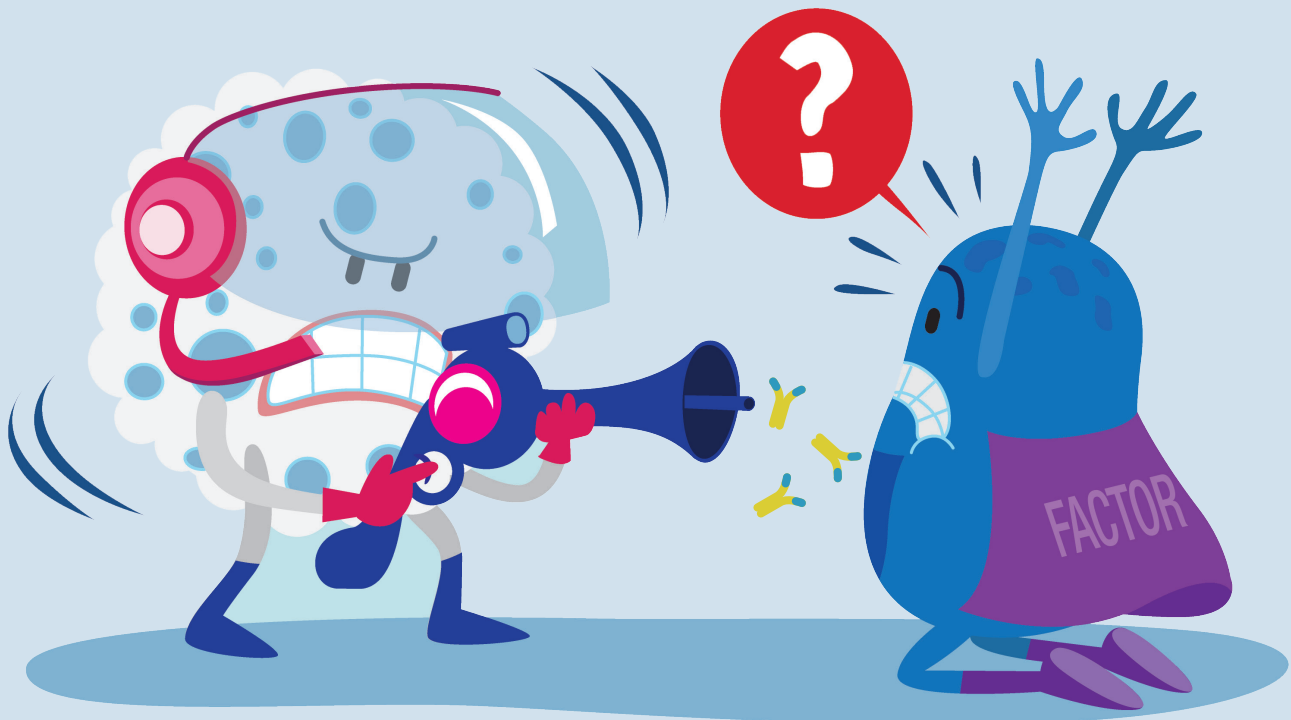
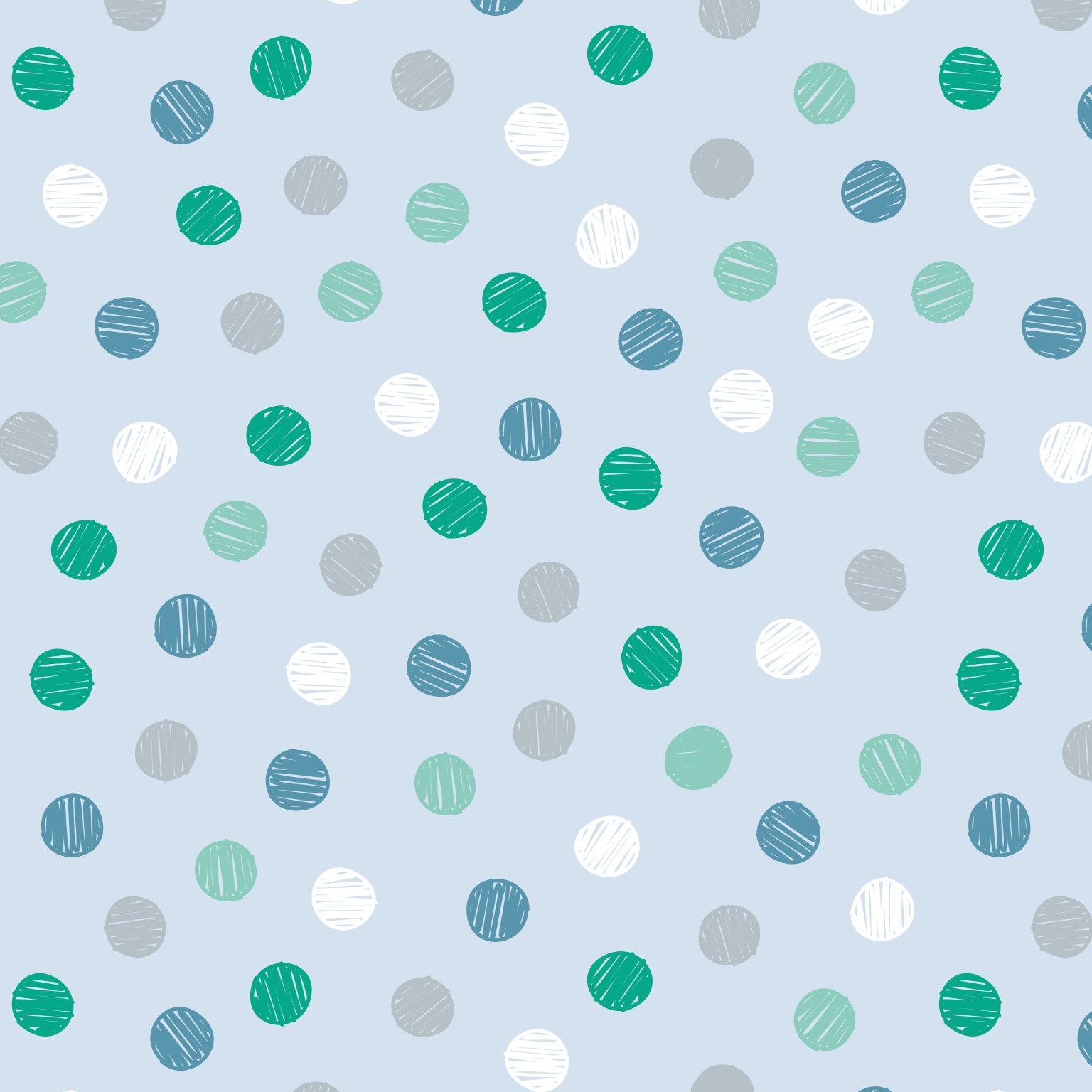


