

## Advancements in the Diagnosis, Treatment, and Management of Haemophilia A: A Comprehensive and Literature Research Review

*Anshika*

*Guide: Mr. Rajkumar Mishra (Associate Professor)*

*IEC College, Greater Noida*

### ABSTRACT

An uncommon genetic illness called haemophilia A impairs the blood's capacity to clot, which causes excessive bleeding and bruising. It is brought on by a lack of clotting factor VIII, a protein required for blood coagulation. The X-linked recessive disorder haemophilia A primarily affects male since they acquire the defective gene from their mothers. However, females are also capable of carrying the illness.

Haemophilia A signs and symptoms can differ from person to person and can be minimal to severe. Others might experience one or more major bleeding episodes that can happen spontaneously, after an injury or surgery, or both. Some people may experience frequent nosebleeds or easy bruising. Joints, muscles, and soft tissues are the most frequent locations of bleeding, which can cause discomfort, bruising, and restricted movement. Vital organ bleeding, which may include that in the brain, can be life-threatening.

Through blood tests that evaluate the amount of factor VIII in the blood, haemophilia A can be determined. Factor VIII concentrates are given intravenously as replacement therapy for missing or insufficient factor VIII in haemophilia A patients. Treatment frequency and dosage are based on the disease severity, as well as the location and volume of bleeding. Prophylactic therapy may be important for patients with severe haemophilia A to stop bleeding episodes.

People with haemophilia A now have far greater successes and a higher quality of life because to medical advancements. Patients and their families continue to struggle with different challenges as a result of the disease, such as the requirement for frequent blood transfusions and close observation of bleeding episodes. Patients with haemophilia A may face long-term problems such joint damage and infections. Haemophilia A is a chronic illness that requires continuing therapy.

The goal of haemophilia A research is to enhance available therapies as well as understand the disease's underlying genetic and molecular causes. It entails the creation of novel therapeutics that target the fundamental causes of bleeding, such as gene therapy and non-replacement therapies. The biggest objective is to eradicate haemophilia A and enhance the lives of those who are afflicted by such a challenging a medical condition.

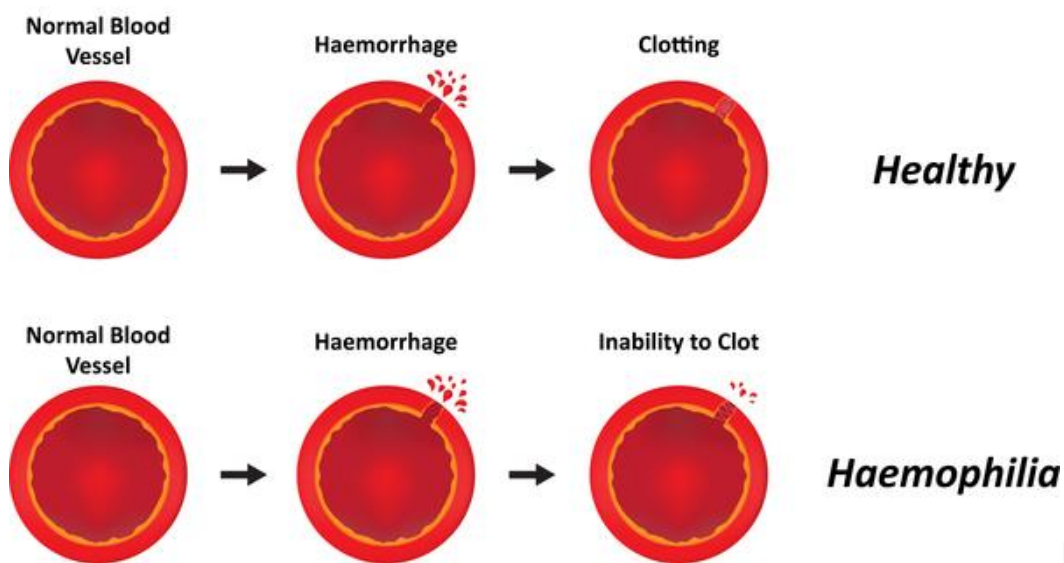
## INTRODUCTION

A deficient level of clotting factor VIII results in the rare hereditary condition known as haemophilia A, which causes unusual bleeding and bruising. Males are the ones who are more commonly affected since they receive the faulty gene from their moms.

Despite being a rare condition, haemophilia A can have a profound effect on patients, their families, and healthcare systems. Lifelong therapy of haemophilia A is necessary, including regular monitoring of bleeding episodes and preventive medication to avoid consequences.

New clotting factor concentrates and non-replacement therapy have been developed recently to treat haemophilia A, which has significantly improved patient outcomes and quality of life. However, there are still issues, such as the high expense of care, the possibility of problems.

## Haemophilia



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The goal of this study is to examine the existing body of knowledge regarding haemophilia A, including its epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, and the treatment. With a focus on the possibilities of gene therapy and non-replacement therapies to improve outcomes for people with haemophilia A, we will additionally discuss about current research initiatives and recent advancements in treatment.

We aim to contribute to the development of more efficient and accessible remedies for this difficult condition by offering a thorough overview of the disease and its treatments.

## SYMPTOMS

- 1) Most likely to easy bruising:** Haemophilia A patients are more likely to experience bruising from even minor wounds. Additionally, bruises might be more painful and larger than usual.
- 2) Bleeding into joints:** One of the most typical symptoms of haemophilia A is bleeding into joints, such as the knee, elbow, or ankle. It may result in discomfort, edema, and restricted motion.
- 3) Bleeding into muscles:** Injuries to the thigh or calf muscles can result in pain and swelling.
- 4) Prolonged bleeding following surgery or injury:** People with haemophilia A may experience prolonged bleeding following surgery or injury, which can be challenging to control.
- 5) Bleeding into internal organs:** Internal organs, such as the brain, may bleed severely in some circumstances, which can be fatal.
- 6) Nosebleeds:** Constant bleeding of the nose is also common .

## Diagnostic and Monitoring Tests for Hemophilia A:

- 1. Blood tests :** Blood Test used to evaluate the blood's level of clotting factor VIII. Clotting factor VIII levels that are low are a telltale sign of haemophilia A. These examinations can identify haemophilia A, assess its severity, and keep track of treatment.
- 2. Bleeding time testing:** These tests determine how long it takes for bleeding to stop following a minor skin cut. A person with haemophilia A will bleed more slowly than a person without the illness.

**3. Factor activity assays:** These lab tests assess the amount of clotting factor VIII in the blood and are used to determine its activity. These tests help assess the disease's severity and direct therapy choices.

