

RECOMMENDED ABBREVIATIONS FOR VON WILLEBRAND FACTOR AND ITS ACTIVITIES

**On behalf of the von Willebrand Factor Subcommittee of the Scientific and Standardization
Committee of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis**

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Previous official recommendations concerning the abbreviations for von Willebrand Factor (and factor VIII) are 15 years old and were limited to "vWf" for the protein and "vWf:Ag" for the antigen (1). Nowadays, the various properties of von Willebrand Factor (ristocetin cofactor activity and capacity to bind to either collagen or factor VIII) are better defined and may warrant specific abbreviations. Furthermore, the protein synthesized by the von Willebrand factor gene is now abbreviated as pre-pro-VWF (2).

Accordingly, the subcommittee on von Willebrand Factor of the Scientific and Standardization Committee of the ISTH has recommended new abbreviations for von Willebrand Factor antigen and its various activities, currently measured by immunologic or functional assays (Table I). It is hoped that a uniform application of the abbreviations recommended here will improve communication among scientists and clinicians, especially for those who are less familiar with the field.

Table 1: Recommended abbreviations for von Willebrand Factor and its activities

Attribute	Recommended abbreviations
Mature protein	VWF
Antigen	VWF:Ag
Ristocetin cofactor activity	VWF:RCo
Collagen binding capacity	VWF:CB
Factor VIII binding capacity	VWF:FVIII B

REFERENCES:

1 – Marder VJ, Mannucci PM, Firkin BG, Hoyer LW and Meyer D. Standard nomenclature for factor VIII and von Willebrand factor: a recommendation by the International Committee on Thrombosis and Haemostasis. *Thromb. Haemost.* 1985, 54, 871-2.

2 – Goodeve AC, Eikenboom JCJ, Ginsburg D, Hilbert L, Mazurier C, Peake IR, Sadler JE, Rodeghiero F on behalf of the ISTH SSC subcommittee on von Willebrand Factor. A standard nomenclature for von Willebrand factor gene mutations and polymorphisms. *Thromb. Haemost.*, in press.