

*22/Sep/2019*

# **Approach to the Patients with Bleeding Diathesis**



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# Contents

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- Overview of Hemostasis
- Approach to patients with bleeding diathesis
  - Patient history
  - Laboratory tests
- Bleeding disorder
  - Disorders of platelets
  - Disorders of coagulation system

# Contents

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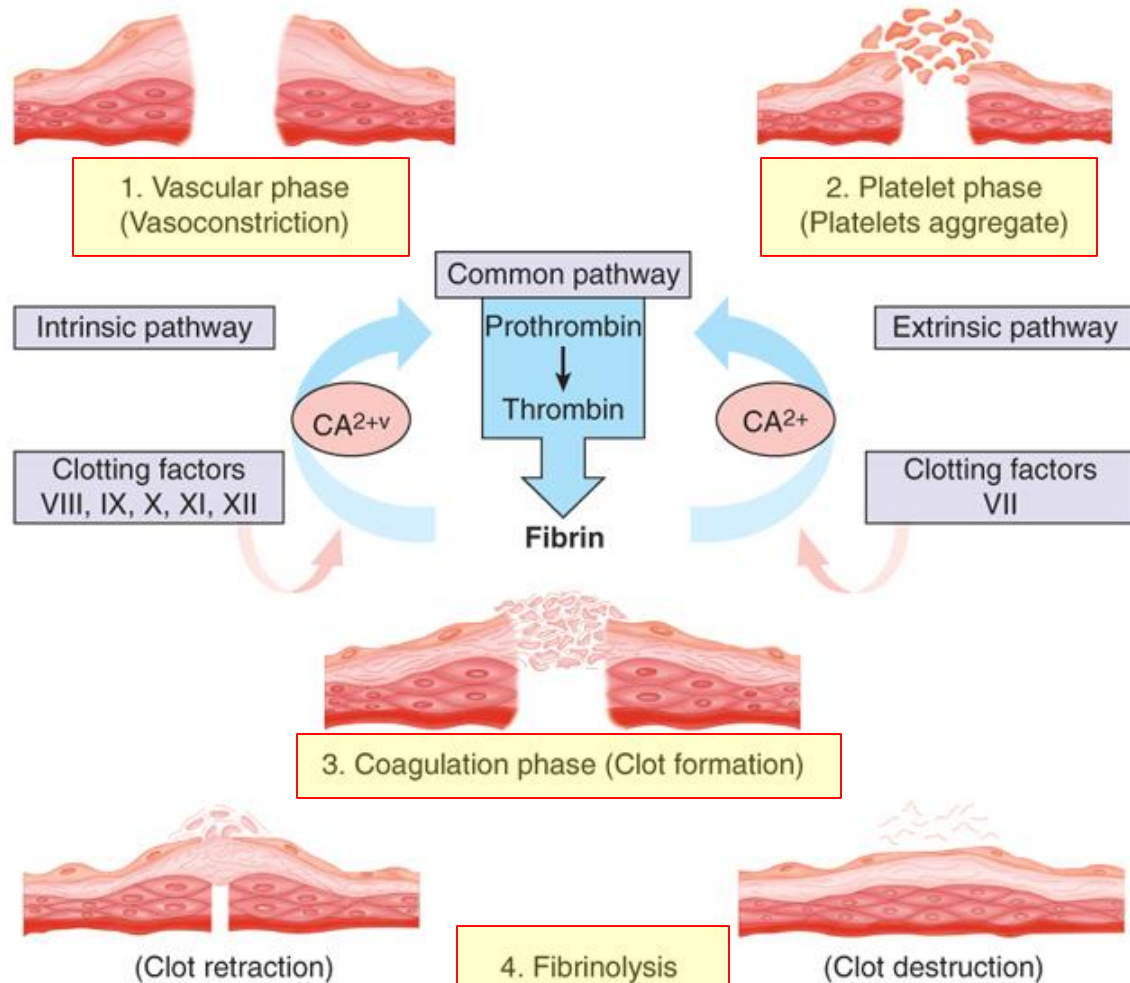
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# Hemostasis

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- Hemostasis involve a complex interplay among vascular integrity, platelet number and function, coagulation factor and fibrinolysis
- Phases of the hemostatic process
  - 1) Endothelial injury and formation of platelet plug
  - 2) Propagation of the clotting process by the coagulation cascade
  - 3) Termination of clotting by antithrombin control mechanism
  - 4) Removal of clot by fibrinolysis

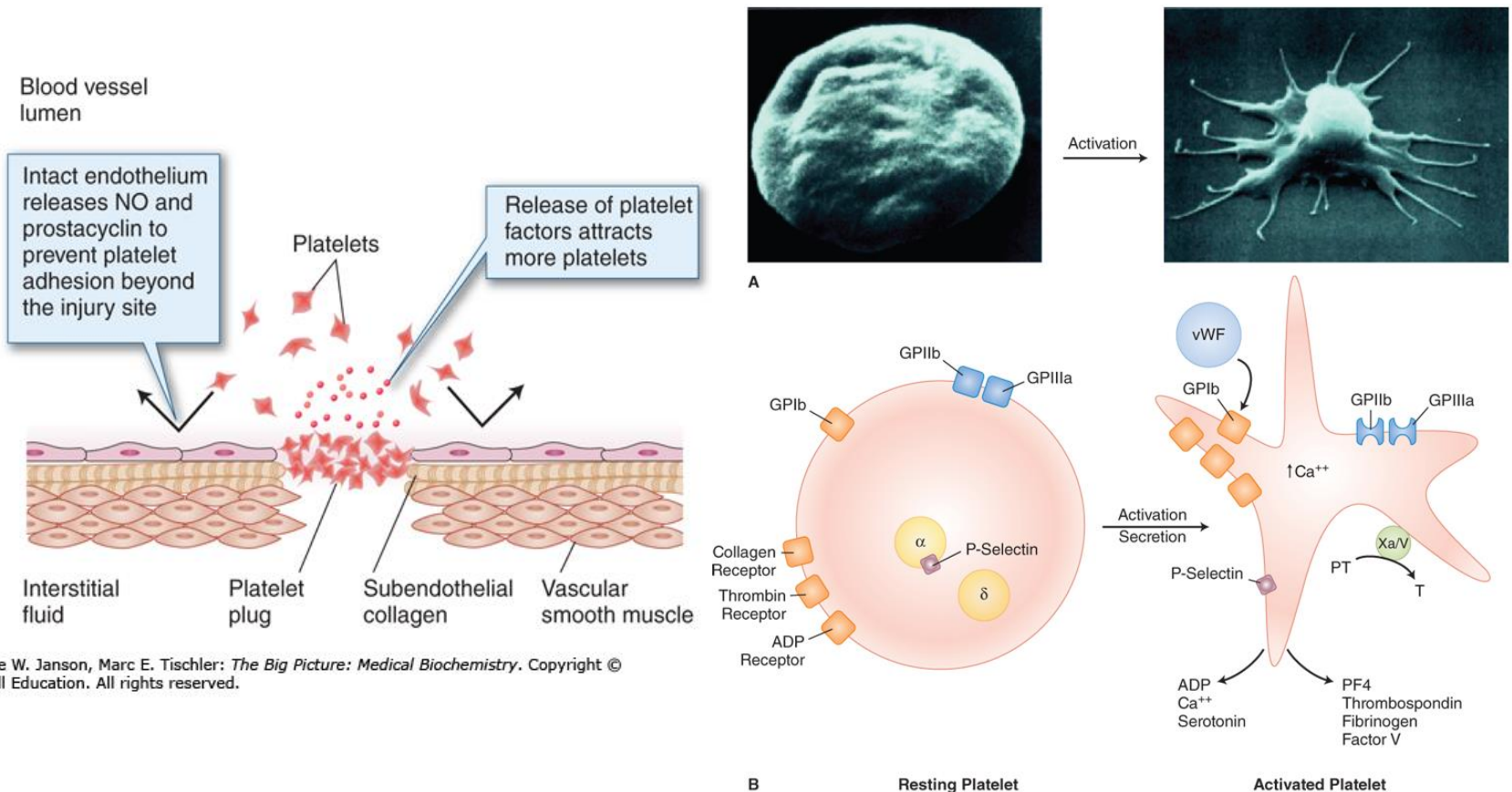
# Biology of Hemostasis



Source: F.C. Brunicaudi, D.K. Andersen, T.R. Billiar, D.L. Dunn, L.S. Kao, J.G. Hunter, J.B. Matthews, R.E. Pollock: Schwartz's Principles of Surgery, 11e  
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# Formation of the Platelet Plug

