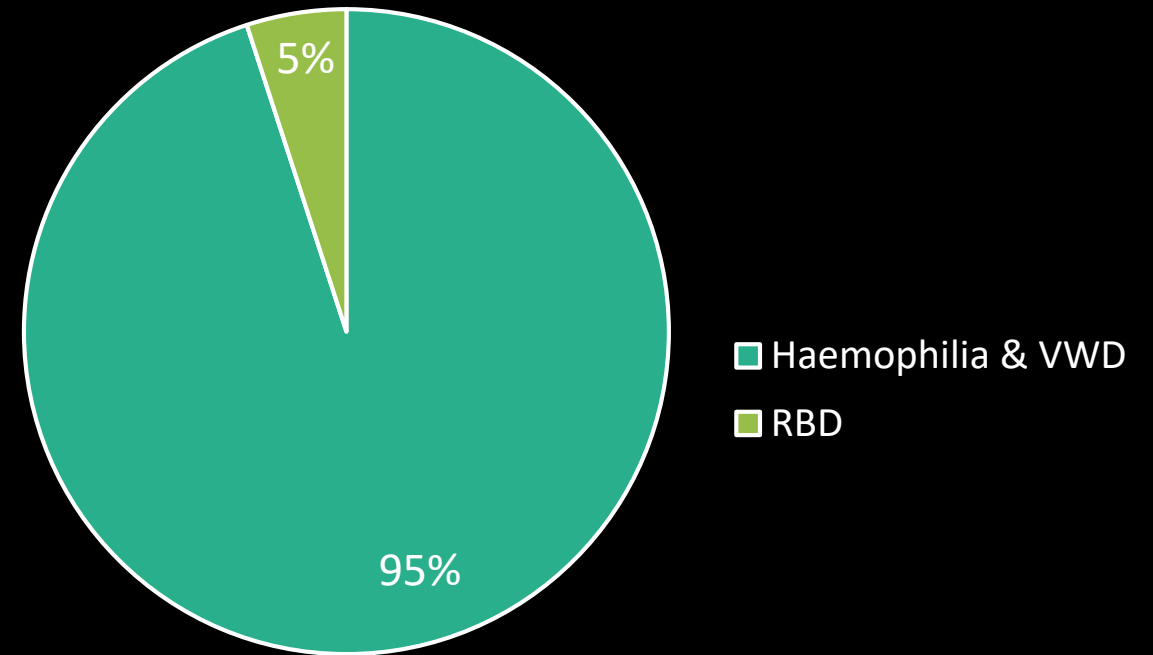


# Bleeding Disorder Management in Malaysia

Jameela Sathar  
GANSID HCP Training  
27 Aug 2025

# Inherited Bleeding Disorders

- Prevalence of haemophilia and symptomatic VWD → 1 in 10,000
- Prevalence of RBD → 1 in 500,000 to 1 in 2,000,000

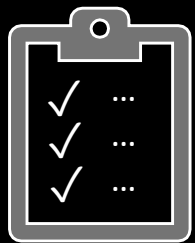


# WFH Annual Global Survey 2023



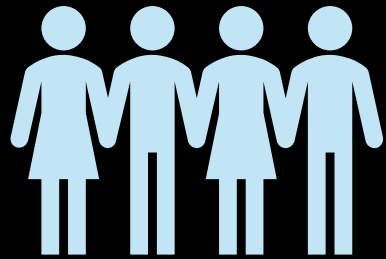
119

Number of countries



78%

Response rate  
(119/152)



390,630

Number of identified patients  
(2023 World population 8.0 billion)

218,804 People with Hemophilia

179,703 Hemophilia A

37,385 Hemophilia B

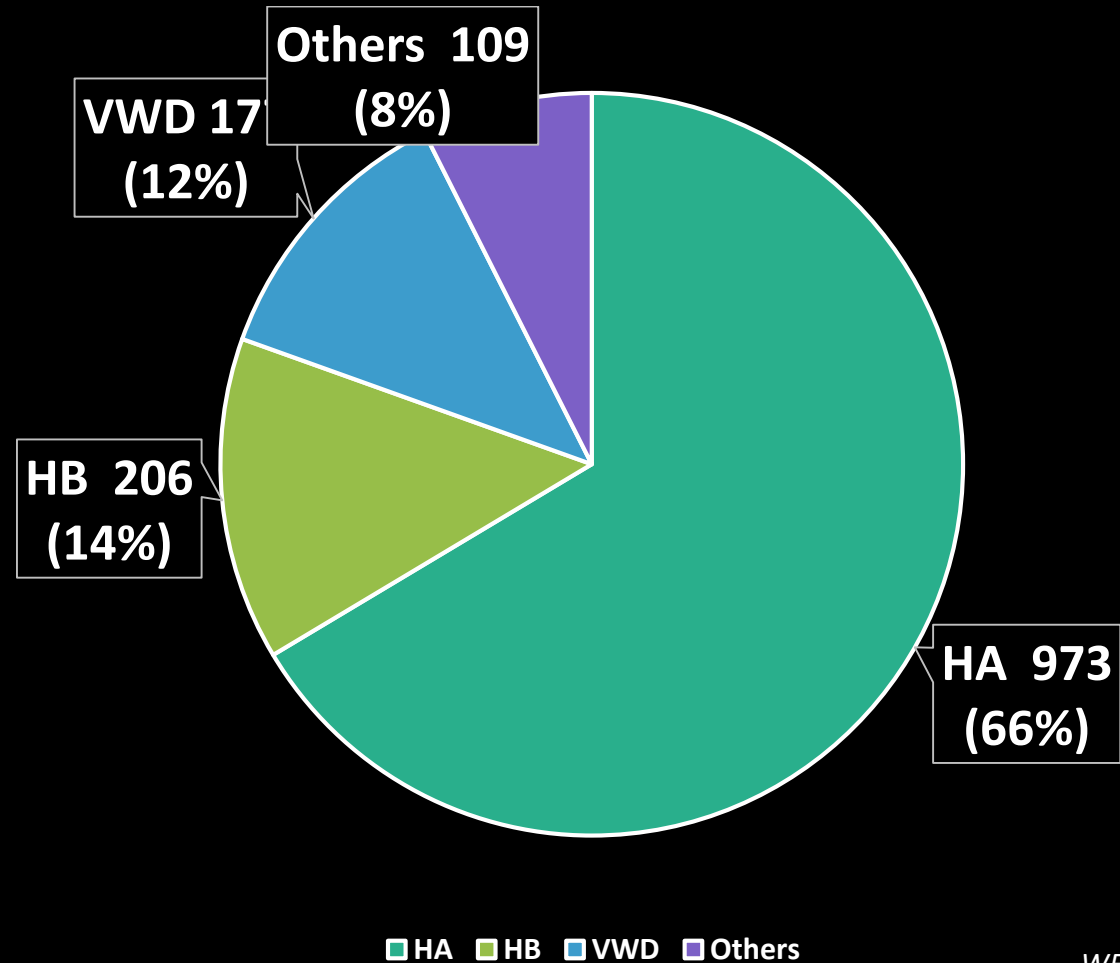
1,716 Hemophilia type unknown

101,128 von Willebrand disease

70,698 Other bleeding disorders

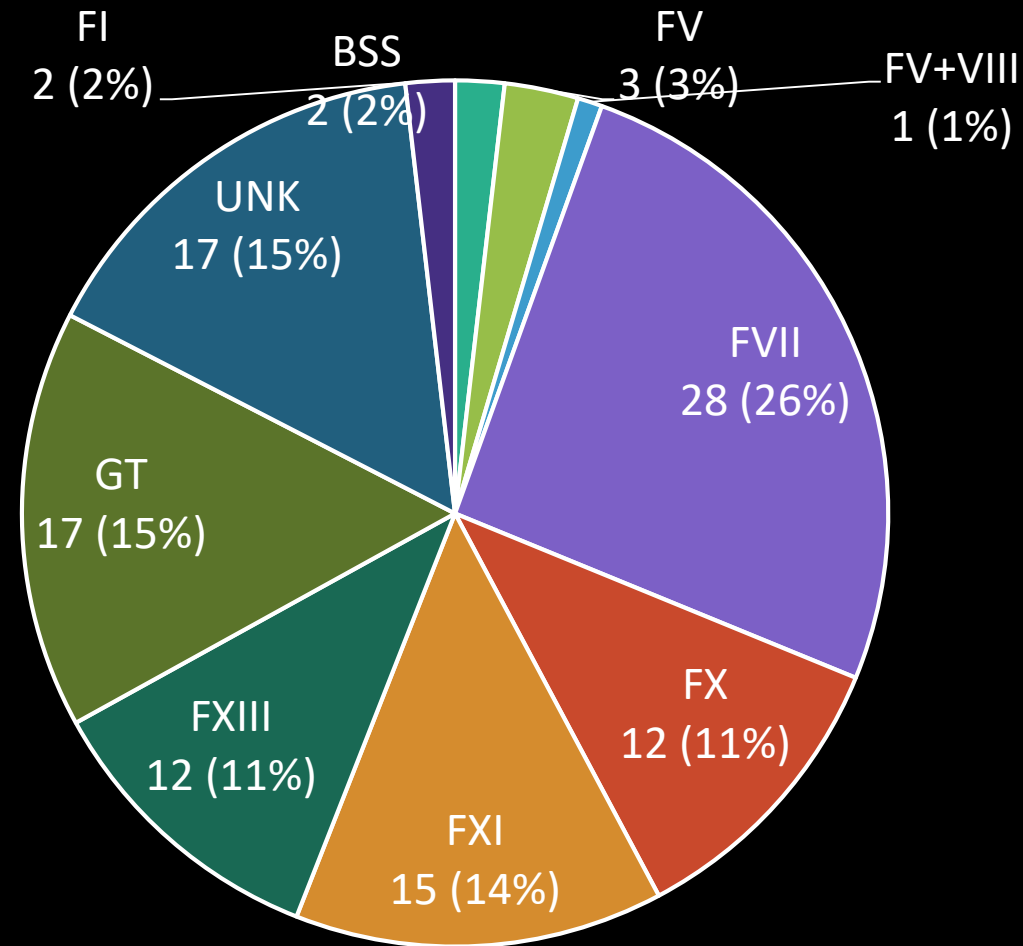
# Malaysia 2023

- Population 34,308,525
- Total haemophilia 1,179



# Other Rare Bleeding Disorders

n = 109



# Haemophilia in Malaysia

- Number of patients diagnosed with haemophilia = 1,179
- Global prevalence of haemophilia = 1 in 10,000 population
- Population of Malaysia in 2023 = 34,308,525
- Actual number of haemophilia = 3,430
- > 60% go undiagnosed