**4. Genetic testing:** The genetic mutation that causes haemophilia A can be found through genetic testing. This information can aid in the diagnosis, identify the likelihood that the problem will be passed on to future generations, and direct treatment choices.

**5. Joint X-rays:** Joint bleeding, a frequent haemophilia A consequence, can be found on joint X-rays. X-rays can reveal indications of joint injury and aid in therapy planning.

**6. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI):** MRI offers more precise information than X-rays and can help identify joint leakage and injury.

## LITERATURE REVIEW:

The inherited blood clotting disorder haemophilia A is caused by a lack of coagulation factor VIII. Excessive bleeding is a key characteristic, especially following injury or surgery, and it can cause joint damage in addition to other issues. About 1 in 5,000 men worldwide are affected by the rare disease haemophilia A.

This literature review examines recent studies on haemophilia A diagnosis, treatment, and management. In order to diagnose haemophilia A, coagulation factor VIII levels in the blood are frequently assessed. Haemophilia A is indicated by a low factor VIII level, although a greater level could signify a less severe condition. Haemophilia A can also be diagnosed and its progression followed by other procedures including joint imaging and B. bleeding time tests.

Therapy to replace coagulation factor VIII is frequently used to treat haemophilia A. It can be used on a daily basis to stop bleeding or as needed for bleeding episodes. With reduced concerns of disease transmission and allergic reactions because to the introduction of recombinant factor VIII, coagulation factor replacement therapy is now much safer and more effective. Gene therapy has gained more attention recently as a potential treatment for haemophilia A.

Clinical trials' first findings have been encouraging, but additional analysis is required to determine the long-term security and efficacy of this strategy. Managing haemophilia A also entails controlling bleeding and attending to side effects such joint injury. Physical therapy, orthopaedic surgery, or other methods to enhance

joint health and stop additional harm may be a part of it. Additionally, it's critical for those who have haemophilia A to abstain from any practises or prescriptions that could enhance their risk of bleeding.

Additionally, recent studies have concentrated on enhancing the quality of life for haemophilia A patients. Creating comprehensive care programmes that offer multidisciplinary treatment, information, and support to haemophilia A patients and their families is part of this. It has been demonstrated that these programmes enhance outcomes and lower healthcare expenditures. There is growing interest in the social and psychological effects of haemophilia A in addition to clinical care of the condition.

According to studies, patients with haemophilia A may suffer from a lower quality of life, worsened anxiety and sadness, and social isolation as a result of their illness. The psychosocial effects of haemophilia A, such as social support initiatives and mental health interventions, require greater attention and support.

Haemophilia A diagnosis, care, and management have all considerably improved in recent years. For persons with haemophilia A, better outcomes and a higher quality of life require more research and innovation. Hope for a future cure is offered by gene therapy and other cutting-edge therapies, while care initiatives Haemophilia A patients have complicated demands that can be met with comprehensive care and more focus on the psychosocial components of their condition.[11]

Classification	Factor level, %	Bleeding phenotype
Severe	<1	Bleed spontaneously without injury
Moderate	1 - 5	Bleed on minor haemostatic challenge/injury
Mild	6 - 40	Bleed on major haemostatic challenge/injury

## EPIDEMIOLOGY:

Haemophilia, a rare genetic bleeding illness that interferes with the blood's ability to clot, causes protracted bleeding and other potentially fatal complications. Haemophilia comes in two flavours: haemophilia A, which is brought on by a lack of clotting factor VIII, and haemophilia B, which is brought on by a lack of clotting factor IX.

Epidemiology investigates the prevalence and causes of disease and health in populations. Understanding the prevalence, incidence, and risk factors related to haemophilia depends heavily on epidemiology.

**Prevalence:**

As an estimated prevalence of 1 in 5,000 to 10,000 male births for haemophilia A and 1 in 30,000 to 40,000 male births for haemophilia B, haemophilia is an uncommon disorder. Females are less likely to experience it since they have a second X chromosome, which usually results in milder symptoms.

**Incidence:**

The incidence of hemophilia is difficult to determine, as many cases are undiagnosed or misdiagnosed. It is estimated that approximately 400,000 people are living with hemophilia worldwide, with about 75% of cases going undiagnosed or untreated.

**RISK FACTORS :**

Haemophilia is an inherited disorder that is genetically transmitted from parents to their offspring. Whether a person gets a defective or absent clotting factor gene from one or both parents determines their likelihood of having haemophilia.

Other risk factors for haemophilia include a family history of the disorder, being a man, and belonging to a certain ethnic group. For instance, compared to other ethnic groups, people of European heritage are more likely to have haemophilia.

**COMPLICATIONS:**

Complications from haemophilia might include joint injury, persistent pain, and potentially fatal bleeding episodes. To stop bleeding episodes and control their symptoms, haemophiliacs may need routine infusions of clotting factor replacement therapy.

In conclusion, epidemiology is crucial for comprehending the incidence, prevalence, and risk factors related to haemophilia. Even though it is a rare ailment, those who are affected by it might suffer serious consequences, emphasising the significance of continued research and the creation of efficient remedies.

**PATHOPHYSIOLOGY:**

Haemophilia A has a complicated pathophysiology that results in abnormal bleeding and reduced blood clotting as a result of a series of events.

**Clotting Factor VIII:** In the intricate process by which blood clots to halt bleeding, the clotting cascade, clotting factor VIII plays a critical part. Chemical processes activate clotting factors, such as factor VIII, to create a fibrin clot when a blood vessel is ruptured.

**When a person has haemophilia A:** Their body either doesn't generate enough factor VIII or produces it in an ineffective form. As a result, the clotting cascade develops a flaw, which impairs blood clotting and raises the risk of bleeding.

**Bleeding Episodes:** Depending on the amount of factor VIII in the blood, bleeding episodes—the distinguishing feature of haemophilia A—can range in severity from mild to severe. While bleeding may happen spontaneously or after minimal trauma in severe situations, it is more likely to happen after considerable trauma or surgery in moderate cases.

In haemophilia A, impaired clot formation brought on by the absence of functional factor VIII causes bleeding to last longer when it does. In addition to causing discomfort, swelling, and tissue damage, bleeding can happen in a variety of body regions, including the muscles, joints, and organs.

**Joint Damage:** Chronic joint damage and impairment can result from recurrent bleeding episodes in the joints. In a joint, such as a knee, ankle, or elbow, bleeding can result in swelling and inflammation, which can cause joint discomfort and stiffness. Repeated bleeding incidents over time might harm the joint permanently and reduce mobility and range of motion.

