

67. Dental work and factor V Leiden

Last Updated: 2/15/2004

Q: "My dentist refused to clean my teeth because I have factor V Leiden. Do you have anything published I can take to the dentist to show that it is o.k. to work on my teeth?"

A: Factor V Leiden is a very common variant of clotting factor V, present in ca. 5 % of the Caucasian population. While it slightly increases the risk for venous thromboembolism (4-7 fold for the heterozygous individual compared to people who do not have factor V Leiden), most individuals with FVLeiden never have any medical problems in their lifetime related to factor V Leiden. No special precautions need to be taken when doing dental work (teeth cleaning, extractions, root canals, etc.), unless patients are, for some reason, on blood thinners.