# Challenges

# Laboratory (diagnostic) factor

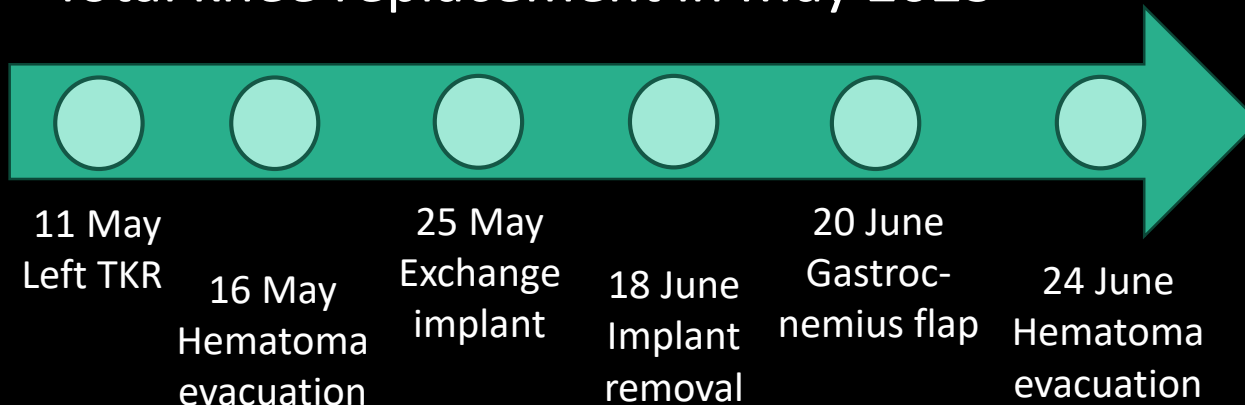
- 2-year-old boy
- c/o sudden onset of headache
- Vomiting >10x
- GCS 9/15
- CT Brain → ?Posterior fossa tumour
- APTT 127 sec





# Clinician factor

- 67-year-old man
- Coronary angiogram in Oct 2020
  - APTT 56.9 in Sept 2020 – not investigated
  - Developed hematoma and pseudoaneurysm post-femoral puncture
- Total knee replacement in May 2023



## Clinician factor (2)

- 26-year-old medical officer
- Planned for tonsillectomy
- APTT 36 (27-38)s
- Tonsillectomy done – op went well
- Discharged home on same day

- Bled that night → cauterize
- Rebled - cauterize x3 → Hb fell to 8.0 → transfuse 2 PRBC
- Referred to haematologist



# Patient / Parental factor

- Family h/o haemophilia
- Mom did not reveal
- Did not come for carrier screening
- Brought son for circumcision

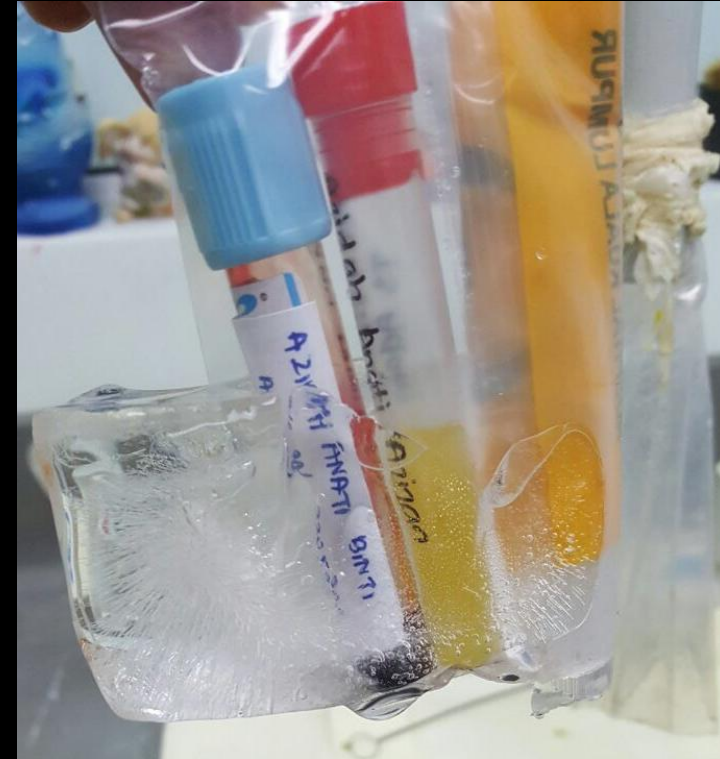


Overcoming challenges



# Before 2010

- Laboratory diagnosis in one centre
  - Pre-analytical variables
  - Delay in getting results / wrong results



# Laboratory training 2011 -

- Since 2020, all state hospitals are able to do factor and inhibitor assays





# Clinical training

- Clinicians / nurses



# HMTAC Training

- Pharmacist-led Haemophilia Medication Therapy Adherence Clinic
- Patient education modules
- Empowering patients
  - An educated patient & family





# Physiotherapy training

## Haemophilia Joint Health Score (HJHS)



# Patient workshops

- Improve outreach and diagnosis
- Increase access to sustainable care



# Management of Haemophilia

# Case 1

- Baby boy
- DOB: 30<sup>th</sup> July 2010
- SVD, discharged well
- That night, noted large bruise behind ears and scalp swelling
- Brought to A&E



# Case 1 – Clinical suspicion

- Non-accidental injury (NAI)
- Police report made



# Case 1 – Investigations & Rx

- Hb 4.5 g/dL
- APTT x3 >100 sec
- CT Brain: cephalhematoma & subdural bleed
- Rx: PRBCs + FFP transfused



# Case 1 – Factor assay

- Sample sent over to haemostasis lab
- Within 1 hour
  - FVIII <1 %
  - VWF 90%
- Δ: Severe haemophilia A

Do not mistake haemophilia for non-accidental injury (NAI)



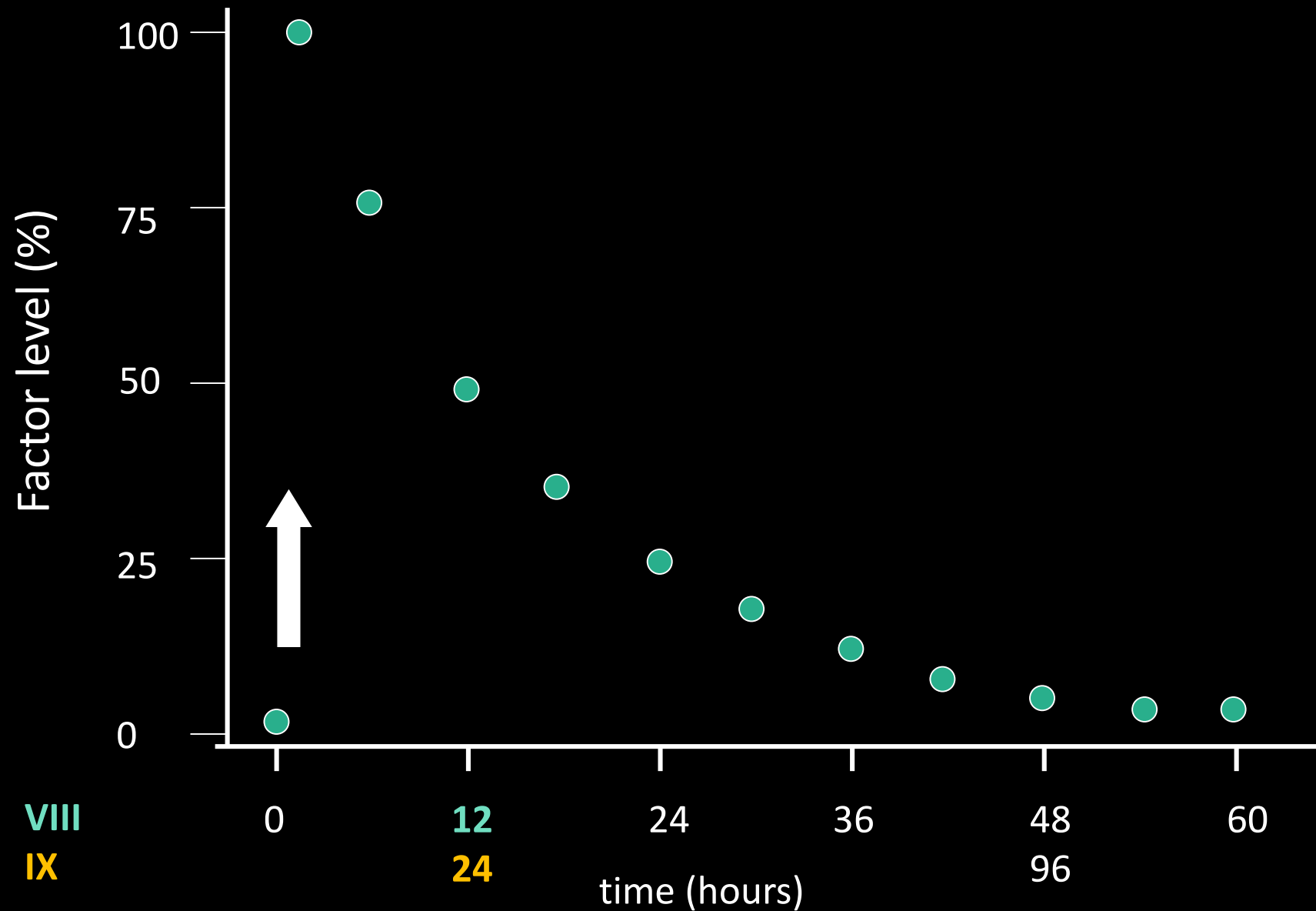


# Case 1 – Rx of Intracranial Haemorrhage

- Factor replacement
  - D1 - D2: 100%
  - D3 - D5: 80%
  - D6 - D9: 50%
  - D10 - D14: 30%
- Monitor FVIII levels
  - D1 – post dose, 6 - 8 h later
  - D2, D4, D6 – trough