#### **Treatment :**

Replacement therapy with clotting factor VIII is the cornerstone of treatment for haemophilia A. To replace the inadequate or malfunctioning factor VIII and restore regular blood clotting, factor VIII is infused into the bloodstream. The severity of the condition, as well as the location and magnitude of bleeding episodes, determine the frequency and dose of factor VIII replacement therapy.[1]

Factor VIII deficiency or malfunction can decrease clot formation and increase the risk of bleeding, which can harm joints and make people disabled. The emergence of inhibitors may necessitate the use of alternate therapeutic modalities and complicate illness management further.



## Potential Sources of Bias in Hemophilia A :

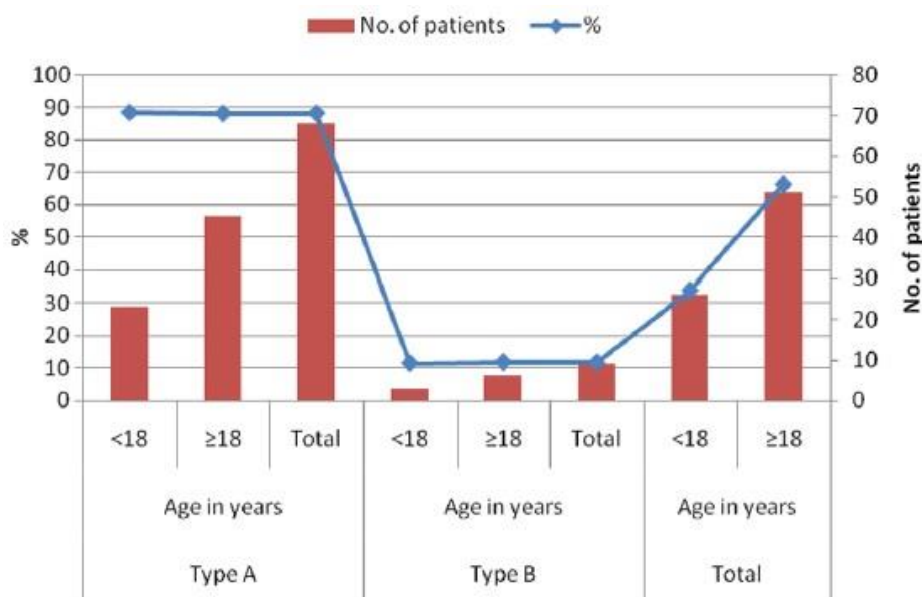
Any systematic inaccuracy or departure from reality in a study's planning, execution, or analysis that could produce unreliable results is referred to as bias. The accuracy and dependability of study findings in the setting of haemophilia A can be impacted by a number of potential sources of bias.

**Selection bias:** Selection bias might happen if the study population does not accurately reflect the overall haemophilia A community. The results may not be applicable to those with mild or moderate types of haemophilia A, for instance, if a study solely comprises patients with the disorder.

**Information bias:** If the study's data collection needs to be more precise or thorough, information bias may develop. Errors in the measurement of bleeding episodes, factor VIII levels, or other important variables may result in this.

**Confounding bias :**Confounding bias can happen when variables that affect the study's outcome are not taken into consideration during the analysis. For instance, other factors, such as age, weight, or physical activity, may also contribute to joint damage if a study demonstrates a link between factor VIII levels and joint damage.

**Reporting bias:** If the study results are presented incorrectly, whether on purpose or by accident, reporting bias may ensue. For instance, an overestimation of the efficacy of treatment may result if a study only cites favourable outcomes and ignores negative results.



[12]



If studies with good outcomes are more likely to be published than those with negative results, publication bias may ensue. This could result in an overestimation of a treatment's or intervention's effectiveness.

To reduce bias in haemophilia A research, studies should be planned using rigorous procedures including adequate control groups, blinding, and randomization. Furthermore, to avoid reporting bias, studies should present all findings, even negative ones. Systematic reviews and collaborative research projects can also lessen prejudice and raise the standard of research as a whole.

## DIAGNOSIS:

The clinical evaluation, the medical history of the patient's family, and other laboratory testing are often required to arrive at a diagnosis of haemophilia A.

**1. Clinical Evaluation :** The first stage in the process of diagnosing haemophilia A is to do a comprehensive evaluation. In addition to performing a physical exam, the doctor will inquire about the patient's medical history, specifically any previous incidents with bleeding. Because bleeding in the joints is a typical consequence of haemophilia A, the physical exam may include an evaluation of the patient's joint function.

**2. The patient's family history :** Because haemophilia A is a hereditary disorder, the patient's family history might be a very helpful hint in the diagnostic process. The physician will inquire about the patient's family history of bleeding disorders, such as haemophilia A, and may suggest genetic testing to validate the patient's diagnosis.

**3. Tests Conducted in a Laboratory :** The diagnosis of haemophilia A requires tests to be conducted in a laboratory. The factor VIII activity assay and the factor VIII antigen assay are the types of tests that are utilised the most frequently while attempting to identify haemophilia A.

**4. Factor VIII Activity Assay :** The factor VIII activity assay determines how well factor VIII acts by measuring how much of it is present in the patient's blood and how much of it is active. Taking a blood sample and sending it off to a laboratory for analysis is the standard procedure for carrying out this test.[2]

In patients with haemophilia A, the activity level of factor VIII is frequently decreased, which is indicative of a factor VIII shortage. In most cases, the severity of the condition is categorised depending on the level of factor VIII activity, which is as follows:

- a)Mild haemophilia A :** factor VIII activity level that is between 5 and 40 percent of the normal range is considered to have mild haemophilia A.
- b) Moderate haemophilia A :** factor VIII activity level that is between 1-5% of normal is considered to be moderately severe haemophilia A.
- c) Severe haemophilia A :** factor VIII activity level that is less than 1% of normal is considered to be severe haemophilia A.

The amount of factor VIII protein that is present in the patient's blood is determined by the use of an assay known as the factor VIII antigen test. In order to confirm the diagnosis of haemophilia A, this test is typically carried out in conjunction with the factor VIII activity assay.

In addition to these examinations, other laboratory tests may be carried out in order to rule out other bleeding disorders, such as von Willebrand disease or factor XI deficiency. These conditions are both possible causes of excessive bleeding. In order to confirm the diagnosis of haemophilia A and determine the precise mutation that is responsible for the disease, genetic testing may also be performed.

Even if the laboratory tests are inconclusive, a diagnosis of haemophilia A may be suspected in certain circumstances based on the clinical evaluation and family history of the affected individual. In situations like these, the physician may suggest continuing to watch the patient for signs and symptoms of bleeding, as well as performing the laboratory tests again at a later time.

