



European Haemophilia Consortium  
Round Table of Stakeholders

## ***Women and Rare Bleeding Disorders***

### **Access to- and inequalities in treatment**



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# Women with bleeding disorders (WBD): Agenda

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- What?
  - Main symptoms
- Who?
  - Types of diseases and numbers
- Needs? Example chosen: carriers of haemophilia
  - How many?
  - Diagnosis delay (both for genetic and bleeding risk)
  - Paediatric focus
- How to improve access to care for WBD?

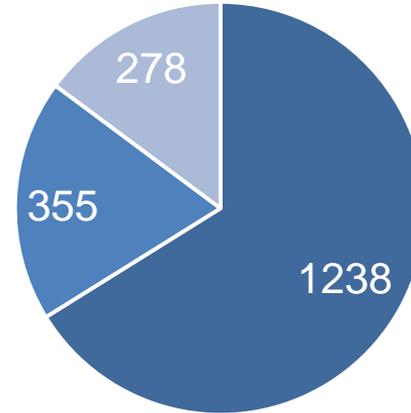
# Women with bleeding disorders (WBD) : main symptoms

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- All severities +++
  - Post-surgical bleeding
  - Bleeding after tooth extractions
  - Mucosal, haematomas
  - More rarely haemarthrosis, gastrointestinal and intracranial bleeds
  
- Women specific
  - **Heavy menstrual bleeding +++**
    - Anemia, iron deficiency,
    - Days off school/work
    - Pain
    - Decreased quality of life
  - Challenge **every month**
  - **Post partum bleeding**

# Distribution of women by type of congenital bleeding disorder included in FranceCoag

- Women = 1,870  
(18%)
- Men = 8,298



- von Willebrand disease
- carriers of haemophilia with low FVIII or IX
- rare factor deficiencies