# Factor replacement



# Factor dosing

- Formula:

Dose in units =

$$\frac{\text{Weight in kg} \times \% \text{ rise in factor required}}{\text{K factor}}$$

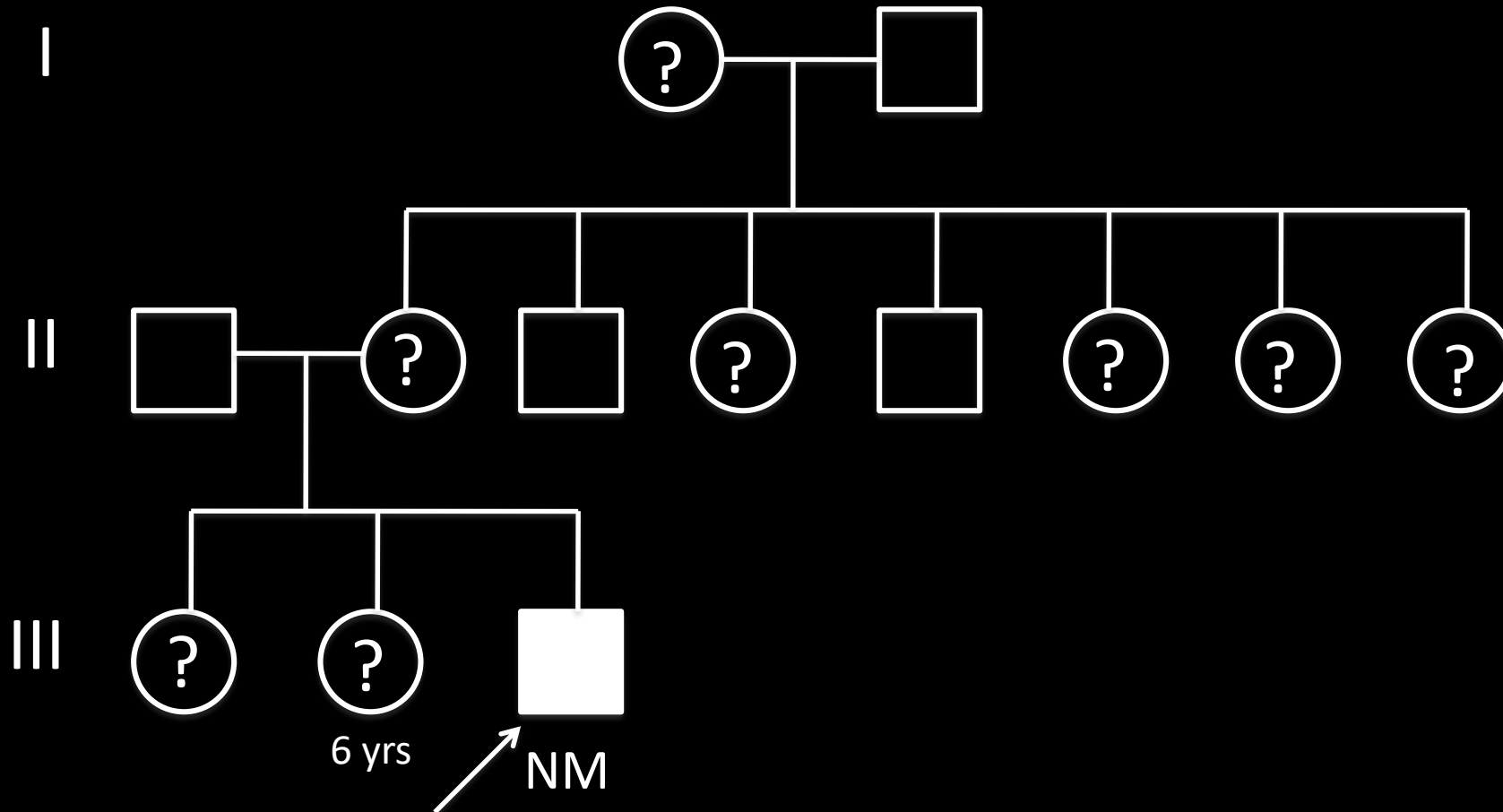
(K factor for FVIII = 2.0 , FIX = 1.0)

# Case 1 – Family history

- Mom
  - 2 daughters (10 and 6 years old)
  - 6 younger siblings
  - No f/h of haemophilia



# Case 1 – Family tree



# Case 1 – Counseling

- Dr: *Your son has been diagnosed with severe haemophilia A. Have you heard about haemophilia?*
- Mom: *No doctor, but from what I see it must be a serious bleeding disorder*
- Dr: Explain about haemophilia

# Haemophilia

- Hereditary bleeding disorder
- X-linked
- Lack a clotting factor
  - factor VIII (HA) or factor IX (HB)
- Blood fails to clot
- Bleeds spontaneously in severe disease
- 20% present at birth

# Classification of Haemophilia

<b>Severity</b>	<b>Factor level %</b>	<b>Bleeding</b>
Severe	< 1	Spontaneous
Moderate	1 – 5	After minor trauma
Mild	>5 – 40	After major trauma or surgery



# Management

- Replace the factor that is missing
- Vaccinations are not contraindicated but should be given subcutaneously
- Learn about haemophilia and inhibitor risk
- Learn to recognise bleeds
- Need to report trauma or bleeding

Bruise or haematoma?



# Avoid aspirin / NSAIDs

- Superficial cuts – OK
- Platelets → Primary haemostasis

IM injections must be avoided



Haemarthrosis  
the hallmark of haemophilia



# Bleeding in haemophilia

## 1. Haemarthrosis

- Begin approximately 1 year of age
- Spontaneous
- May be preceded by 'tingling' sensation
- Blood fills joint cavity
- Rise in pressure is excruciatingly painful
- Pressure eventually stops the bleeding
- Blood damages cartilage
- Joint becomes prone to recurrent bleeds

# Target joint

- Recurrent bleeds into same joint
  - 3 - 4 bleeds in 6 months



# Joint damage





# Bleeding in haemophilia

## 2. Muscle bleeds

- Often, apparently spontaneous
- May result from exertion
- Blood fills muscle capsule or compartment
- Compartment syndrome may result
- Pressure eventually stops the bleeding
- Psoas bleed is a typical example

# Psoas bleed

Exam 5853  
PC 1  
AP -265 MM  
IMAGE 30  
HC

STND-P

L

85083 M27  
5 OCT 89  
512

120 KV  
170 MA  
LHC 350V  
10 0 MM  
0 0 TILT  
2 0 SEC 40 26 53

R

L= +35 M= 450



# Muscle contractures



# Treatment of joint bleeds



REST



ICE



COMPRESSION



ELEVATION



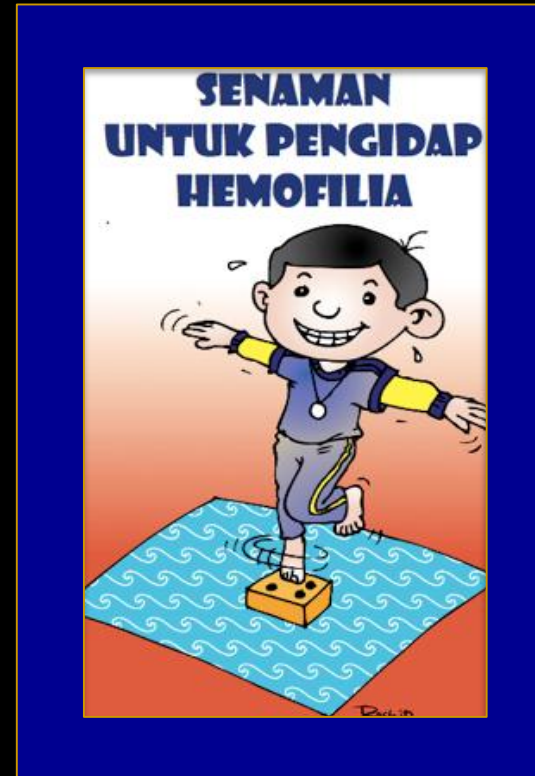
# Treatment of joint bleeds

- Prompt factor replacement (within 2 h)
- Treat until pain subsides + 1 extra dose



# Physiotherapy

- Start exercise once pain subsides
- Early restoration of
  - Full range of motion
  - Strength
  - Proprioception, balance and coordination





# Dental check-ups

- ½ yearly
- Prevention is better




# Case 1 – Counseling cont'd

- Mom: *Does that mean I am a carrier?*
- Dr: *Possible as 30% may arise from a spontaneous mutation*
- Mom: *How do I know if I am a carrier?*