## patients

Complaint	1-3 years n (%)	4-10 years n (%)	11-18 years n (%)
Hemarthrosis	8 (9.6)	9 (10.8)	10 (12)
Ecchymosis and hematoma	10 (12)	8 (9.6)	6 (7.2)
Unstoppable bleeding following trauma	3 (3.6)	6 (7.2)	4 (4.8)
Oral mucosal bleeding	5 (15.6)	2 (2.4)	3 (3.6)
Unstoppable bleeding following circumcision	4 (4.8)	-	-
Gastrointestinal bleeding	1 (1.2)	1 (1.2)	2 (2.4)
Hematuria	-	-	1 (1.2)

[16]

In conclusion, haemophilia A can be diagnosed using a combination of clinical evaluation, family history, and laboratory testing. Assays that measure factor VIII activity and antigen are the most common kind of testing utilised in the diagnosis of haemophilia A. In order to verify the diagnosis and zero in on the particular mutation that's causing the illness, genetic testing might also come highly suggested. It is extremely important to make an early diagnosis in order to reduce the risk of severe bleeding episodes and problems caused by haemophilia A. Genetic counselling may also be recommended for afflicted individuals and their families.

### The Clinical Burdens of Hemophilia A: Understanding the Challenges and Management Strategies

The risk of bleeding, which can occur either on its own or as a result of trauma or injury, is one of the most important clinical burdens associated with haemophilia A. Bleeding can occur spontaneously or as a result of either of these two events. Bleeding can occur internally, causing injury to the joints and muscles, or externally, causing bruising and continuous bleeding from cuts and wounds. Internal bleeding is more likely to cause harm. This can result in ongoing pain and impairment, as well as an increased risk of infection, particularly if bleeding takes place in the joints or other soft tissues.

Another substantial clinical burden associated with haemophilia A is the requirement to take preventative therapy. In order to reduce the risk of bleeding episodes, prophylaxis involves receiving regular infusions of clotting factor concentrates. Individuals who suffer from severe haemophilia A may require infusions three times per week, which can make this a time-consuming and expensive process. It is also vital to check clotting factor levels on a consistent basis in order to guarantee that the preventative regimen is effective. This can involve regular visits to a haematologist and the taking of blood samples.[3]

The complications of haemophilia A might further add to the pressures experienced in the clinic. The joints in the knees, ankles, and elbows are especially susceptible to harm when it comes to bleeding that occurs repeatedly. This can lead to ongoing discomfort as well as impairment, which can have a negative impact on both mobility and quality of life. Hemarthrosis, also known as bleeding into the joint spaces, deep vein thrombosis (DVT), and pulmonary embolism (PE) are three additional problems that may arise. Individuals who have haemophilia A are more likely to additionally struggle with psychological difficulties. Living with a chronic condition that calls for ongoing medical care and management can be a source of worry and anxiety, especially if the condition is difficult to control. It is possible to experience social isolation, anxiety, and sadness as a result of a fear of bleeding and the influence it has on daily activities.

In conclusion, the clinical burdens of haemophilia A are severe, and they have the potential to have a significant influence on the lives of those who are affected by the illness. In order to effectively manage the risk of bleeding and avoid problems, routine prevention, and psychological effects, continuous medical treatment, support, and monitoring are required. Individuals affected by haemophilia A are able to lead lives that are satisfying and fruitful when the condition is managed properly, despite the clinical burdens associated with the condition.

### **The Impact of Hemophilia on the Immune System: Risks and Management Strategies**

As a result of the greater frequency with which they are exposed to blood products for the treatment of bleeding episodes, those who have haemophilia are at an elevated risk of developing infections. People who have haemophilia are more likely to contract hepatitis C, hepatitis B, and HIV than the general population. These infections can result in persistent inflammation, damage to the liver, and various illnesses affecting the immune system.

It is possible that the use of coagulation factor concentrates as a treatment for haemophilia could also contribute to the malfunction of the immune system. [4]Clotting factor concentrates are made from human

blood, and despite the fact that they undergo processing to lessen the likelihood of infection, there is a possibility that they may still contain trace levels of virus or bacterial contamination. An immunological reaction, including the formation of antibodies that can impair the efficiency of subsequent clotting factor infusions, can be prompted by exposure to certain pollutants, which can also elicit an immune response.

In addition, some individuals who have haemophilia develop inhibitors of coagulation factors, which can lead to a diminished response to treatment as well as an increased risk of bleeding. Inhibitors are produced when the immune system of the body incorrectly identifies clotting factor concentrations as foreign invaders and then creates antibodies to eliminate the threat posed by these invaders. [18] People with severe haemophilia are more likely to develop inhibitors, which can further complicate treatment. Inhibitor development is more common.

Stress of an emotional nature, such as that caused by haemophilia, can also have an effect on the immune system. Stress can cause an increase in the production of the hormone cortisol, which has the effect of dampening the immunological response. People who have haemophilia may be at a greater risk of developing infections and other conditions that are immune system-related as a result of this.

In conclusion, haemophilia can have a major impact on the immune system, which can result in a greater risk of infections as well as the development of inhibitors and other immunological-related illnesses. It is possible to lessen the toll that the disorder takes on the immune system by treating the physical symptoms of haemophilia and minimising the amount of pollution that the patient is exposed to while undergoing therapy. People who have haemophilia should also make efforts to better manage their stress and give their mental health a higher priority in order to assist their immune systems.

### **Recent Advances in the Treatment of Hemophilia A: Extended Half-Life Clotting Factors, Gene Therapy and Personalized Medicine Approaches**

The creation of extended half-life clotting factor concentrates is one of the more recent medical achievements in the treatment of haemophilia A. These products are meant to have a longer shelf life in the body, which results in a reduced need for infusions and improved protection against bleeding. Regulatory bodies have given their stamp of approval to a number of products that have a longer half-life. These items include recombinant factor VIII Fc fusion proteins and PEGylated factor VIII products.

A further breakthrough in recent times is the use of gene therapy in the treatment of haemophilia A. In gene therapy, the patient's cells are given functional copies of the gene that codes for factor VIII so that the patient can benefit from the treatment. [5] This can be accomplished through the utilisation of viral vectors or any number of other techniques of gene delivery. The outcomes of clinical trials have been encouraging, with some patients reaching sustained levels of factor VIII activity that have enabled a reduction in or elimination of the conventional treatment including clotting factor concentrates.

