

Refresher Session: Unusual Patients You May Be Asked To Anaesthetise:

The Patient With von Willebrand Disease

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You are an Anaesthetist in a general hospital. A 33 year old patient on today's afternoon list for lap and dye has a past history of requiring blood transfusions following previous surgery. The following unacknowledged blood test results flutter out of her chart and into your lap: APTT 31, Factor 8:C 0.63, vW Ag 0.39, vW Factor Activity 0.30, vWF Collagen Binding 0.47 . The following questions race through your mind: Is this normal?, Am I going to have a early finish or a nightmare afternoon?, Does she have von Willebrand Disease?, Will dDAVP be all she needs, will it make things worse?, Should she have her surgery today?, What will I do if she requires emergency surgery?, What will I do if she turns up on labour ward? This case based, entertaining and informative refresher talk will bring you up to speed with the most common inherited bleeding disorder. In order to ensure that both the How and Why are thoroughly acquainted, an overview of the current pathophysiology, classification and diagnosis of von Willebrand Disease will be delivered including practical advice for management of the various subtypes in the pregnant and nonpregnant patient. The indications and risks of dDAVP, Biostate® and Wilate® will be discussed.