- Adhesion → Aggregation → Activation of platelets

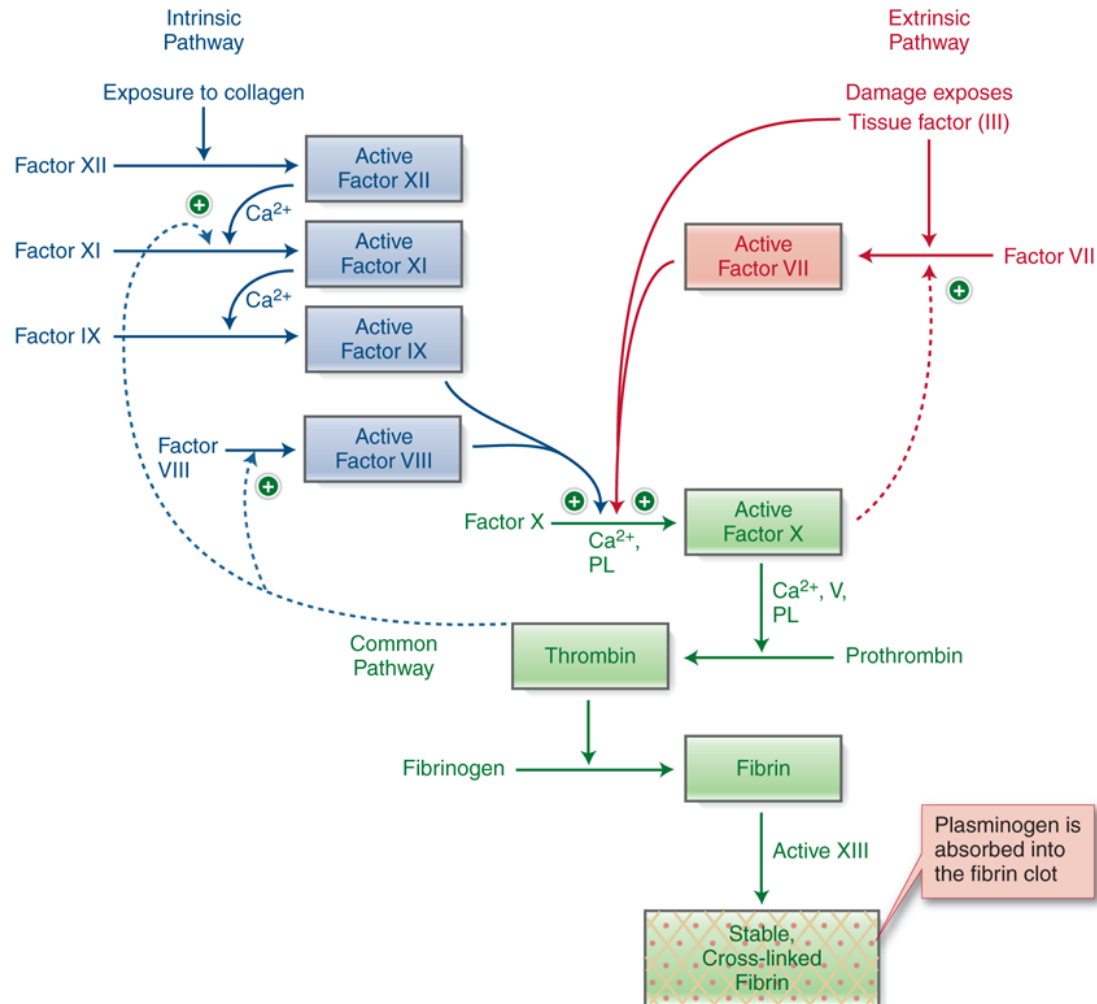


Source: Lee W. Janson, Marc E. Tischler: *The Big Picture: Medical Biochemistry*. Copyright © McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved.

**B** **Resting Platelet**  
 Source: Jon C. Aster, H. Franklin Bunn:  
*Pathophysiology of Blood Disorders*, Second Edition  
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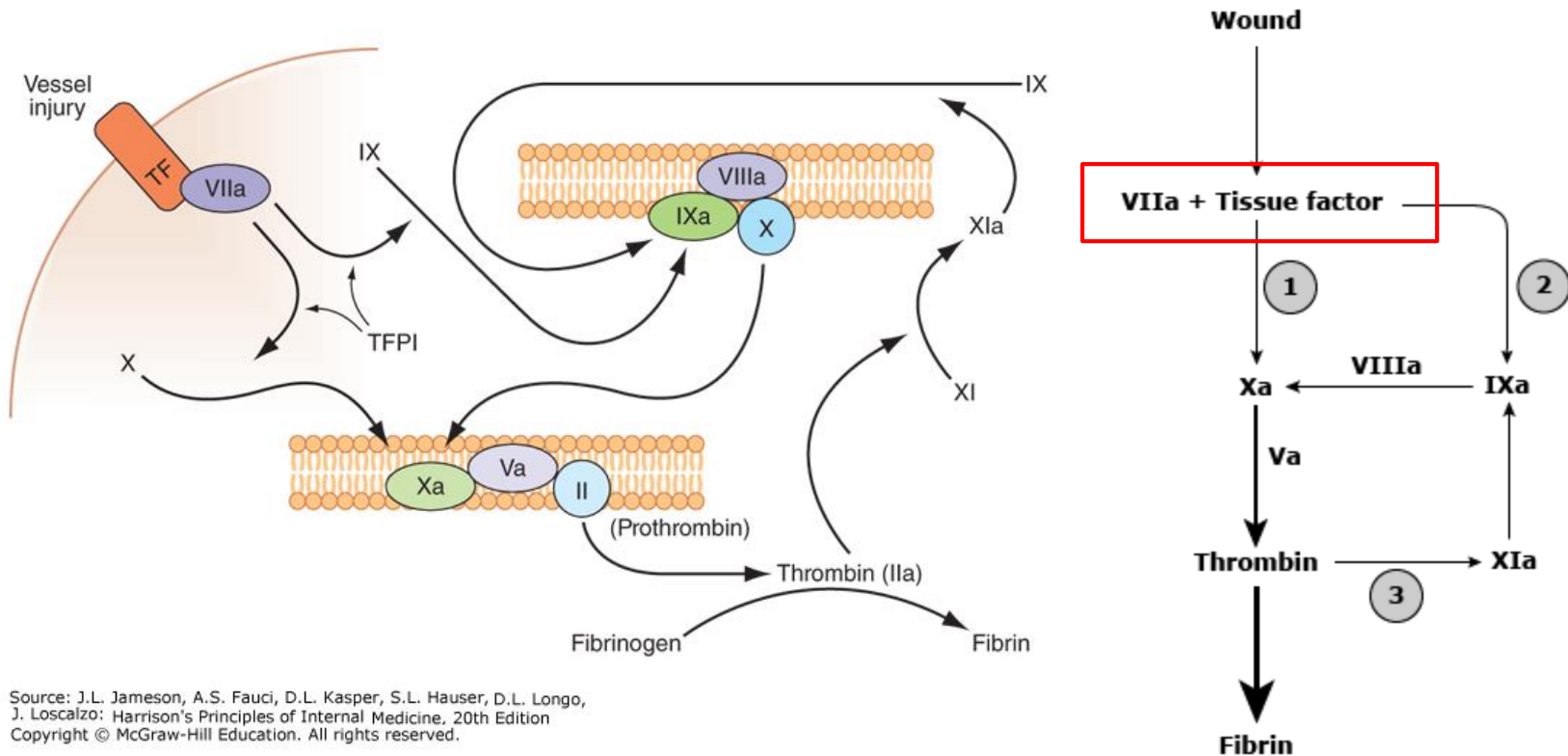
**Activated Platelet**

# Classic Coagulation Cascade



# Overview of Coagulation Cascade

- Coagulation is initiated by **tissue factor** exposure



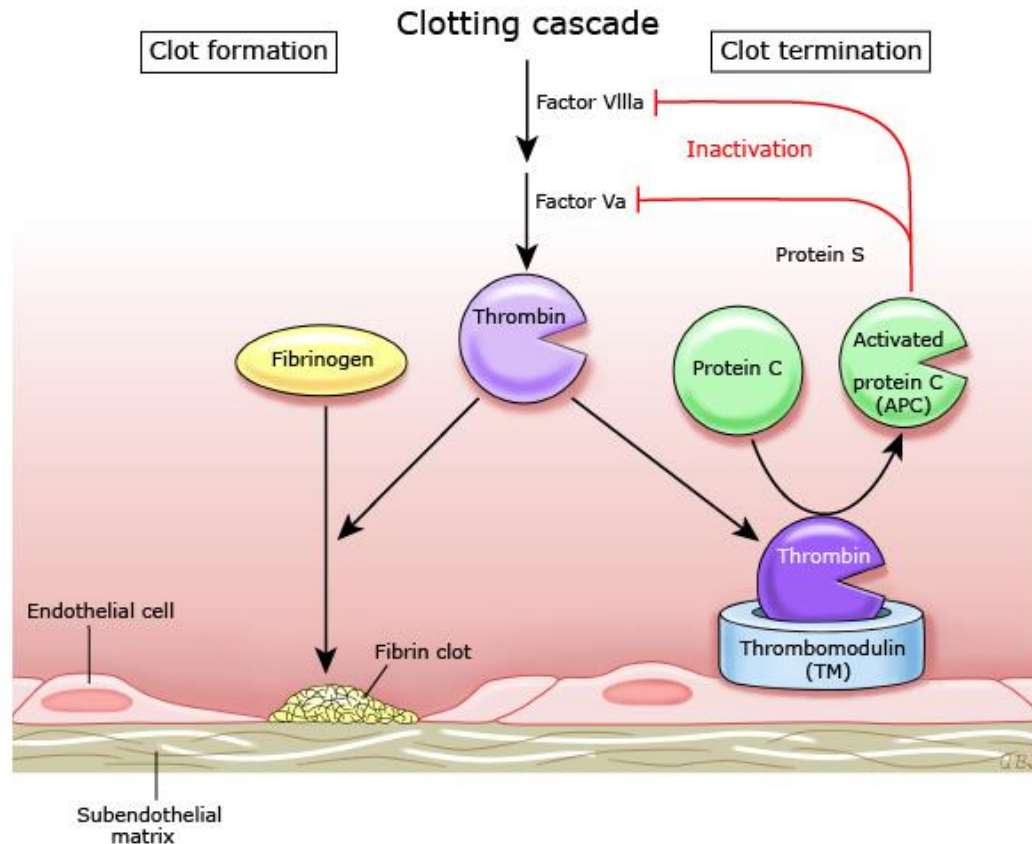
Source: J.L. Jameson, A.S. Fauci, D.L. Kasper, S.L. Hauser, D.L. Longo, J. Loscalzo: Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine, 20th Edition  
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# Termination of Clotting

