

Special Edition

All About Gene Therapy

With the FDA approval of gene therapies for both hemophilia A & B, we thought it would be good to create a special edition newsletter to help shed some light on these new treatments. All of the information provided is for educational purposes only and shouldn't be taken as medical advice. We don't recommend any specific treatment option, because what works is different for everyone. No matter what your treatment path entails, it should always be a discussion between you and your hematology care team.

Let's Get Started

What is gene therapy? The simple definition: it's a treatment where working genes are introduced into a person's cells to fight disease. For people with hemophilia, gene therapy introduces genes that know how to make factor. It's not a cure, but it can make a lasting, life changing impact.

NBDF's President & CEO, Len Valentino, put on a half hour Gene Therapy 101 webinar specifically for the patient audience. If you are new to gene therapy, it's a great place to start. Watch it <u>HERE.</u>

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Is Gene Therapy Right for You?

You may be wondering if you'd be a good candidate for gene therapy. Of course, this is a discussion you'll have to have with your hematology care team, but there are some guides to help you get started.

This first resource is the <u>Shared Decision Making Tool</u> from the World Federation of Hemophilia. This is an interactive guide that goes step by step to help you assess your goals, treatment options, and who you should involve in the conversation about your treatment options. It's really easy to understand and work through.

This second resource is more like a big handbook of gene therapy FAQs put together by an international and multidisciplinary group known as the Council of the Hemophilia Community (CHC). The handbook lists the steps of gene therapy from the pre-treatment phase through the follow up that may take place several years after the treatment.

OUR VISION: A WORLD WHERE NO LIFE IS LIMITED BY GENET THE SCIENCE OF GEN

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Clinical Trials

You may also be interested in learning more or participating in a gene therapy clinical trial. Clinical trials allow people to participate in research that answers questions about emerging treatments. There are pros and cons to participating in any clinical trial. It's important that you speak to your hemophilia care team to make sure that you are fully aware of what those pros and cons are before you agree to being part of a clinical trial. For more info on the clinical trial process, check out this article sponsored by Spark Therapeutics.

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More Resources

The National Bleeding Disorders Foundation recently released a series of videos that go more in depth into gene therapy which can be found <u>HERE</u>. There's also a short NBDF FAQ section <u>HERE</u>.