Total (men+women)= 10,168  
Platelets disorders not included

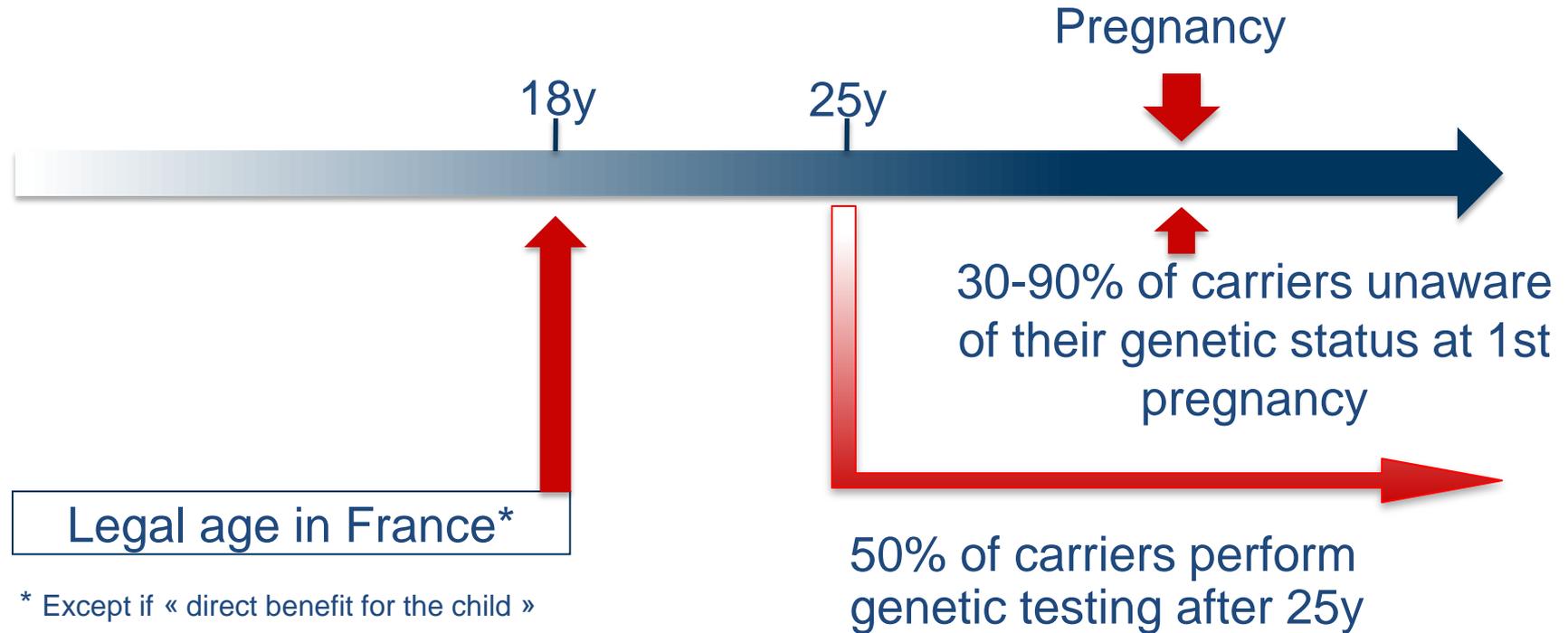


# **Carriers of haemophilia**

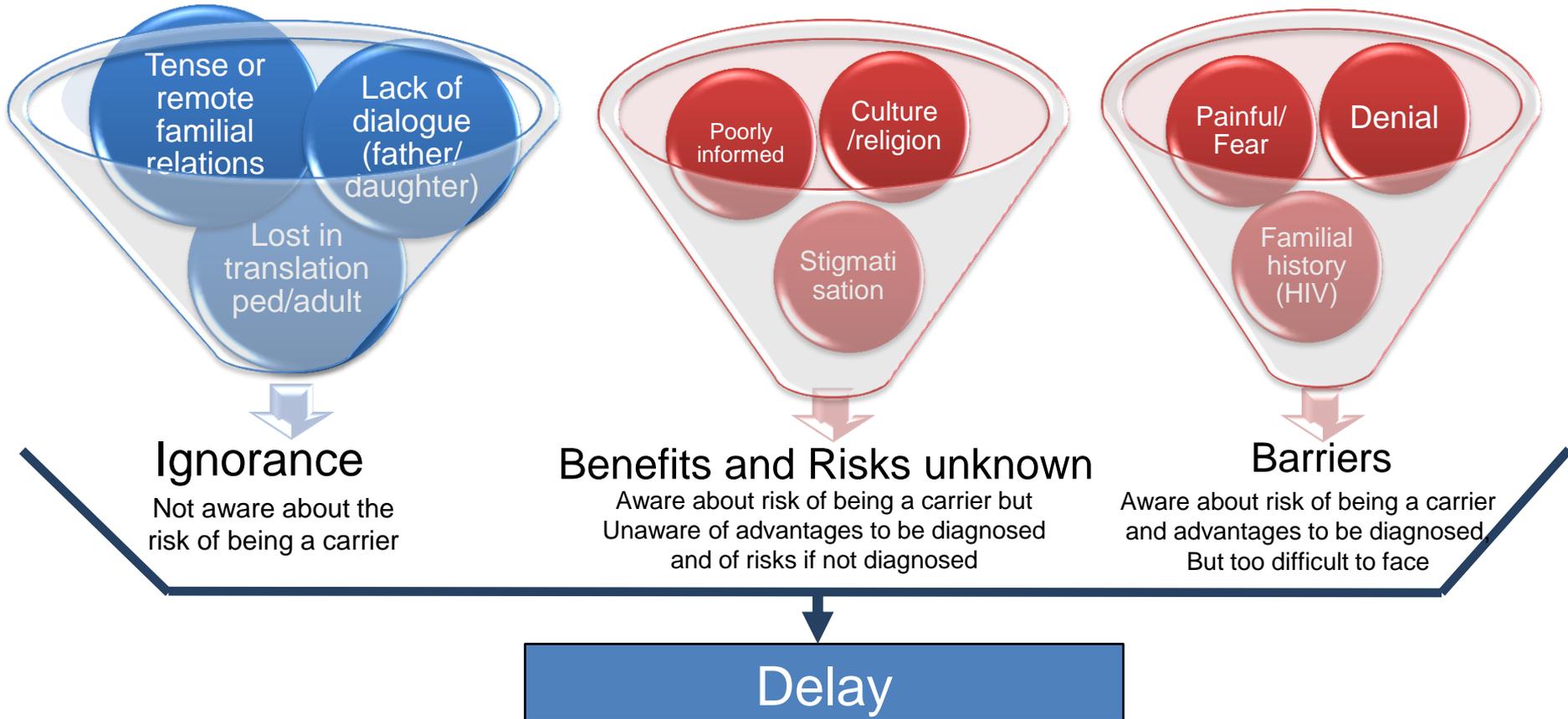
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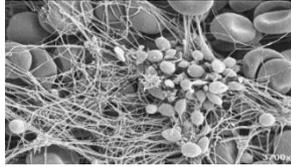
## **Genetic diagnosis**