# Genetic testing

- Index patient (NM)
  - Intron 22 inversion by PCR
- If negative
  - Intron 1 inversion
- If both negative
  - DNA sequencing
- Once mutation detected, screen mom

 <b>REQUEST FORM FOR MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS SERVICES</b> Unit of Molecular Diagnostics and Protein (UMDP) Specialized Diagnostics Centre Institute for Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur Tel: 03-2616 2540/2590 Fax: 03-26162533		MR/SDC/UMDP/MOLDX/REQUEST FORM  To The Requesting Lab / Person, Please STAMP HERE
Patient Name :		Hospital :
Patient IC/ID :		
Date of Birth :	Age :	Ward/Clinic :
Gender : Male / Female / Unknown		Name of Attending Doctor (Specialist) :
Ethnic Background :		Tel : Fax :
If this is a parental or family member sample : Proband/Child Full Name : IC/ID : DOB :		Email :
Reason for referral: Diagnostic test : <input type="checkbox"/> Affected patient <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly affected patient Carrier test : <input type="checkbox"/> Father of affected patient <input type="checkbox"/> Mother of affected patient <input type="checkbox"/> Sibling of affected patient <input type="checkbox"/> Other family member of affected patient, specify..... Predictive diagnosis <input type="checkbox"/> DNA storage <input type="checkbox"/>		
Type of Specimen Sent : <input type="checkbox"/> Whole blood <input type="checkbox"/> Blood Spot <input type="checkbox"/> Tissue, specify ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Urine <input type="checkbox"/> Extracted DNA <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify) : ..... Date of sample taken: .....		
<b>Please Read This Section before You Proceed</b> <i>Requirements for clients requesting molecular diagnostics services from UMDP, IMR :</i> 1. All cases requiring molecular diagnostics testing must be referred to any Clinical Geneticist/Neurologist/Physician/ Paediatrician and they must endorse the test before any sample submission be made. Samples received without referral by Clinical Geneticist/Neurologist/Physician/ Paediatrician will be rejected. 2. Please ensure that the patient or their parent/guardian both understand the implications of genetic testing and provide their consent to undertake the test. 3. Please send the samples according to the criteria for sample collection as outlined below. 4. Kindly ensure samples are sent together with both the request form and informed consent form.		<b>Clinical Signs and Symptoms, Age of Onset, Relevant Laboratory and Imaging Findings :</b>  Clinical Diagnosis : ..... Parental Consanguinity : Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Pedigree (Family Tree) (Can also be attached on a separate sheet) :
<i>Criteria for sample collection :</i> 1. 2.5 ml Blood in EDTA (purple/lavender cap) Tube, DO NOT use Heparin (green cap) Tube. Send about 1-2 tubes in appropriate packaging under AMBIENT condition as soon as possible after collection. If more than 3 hours, keep sample cooled. Please protect from freezing. 2. 10 – 20 ml Urine in appropriate container. Urine must be refrigerated after collection. 3. Tissue samples must be placed inside sterile container. Please contact us for a detailed guideline on tissue sample collection, preservation and storage. 4. DNA, urine and tissue samples must be kept chilled at all times until the sample/s arrive at the laboratory.		
I certify that the patient specified above and/or their legal guardian has been informed of the benefits, risks, and limitations of the laboratory test(s) requested. I have answered this person's questions. I have obtained informed consent from the patient or their legal guardian for this testing.		
Consultant/Physician's Name :		Signature and/or Stamp : Date :

# Case 1 – Result

- NM – intron 22 inversion
- Mom – same mutation
- So, mom is a carrier
- At risk of having another child with haemophilia
- 1 daughter is a carrier
- Need to screen mom's sisters



# Case 1 – Prevention of bleeds

- Started prophylaxis age 10 months at 50 IU/kg once a week
- Followed by 25 IU/kg 3x/week



# Prophylaxis is the standard of care

- Prevents joint damage
- Prevents intracerebral haemorrhage
- Reduces development of inhibitor
- Improves QOL

# When to start prophylaxis?

- Synovium in children are vulnerable to damage by blood
- It may take just one bleed to cause a target joint
- Start prophylaxis before joint bleeds for severe haemophilia
- Between 12 – 18 months of age



# Explain about inhibitor risk

- Dr: *There is a 15 – 30% risk of inhibitor development*
- Mom: *What is an inhibitor?*
- Dr: *An inhibitor is an antibody against the infused factor VIII*
- Mom: *Why is it important?*
- Dr: *It will render treatment with FVIII useless*



# Inhibitor screening schedule

## **Exposure days**

1 – 20

21 – 50

>50

>100

## **Inhibitor screening**

Every 5 days

Every 3 months

Every 6 months

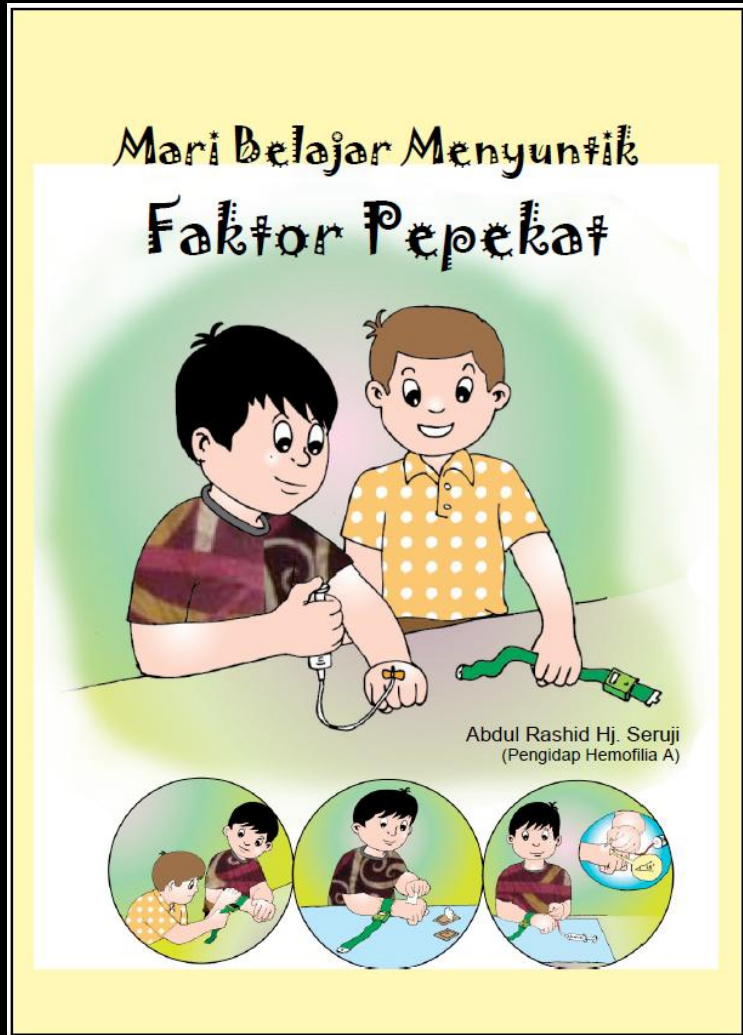
Every year

# Monitor inhibitor development

14. Inhibitor measurement should also be done in all patients who have been intensively treated for more than five days, within four weeks of the last infusion. (Level 4) [63,65]



