



Your Brother Has Hemophilia

Your brother has hemophilia—it's nobody's fault
You are not to blame
Your parent's are responsible for your brother's care
Live your own life—do things that interest you

The Basics

1. Hemophilia is a bleeding disorder
2. In hemophilia, one clotting factor is missing, or the level of that factor is low. This makes it difficult for blood to form a clot, so bleeding continues longer than usual, not faster
3. Because there are many clotting factors in plasma, each factor is named with a Roman numeral (VIII=8; IX=9)
4. People with low levels of factor VIII (eight) have hemophilia A
5. People with low levels of factor IX (nine) have hemophilia B
6. Your brother was born with hemophilia—he didn't catch it from anyone, AND, *you cannot catch it from your brother*
7. Your brother will have hemophilia for life

The Bleeds

1. In hemophilia, bleeding can happen anywhere in the body
2. Sometimes you can see bleeding, but sometimes, you can't
3. Bleeding can happen after an injury or surgery. It can also happen for no clear reason. This is called spontaneous bleeding
4. Bleeding can happen in muscles or joints
5. Your brother knows when a bleed starts because the area feels tingly and warm

The Treatment

1. Hemophilia can usually be treated by injecting the missing clotting factor into a vein—clotting factor cannot be given by mouth

[Hemophilia in pictures. www.wfh.org/en/index.html.]