# Genetic diagnosis of carrier status: when?



# Reasons for delayed genetic diagnosis of carrier





## **Carriers of haemophilia**

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**Bleeding risk diagnosis  
(low factor level)**

# Women and haemophilia: 2 issues

Transmission



Genetic tests

(DNA)



Non  
carrier



Carrier

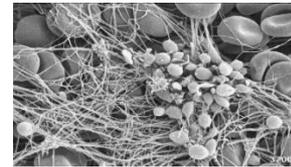


Bleeding risk



Coagulation tests

(FVIII/FIX)



Carrier With  
hemophilia



Carrier Without  
hemophilia

**APPROXIMATELY**

**1/3**

**CARRIERS  
OF HAEMOPHILIA  
BLEED**

# How many carriers of haemophilia?

## How many women with haemophilia (low factor levels)?

- $\pm 30\%$  of carriers with FVIII or FIX\*  $< 40$  IU/dL<sup>3-4</sup>
- For one male with hemophilia<sup>1-2</sup>
  - 2.7 to 5 women potential carriers
  - 1.5 women actual somatic carrier
  - So, expected :  
 **$\pm 0.5$  carrier with low FVIII or FIX**



Women with  
haemophilia  
are not rare

- Women with hemophilia still infrequently included in national databases

\*Normal factor levels: 60-120%

# Distribution of haemophilia by gender in national and international databases: women rarely included

	WFH 2014	France FranceCoag 2014	USA UDC 2011	Canada CHR 2014	UK UKHCDO 2014
Inclusion criteria (FVIII or FIX IU/dL)	Country specific	<40	<50	≤ 40	<40 / <50
Total males with hemophilia	144,772	6,090	18,056	3,345	6,891
Total females with hemophilia	3,388	203	582	355	609 / 955
<b>% females/total</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>7.0 / 10.9</b>

# Factor levels are mainly assessed during adulthood in carriers of haemophilia in most publications

- Age of carriers included in cohorts reported in 10 studies\*:
  - **Median 18 - 40y** (ranges 8 - 82y)
- Likely due to factor levels testing performed at the same period as the genetic testing (frequently at the time of first pregnancy)



Extremely limited data in girls/adolescents

- Gynaecologists but also paediatricians and general practitioners are unaware that carriers may have low levels of factor VIII or IX
- Consequently, anticipation of menarche is difficult +++

# Diagnosis of **severe/moderate** haemophilia is delayed in girls versus boys in USA

- In girls, diagnosis of haemophilia is delayed compared to boys
  - 6.5 months for severe
  - 39 months for moderate

	US Females		US Males	
	Severe	Moderate	Severe	Moderate
Total subject, <i>n</i>	14	8	7,578	3,475
Haemophilia A	13	4	6,384	2,256
Haemophilia B	1	4	1194	1,219
Age at diagnosis				
Median, months	8.5	48	2	9
(range)	(3–72)	(14–312)	(0–660)	(0–816)

- Discrepancy in age for diagnosis expected to be even more important in mild forms

# Facts for Women with Bleeding Disorders

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- High **discrepancy in diagnosis** of congenital bleeding disorder between women and men
- When diagnosis is done, it is done **later**
- **Girls/adolescents frequently neglected** until adulthood
  - Diagnosis unfrequently done in girls/adolescents before menarche
- **Insufficient number of centres with dedicated clinics** for women and girls WBD
- **Lack of knowledge and awareness**
  - Non specialists health care professionals, general practitioners, gynecologists
  - Families
  - Even in HTC
- **Research limited**

