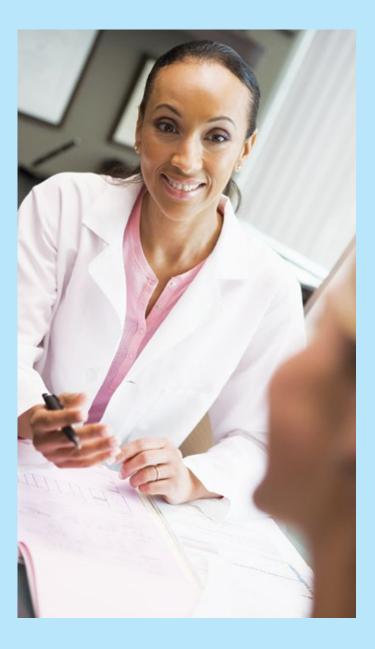
Haemophilia testing in women and girls

If you are a woman or girl who may be affected by haemophilia, there are tests to help with your diagnosis. These tests can tell whether you have haemophilia or carry a genetic alteration that causes haemophilia.

This information has been developed for women, girls and their parents to explain what is involved in the tests and answer some common questions.



Why test for haemophilia?

There are important reasons for testing for haemophilia in women and girls:

- To know whether a woman or girl is affected by haemophilia
- If a woman or girl has a bleeding tendency and/or haemophilia, she will need a treatment plan to prevent bleeding complications
- Information for pregnancy or family planning
- Preparing a safe childbirth for mother and baby
- To help with diagnosing haemophilia in other family members.

Haemophilia is an inherited genetic bleeding disorder. It is caused by a **mutation** or alteration in the DNA code for **the factor VIII/F8 or factor IX/F9 gene**. As a shorthand, this F8 or F9 gene alteration is often referred to as 'the gene'. Some people in the community call it the 'haemophilia gene'.

- Females can carry the gene alteration for haemophilia without symptoms and pass it on to their children.
- Some women and girls with the gene alteration may also have a bleeding tendency and have haemophilia themselves.

If you are female, why might your doctor suggest you be tested for haemophilia?

- There is a history of haemophilia in your family
- Or a close relative like your brother, sister or mother has recently been diagnosed
- Or your child has haemophilia or is a carrier
- Or you have bleeding symptoms that suggest you may have haemophilia.

Types of haemophilia testing:

- Genetic testing: to identify if a woman or girl has an alteration in her F8 or F9 gene associated with haemophilia
- Factor level testing: to see if a woman or girl has low levels of factor VIII or IX and may have a bleeding tendency or haemophilia.

You may need to have both genetic testing and factor level testing. For example, a woman or girl can have normal factor levels and still carry the gene alteration that causes haemophilia.

Sources

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NB: All photos in this booklet are stock images.

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More information

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Important note

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