Emicizumab is an example of one of the non-factor therapies that has been developed for the treatment of haemophilia A. This bispecific antibody, which has been approved for use in patients with haemophilia A with or without inhibitors, performs a role similar to that of factor VIII and replicates that function. This treatment can be given subcutaneously, and it has been shown in clinical trials to drastically reduce the number of patients who experienced bleeding.

Finally, developments in personalised medicine and pharmacogenomics have made it possible to control and provide traditional clotting factor concentrates with greater accuracy in terms of dosage. The use of pharmacogenomic testing can assist in the identification of genetic differences that influence an individual's reaction to treatment, which paves the way for the creation of individualised dosage plans that are more effective.

In conclusion, the most recent developments in the treatment of haemophilia A have focused on enhancing the efficiency, convenience, and safety of therapy. Products with an extended half-life, gene therapy, non-factor medicines, and personalised medicine methods are all ways that people with haemophilia A can see their lives improve in the near future.

***Recent developments in the treatment of haemophilia A include some of the following:***

**1. Gene Therapy :** Delivery of a Functional Copy of the Factor VIII Gene to the Patient's Cells in Order to manufacture a Clotting Factor Gene therapy involves the delivery of a functional copy of the factor VIII gene to the patient's cells in order to manufacture a clotting factor. This strategy has had encouraging outcomes in clinical studies; in particular, some patients have been able to achieve sustained levels of factor VIII expression, so removing the requirement that they have regular infusions.

**2. Non-Replacement Therapy:** Non-replacement therapies target distinct routes in the coagulation cascade in an effort to improve hemostasis. One of these treatments is called emicizumab, and it is a bispecific antibody that improves clotting activity by acting like Factor VIII and mimicking its function. Emicizumab has been given the green light for usage in patients who have been diagnosed with haemophilia A and inhibitors.

**3. Small-Molecule Inhibitors:** In order to improve the process of hemostasis, small-molecule inhibitors focus on a particular coagulation factor or enzyme. One of these inhibitors, called Fitusiran, goes against antithrombin, a protein that suppresses the action of clotting. Patients with haemophilia A and inhibitors have been observed to experience less bleeding episodes when fitusiran is administered.

**4. Gene Editing :** Correcting the mutation that causes haemophilia A by directly manipulating the patient's genome through gene editing: this is the fourth and most recent treatment option. Although this method is currently in the testing phase, there is hope that it could one day be used to treat or perhaps eliminate the disease.

These relatively recent developments in haemophilia treatment Patients who with the disease now have reason to hope for better results and a higher quality of life thanks to a treatment. However, these treatments are still in the early stages of development; therefore, additional research is required to completely understand their effectiveness as well as their safety.

### **Gene Therapy for Hemophilia A: Advantages, Disadvantages, and Considerations for Treatment**

In gene therapy, the patient's cells are given functional copies of the gene that codes for factor VIII so that the patient can benefit from the treatment. This can be accomplished by using viral vectors that have been genetically modified to deliver the therapeutic gene to the cells of the patient. Once it has entered the cells, the therapeutic gene is able to create functional factor VIII, which restores normal clotting activity.[7]

Individuals suffering with severe haemophilia A who do not respond effectively to conventional clotting factor replacement therapy are the primary focus of efforts to develop gene therapy as a treatment option for the condition. Patients who acquire inhibitors to standard clotting factor concentrates are also being researched for the possible treatment option of gene therapy.



When determining whether or not a patient will benefit from gene therapy, there are a number of considerations that need to be made first. The severity of the patient's haemophilia, the existence of inhibitors, the health of the patient's immune system, and the potential dangers and advantages of therapy are some of the factors that are taken into consideration.

The possibility of gene therapy for haemophilia A having a curative impact is a significant advantage of the treatment. In clinical trials, it was demonstrated that certain patients who received gene therapy were able to obtain sustained levels of factor VIII activity, thereby decreasing or eliminating the requirement for conventional clotting factor replacement therapy.

Gene therapy does not come without its share of potential drawbacks and dangers. Both the use of viral vectors for gene delivery, which can result in immunological responses, and gene therapy, which has been linked to reports of adverse outcomes, are currently under investigation. In addition, the long-term safety and effectiveness of gene therapy for haemophilia A have not yet been thoroughly investigated, and there is a pressing need for additional study in this field.[17]

Adeno-associated virus (AAV) vectors are used in the majority of gene therapy clinical trials for haemophilia A. These vectors have been shown to be both safe and successful in preclinical research. It has been observed that the duration of factor VIII expression after AAV-mediated gene therapy can be anywhere from several months to many years in some patients. However, in order to evaluate how long the treatment will be effective, further follow-up over a longer period of time is required.[8]

Gene therapy has promise as a possibly curative treatment for haemophilia A, particularly for individuals with severe disease who do not respond effectively to standard clotting factor replacement therapy. In conclusion, gene therapy holds promise as a cure for haemophilia A. Gene therapy is an area of current research and development in the treatment of haemophilia A. Despite the fact that it is accompanied with risks and disadvantages, the potential benefits make it an attractive option.

### **Traditional Treatment for Hemophilia A: Regular Infusions of Clotting Factor Concentrates**

Infusions of clotting factor, given on a daily basis, have been the standard method of treating haemophilia A for decades. These treatments help stop bleeding episodes and speed healing.

Concentrates of clotting factors are typically created from human plasma or through the use of recombinant technology, which creates clotting factors in the laboratory through the use of genetically engineered cells.

These concentrates can be administered intravenously to the patient in order to raise the level of clotting factors in their blood, which in turn lowers the patient's risk of bleeding.

In the treatment of haemophilia A, the most common types of clotting factor concentrates utilised are factor VIII concentrates and factor VIII inhibitor bypassing agents, abbreviated as FEIBAs. In patients with haemophilia A who have developed inhibitors to factor VIII, FEIBAs can be used to treat bleeding episodes. Factor VIII concentrates, on the other hand, are specific to the deficiency observed in haemophilia A and are used to treat the deficiency itself.

The severity of the patient's haemophilia A will determine the frequency of infusions as well as the dosage of clotting factor concentrates that will be administered. Patients diagnosed with haemophilia A who only require infusions in reaction to bleeding episodes may have a milder form of the disease. Those who are suffering from conditions that are more severe may need to receive preventive infusions numerous times per week in order to prevent bleeding that occurs on its own.[9]

Clotting factor replacement therapy is not without its drawbacks, despite the fact that it is an efficient method for preventing bleeding episodes. The expense of the treatment is one of the most significant drawbacks; clotting factor concentrates can be rather pricey, and this expense can pile up over time, particularly for patients who need to get infusions on a regular basis. Additionally, the requirement for intravenous infusions might be cumbersome and limit the daily activities that a patient is able to participate in.