Hemophilia

and inhibitors



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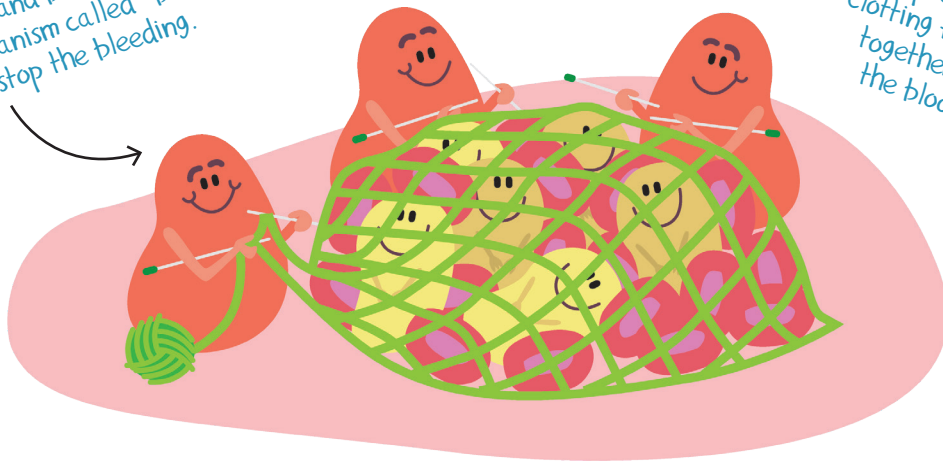


What is hemophilia?

You might already know what hemophilia is, but let's start from the beginning to better understand!

When you get hurt and bleed, your body turns on a mechanism called "blood clotting" to stop the bleeding.

In this process different clotting factors work together to form the blood clot.



