagnosed through blood tests and family history. It is treated by giving your child medication as directed, monitoring your child’s growth and development, and keeping your child safe.

Common symptoms:
- Frequent nose bleeds
- Nose bleeds that last longer than 15 minutes
- Girls with heavy menstrual bleeding
- Prolonged bleeding after dental work or surgical procedure
- Easy bruising

You can decrease your child’s risk of bleeding by:
- Avoiding products that contain aspirin or ibuprofen.
- Avoiding hard contact sports such as football and boxing.
- Always notifying your child’s hemophilia nurse or doctor before having any dental procedure or surgery.
- Avoiding intramuscular injections, except immunizations.

Call your child’s hemophilia nurse or doctor immediately if you have any questions or concerns, or if your child:
- Gets hit on the head, neck, or abdomen.
- Vomits blood.
- Has blood in the urine or stool.
- Has a mood or personality change.
- Has a change in level of consciousness or visual disturbances.
- Has seizures.
- Has a nose bleed that does not stop after 15 minutes of pressure and ice. (See "Nose Bleed" CARE CARD.)
- Has difficulty breathing or swallowing, or has pain in the neck or throat.
- Has menses that last greater than 7 days or requires more than one pad change per hour.

Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.:
Call your child's Hematology/Oncology Advanced Practice Nurse at (816) 234-3265.

Monday through Friday after 5 p.m., and on weekends or holidays:
Call (816) 234-3000 and ask the operator to page the Hematology/Oncology nurse or doctor "on-call."