



MASAC Document #183

MASAC STATEMENT REGARDING USE OF HERBAL OR HOMEOPATHIC PRODUCTS TO TREAT VON WILLEBRAND DISEASE

The following recommendation was approved by the Medical and Scientific Advisory Council (MASAC) on November 15, 2008, and adopted by the NHF Board of Directors on November 16, 2008.

The use of herbal or homeopathic products to treat bleeding disorders is increasingly being marketed to consumers, especially via the internet. In recent advertisements, two oral herbal products, Wilbrintin and Willetab, neither of which contain von Willebrand factor, are claimed to be effective in the treatment of von Willebrand disease. These claims are not supported by clinical trials or clinical evidence. These products are marketed in Europe and can be sold without medical review or license.

MASAC can not support the use of these two specific herbal products for the treatment of von Willebrand disease in the absence of data supporting clinical efficacy or approval by the FDA. Any use of these products should be discussed with the individual's hemophilia treatment provider.

This material is provided for your general information only. NHF does not give medical advice or engage in the practice of medicine. NHF under no circumstances recommends particular treatment for specific individuals and in all cases recommends that you consult your physician or local treatment center before pursuing any course of treatment.

Copyright 2008 National Hemophilia Foundation. To facilitate the dissemination of these medical recommendations, reproduction of any material in this publication in whole or in part will be permitted provided: 1) a specific reference to the MASAC recommendation number and title is included and 2) the reproduction is not intended for use in connection with the marketing, sale or promotion of any product or service. NHF reserves the right to make the final determination of compliance with this policy. For questions or to obtain a copy of the most recent recommendations, please contact the NHF Director of Communications at 1-800-42-HANDI or visit the NHF website at www.hemophilia.org.