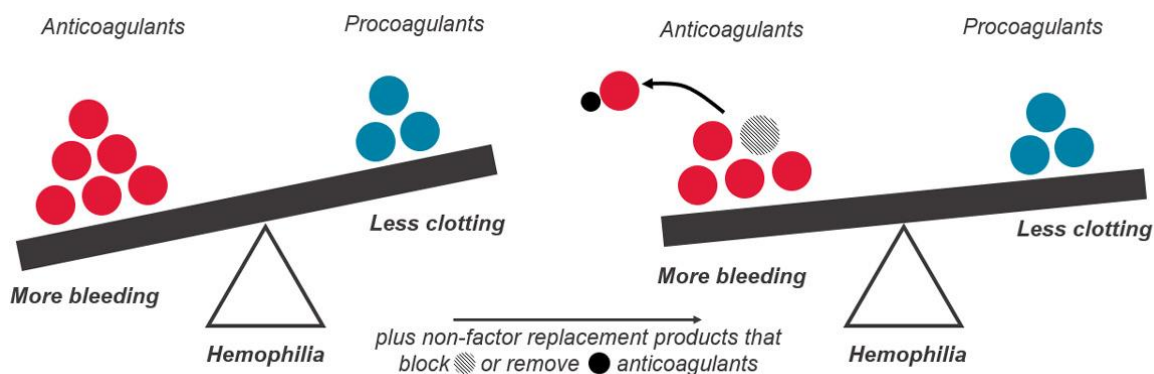
Another potential drawback is the development of inhibitors in the patient's blood, which are antibodies that can prevent the clotting factors in the patient's blood from functioning normally. The use of inhibitors can reduce the efficacy of clotting factor replacement therapy, which means that alternate treatment alternatives might need to be examined.

In conclusion, the typical treatment for haemophilia A consists of receiving regular infusions of clotting factor, which helps enhance clotting and reduces bleeding episodes. Clotting factor replacement therapy is an efficient method for stopping bleeding, but it comes with a number of drawbacks, such as the possibility of the body building inhibitors to it and the high expense of the treatment. As a direct consequence of this, non-traditional methods of treatment, such as gene therapy, are currently being researched for their potential efficacy in curing haemophilia A.[18]

## Non-replacement therapy for Hemophilia A: Current and prospects

Replacement therapy, in which missing or insufficient clotting factor VIII is injected into a patient's bloodstream in order to prevent or treat bleeding episodes, has traditionally been the primary focus of treatment for haemophilia A. This therapy was developed in the 1950s. However, in recent years, non-replacement medicines have emerged as viable treatments for haemophilia A. These therapies do not involve the replacement of missing blood components.

In the context of haemophilia A, the term "non-replacement therapy" refers to treatments that do not include the intravenous administration of clotting factor concentrates. These therapies, on the other hand, focus on different elements of the clotting cascade in order to prevent or lessen instances of bleeding.



[15]

*Here are some non-replacement medicines for the treatment of haemophilia A that are currently under investigation:*

**1. Emicizumab:** Emicizumab is a bispecific antibody that mimics the activity of factor VIII by bridging the gap between factors IX and X. It does this by bridging the gap between factors IX and X. This contributes to the activation of the coagulation cascade, which in turn serves to lower the risk of bleeding episodes. Emicizumab is injected subcutaneously (under the skin) once every week, once every two weeks, or once every four weeks, depending on the requirements of the patient.

**2. Fitusiran:** Fitusiran is a treatment that targets antithrombin, which is a protein that regulates the clotting cascade. Fitusiran is an RNA interference (RNAi) drug. Fitusiran has the ability to boost clotting factor activity and minimise the risk of bleeding episodes thanks to its ability to lower antithrombin levels. Fitusiran is given in a single subcutaneous injection once every month.

**3. Concizumab :** Concizumab is a monoclonal antibody that targets tissue factor pathway inhibitor (TFPI), a protein that slows the clotting cascade. Concizumab is used to treat a variety of clotting disorders. Concizumab has the ability to boost clotting factor activity and minimise the risk of bleeding episodes because it lowers levels of the protein TFPI. The medication concizumab is injected subcutaneously once every seven days.

Traditional replacement therapy for haemophilia A may lack numerous potential advantages that are offered by non-replacement remedies for the condition. Because many non-replacement therapies are provided less frequently than clotting factor concentrates, this is one of the most significant advantages. The potential for fewer injections is one of the most significant advantages. Non-replacement therapies, on the other hand, do not require the introduction of foreign proteins into the patient's bloodstream, thus it is possible that they provoke less of an immune response than replacement therapies do. [4]

Finally, non-replacement therapy may prevent bleeding episodes more effectively than replacement therapies, especially in patients who have inhibitors to clotting factor VIII.

Despite the potential benefits, non-replacement medicines for haemophilia A are still in the early stages of development, and the safety and effectiveness of these therapies over the long term are not yet completely established. It is essential to keep in mind that non-replacement therapies maybe will not be appropriate for all patients diagnosed with haemophilia A, and that decisions regarding treatment ought to be taken on an individual patient basis.

In conclusion, non-replacement therapies provide an intriguing new treatment option for patients who have haemophilia A. Traditional replacement therapy is still the most effective form of treatment for the vast majority of patients; nevertheless, non-replacement therapies can be beneficial for some patient populations. Ongoing research and clinical studies will assist to identify the place of these developing medicines in the therapy landscape for haemophilia A, as well as clarify the safety and efficacy of these medications.

### **Small Inhibitors as a Promising New Class of Treatments for Hemophilia A**

A promising new class of therapies called small inhibitors have been developed for haemophilia A. In contrast to the conventional method of replacement therapy, which entails the intravenous administration of clotting factor concentrates, the use of tiny inhibitors to improve hemostasis targets particular molecules along the coagulation pathway.

Fitusiran is an excellent illustration of a tiny inhibitor. The anti-clotting protein antithrombin is the target of fitusiran, a type of small interfering RNA (siRNA). Fitusiran works by inhibiting the function of antithrombin. Fitusiran works to improve the clotting activity and minimise the number of bleeding episodes in patients who have Haemophilia A and inhibitors. It does this by lowering antithrombin levels.

