

RESEARCH ARTICLE



## Real-world clinical experience of extended half-life recombinant factor VIII Fc fusion protein (rFVIII Fc) in comparison to conventional factor products in patients with severe hemophilia A

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** The recombinant factor FVIII Fc fusion protein (rFVIIIFc) is a first-in-class extended half-life FVIII product to treat patients with hemophilia A. The safety, efficacy and prolonged half-life of rFVIIIFc was demonstrated in the phase 3 studies A-LONG, Kids A-LONG and the extension study ASPIRE. Despite robust efficacy and safety data of rFVIIIFc therapy from clinical trials, evidence on the effectiveness of rFVIIIFc use in real-world remains scarce. Our analysis aimed at investigating the effectiveness of prophylactic rFVIIIFc treatment in routine clinical use in Germany.

**Material and Methods:** Twenty-seven patients with severe hemophilia A, who switched from prophylaxis with conventional recombinant factor VIII (rFVIII) products to rFVIIIFc, were included. Annualized bleeding rates, factor consumption, number of injections and adherence to prophylaxis were compared. The retrospective period prior switching to rFVIIIFc was three years, while the mean follow-up period after switching to rFVIIIFc was 24.9 months.

**Results:** Switching to rFVIIIFc led to a 33.7% reduction in mean annualized number of injections and a 18.3% reduction in mean annualized factor consumption while maintaining low bleeding rates. The mean annualized bleeding rate (ABR) was 2.5 and 1.7 for rFVIII and rFVIIIFc, respectively. The adherence improved from 87% to 94%. During the follow-up period eleven surgeries were performed; all with a hemostatic response rated as excellent. No FVIII inhibitor formation after switching to rFVIIIFc has been detected.

**Conclusion:** Real-world treatment with rFVIIIFc was associated with substantial reductions in consumption and injection frequencies while maintaining low bleeding rates supporting safety and efficacy data from clinical trials.

**Keywords:** severe hemophilia A, recombinant factor VIII Fc fusion protein, extended half-life, prophylaxis, real-world clinical experience.

## 1 | INTRODUCTION

Hemophilia A is a rare X-linked genetic bleeding disorder caused by coagulation factor VIII (FVIII) deficiency resulting in impaired hemostasis and prolonged bleeding episodes. Intra-articular and intramuscular bleeding is the major clinical manifestation of the disease. Recurrent hemarthrosis and soft-tissue hematomas are the major cause of severe arthropathy, joint contractures, and pseudotumors, which may cause chronic pain, limit physical mobility, and overall impair the quality of life [(1, 2).

Prophylactic replacement therapy of FVIII to prevent bleeding is the standard of care (3–5).

Conventional FVIII replacement products are either plasma-derived or recombinant with a standard half-life (SHL) of approximately 8–12 hours necessitating frequent intravenous injections of at least three times per week in most patients to maintain plasma levels above 1 IU/dL (6). The burden of frequent injections can lead to patients' avoidance or delay in starting prophylaxis consequently increasing the risk of morbidities, especially hemophilic arthropathies (7). It can also impact adherence to the prescribed regimen as expressed by delayed administrations or skipped infusions (8).

Several new treatment options have emerged in recent years. Extending FVIII half-life is one key strategy to primarily increase bleed protection but also to lessen treatment burden (9). The extended half-life (EHL) FVIII concentrate Efmoroctocog alfa (rFVIII-Fc) was approved as a first-in-class recombinant FVIII (rFVIII) Fc-fusion protein with EHL for the treatment of patients with hemophilia A (PwHA) of all age groups in Europe in 2015 (10). It is composed of a single molecule of B-domain-deleted rFVIII covalently linked to the Fc domain of human immunoglobulin G1 (IgG1) (11). The fusion to the IgG1 Fc domain prolongs the half-life through a mechanism involving the endogenous IgG recycling pathway by interaction with the neonatal Fc receptor (FcRn) (12). rFVIII-Fc is expressed in human embryonic kidney (HEK) 293H cells without any addition of exogenous human- or animal-derived protein in the cell culture process, purification or final formulation (10). Comparative pharmacokinetic data for

rFVIII-Fc and conventional rFVIII showed a similar incremental recovery and volume of distribution, but a reduced clearance of rFVIII-Fc (13, 14). This reduction in clearance leads to a median 1.5-fold prolongation in elimination half-life of rFVIII-Fc (14).

The efficacy and safety of rFVIII-Fc have been demonstrated in two pivotal phase III clinical trials: A-LONG in adults and adolescents aged  $\geq 12$  years (NCT01181128) (14) and Kids A-LONG in children aged  $< 12$  years (NCT01458106) (15). Efficacy and safety data from the rFVIII-Fc extension trial, ASPIRE (NCT01454739), confirmed long-term safety of rFVIII-Fc and the maintenance of a low annualized bleeding rate (ABR) (16, 17).