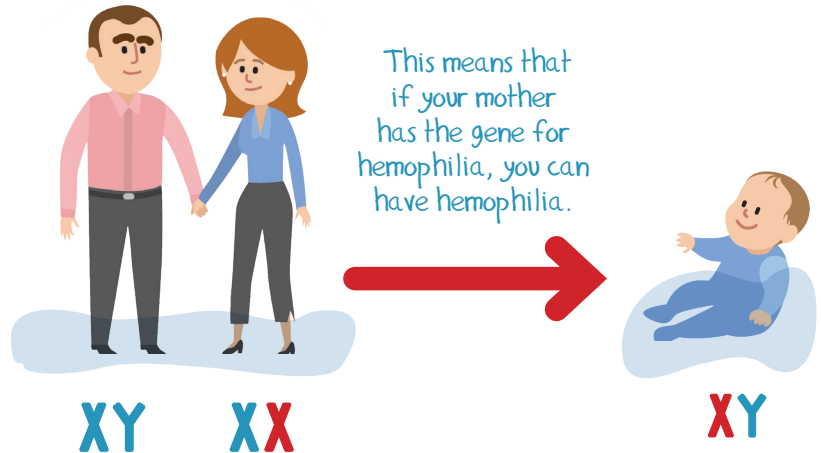
- If you have hemophilia you don't have enough of certain clotting factors. This means that your blood won't clot the way it should and it will be harder for you to stop the bleeds.
- The two most common types of hemophilia depending on the missing factor: hemophilia A and hemophilia B.

What causes hemophilia A or B?

Hemophilia A and B are genetic disorders carried on the X chromosome

This means that when you were born, it was passed from your mother to you through her genes.

As you probably know, girls have two X chromosomes (XX) and boys have one chromosome X and one chromosome Y (XY). Boys get an X chromosome from their mother and a Y chromosome from their father.



- If you have hemophilia A, it means your body doesn't have enough of clotting factor VIII (factor 8) and if you have hemophilia B, your body doesn't have enough factor IX (factor 9).
- Hemophilia can be mild, moderate or severe based on the amount of the clotting factor missing in blood.

Hemophilia symptoms

As your body is not clotting properly you can have two types of bleeds: internal or external.

Internal bleeds normally happen on joints: knees, hips, ankles and wrists.

They might swell (get big) and hurt a lot and you may have a hard time moving around.



Treatment of hemophilia A and B



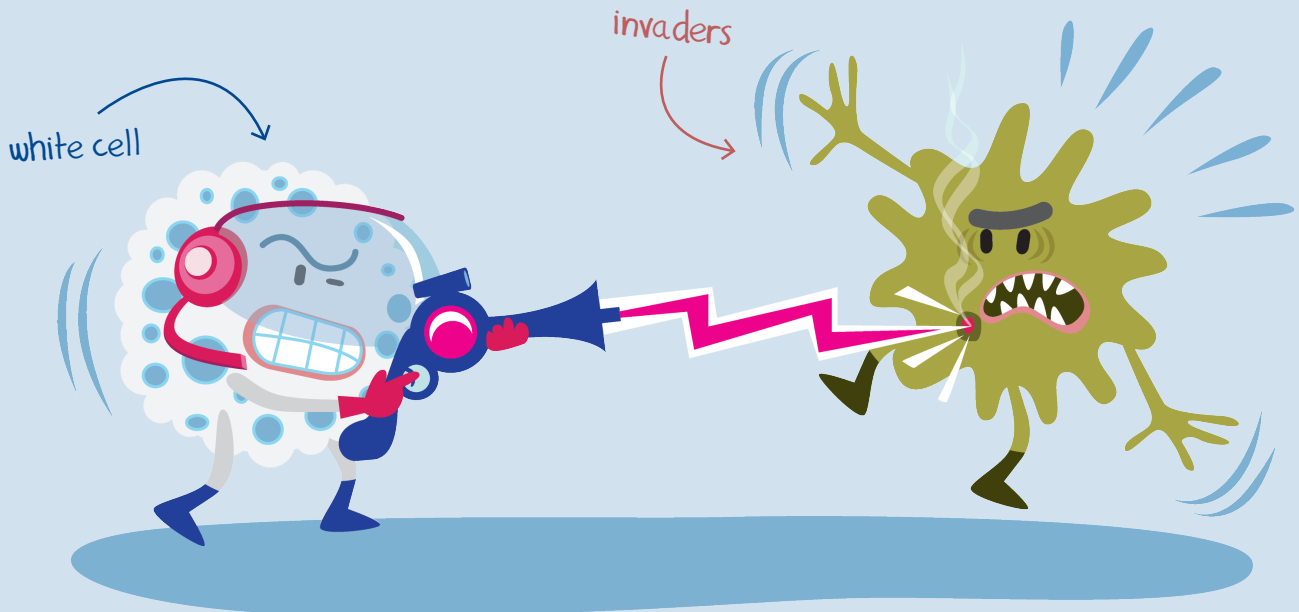
Treatment consists of getting injections of the factor that you are missing (FVIII or FIX) to help your body form the clot and stop the bleeding.

An inhibitor?

What's that?