Fitusiran is delivered subcutaneously once every four weeks, and clinical trials have revealed that it has showed good effects in lowering the number of bleeding episodes and enhancing the quality of life for people who have haemophilia A. This medication does come with the threat of thrombotic events, often known as blood clots, as well as liver toxicity. However, it is still a viable option for treating the condition.[10]

Marzeptacog alfa is another tiny inhibitor that is currently being researched for the treatment of haemophilia A. This inhibitor targets Factor VIIa, a clotting factor that is responsible for activating the coagulation cascade. Patients with haemophilia A and inhibitors have been proven in clinical trials to benefit from Marzeptacog alfa's ability to improve hemostasis and reduce the frequency of bleeding episodes.[20]

Small inhibitors have shown some promise in the treatment of haemophilia A; however, they are still in the early phases of development, and additional research is required to completely understand both their effectiveness and safety. Patients who have haemophilia A may benefit from the addition of small inhibitors to other treatments, such as replacement therapy or gene therapy, in an effort to achieve even better clinical outcomes.

### **Gene Editing in Hemophilia A: An Overview of Current Developments and Future Perspectives**

Editing genes is a relatively new technology that has shown considerable promise in the diagnosis and treatment of hereditary conditions like haemophilia A. Mutations in the F8 gene, which is responsible for encoding the clotting factor VIII (FVIII), are the root cause of haemophilia A. The fundamental genetic flaw that results in haemophilia A can be remedied by the use of gene editing, which enables specific modifications to be made to the F8 gene.

There are various distinct technologies for editing genes, such as transcription activator-like effector nucleases (TALENs), zinc finger nucleases (ZFNs), and clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPR)-associated proteins (Cas). All of these technological solutions accomplish their goals by introducing a break of the DNA's double strand at a predetermined site inside the F8 gene. This break then

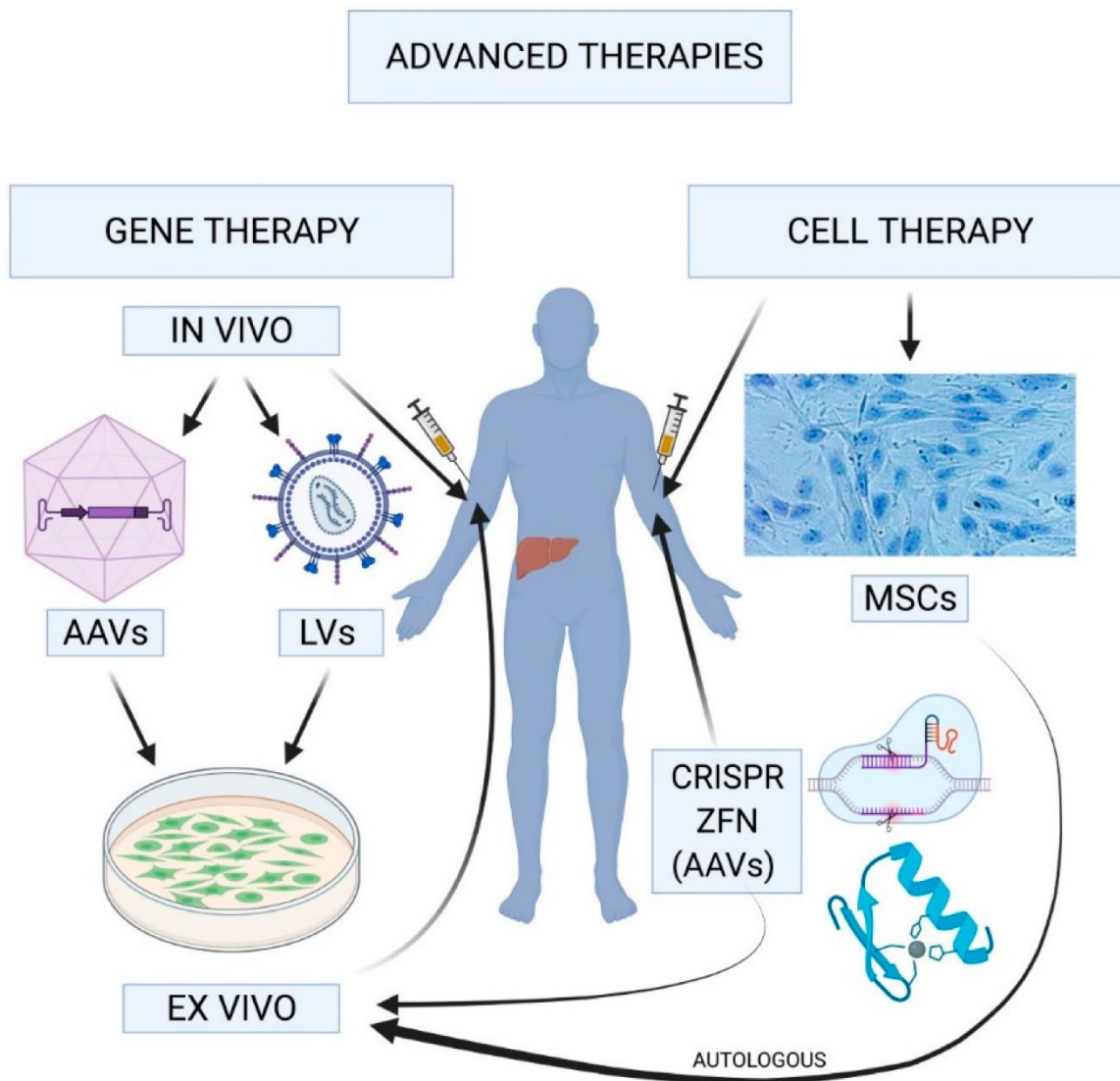
stimulates the cell's natural DNA repair systems, which can be controlled to introduce specific genetic alterations at the site of the break. This change occurs at the site of the break.

In the instance of haemophilia A, gene editing can be used to fix the underlying genetic issue by introducing particular alterations in the F8 gene. A functioning copy of the F8 gene could be inserted into the genome of the patient's cells as one method of treatment. Both viral vectors and non-viral delivery strategies can be utilised to accomplish this goal. One further strategy includes directly rectifying, within the cells of the patient, the particular genetic mutation that is responsible for haemophilia A.[6]

When compared to alternative forms of gene therapy for haemophilia A, gene editing has the potential to offer a number of benefits. Gene editing, in contrast to gene replacement treatment, which requires the ongoing administration of therapeutic genes to maintain clotting factor levels, intends to permanently cure the underlying genetic flaw that is responsible for haemophilia A. Gene replacement therapy involves the delivery of therapeutic genes on a continuous basis. This has the potential to be an effective treatment for the condition over the long run.