Pharmacokinetic simulations demonstrate that the lower clearance of rFVIII-Fc compared to standard half-life FVIII has the potential of improved bleed prevention without increasing overall factor consumption (18). Higher trough levels of plasma FVIII can be achieved to enable patients to a more active life and cause higher protection. Effective prevention of bleeding episodes may be beneficial to long-term joint health, and a trend towards continued improvement in joint health during the ASPIRE extension study was observed (19). Despite a recent uptake in published real-world studies for the use of EHL factor concentrates, data on the effectiveness of rFVIII-Fc in clinical practice overall remains scarce. Here, we report our real-world clinical experience on patients with severe hemophilia A after switching from prophylactic treatment with rFVIII to rFVIII-Fc with a retrospective period of 36 months and a mean follow-up of 24.9 months.

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## 2 | MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Study population and data collection

Previously treated male patients with severe hemophilia A, who switched from prophylactic treatment with conventional recombinant factor products to rFVIII<sup>FC</sup> (efmoroctocog alfa, Swedish Orphan Biovitrum AB) prophylaxis in 2016 or 2017, were retrospectively included in the study. Twenty-six patients had a previous prophylaxis with octocog alfa and one patient received simoctocog alfa prophylaxis prior to switching to rFVIII<sup>FC</sup>. All data are clinical routine data and were collected at the Institute of Experimental Hematology and Transfusion Medicine, University Clinic Bonn, Bonn, Germany. Patient characteristics (age, weight, *F8* genotype, presence of infectious diseases or arthropathies), data of rFVIII and rFVIII<sup>FC</sup> treatment (prescribed injection intervals, dose per injection, and start date of rFVIII<sup>FC</sup> treatment) as well as the number of bleeds (overall, spontaneous, traumatic, joint, spontaneous joint) were collected. The initial switch from pre-medication to Elocta was performed according to the SPC label. If necessary during follow-up patients' treatment was adapted according to individual needs. Data cut-off for rFVIII<sup>FC</sup> treatment was on July 31, 2018. Adherence to prophylaxis was evaluated using patient diaries. All surgeries were planned according to localisation, type and complexity and included a substitution plan with the respective factor concentrate as well as the time of injections. For major surgeries the recommendation of the initial dose is 80-100 IU/kg and 50-80 IU/kg in children and adults, respectively. For minor surgeries the recommendation of the initial dose is 50-100 IU/kg and 25-40 IU/kg in children and adults, respectively [20]. To aim for avoidance of wound healing disturbances and post-operative hemorrhages the factor trough level for major surgeries should be in normal range for 7-10 days post-surgery to continuously support the wound healing processes. All patients had a first injection with factor concentrate the evening before surgery (preloading dose). On the day of surgery all patients received a loading dose and dependend of the time to surgery an additional factor concentrate injection immediately before the operation. Follow

up injections were based according to the actual factor activity. Total number of injections and factor consumption was calculated peri-operatively for a maximum follow-up time of 10 days post-surgery.

For this retrospective analysis patients data were anonymized and aggregated.

### Statistical analysis

For both FVIII and rFVIII<sup>FC</sup> treatment, the annualized number of injections was calculated. The percent change in the annualized number of injections after the switch to rFVIII<sup>FC</sup> was determined. In analogy, annualized factor consumption and percent change in annualized factor consumption was calculated.

Bleeding rates during FVIII prophylaxis were calculated for a time period of three years and converted to annualized bleeding rates (ABRs). For rFVIII<sup>FC</sup> prophylaxis, ABRs were calculated based on the number of bleeds during the follow-up period since start of rFVIII<sup>FC</sup> treatment until the date of evaluation. Analogously, ABRs were calculated separately for spontaneous bleeds (AsBR), traumatic bleeds (AtBR), joint bleeds (AjBR), and spontaneous joint bleeds (AsjBR).

Adherence to prophylactic treatment was determined as the percentage of actual injections of prescribed injections.

Descriptive statistics report numbers and percentages for categorical variables and mean and standard deviation (SD) for continuous variables. Wilcoxon signed-rank test was used for paired samples.  $P < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

## 3 | RESULTS

### Patient characteristics

In total, 27 previously treated patients with severe hemophilia A were included. Demographics and baseline characteristics are presented in Table 1. The cohort comprised 24 adult and adolescent ( $\geq 12$  years) and 3 pediatric patients. All patients were male with a mean age of 37 years. All patients had *F8* gene mutations of which 21 patients (77.8%) presented with a genotype which was associated

with an increased risk of inhibitor development, i.e. 14 intron 22 inversions, four stop mutations, two splice mutations in a conserved region and one small deletion. The remaining six patients (22,2%) displayed mutations which were associated with a low risk of inhibitor development (three missense mutations, one duplication, one splice mutation in a non conserved region and one small deletion in a repetitive adenine nucleotide region). Of all 27 patients four had a prior history of inhibitors to FVIII (two patients with an intron 22 inversion, one patient with a stop mutation and one patient with a splice mutation in a conserved region) with two testing positively for high-titer inhibitors (> 5 BU) and two for low-titer inhibitors (< 5 BU), respectively. Of note, none of them developed a recurrent inhibitor after switching to rFVIII-Fc. Nine patients (33.3%) had infectious diseases such as human immunodeficiency virus [HIV], hepatitis C virus [HCV], or both, and 13 patients (48,1%) had at least one joint with arthropathies. Retrospective observational period with conventional rFVIII concentrate was 3 years for all patients. The mean follow-up period after switching to rFVIII-Fc treatment was 24.9 months.