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- **Anti-thrombin (AT-III)**
  - The major protease inhibitors of thrombin and other clotting factor in coagulation
- **Tissue factor pathway inhibitor (TFPI)**
  - A plasma protease inhibitors that regulates the tissue factor induced extrinsic pathway of coagulation
- **Protein C**
  - A plasma glycoprotein that becomes an anticoagulant when it is activated by thrombin

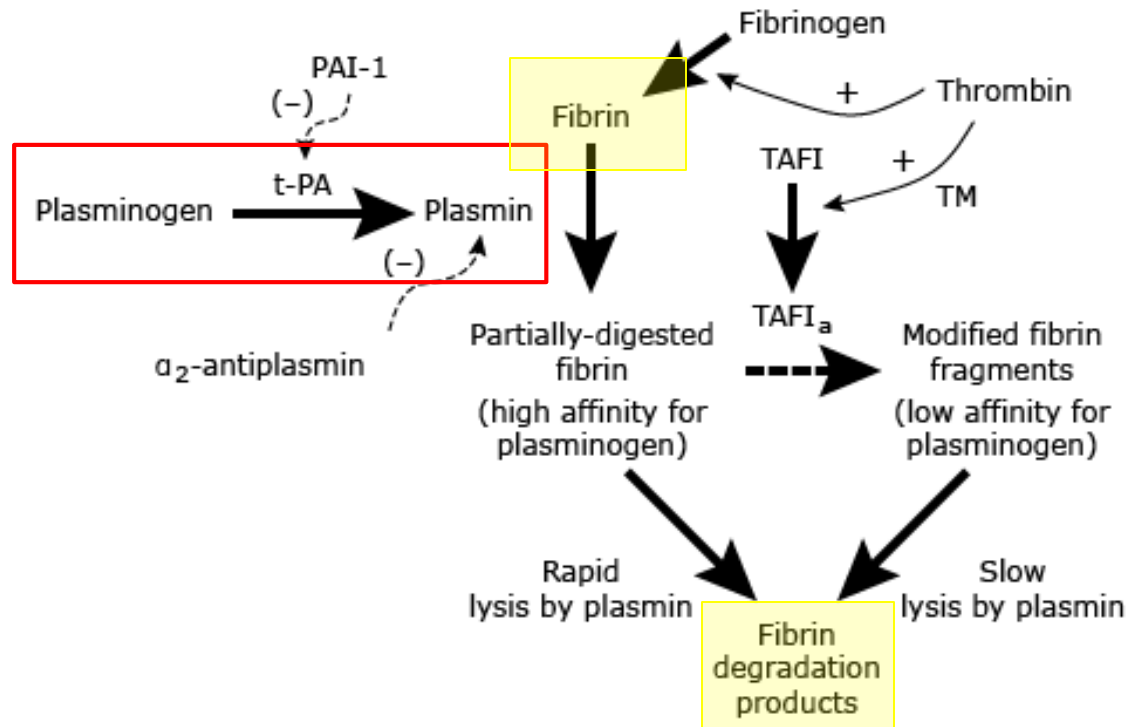
# Protein C pathway



Refer to UpToDate for an overview of hemostasis regulation and the roles of specific procoagulant and anticoagulant factors in clinical thrombosis and hemostasis.

APC: activated protein C; TM: thrombomodulin.

*Courtesy of Lawrence LK Leung, MD*



# Classifications of Bleeding Disorders

| Disorder                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Vessel</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acquired: secondary steroid use, vitamin C deficiency</li><li>• Congenital: hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasis, Ehlers-Danlos syndrome</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Platelets</b>           | <p>Thrombocytopenia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acquired: drug-induced, immune-mediated</li><li>• Congenital: inherited platelet or BM disorder</li></ul> <p>Disorder of platelet function</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acquired: drug-induced, renal failure</li><li>• Congenital: secretion defects are the most common</li></ul> <p>von Willebrand syndrome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acquired</li><li>• Congenital: von Willebrand disease (vWD)</li></ul> |
| <b>Coagulation factors</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acquired: Vitamin K deficiency, liver disease, anticoagulant therapy, massive blood loss (hemodilution), acquired coagulation factor inhibitor</li><li>• Congenital: hemophilia A, hemophilia B, deficiencies or defects of factors II, V, X, XI, fibrinogen, or XIII</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Fibrinolysis</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acquired: hyperfibrinolytic syndrome, disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC)</li><li>• Congenital: <math>\alpha</math>-2 antiplasmin deficiency, plasminogen activator inhibitor-1 deficiency, Quebec platelet disorder</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Others</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acquired bleeding secondary to other disorder such as renal failure, thyroid disease, Cushing syndrome</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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  - Laboratory tests
- Bleeding disorders
  - Disorders of platelets
  - Disorders of coagulation system

# Patient History

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- Underlying medical condition
  - Cancer, excess alcohol use, liver disease, kidney disease, connective tissue disorders, hypothyroidism
- Elements of the bleeding history
- Interpretation of bleeding history
- Family history
- Medical use

# Elements of Bleeding History

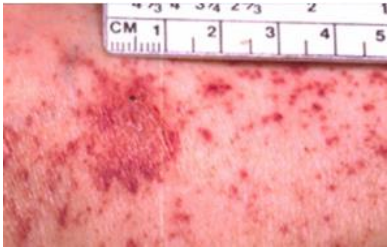
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- Questions to consider when evaluating a patient for a possible bleeding disorder
  - What are the patient's bleeding symptoms?
  - Does the history suggest a congenital or acquired problem?
  - What is the timing of the bleeding?
  - Is the bleeding systemic or local?
  - Are there any aggravating or contributing factors?
  - What is the patient's general medical history?
  - How many times has the patient experienced a significant hemostatic challenge, and how many of these were associated with abnormal bleeding?

# Purpura

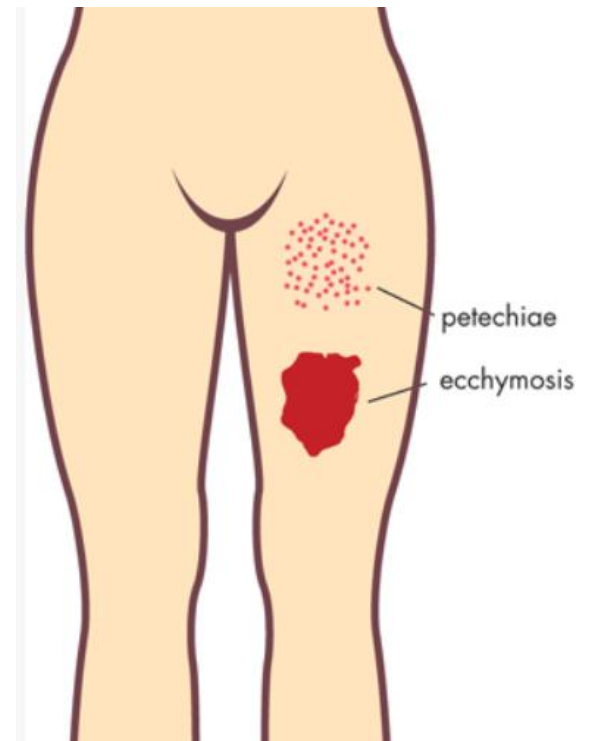
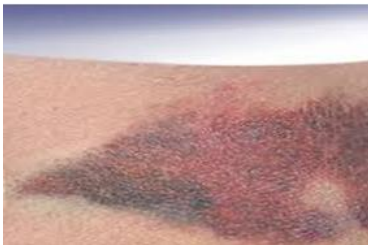
- **Petechiae**

- Small, purpuric lesion up to 2 mm across



- **Ecchymosis or bruises**

- Larger extravasation of blood, more than 2 mm across



# Clinical Features of Bleeding

| Bleeding Characteristics                               | Thrombocytopenia or platelet functional defects                                                   | Clotting factor deficiencies or inhibitors                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Major site of bleeding                                 | Mucocutaneous (mouth, nose, GI tract, Urinary tract, menorrhagia)                                 | Deep tissue (joint, muscles) or soft tissue hematomas                        |
| Petechiae                                              | Common                                                                                            | Uncommon                                                                     |
| Ecchymosis                                             | Generally small of superficial; may be significant, depending upon the degree of thrombocytopenia | May develop large ecchymosis                                                 |
| Excessive bleeding after minor cut                     | Yes                                                                                               | Not usually                                                                  |
| Excessive bleeding with surgery or invasive procedures | Often immediately; degree varies with severity of the defect                                      | Often during the procedure. Some individuals may experience delayed bleeding |

