

factor VII deficiency

what is factor VII deficiency?

Factor VII is a factor that helps your blood clot. Clotting factors are specialized proteins that help the blood clot normally. People without enough Factor VII can have prolonged, uncontrolled bleeding. How severe Factor VII deficiency is can vary.

what causes factor VII deficiency?

Factor VII deficiency is caused by a mutation of the F7 gene and is inherited from parents (hereditary).

what are the symptoms of factor VII deficiency?

Symptoms of Factor VII deficiency can vary widely. Symptoms are not based on the amount of Factor VII in the blood. Some symptoms include:

- Frequent and long-lasting nosebleeds
- Gum bleeding
- Easy bruising
- Long-lasting bleeding after surgery or dental procedures
- Some people can have more serious bleeding such as bleeding into the joints, bleeding in the stomach, intestines and urogenital tract.

how do we diagnose factor VII deficiency?

- Collect a thorough family bleeding history
- Collect a thorough patient bleeding history
- Do a series of blood tests

how do we treat factor VII deficiency?

Regular treatment is usually not necessary for Factor VII deficiency. As needed, a factor VII replacement product is used to prevent or treat bleeding. Medicines that help control bleeding, called antifibrinolytics, can help. One example is Amicar.

what should patients with factor VII deficiency avoid?

Patients should avoid:

- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS): these include ibuprofen (Motrin and Advil), aspirin and naproxen sodium (Aleve)
- High risk activities/sports that can lead to trauma and severe bleeding such as football, ice hockey, boxing, lacrosse and wrestling.

what can I do to decrease the symptoms of a factor VII deficiency?

- Good oral hygiene cuts down on bleeding from your mouth and gums. See a dentist regularly and brush and floss.
- Avoid medications and supplements that increase bleeding.
- Wear a helmet and other protective equipment when biking, on a scooter or skateboard.
- Engage in regular, safe physical activity to keep muscles and joints healthy.
- Wear a seatbelt when in a motor vehicle.

Call our office at 937-641-3111 if you are scheduled for dental or surgical procedures ahead of time. We will then coordinate care and infusions with the provider.

