Discussion Guide

Talking with your healthcare provider about hemophilia treatment centers (HTCs)

Von Willebrand disease (VWD) is complex, and there are a variety of treatment alternatives and a choice of providers.[1] You should talk to your healthcare provider about your options, including comprehensive care from an HTC.

Medical appointments are brief, so it is good to be prepared. This discussion guide is designed to help. We have provided questions for your primary treating physician, as well as questions to ask at the HTC before your first visit. We also provide space for you to add your own questions and to write down your healthcare provider's answers so you can refer to them later.

About you

At the beginning of your appointment, you will want to share some background information with your healthcare provider. These questions can help you remember key points.

- **Why is controlling your bleeding a priority?**
- **What complications are you experiencing as a result of your bleeding?**
- **Do you have other medical conditions?**
- **How does bleeding impact your life? (list ways)**

Questions & Notes

Understanding comprehensive care

Many people feel that comprehensive care is the optimal way to manage VWD.[2] Ask your healthcare provider:

- **What is comprehensive care?**
- **How does comprehensive care help me with my overall health?**
- **How is treatment part of comprehensive care?**
- **Does comprehensive care include education and support for my family?**

Determining whether an HTC is right for you

Studies have found that patients treated at HTCs receive more comprehensive care and have fewer health complications.[2] Ask your healthcare provider:

- **What is an HTC?**
- **Why should I consider going to an HTC?**
- **What is different about the treatment at an HTC vs. the emergency department or my primary healthcare provider's office?**
- **How can I find an HTC?**
- **How will you coordinate with healthcare providers at my HTC?**

Questions & Notes

Exploring HTCs

If you are considering being treated at an HTC, you may have some additional questions that are best answered by someone at the center. Ask a healthcare provider at your HTC:

- **What are the benefits of comprehensive care at an HTC?**
- **How much does comprehensive care cost?**
- **Who will be on my comprehensive care team?**
- **How often do I need to go to the center?**
- **How can I prepare for my first visit to an HTC?**

Questions & Notes

References:

1. Haemophilia Foundation Australia. A guide for people living with von Willebrand disorder. https://www.haemophilia.org.au/documents/item/1301. Accessed May 2, 2016.
2. Indiana Hemophilia & Thrombosis Center, Inc. VWD FAQs. http://www.ihtc.org/patient/blood-disorders/bleeding-disorders/vmd-faqs/#htc:. Accessed May 2, 2016.

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