If you have an inhibitor, you need to understand what that means

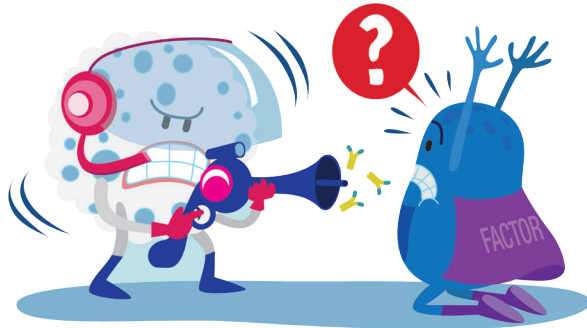
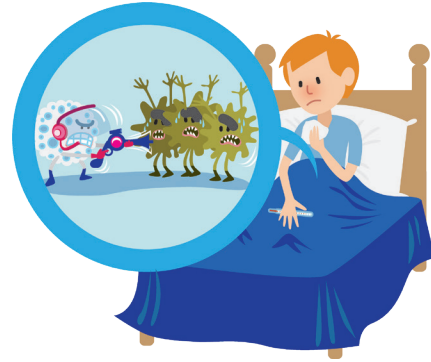
First of all, you need to learn about certain cells inside your body, called “white cells”. Your body produces white cells, which are your body’s “soldiers”. Their job is to fight invaders.



Some of these white cells produce antibodies that stick to the invaders and help to destroy them

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So, for example, when you get a cold, your body produces antibodies to destroy invaders and protect you.

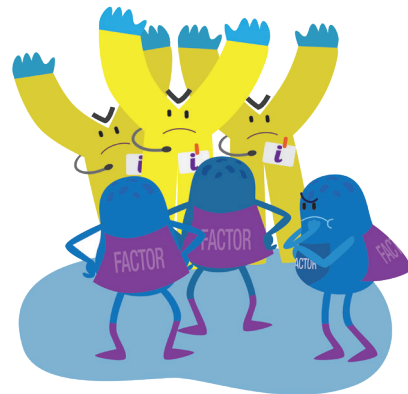


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Sometimes your body gets confused and starts thinking that the factor you infuse is an invader. When this happens, the body makes antibodies against the factor and attacks it. These antibodies are called "inhibitors".

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Inhibitors can prevent the factor from working and make it harder to stop bleeds. This means that you might not be able to use your regular factor because the inhibitor will destroy it.



Inhibitors are more frequent in hemophilia A than in hemophilia B

Who gets inhibitors in hemophilia A?

Anybody with hemophilia A can get inhibitors at any age

Although they usually start when you are a baby or young like you are now, inhibitors can also show up when you are older.

There are many reasons why you might get inhibitors, including race and type of FVIII used to treat hemophilia.

No one really knows why some people with hemophilia get inhibitors and others don't.

It's nothing you have done wrong, it just happens sometimes.



How do doctors know you have inhibitors?

When bleeding does not stop right after infusing your factor, it might be because there is an inhibitor that is blocking the effect.

Your doctor will need some blood to test and see if there are inhibitors in your blood.

This test will show just how strong the inhibitor might be so that your doctor is better able to adjust your treatment.



What You Can Do!

Being a kid with hemophilia is much like life for any other kid.

It does mean, though, that you need to do some things differently.

When you have inhibitors it can be tough and there will be some days when you just feel bad.

Just remember to be brave and keep going. Doing what your parents and doctors say will help you stay healthy.



If you do your part, you will feel better. On most days you will be able to join your family and play with your friends as well as play certain sports.

This space is for you!

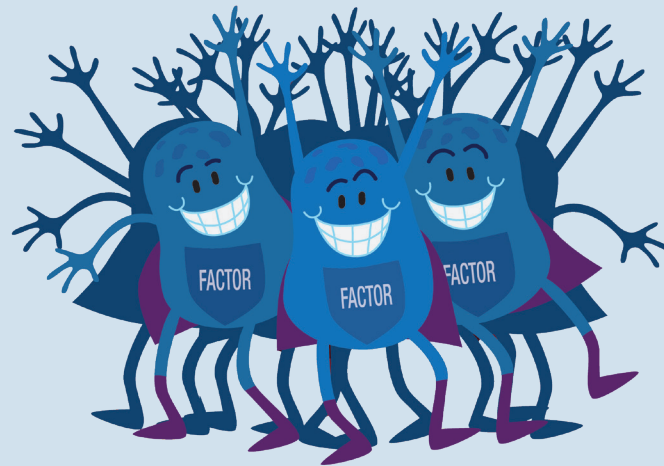
Write down whatever you want to tell or ask your doctor during the next visit. Remember to bring this leaflet with you!

Your name:

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A series of horizontal dotted lines providing a space for writing notes or questions.



This educational leaflet has been developed by Grifols.
Consult your healthcare professional for further information.

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