



ABOUT THE DISEASE

The von Willebrand's Factor (vWF) is a protein essential for allowing platelets to attach to damaged blood vessels and stabilize another clotting factor when forming a firm blood clot (fibrin clot).

Von Willebrand's Disease (vWD) is a genetic disease that occurs in certain breeds (Dobermans, German shepherds, and Rottweilers) where patients create insufficient amounts of vWF. This increases risk for spontaneous bleeding or prolonged bleeding when wounds occur.

One early sign of this genetic disease is patients who excessively bleed from the mouth when they lose teeth as puppies. The next most common time to identify this disease is when patients excessively bleed following spay/neuter procedures.

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

A reference laboratory test exists which measures the vWF.

A genetic test is also available for breeding animals that are at risk for *vWD*.

TREATMENT

There is no long-lasting treatment for *vWD*.

When a planned surgical procedure is anticipated, patients often receive a plasma transfusion or cryoprecipitate if available before the procedure. Cryoprecipitate is an injectable plasma containing vWf. This will often reduce bleeding risk for approximately 4 hours after administration.

When a patient is spontaneously hemorrhaging from injury, they are also treated with a plasma transfusion. Although transfusions are only a temporary solution.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- When young, monitor at-risk breeds for excessive oral bleeding following tooth loss.
- Pre-transfuse patients before procedures.
- Keep a quiet lifestyle.