# Mom taught to infuse factor



# Starting home therapy



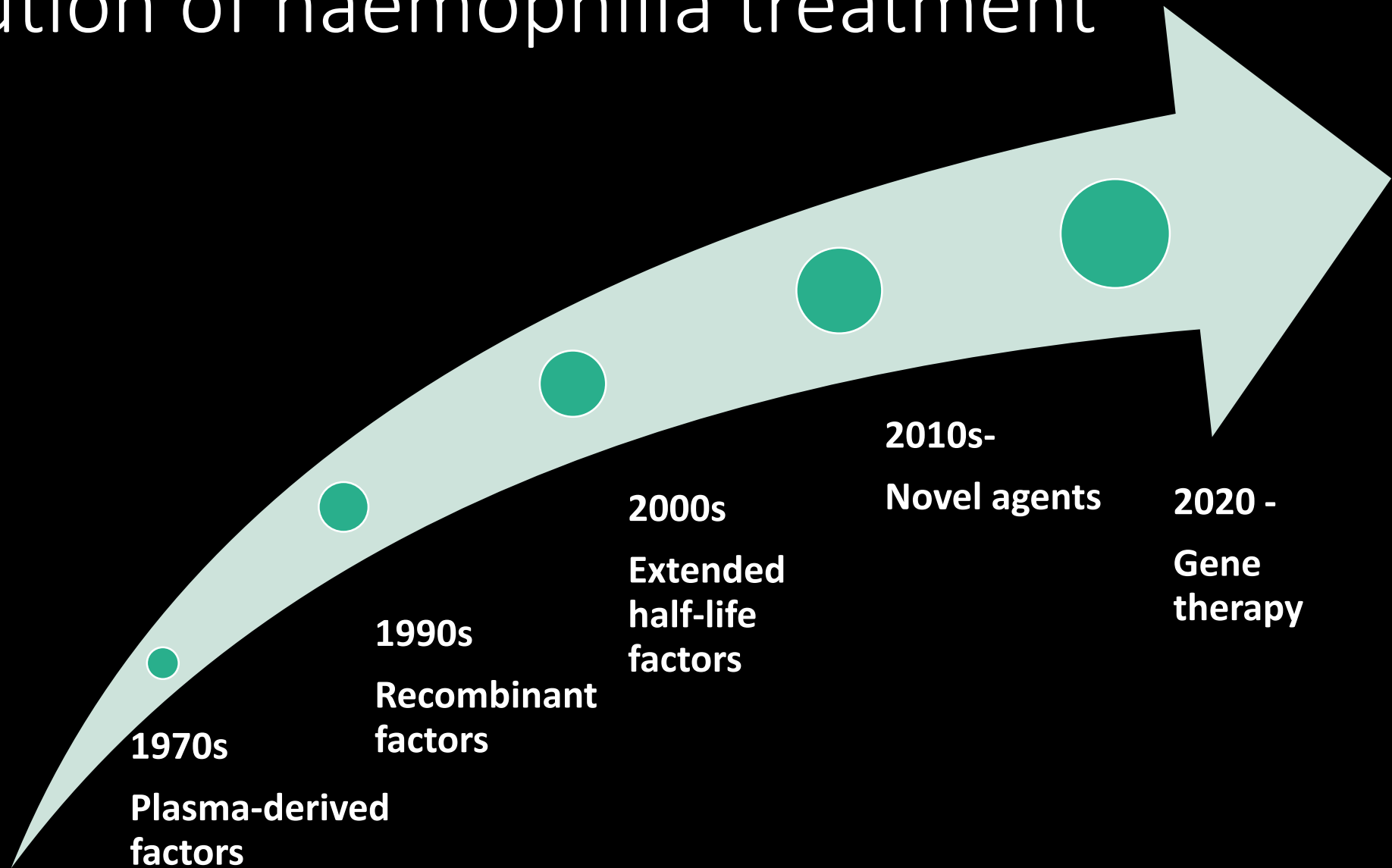


# Home therapy



# Therapies in haemophilia

# Evolution of haemophilia treatment



# Therapy Choices

- Plasma-derived (PD) vs. Recombinant
- Standard half-life (SHL) vs. Extended half-life (EHL) factors
- Factor vs. Non-factor

# Factor therapies in Haemophilia

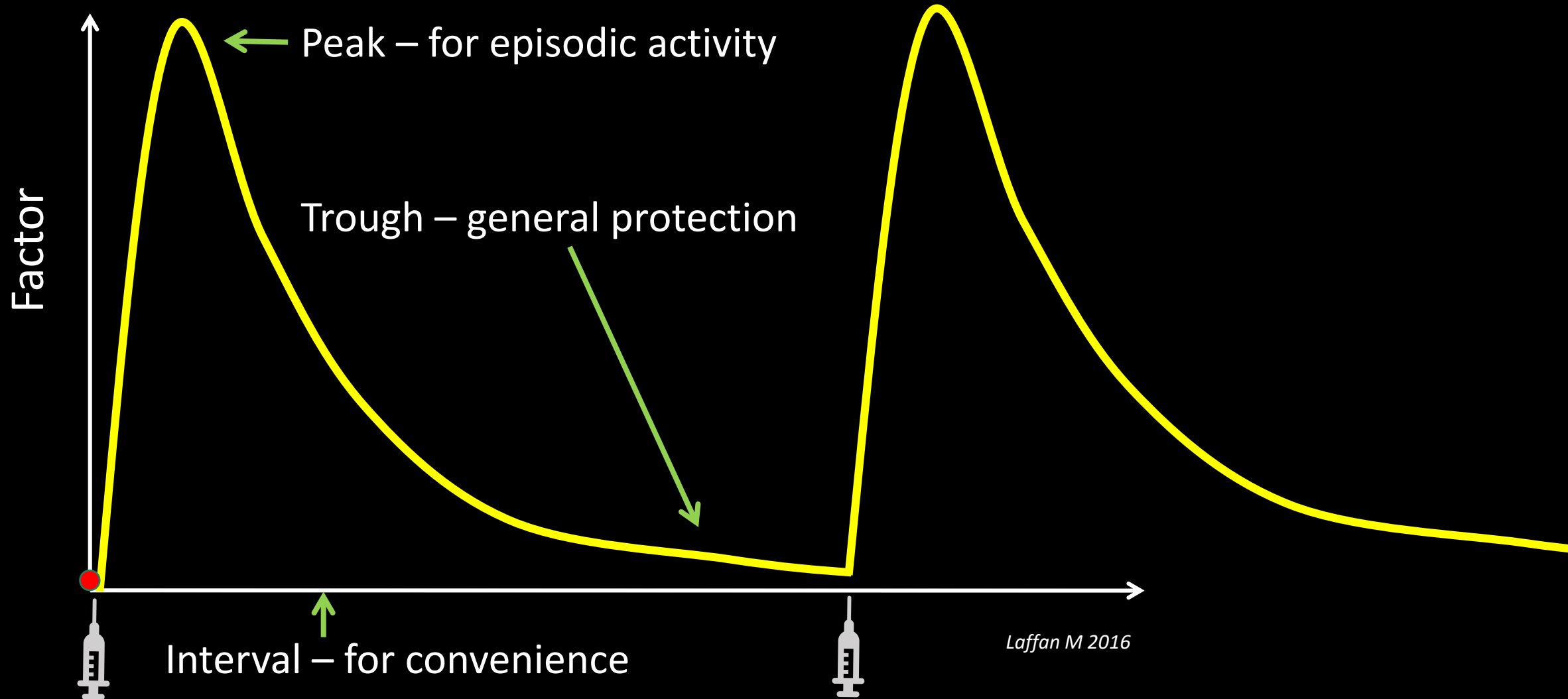
- Plasma-derived factor
- Recombinant factor
  - Standard half-life (SHL)
    - FVIII  $T_{1/2}$  11 h
    - FIX  $T_{1/2}$  18 h
  - Extended half-life (EHL)
    - FVIII  $T_{1/2}$  18.8 h
    - FIX  $T_{1/2}$  92 h



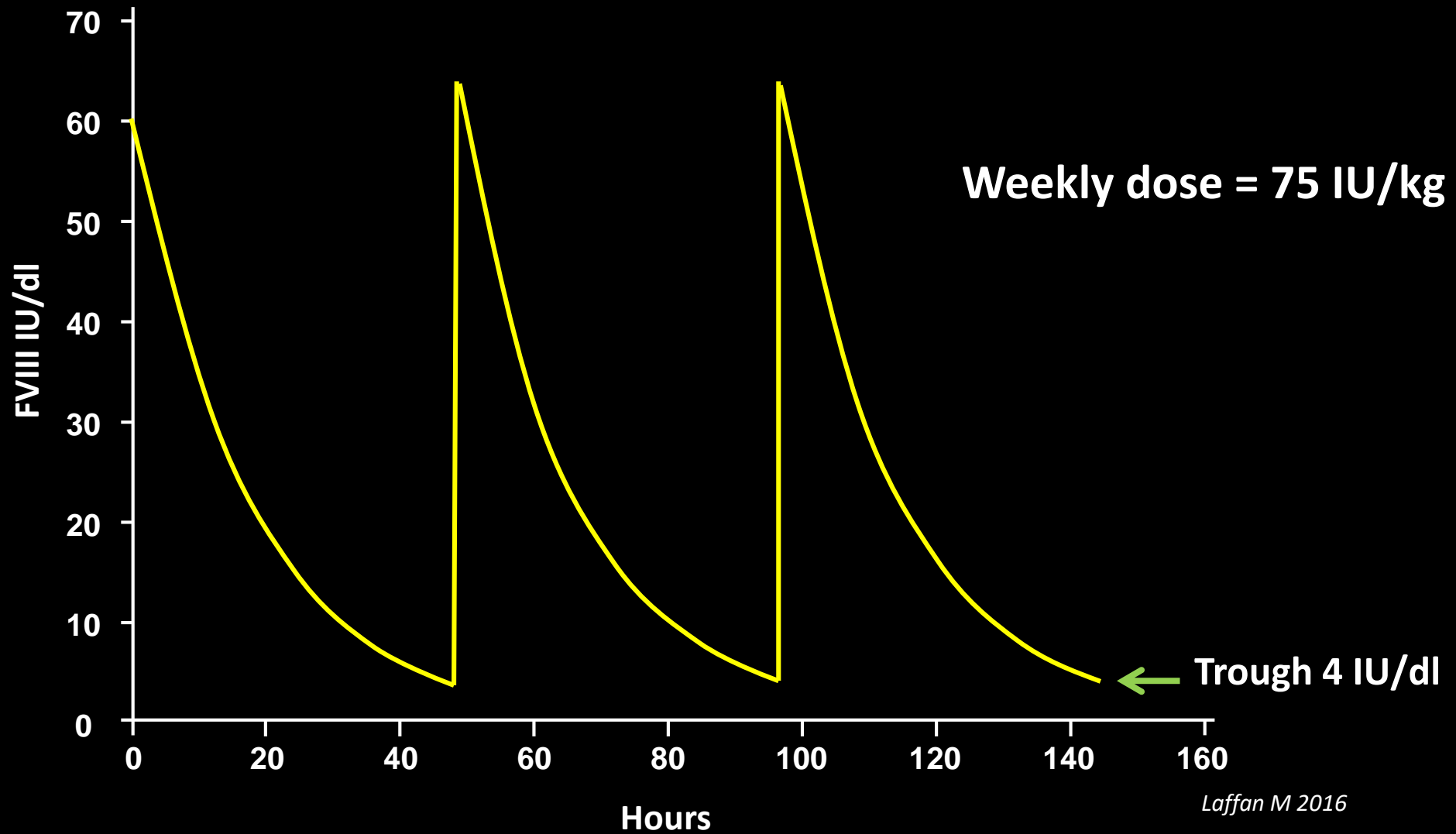
# Methods for prolonging half-life

- Couple to PEG (polyethylene glycol)
  - reduced clearance by renal and proteolytic mechanisms
- Couple to albumin
  - albumin  $t_{1/2}$  20 days
- Couple to Fc
  - binds to the FcRn (neonatal Fc receptor) on endothelial cells and is recycled, avoiding lysosomal degradation: prolongs half-life
- Single chain technology
  - Augmenting the stability of the molecule

