BI-LO Charities Children's Cancer Center

Facts About Hemophilia

Hemophilia is an inherited blood disorder characterized by a lack of one of the essential factors needed to form a clot. This deficiency results in prolonged bleeding in patients with the condition.

- Hemophilia is a recessive condition passed down from females with a defective gene linked to the X chromosome
- Hemophilia can occur as a spontaneous mutation
- There are about 20,000 cases of hemophilia in the U.S., or one in every 5,000 male births
- Blood contains special proteins known as clotting factors that help stop bleeding; deficiency of one of the clotting factors results in the inability to form a blood clot
- Clotting deficiency is factor VIII or IX—hemophilia A is a deficiency of factor VIII, while hemophilia B is a deficiency of factor IX
- There are varying degrees of severity of hemophilia
- Bleeds can occur anywhere in the body but are more likely to occur around the knees, elbows, ankles, hips and shoulders
- Life-threatening bleeds involve the central nervous system and the gastrointestional system
- Signs and symptoms of a bleed include a tingling sensation, stiffness, pain, limited range of motion, swelling and bruising

16-0644
8/16