# Family History

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- Inherited bleeding disorders
  - von Willebrand disease: dominant inheritance, variable penetrance
  - Hemophilia A & B: sex linked inheritance, high penetrance
  - Other clotting factor deficiencies: recessive inheritance
- Lack of a family history does not eliminate the possibility
  - 30~40% of individuals with hemophilia A have a de novo germline mutation
- Some individuals may report a family history of severe bleeding requiring medical interventions (surgery, transfusions)

# Substances Increase Bleeding Risk

- Bleeding risk is increased with the use of certain medications, herb preparation, and dietary supplements

| Drug class                            | Mechanism                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Anticoagulants                        | Interfere with clot formation                                                                                                                       |
| Antiplatelet agents, including NSAIDs | Interfere with platelet function                                                                                                                    |
| Glucocorticoids                       | Interfere with vascular integrity                                                                                                                   |
| Antibiotics                           | Cause vitamin K deficiency, especially with longer use<br>Some interfere with platelet function                                                     |
| SSRIs                                 | Interfere with platelet function                                                                                                                    |
| Alcohol                               | Complications of liver disease may affect clot formation and may cause thrombocytopenia<br>May cause thrombocytopenia due to direct marrow toxicity |
| Vitamin E                             | Interfere with vitamin K metabolism in some individuals                                                                                             |
| Galic                                 | Interfere with platelet function in some individuals                                                                                                |
| Gingko biloba                         | Unknown                                                                                                                                             |

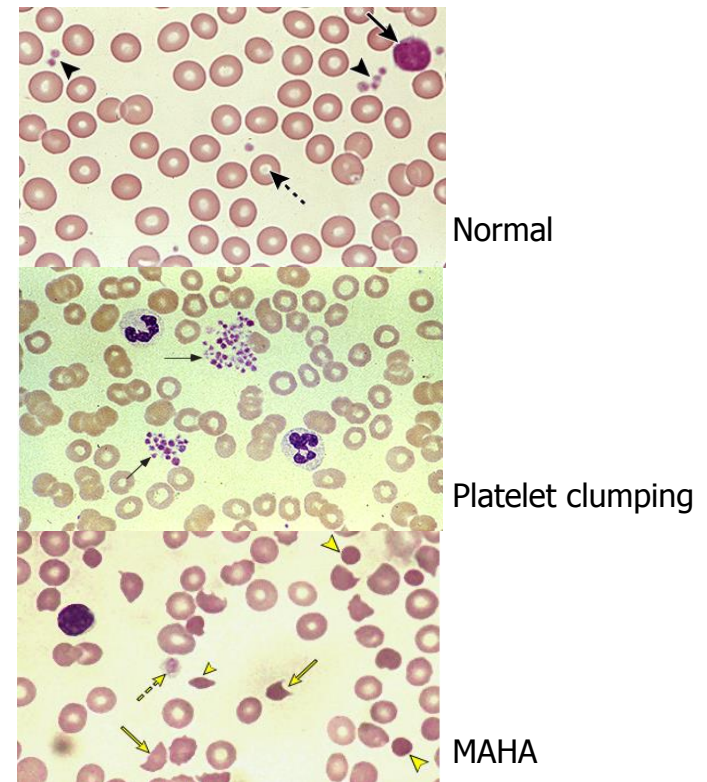
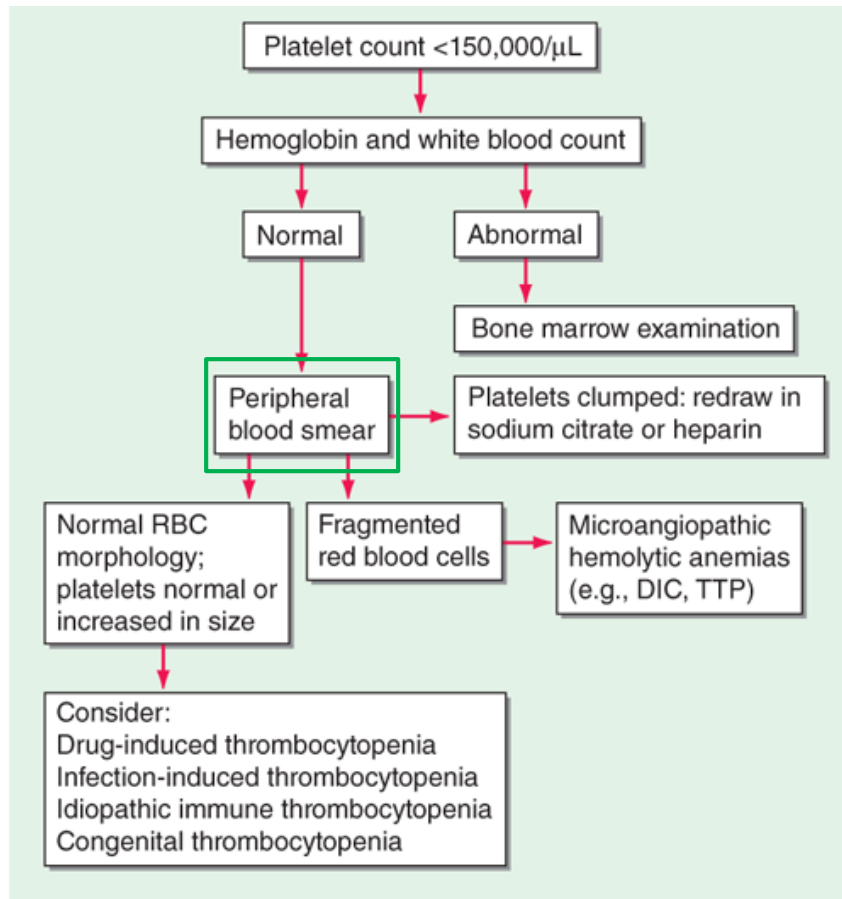
# Laboratory Evaluaion

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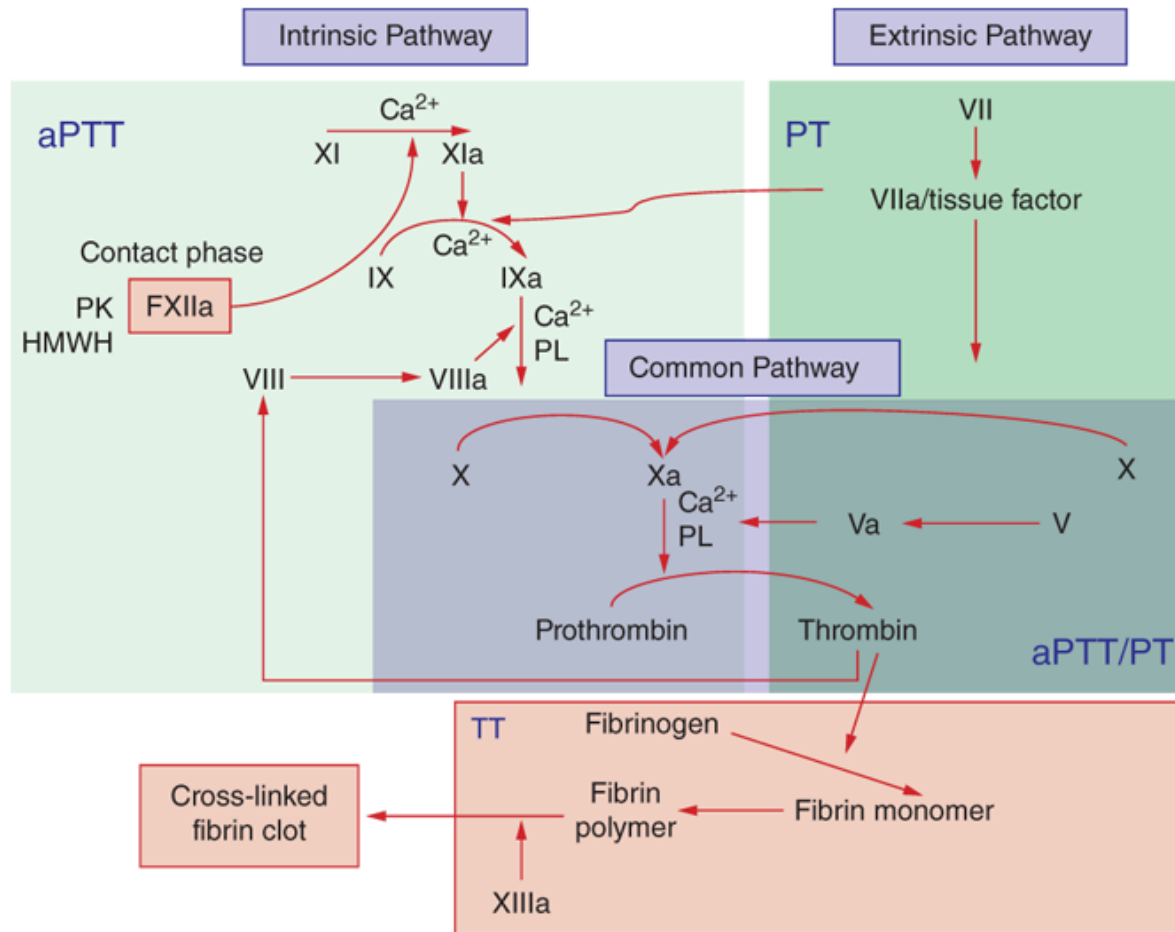
- **Initial testing (screening test)**
  - CBC with platelet count and review of platelet morphology
  - PT and aPTT
- **Specific testing**
  - Test for platelet function defect
  - Test for von Willebrand disease (VWD)
  - Mixing test for PT or aPTT
  - Thrombin time (TT)
  - Specific clotting factor assays
  - Test for increased fibrinolysis