However, there are a number of difficulties and restrictions connected with altering genes to treat haemophilia A. The distribution of gene-editing tools to the right cells in the body is one of the most significant challenges. Another obstacle is the possibility of off-target effects, which can cause unwanted genetic alterations in other regions of the genome. This is a challenge since it can happen. Ethical concerns of gene editing need to be carefully explored as well. These concerns include the potential for unexpected repercussions as well as the possibility of changing germline DNA.





[14]

In conclusion, gene editing is an intriguing new method that has great promise for the treatment of haemophilia A. Research that is now being conducted in this field provides vital insights into the possibility of gene editing as a treatment option for patients who have haemophilia A. This is despite the fact that there are still a great deal of obstacles that need to be conquered.

### The Development of Hemophilia A: A Comprehensive Overview

Haemophilia A is a genetic illness that causes abnormal bleeding. It is caused by mutations in the F8 gene, which is located on the X chromosome. The F8 gene is responsible for producing a protein known as factor VIII, which is essential for the coagulation of normal blood. Having a deficiency in factor VIII or having it



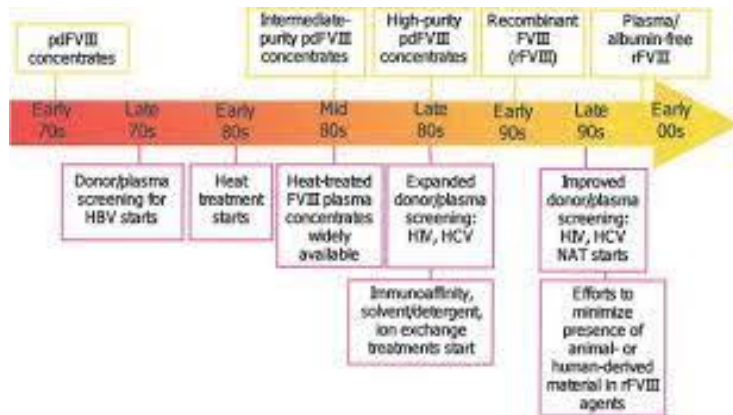
operate improperly can be the result of a mutation in the F8 gene, which in turn can cause irregular bleeding and bruising.

The precise mutation in the F8 gene that an individual receives is what determines whether or not they will develop haemophilia A. There have been over a thousand distinct mutations discovered in the F8 gene, each of which can cause variable levels of factor VIII deficiency as well as diverse degrees of the severity of bleeding. [7] Because haemophilia A is an X-linked recessive illness, males are more likely to be affected than females. This is because males carry the X gene. Even if they do not show any signs of the condition themselves, females who carry a gene mutation that causes an illness can nonetheless pass it on to their children.

In the 1800s, a member of the English royal family was the first person to have a documented case of haemophilia A. The condition was sometimes referred to as "the royal disease" due to the fact that it was so prevalent among royalty. It wasn't until the early 20th century that researchers discovered the underlying genetic aetiology of haemophilia A. In 1937, the first therapeutic treatment for haemophilia A was established. It consisted of infusing patients with plasma-derived factor VIII to replace the missing or malfunctioning factor in their blood. This treatment was successful. Since that time, tremendous progress has been made in the treatment of haemophilia A. One of these advancements is the creation of recombinant factor VIII, which is manufactured via the use of procedures acquired from genetic engineering rather than being generated from human plasma. The purity and effectiveness of recombinant factor VIII is more reliable, and there is a lower risk of transmission of blood-borne illnesses when using it.

Gene therapy has only very recently been proposed as a possible treatment for haemophilia A. Gene therapy includes delivering a functioning copy of the F8 gene to the patient's cells using either a viral vector or a non-viral technique. [8] This can be done in order to treat genetic conditions such as cancer. This can provide a source of factor VIII production in the body of the patient that is long-lasting or permanent, reducing or

eliminating the requirement for the patient to receive regular infusions of factor VIII concentrates.



[14]

In addition to these medications, other possible therapeutics for haemophilia A, including non-replacement therapies such as small molecule inhibitors and RNA interference, are also now under investigation as treatment options. These strategies intend to avoid bleeding episodes that patients with haemophilia A experience by focusing on certain pathways that are involved in the clotting of blood.[19]

Overall, important scientific and medical advancements have played a role in the evolution of haemophilia A, and ongoing research is continuing to investigate novel and innovative treatments for this rare genetic illness.

## CONCLUSION :

Haemophilia is a hereditary condition that affects the body's capacity to coagulate blood, which can lead to prolonged bleeding, internal bleeding, and injury to the joints. This condition is extremely rare. Both kinds of haemophilia, A and B, are brought on by mutations in the genes that code for clotting factors VIII and IX, respectively. Both of these genes are responsible for the disease.

In spite of the fact that it is a relatively uncommon condition, haemophilia has had a profound influence on the lives of people who have been affected by it throughout history. Individuals who were born with the haemophilia gene were more likely to experience major bleeding episodes, damage to their joints, and a shortened lifespan prior to the introduction of efficient therapies in the 20th century. However, thanks to recent advancements in clotting factor replacement medicines, gene therapy, and overall medical care, many people who have haemophilia are now able to control their illness and lead lives that are relatively unaffected by it.

One of the difficulties associated with treating haemophilia is ensuring that patients have access to the right care for their condition. It is possible that availability to clotting factor replacement therapy is restricted or non-existent in many regions of the world. Even in nations that have developed healthcare systems, the expense of treatment can be a barrier to receiving it. In addition, there is a need for enhanced education and understanding about haemophilia among both the general public and healthcare practitioners. This is necessary to ensure that people who have haemophilia receive care that is both timely and appropriate.

Research into haemophilia must also focus on the creation of new treatments, such as gene therapy. This is another critical aspect of the field. Even while the treatments that are currently available are effective, they are not without drawbacks. For example, patients must have regular infusions of clotting factor replacement medications, and they run the risk of acquiring inhibitors. Gene therapy has the potential to offer a treatment for haemophilia once and for all by replacing the faulty gene that is responsible for the condition.

Recent advancements in gene therapy have showed encouraging results in clinical studies, and this therapy may one day be able to offer a cure for haemophilia.

In spite of the fact that haemophilia is still a difficult disorder to treat and manage, substantial advancements have been made in both therapy and research over the course of the last century. The prognosis for people who have haemophilia is looking better than it ever has before thanks to continual developments in medical care, improvements in access to treatment, and ongoing research into new medicines.

Despite this, continuous efforts are required to ensure that people with haemophilia receive the treatment and support they require to effectively manage their illness and live lives that are meaningful to them.

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