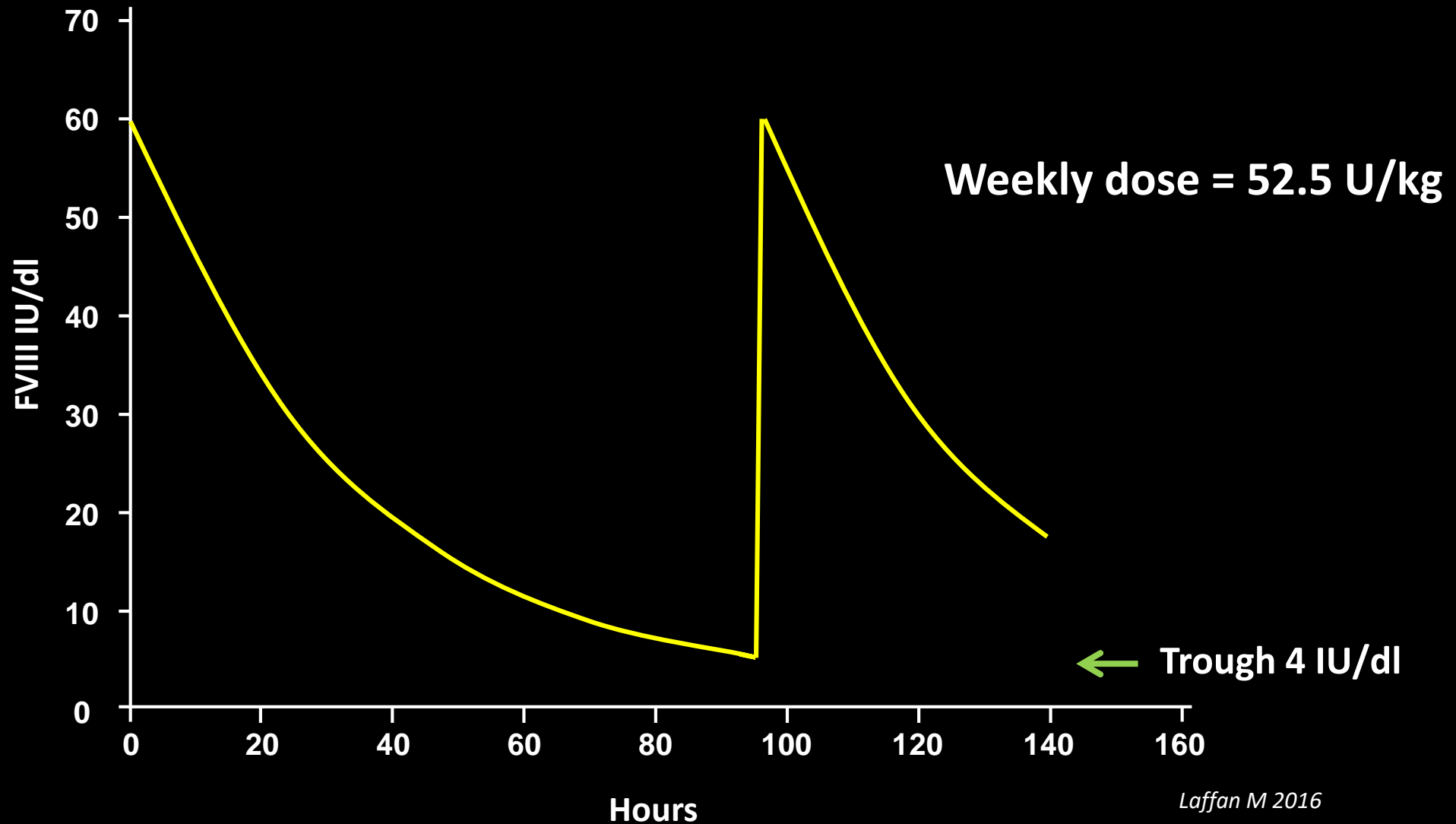
# Treatment Profiles and Prophylaxis



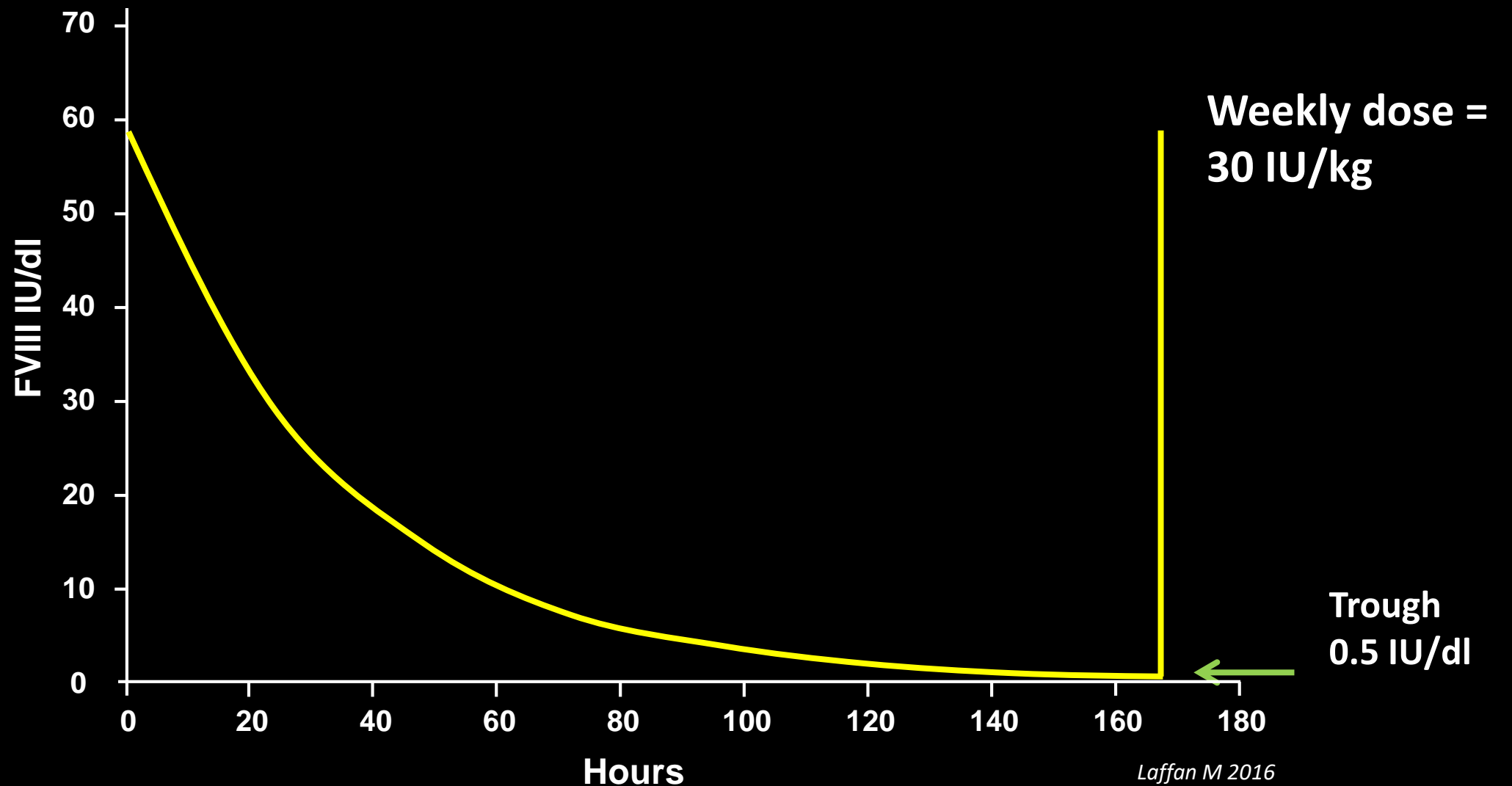
SHL (12 hr  $T_{1/2}$ ) alt. day dosing, 30 IU/kg