# Low Platelet Counts in CBC

- Algorithm for Thrombocytopenia Evaluation



# PT/aPTT/TT



Source: J.L. Jameson, A.S. Fauci, D.L. Kasper, S.L. Hauser, D.L. Longo, J. Loscalzo: Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine, 20th Edition  
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# Causes of prolonged PT/aPTT

| Test Result                                  | Cause of test result pattern                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                              | Inherited                                                                                                                                                                         | Acquired                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Prolonged PT</b><br><b>Normal aPTT</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Factor VII deficiency</li> </ul>                                                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mild vitamin K deficiency</li> <li>Liver disease</li> <li>Warfarin</li> <li>DIC</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Normal PT</b><br><b>Prolonged aPTT</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deficiency of factor VIII, IX, or X</li> <li>Deficiency of XII, prekallikrein, or HMW kininogen</li> <li>Von Willebrand disease</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heparin, dabigatran, argatroban, direct factor Xa inhibitor</li> <li>Acquired inhibitors factor VIII, IX, X or XII</li> <li>Acquired von Willebrand syndrome</li> <li>Lupus anticoagulant</li> </ul>                                 |
| <b>Prolonged PT</b><br><b>Prolonged aPTT</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deficiency of prothrombin, fibrinogen, factor V, or factor X</li> <li>Combined factor deficiencies</li> </ul>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liver disease</li> <li>DIC</li> <li>Severe vitamin K deficiency</li> <li>Anticoagulants</li> <li>Acquired inhibitor of prothrombin, fibrinogen, factor V, or factor X</li> <li>Amyloidosis-associated factor X deficiency</li> </ul> |

# Platelet Function Test

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- To evaluate congenital and acquired disorders affecting platelet number, platelet function, or both
- Highly operator-dependent, poorly standardized and poorly reproducible
- Platelet aggregation studies
  - Platelet-platelet cohesion: ristocetin, thrombin, collagen, epinephrine, ADP..
- PFA-100 (Platelet function analyzer)
- Classic Bleeding time

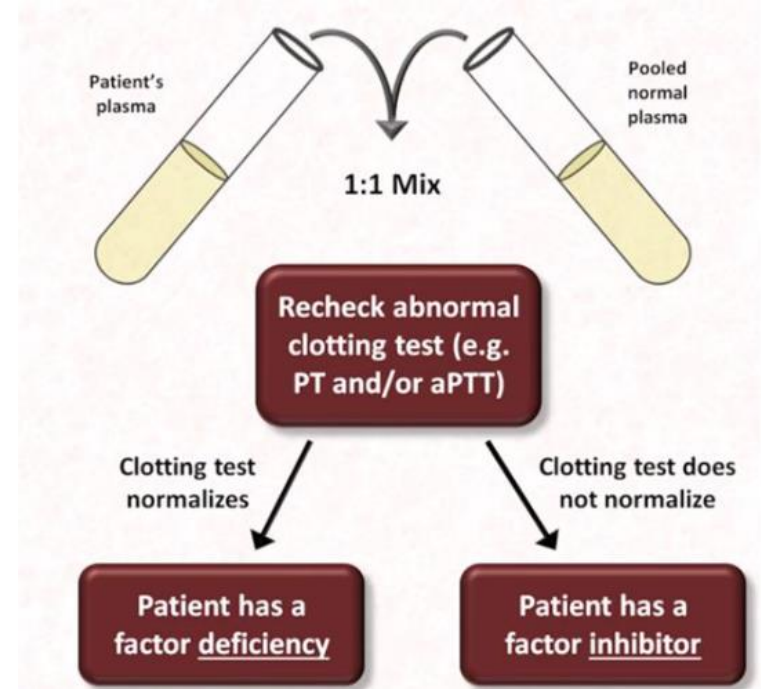
# VWD Test

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- von Willebrand disease (VWD) is suspected
  - Normal CBC & normal/prolonged aPTT & normal PT
- Von Willebrand Factor (VWF)
  - An adhesive link between platelets and injured vessel wall
  - A carrier for clotting factor VIII
- Testing for VWF
  - Plasma VWF antigen (VWF:Ag)
  - Plasma VWF activity (ristocetin cofactor [VWF:RCo] and collagen binding [VWF:CB])
  - Plasma factor VIII activity (FVIII:C)

# Mixing Test for PT/aPTT

- To distinguish between an abnormally prolonged clotting time due to a factor deficiency vs. a factor inhibitor
- Common cause or inhibitors
  - Oral anticoagulants
  - Heparin
  - Antiphospholipid antibodies
  - Acquired coagulation factor inhibitors



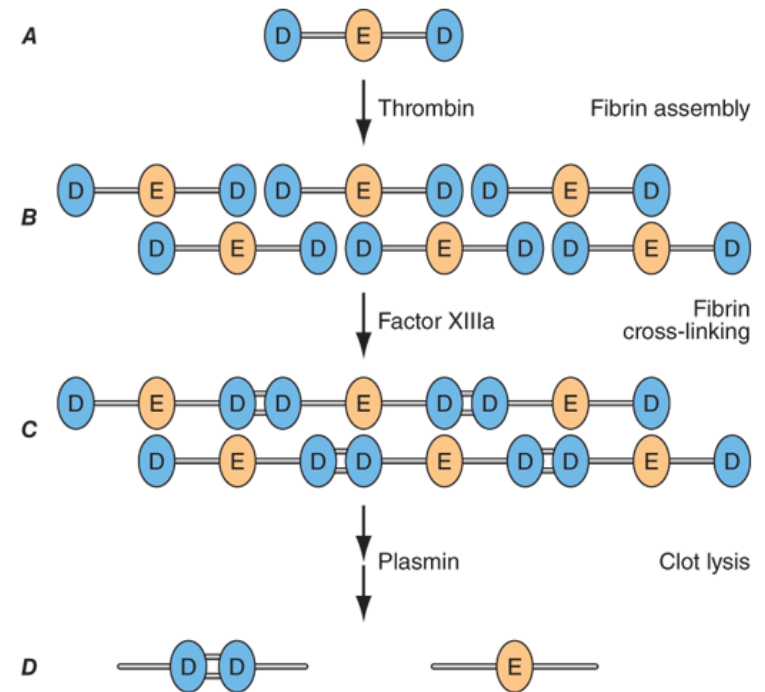
# Thrombin Time

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- Measures the final step of coagulation, the conversion of fibrinogen to fibrin
- Useful in the following clinical setting
  - Evaluation of a patient with a prolonged PT and aPTT
  - Evaluation of an inherited fibrinogen disorder
  - Detection of heparin in a sample
- TT prolongation
  - Anticoagulation, acquired fibrinogen disorder, DIC, liver disease, hypoalbuminemia, paraproteinemia, Bovine thrombin exposure

# Test for Fibrinolysis

- Eulglobulin lysis time
  - Measure time to clot lysis
  - Not well standardized
  - Defects increased fibrinolysis  
Factor XIII deficiency
- Alpha 2- antiplasmin level
- PAI-1 acitvey

