



Dr
Rosie
Roldan

Hemophilia is a well known bleeding disorder with alteration in the synthesis of plasma protein coagulation factors. Hemophilia can be divided in two groups. Hemophilia A presents with low levels or absence of Factor VIII plasma protein and Hemophilia B presents with low levels or absence of Factor IX plasma protein. The severity of this disorder is dependent on the amount of active factor present in the blood. A patient with mild hemophilia has a minimum of 5% active factor present in the blood and rarely experiences bleeding episodes except during traumatic events or surgical procedures. The patient with a level of 2-5% of factor present in the blood is considered to have moderate Hemophilia while a patient with a level of <1% of factor is considered severe. Moderate and severe patients are at constant risk of spontaneous hemorrhage.

The medical management of the patient with hemophilia poses many challenges. Factor replacement therapy is designed to

Dental management of the patient with hemophilia

prevent life threatening hemorrhage, irreversible joint deformity and at the same time minimize the formation of inhibitors. The dental management of this patient should include education in disease prevention not only to improve quality of life and nutrition, but also to avoid dangers of the more invasive procedures. However, the dental team should be well versed in the management of the Hemophiliac patient with periodontal disease, caries, and traumatic injuries and in need of surgical treatment. The Dentist must be familiar with 1. The dental procedures that require the use of factor replacement 2. The amount of factor replacement required during invasive procedures 3. Different agents that provide local hemostasis 4. The use of adjunct systemic therapy like DDAVP, Tranaxemic Acid and Amicar.

A medical and dental literature search covering the past 10 years found a very limited number of papers or educational programs that integrates the medical and dental management of patients with hemophilia. Additionally, this topic has come up frequently in the medical and dental training but no standard curriculum has been developed. We propose an educational tool that proactively educates physicians and dentists concerning management of patients with hemophilia and other bleeding disorders so that they are better prepared to handle emergencies and standard non-emergent care. The educational tool proposed will focus on dental care across the lifespan of the patient with hemophilia.

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