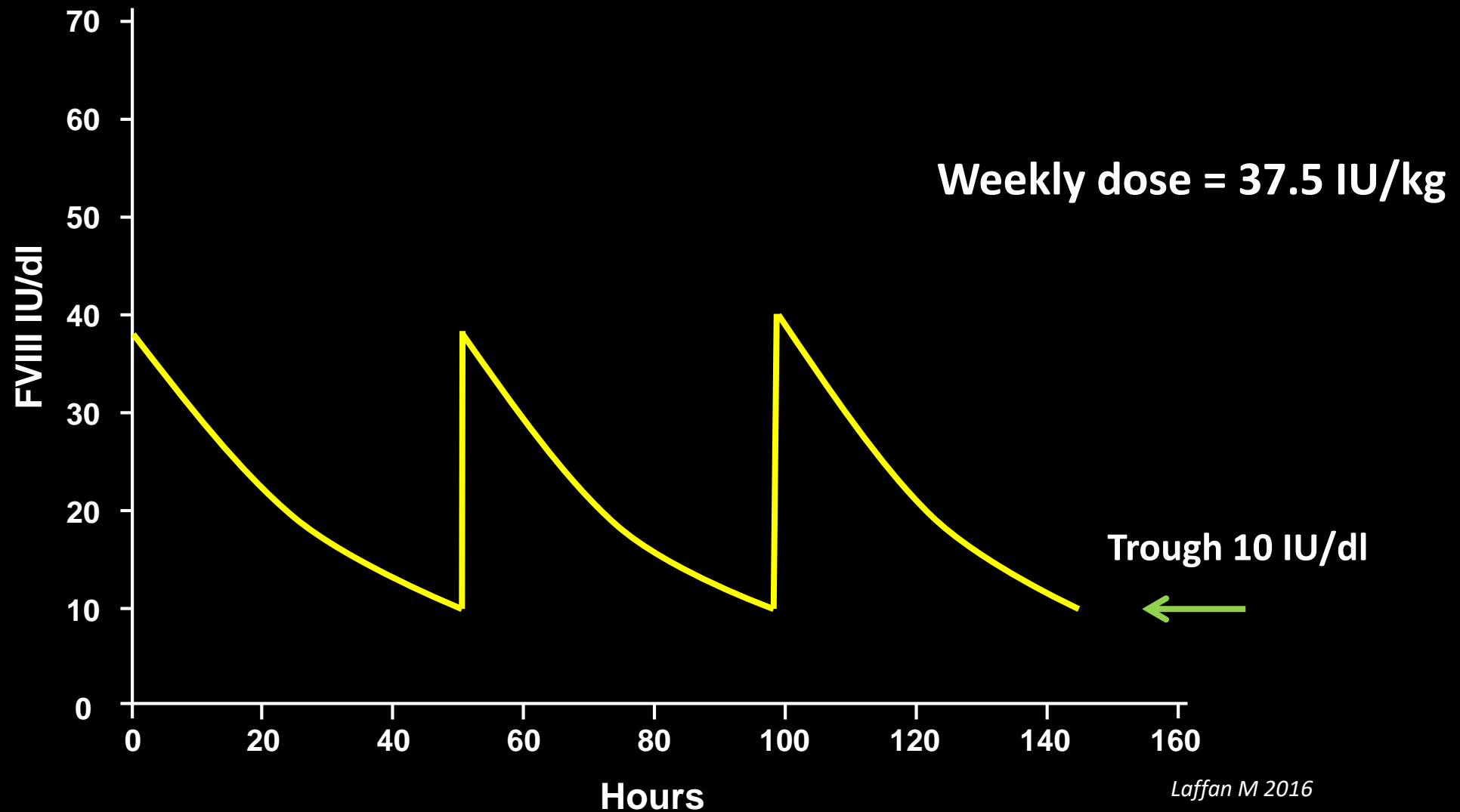
# EHL (24 hr $T_{1/2}$ ) 4-day dosing, 30 IU/kg



# EHL (24 hr $T_{1/2}$ ) weekly dosing, 30 IU/kg



# EHL (24 hr $T_{1/2}$ ) alt. day dosing, 15 IU/kg



# Applications of EHL factors

## Prophylaxis

- Higher trough levels
  - Better protection from arthropathy
  - More continuous protection
  - May aid target joint resolution
- Reduced/ fewer peaks
  - Less factor – less cost

## Surgery

- Less dosing frequency – more convenient
- Less factor level monitoring required
- Physiotherapy sessions less stringent with factor timing
- Shorter hospital stay



# Chronic haemophilic arthropathy



# Joint replacement

Patient 1 (70 kg) - 10 vials of 1000 IU EHL factor





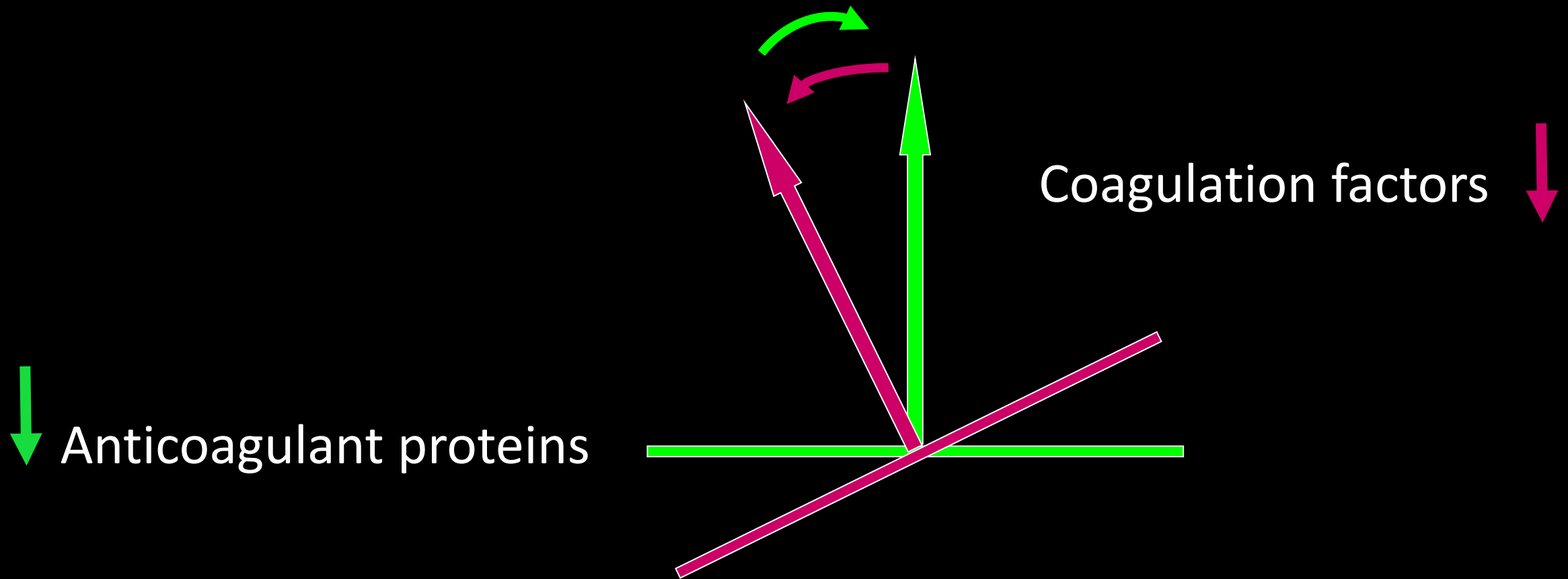
# Joint replacement

Patient 2 (75 kg) - 34 vials of 1000 IU SHL factor



Novel agents

# Re-balancing haemostasis



# Non-factor therapies

- Emicizumab
  - a chimeric bispecific humanised antibody directed against FIXa and FX, which mimics the co-factor function of FVIII
- Anti-AT
  - Fitusuran
- Anti-TFPI
  - Concizumab

# Subcutaneous injections

- Non-factor
  - Bispecific antibody (Emicizumab)
  - Anti-TFPI (Concizumab)
  - Anti-AT (Fitusiran)
- FDA- approved
  - Emicizumab for HA and HAwI
  - Concizumab for HBwI





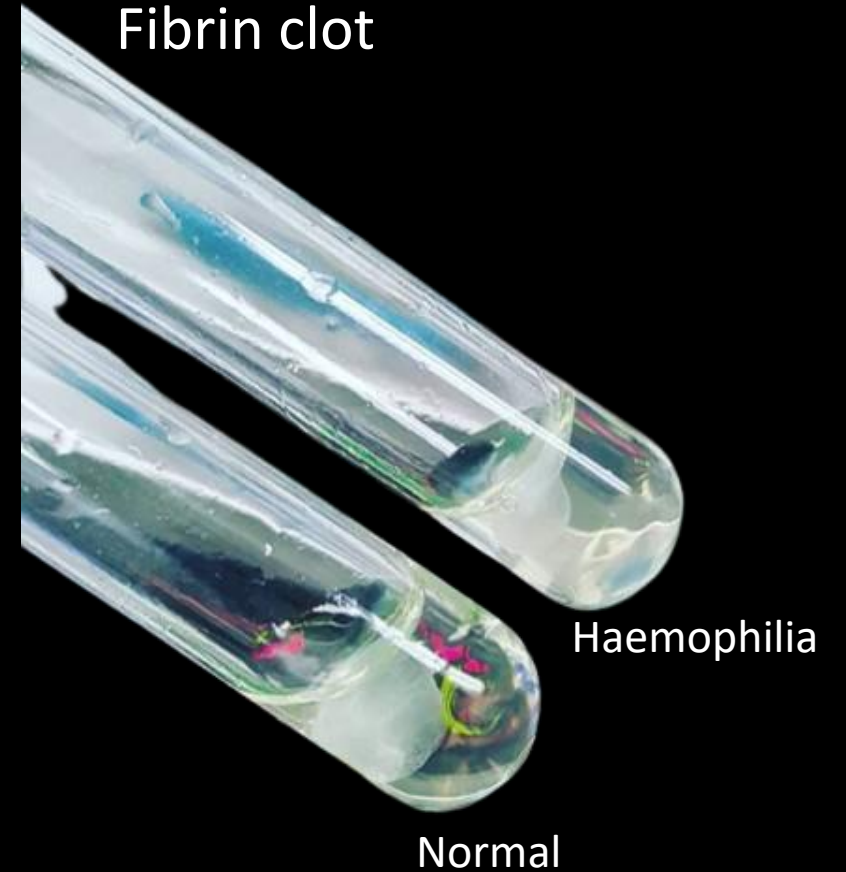
Monitoring new therapies

# Monitoring new therapies

- More complex
- One-stage factor assays may under- or over-estimate EHL factor therapies
- APTT-based tests cannot be used to measure factor VIII or inhibitor level when on Emicizumab therapy

# Factor assays

- EHL factors
  - Chromogenic factor assay or
  - One-stage assay with validated reagents
- Emlcizumab
  - Chromogenic assay with bovine FIX and FX
  - Modified one-stage assay with emicizumab calibrators



Opportunities

# Haemophilia Registry



- Malaysia joined WBDR in 2019
- 16 centres have taken part
- Another 3 have registered
- 603 haemophilia; 22 VWD registered