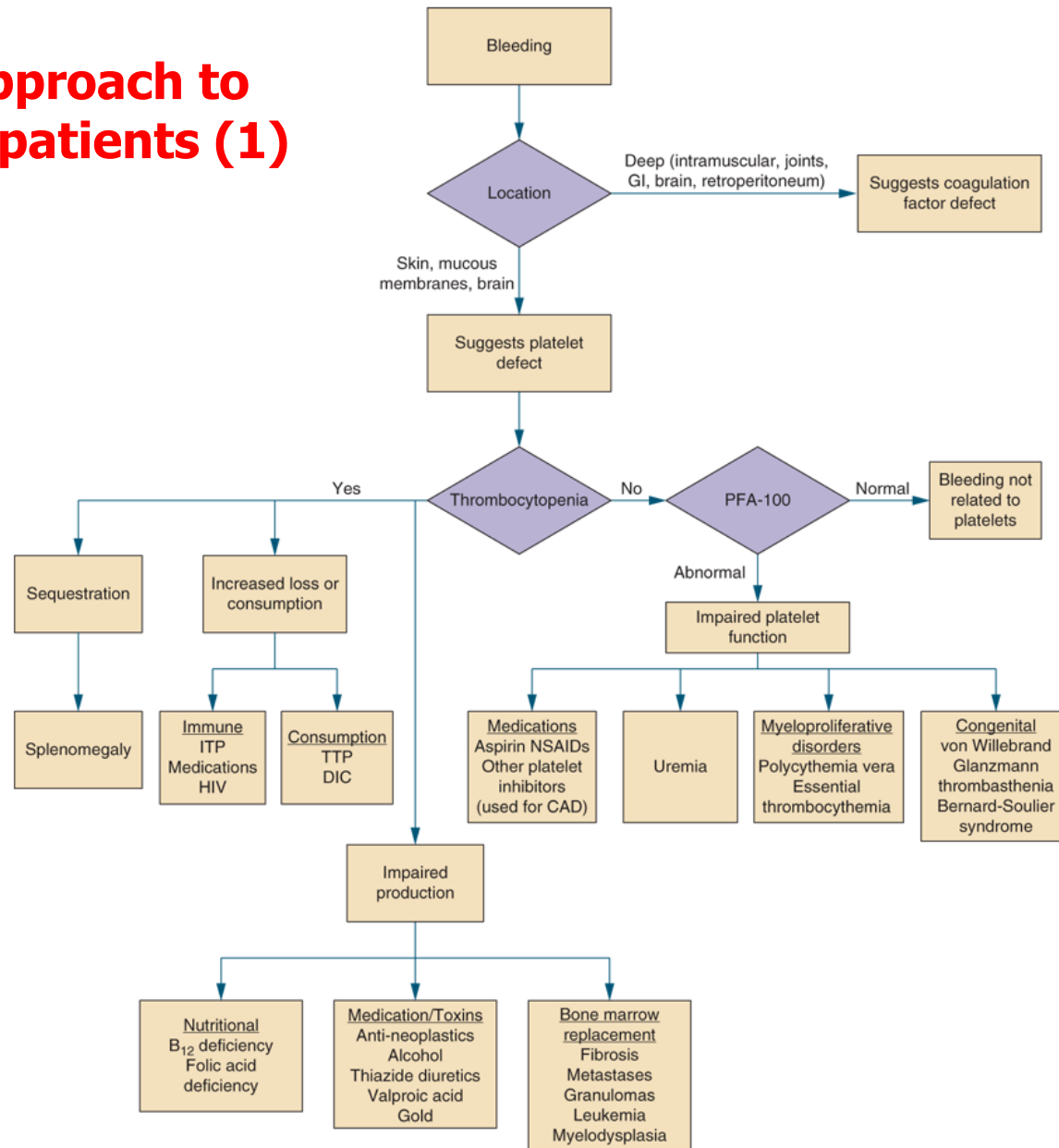


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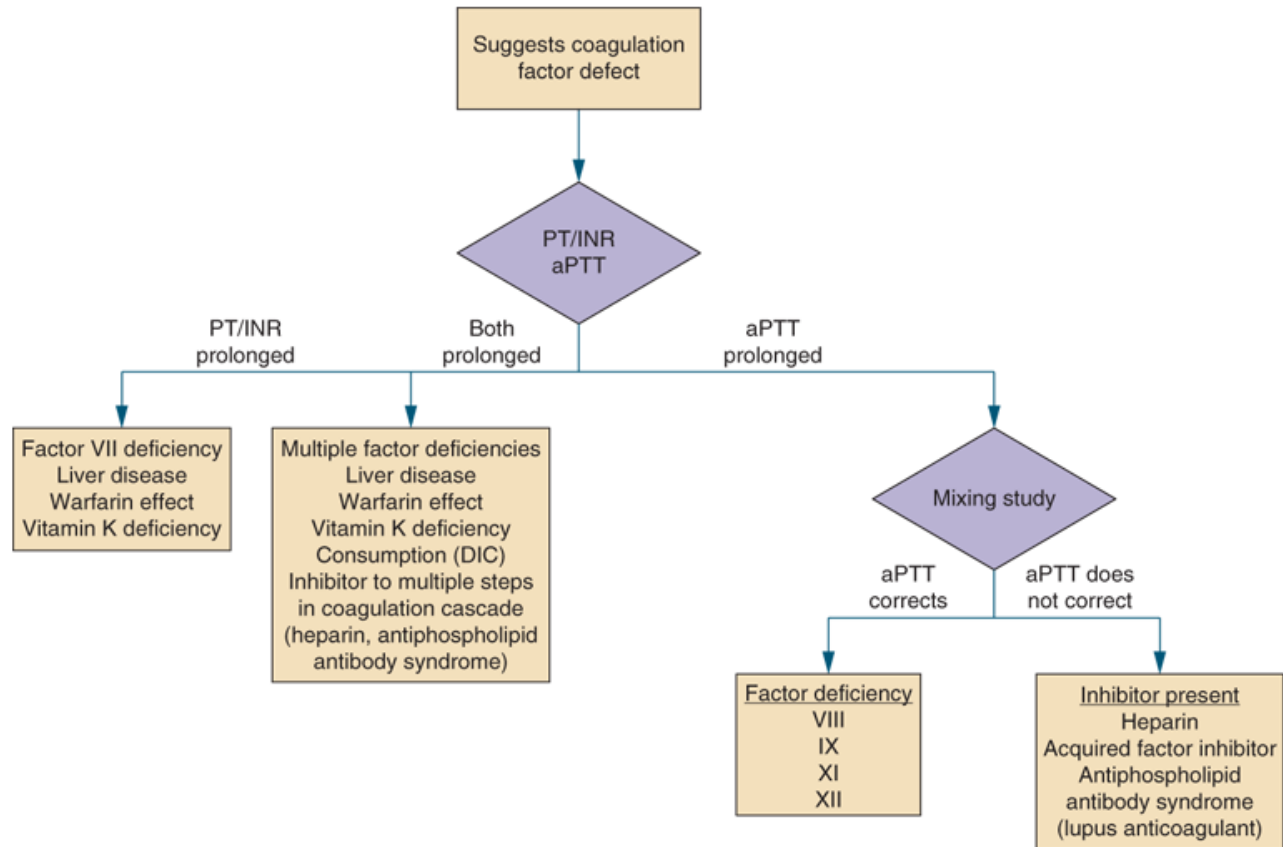
# Results of Bleeding Disorders

| Disorder                                                                         | Platelet count      | PT        | aPTT                | TT        | Fibrinogen level    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Vasculopathies, connective tissue disorder, or collagen disorders affecting skin | Normal              | Normal    | Normal              | Normal    | Normal or increased |
| Thrombocytopenia                                                                 | Decreased           | Normal    | Normal              | Normal    | Normal              |
| Qualitative platelet abnormalities                                               | Normal or decreased | Normal    | Normal              | Normal    | Normal              |
| Hemophilia A or B                                                                | Normal              | Normal    | Prolonged           | Normal    | Normal              |
| von Willebrand disease (vWD)                                                     | Normal              | Normal    | Normal or Prolonged | Normal    | Normal              |
| Disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC)                                     | Decreased           | Prolonged | Prolonged           | Prolonged | Decreased           |

# Diagnostic Approach to the bleeding patients (1)



## Diagnostic Approach to the bleeding patients (2)



aPTT, activated partial thromboplastin time; CAD, coronary artery disease; DIC, disseminated intravascular coagulation; GI, gastrointestinal; INR, international normalized ratio; ITP, idiopathic thrombocytopenia purpura; NSAIDs, nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs; PT, prothrombin time; TTP, thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura.

