

What Causes Hemostasis (Continued)?

Inherited disorders

Inherited disorders that cause thrombophilia aren't as common as "acquired" conditions, which you usually develop later in life. Examples of acquired conditions include:

- Antiphospholipid syndrome.
- Inflammatory bowel disease.
- Severe reactions to infections, such as sepsis.

Most medications that treat thrombophilia make it harder for your blood to clot in some way. Examples of these include antiplatelet, anticoagulant and fibrinolytic (fibrin-breaking or clot-busting) drugs.

Hypocoagulability (not enough clotting)

When your blood doesn't clot well, any injury becomes a much more dangerous event. Without proper clotting, even minor injuries can cause you to lose a lot of blood. It also means you're at greater risk for injuries to organs and blood vessels inside your body, which can then cause internal bleeding.

Certain types of cancer like leukemia can cause you to bleed too easily. That's because they often involve a lack of platelets in your body or anti-clotting activity. Conditions that keep your blood from clotting are often genetic, also. Some examples of genetic conditions include:

- Hemophilia.
- Von Willebrand disease.
- Inherited thrombocytopenia (low platelet count).

Treating conditions that keep your blood from clotting usually involves medications that slow down or block your body's anti-clotting processes, that boost your body's ability to make platelets or that add more of certain clotting factors to your blood. You can also receive transfusions of platelets to add more if your body needs them.

How are hemostasis problems diagnosed?

A healthcare provider — such as a hematologist — can diagnose blood clotting problems based on your symptoms and blood tests that analyze the clotting-related components in a sample of your blood.