# Not forgetting the women



The women's club

KHWAN = Kelab Hemostasis Wanita



# Haemophilia Society Advocacy Group



The men's club

# National Haemophilia Technical Advisory Board

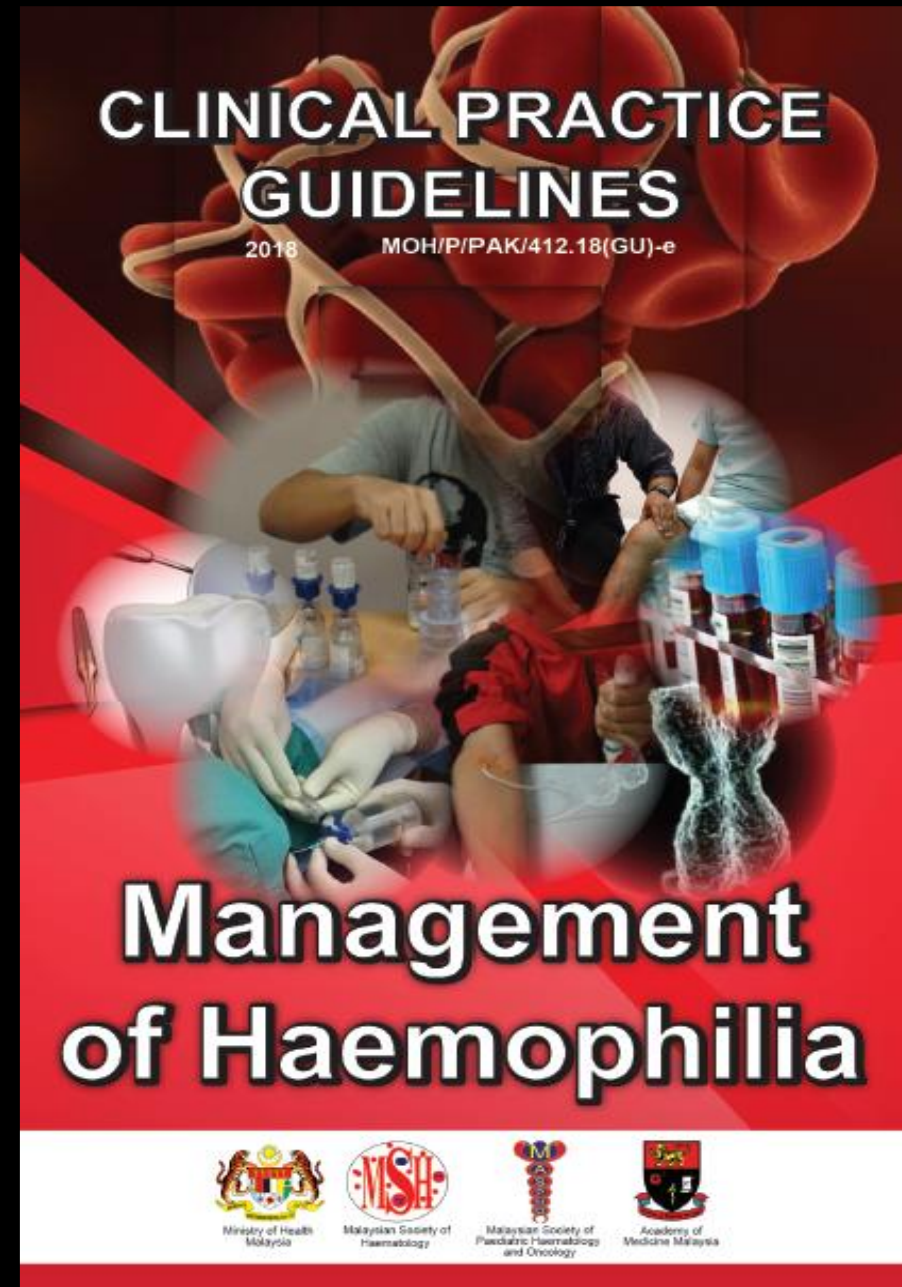
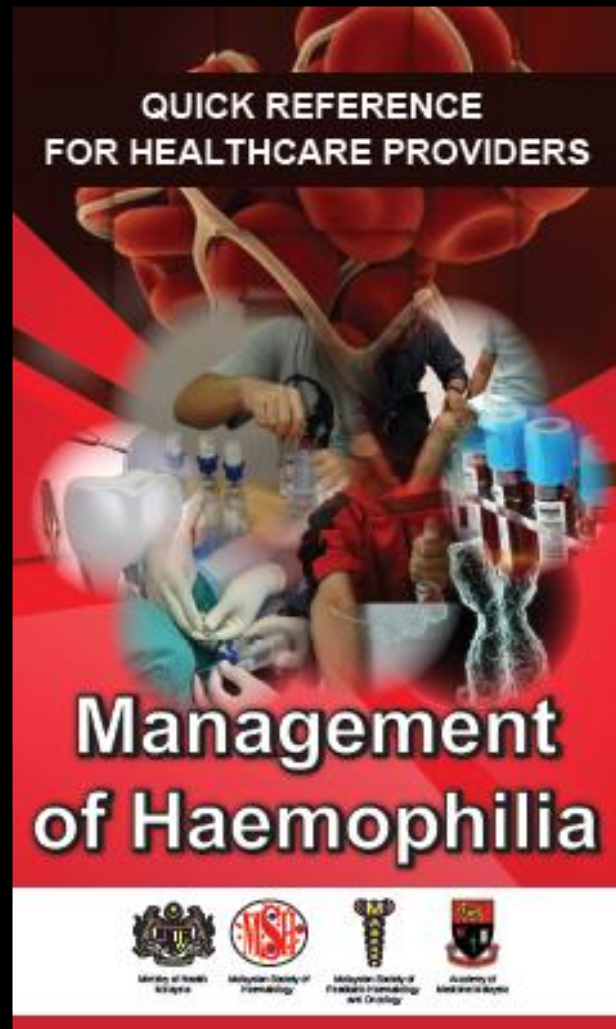


- Formed in 2017
- Implement optimal haemophilia care throughout the country



# Haemophilia CPG

2018



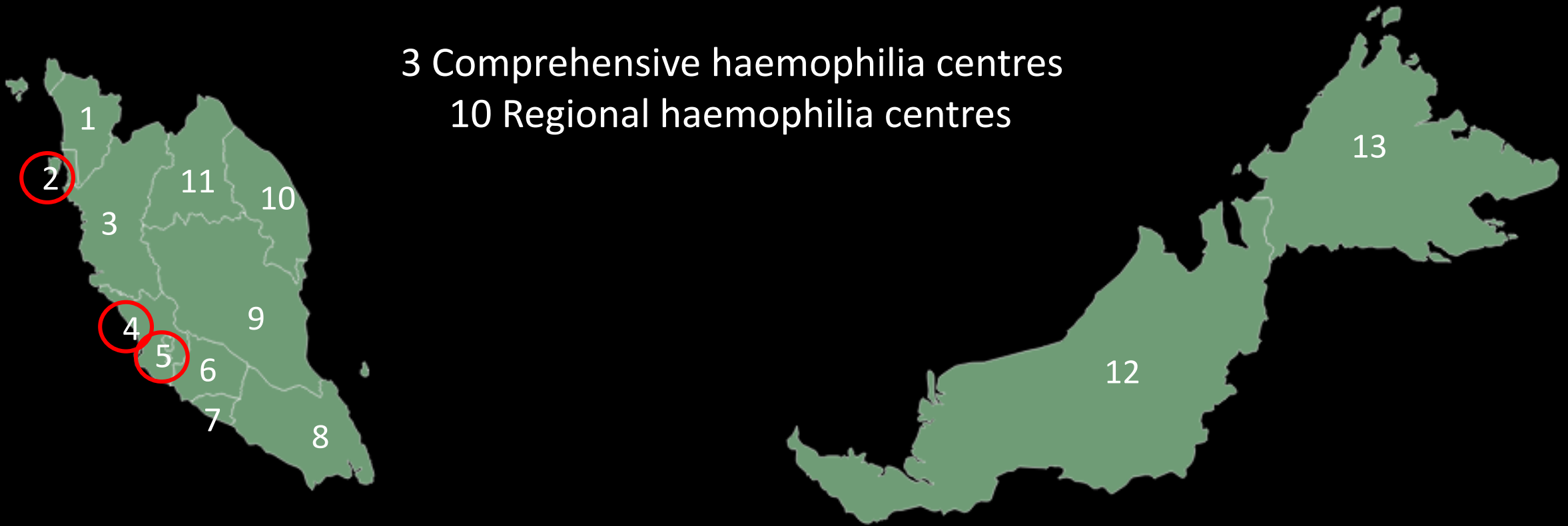
# Per capita factor usage

excluding BPA

Year	2008	2010	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2023
Total factor purchased per year (million IU)	15.5	21.0	30.0	37.6	43.8	51.2	54.7	60.8	62.0	84.5
Population (million)	27.6	28.7	30.1	30.6	31.0	31.5	31.9	32.4	32.8	34.3
IU per capita	0.56	0.73	0.99	1.23	1.41	1.62	1.71	1.87	1.89	2.46
IU per patient per year										87,383

# Haemophilia Treatment Centres

3 Comprehensive haemophilia centres  
10 Regional haemophilia centres



# Conclusion

# We have come a long way



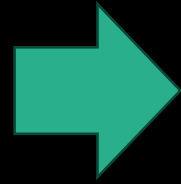
# People with Haemophilia

- Their lives have improved tremendously
  - From On-demand to Prophylaxis
  - From Plasma-derived to Recombinant factors
  - From SHL to EHL factors
  - From Factors to Non-factors
  - From IV to SC injections
  - From Breakthrough bleeds to Zero bleeds
  - Towards a cure with Gene therapy



# Treatment

**On-demand, at hospital**



**Prophylaxis, at home (Home therapy)**



# From IV to SC injections

**Intravenous (Factor)**



**Subcutaneous (Non-factor)**





# Crippled → Normal lives

**Past**



**Present**



Life does not get better by  
chance, it gets better by change

Jim Rohn