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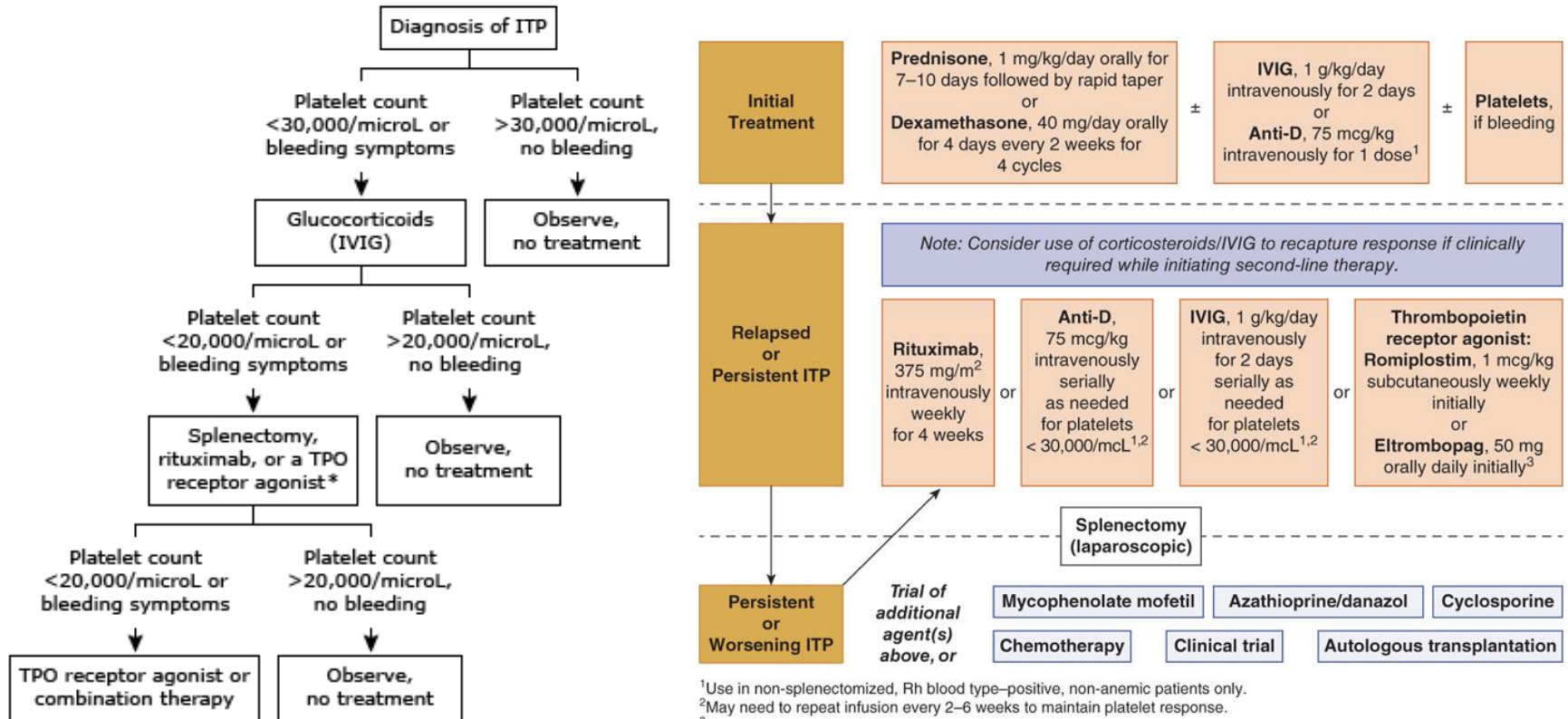
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# Immune Thrombocytopenia (ITP)

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- Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura
  - An acquired disorder in which there is immune-mediated destruction of platelets and possibly inhibition of platelet release from megakaryocytes
- Secondary ITP
  - Associated with underlying disorder; autoimmune disorder (**SLE**), and infection (**HIV, Hepatitis, and *H.pylori***)
- Laboratory test
  - Thrombocytopenia on CBC with normal morphology
  - BM examination
  - Serology test for antibody (not helpful)

# Treatment of ITP



<sup>1</sup>Use in non-splenectomized, Rh blood type–positive, non-anemic patients only.

<sup>2</sup>May need to repeat infusion every 2–6 weeks to maintain platelet response.

<sup>3</sup>Recommended starting dose in Asians is 25 mg daily.

# Drug-induced Thrombocytopenia

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- Many drugs are associated with thrombocytopenia
- All drugs should be suspect in patient a with thrombocytopenia without a apparent cause and should be stopped, or substituted, if possible
- Thrombocytopenia typically occurs after a period of initial exposure (median, 21 days), and usually resolves in 7~10 days after withdrawal

# Drugs Reported as causing DITP

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- Drug-induced immune thrombocytopenia
  - Drug-dependent antibodies that react with specific platelet surface antigens and result in thrombocytopenia

| "Definite"    | "Possible"    |
|---------------|---------------|
| Quinidine     | Acetaminophen |
| Quinine       | Amiodarone    |
| TMP/SMX       | Ampicillin    |
| Vancomycin    | Cephamaadole  |
| Penicillin    | Ciprofloxacin |
| Rifampin      | Diazepam      |
| Carbamazepine | Ethambutol    |
| Ceftriaxone   | Furosemide    |
| Ibuprofen     | Gold          |
| Mirtazapine   | Haloperidol   |
| Oxaliplatin   | Lorazepam     |
| Abxicimab     | Naproxen      |
| Tirofiban     | Pheytain      |
| Eptifibatide  | Piperacillin  |
|               | Ranitidine    |
|               | Rosiglitazone |
|               | Roxifban      |
|               | Sufisoxazole  |
|               | Tranilast     |

# von Willebrand Disease

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- The most common inherited bleeding disorder
  - Prevalence 1% of general population, but only 0.1~1% of patients are symptomatic
- Three major types
  - Type 1: partial quantitative deficiency
  - Type 2A, 2B, 2N, 2M: qualitative variant
  - Type 3: Severe quantitative deficiency/absence of VWF
- Acquired von Willebrand syndrome
  - Reduced production, sequestration, or destruction of VWF
  - Lymphoproliferative disorder, myeloproliferative disorders, autoimmune disease, cardiovascular conditions associated with vessel stress or high flow

# Treatment of VWD

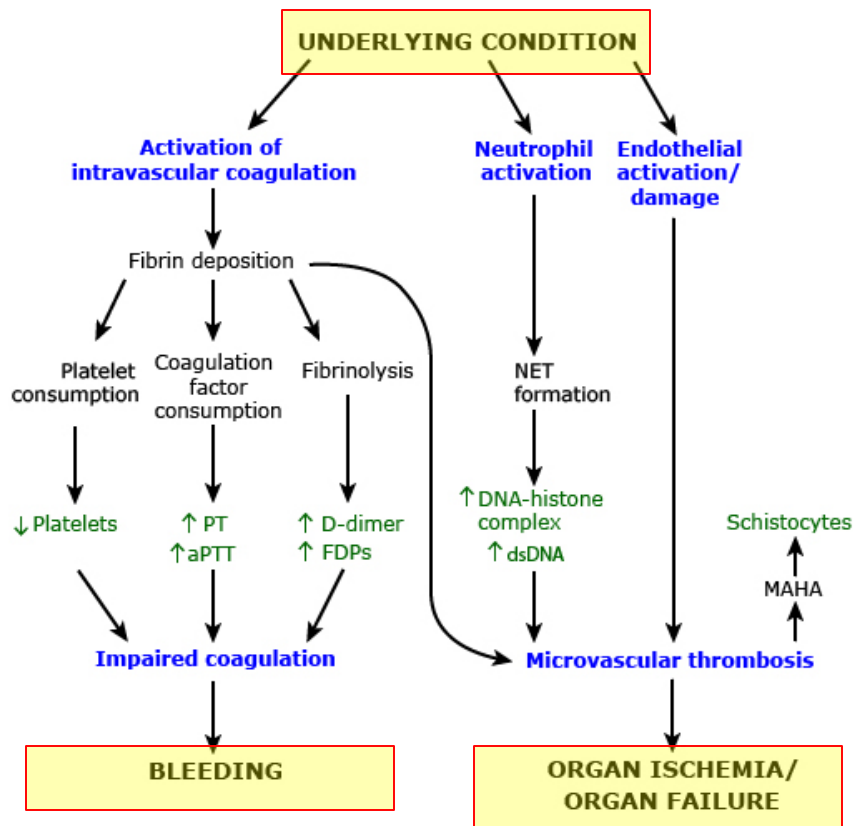
- Desmopresin (DDAVP)
  - Indirectly causes release of VWF & Factor VIII
- VWF-concentrate

| Type (%)          | Defect                                                                    | Treatment                                        |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1 (70~80)</b>  | Normal VWF is present, but in decreased quantity (20~50% of normal level) | Desmopresin                                      |
| <b>2 (10~15)</b>  | Abnormal & dysfunctional VWF                                              | Desmopresin<br>VWF-concentrate (cryoprecipitate) |
| <b>3 (&lt;10)</b> | Absence of VWF                                                            | VWF-concentrate (cryoprecipitate)                |

- Fibrinolytic agent
  - Aminocaproic acid, tranexamic acid

# Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation

- The process of coagulation and fibrinolysis become abnormally (and often massively) activated within vasculature, leading to ongoing coagulation and fibrinolysis



# Common cause of DIC

| Sepsis                                                                                                   | Immunologic Disorders                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bacteria: staphylococci, streptococci, pneumococci, meningococci, Gram (-) bacilli<br>Viral<br>Parasitic | Acute hemolytic transfusion reaction<br>Organ tissue transplant rejection<br>Immunotherapy<br>Graft-versus-host disease                                                 |
| Trauma & Tissue injury                                                                                   | Drugs                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Brain injury (gunshot)<br>Extensive burn<br>Fat embolism<br>Rhabdomyolysis                               | Fibrinolytic agents<br>Aprotinin<br>Warfarin (especially in neonates with protein C deficiency)<br>Prothrombin complex concentrates<br>Recreational drug (amphetamines) |
| Vascular disorder                                                                                        | Envenomation                                                                                                                                                            |
| Giant hemangiomas (Kasabach-Merritt syndrome)<br>Large vessel aneurysms (e.g., aorta)                    | Snake<br>Insects                                                                                                                                                        |
| Obstetrical Complication                                                                                 | Liver disease                                                                                                                                                           |
| Abruptio placentae<br>Amniotic fluid embolism<br>Dead fetus syndrome<br>Septic abortion                  | Fulminant hepatic failure<br>Cirrhosis<br>Fatty liver of pregnancy                                                                                                      |
| Cancer                                                                                                   | Miscellaneous                                                                                                                                                           |
| Adenocarcinoma (prostate, pancreas, etc.)<br>Hematologic malignancies (APL)                              | Shock<br>Respiratory distress syndrome<br>Massive transfusion                                                                                                           |