# Non-recognition of «female with haemophilia»: Consequences



<http://www.hemaware.org><sup>3</sup>

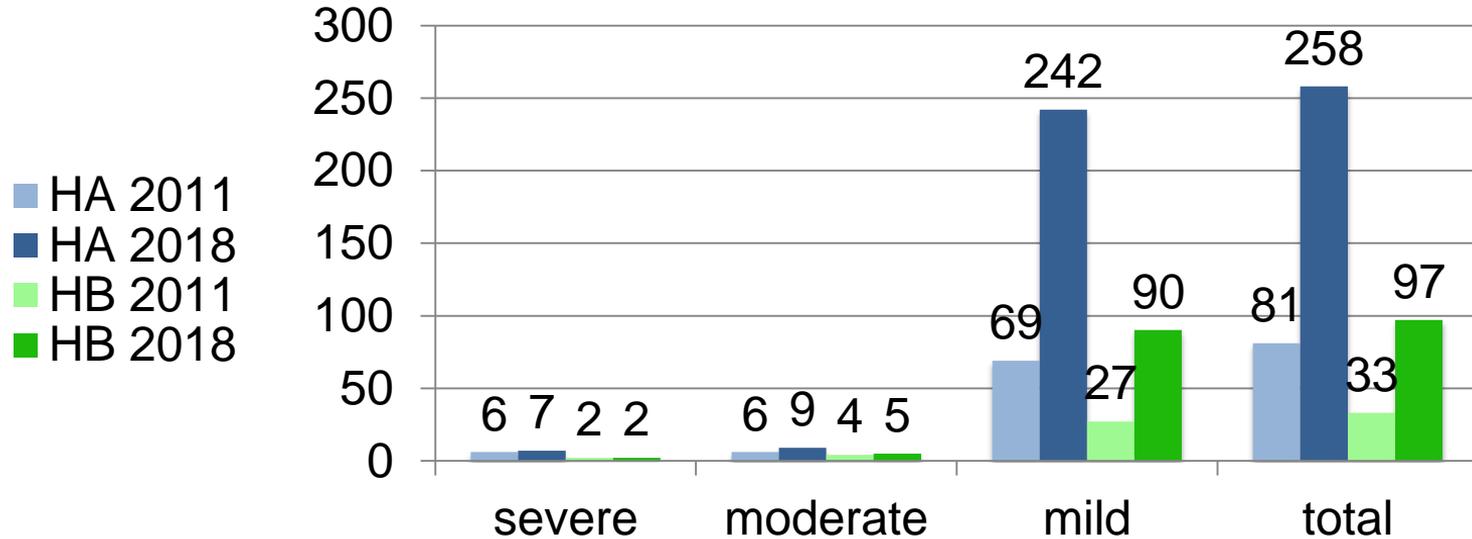
- Delay and loss of opportunity for diagnosis and treatment of bleeding episodes
- Lower chance to test girls at young age regarding bleeding risk
- Delayed diagnosis of infectious complications (HCV, HIV)<sup>1</sup>
- “Hemophilia” Treatment Centre not enough recognised as the suitable place for care (“I am only a carrier”)
- Denial of insurance coverage
- Exclusion from clinical studies (even after diagnosis)
- Relatives rather than patients : Genetic designation (“carriers with low factor levels”) at the expense of a clinical bleeding disorder
- Negative emotional and behavioural responses to medical experiences (even in HTC)<sup>2</sup>

HTC: Haemophilia treatment centre

1. Peynet et al for France Coag, WFH 2012;
2. Renault et al. Haemophilia 2011;17(2):237-45;
3. Aldridge, HemAware, NHF 2012

# Evolution of number of females with haemophilia included in FranceCoag: 3-fold increase in 7 years

- Impact of outreach programs launched in 2011 with French Patient Organization (AFH): Awareness is increasing



# Conclusion: How to improved care for WBD?

Mixed efforts to improve awareness and education

- Multidisciplinary team, Health Care Professionals
- Families/Patient, Patient Organizations,
- Agencies and authorities

Organization of care

- Network of professionals,
- Centres for Rare Bleeding Disorders
- Dedicated clinics, including for young girls

Multiply actions and information

- Booklets
- Websites
- Outreach programs and campaigns

Develop research

- Develop registries
- Unexpected favourable effects+++

Regular basis

- Checking understanding, Update family tree,
- Special care at each age
- Gain-framed rather than loss-framed messages

# Women and Bleeding disorders: special care at each age



- Early childhood
  - Assess the bleeding risk (several assays), long-term follow up if low levels
- Pre-adolescence
  - Anticipate menarche, follow-up of menstruations, information
- Adolescence / young adult
  - Prepare, support and perform genetic carrier testing
- Young adult  $\pm$  partner:
  - Counselling, PND, PGD, multidisciplinary protocol for pregnancy and delivery
- Ageing women with bleeding disorders
  - Premenopausal period, surgeries, co-morbidities

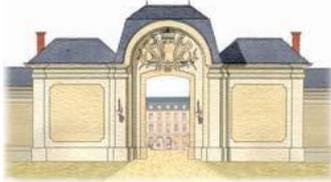
Thank you for your attention, time and welcome in European Parliament



## Bicêtre

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**Women and men from  
families with bleeding  
disorders**

from Bicêtre HTC

## EHC

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Amanda Bok  
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## Association française des hémophiles (AFH)

Women's committee  
Yannick Collé  
Maryse Dien