# Diagnosis of DIC

- The presence of clinical and/or laboratory coagulation abnormalities or thrombocytopenia

| Parameter                 | Acute (decompensated) | Chronic (compensated)        |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Platelet count</b>     | Reduced               | Variable                     |
| <b>PT</b>                 | Prolonged             | Normal                       |
| <b>aPTT</b>               | Prolonged             | Normal                       |
| <b>Thrombin time</b>      | Prolonged             | Normal to slightly prolonged |
| <b>Plasma fibrinogen</b>  | Reduced               | Normal to elevated           |
| <b>Plasma factor V</b>    | Reduced               | Normal                       |
| <b>Plasma factor VIII</b> | Reduced               | Normal                       |
| <b>FDP</b>                | Elevated              | Elevated                     |
| <b>D-dimer</b>            | Elevated              | Elevated                     |

- **Chronic DIC**
  - History of cancer, venous or arterial thromboembolism

# Management of DIC

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1. Assess for underlying cause of DIC and treat
2. Establish baseline platelet count, PT, aPTT, D-dimer, fibrinogen
3. Transfusion blood products if ongoing bleeding or high risk of bleeding
  - Platelets: goal  $> 30,000/\text{mm}^3$  or  $50,000/\text{mm}^3$  (severe bleeding)
  - Cryoprecipitate: goal fibrinogen level  $> 80\sim 100$  mg/dL
  - Fresh frozen plasma: goal PT & aPTT  $< 1.5 \times$  normal
  - Packed RBCs: goal Hb  $> 8$  g/dL, or improvement in symptomatic anemia
4. Followed platelets, aPTT, PT, fibrinogen every 4~12 hours as clinically indicated
5. If persistent bleeding due to severe consumption, or consumption that requires blood product use, consider use of heparin
6. Follow laboratory parameters every 4~12 hours as clinically indicated until DIC resolves

# Vitamin K Deficiency

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- Vitamin K-dependent proteins
  - A heterogenous group, including coagulation factor proteins (factor II, VII, IV, X, protein C & S)
- Causes of vitamin K deficiency
  - Decreased vitamin K diet intake
  - Decreased production of vitamin by gut flora (antibiotics)
  - Poor absorption: biliary obstruction..
  - Inhibition of vitamin K action: warfarin
- Treatment
  - Vitamin K (oral or parenteral), FFP

# Liver Failure

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- High risk of bleeding
  - Portal hypertension: esophageal varix
  - Thrombocytopenia: splenomegaly, DIC
  - Decreased synthesis of clotting factor: hepatocyte failure, vitamin K deficiency
  - Systemic fibrinolysis, DIC, disfibrinogemia
- High risk of thrombosis
  - Decreased synthesis of coagulation inhibitors (protein C & S, antithrombin): hepatocyte failure, vitamin K deficiency
  - Failure to clear activated coagulation protein (DIC)
  - Disfibrinogemia

# Balance of Hemostasis in Liver Disease

| BLEEDING           |                                                             | EQUILIBRIUM | THROMBOSIS                                                                     |                    |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Primary hemostasis | Thrombocytopenia                                            |             | Increased levels of VWF                                                        | Primary hemostasis |
|                    | Abnormal platelet function                                  |             | Decreased levels of ADAMTS-13                                                  |                    |
|                    | Low production of thrombopoietin                            |             |                                                                                | Coagulation        |
|                    | Increased production nitric oxide and prostacyclin          |             | Elevated levels of FVIII                                                       |                    |
| Coagulation        | Reduced levels of factors II, V, VII, IX, X, XI             |             | Decreased levels of protein C, protein S, antithrombin and heparin cofactor II |                    |
|                    | Vitamin K deficiency                                        |             | Inherited thrombophilia                                                        |                    |
|                    | Disfibrinogenemia                                           |             |                                                                                | Fibrinolysis       |
| Fibrinolysis       | Low levels of $\alpha$ 2-antiplasmin, FXIII and TAFI        |             | Low levels of plasminogen                                                      |                    |
|                    | Elevated level of t-PA                                      |             |                                                                                |                    |
| Comorbidity        | Hemodynamic changes (reduced portal blood flow)             |             |                                                                                |                    |
|                    | Vascular damage (esophageal varices)                        |             |                                                                                |                    |
|                    | Portal hypertension; bacterial infection and renal diseases |             |                                                                                |                    |

Source: J.L. Jameson, A.S. Fauci, D.L. Kasper, S.L. Hauser, D.L. Longo, J. Loscalzo: Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine, 20th Edition  
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# Acquired Inhibitors of Clotting Factors

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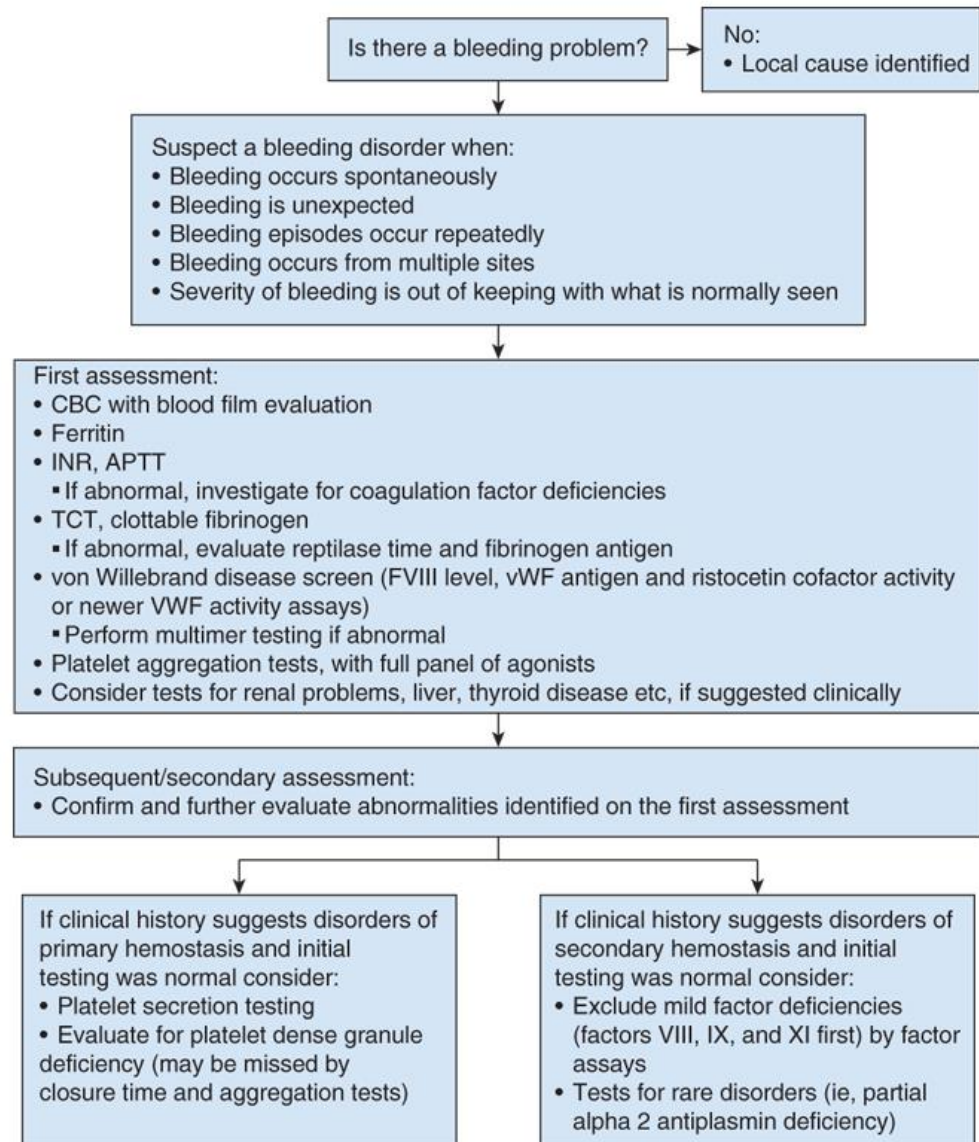
- Autoantibody against a specific clotting factors
  - Immune-mediated disease
  - Against Factor VIII (most common), V, IX, X, XI
  - Soft tissue bleeding (common), hemarthrosis (rare)
- Causes of auto-antibody
  - Autoimmune disease, malignancy (lymphoma, prostate cancer), dermatology disease, and pregnancy
- Diagnosis
  - prolonged aPTT on mixing test, normal PT & TT
- No established guideline

# Conclusions

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- The hemostasis is a dynamic, highly interwoven array of multiple process
  - The platelet plug formation
  - Clotting cascades and propagation of the clot
  - Control mechanisms and termination of clotting
  - Clot dissolution and fibrinolysis
- Careful history taking and physical examination of patients with bleeding diathesis
- A stepwise approach to investigation are needed

# A staged assessment to the diagnostic test of bleeding disorders



Source: Sylvia C. McKean, John J. Ross, Daniel D. Dressler, Danielle B. Scheurer: Principles and Practice of Hospital Medicine, Second Edition, [www.accessmedicine.com](http://www.accessmedicine.com)  
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