#### Prophylactic regimens and adherence

Switching to rFVIII-Fc prophylaxis led to a 33.7% reduction of mean injection frequency compared to prior conventional rFVIII therapy ( $121 \pm 30$  vs.  $182 \pm 71$  injections per year) corresponding to a mean reduction from 3.5 to 2.3 injections per week. In total, 22 (81.5%) of the 27 patients were able to extend their injection interval Table 2.

Of those, 12 patients reduced the interval from 3 to 2 injections/week, 6 patients from every other day (3.5 injections/week) to either 2 injections/week (n=3), every 3 (2.3 injections/week) days (n=1), or 3 injections/week (n=2) and one patient from 4 injections/week to every other (3.5 injections/week) day. Three patients with daily injections were able to reduce the injection interval to either every 3 days (n=1) or 3 injections per week (n=2). In five patients, injection intervals did not change, two of those had already a low injection interval during conventional rFVIII therapy (one and two injections per week).

In the patient population of this study (26 of 27 patients with available data for both treatment regimens), mean adherence to rFVIII prophylaxis was

All patients (n=27)	
Age, years	
Mean $\pm$ SD	36.8 $\pm$ 20.7
Median (min, max)	40.0 (9.0; 81.0)
Weight, kg	
Mean $\pm$ SD	66.8 $\pm$ 26.7
Median (min, max)	66.0 (19.0; 120.0)
Observation time, months	
Mean $\pm$ SD	24.9 $\pm$ 4.2
Median (min, max)	24.6 (13.9; 29.6)
Total Elocta units (IU)	
14,307,970	
Age Distribution (n)	
< 12 years	3
$\geq$ 12 to < 18 years	5
18 to < 60 years	15
$\geq$ 60 years	4
Infectious Diseases (n)	
HIV and HCV	4
HIV	4
HCV	1
Arthropathies* (n)	
Ankle	26
Knee Joint	11
Hip Joint	1
Cubital Joint	10

FIGURE 1: Table 1. Patient characteristics

$87 \pm 16\%$  and after switching to rFVIII-Fc, adherence increased to  $94 \pm 8\%$ .

#### Factor consumption

The mean annualized factor consumption of rFVIII was  $295,461 \pm 130,914$  IU and was reduced by 18.3% to  $241,509 \pm 78,644$  IU with rFVIII-Fc, corresponding to  $4,896 \pm 2,167$  IU/kg BW/year and  $3,975 \pm 1,382$  IU/kg BW/year, respectively. In order to improve bleeding protection, factor reduction did not apply for eight patients. Two patients increased their consumption (156,000 to 286,000 IU/year and



rFVIII/rFVIII Fc	Daily	4x/wk	EOD*	3x/wk	Q3D**	2x/wk	1x/wk
Daily				2	1		
4x/wk			1				
EOD*			1	2	1	3	
3x/wk				2		12	
Q3D**							
2x/wk						1	
1x/wk							1

\* every other day

\*\* every three days

In the patient population of this study (26 of 27 patients with available data for both treatment regimens), mean adherence to rFVIII prophylaxis was  $87 \pm 16\%$  and after switching to rFVIII Fc, adherence increased to  $94 \pm 8\%$ .

**FIGURE 2:** Changes of prophylaxis infusion regimens after switch from conventional rFVIII to rFVIII Fc concentrate. Values represent n patients. Greyed boxes indicate where dosages remained unchanged.

234,000 to 273,000 IU/year, respectively). The mean weekly dose of rFVIII Fc was  $76.5 \pm 27$  IU/kg/wk and the mean weekly dose of rFVIII was  $94.1 \pm 42$  IU/kg/wk.

Intra-patient comparison of weekly factor consumption is shown in Figure 1.

#### Annualized bleeding rates

The mean ABR and mean joint ABR (AjBR) were  $2.5 \pm 3.1$  and  $0.7 \pm 1.5$  for rFVIII and  $1.7 \pm 3.7$  and  $0.3 \pm 0.6$  for rFVIII Fc, respectively. Mean spontaneous ABR (AsBR) and mean spontaneous joint ABR (AsjBR) were  $0.4 \pm 0.7$  and  $0.2 \pm 0.4$  for conventional rFVIII and  $0.2 \pm 0.5$  and  $0.2 \pm 0.4$  for rFVIII Fc, respectively. Bleeding data prior to, and after initiating treatment with rFVIII Fc are shown in Figure 2.

There were no serious spontaneous bleeding episodes with rFVIII Fc prophylaxis during the follow-up period of this study, which would have required long-term inpatient or outpatient treatment.

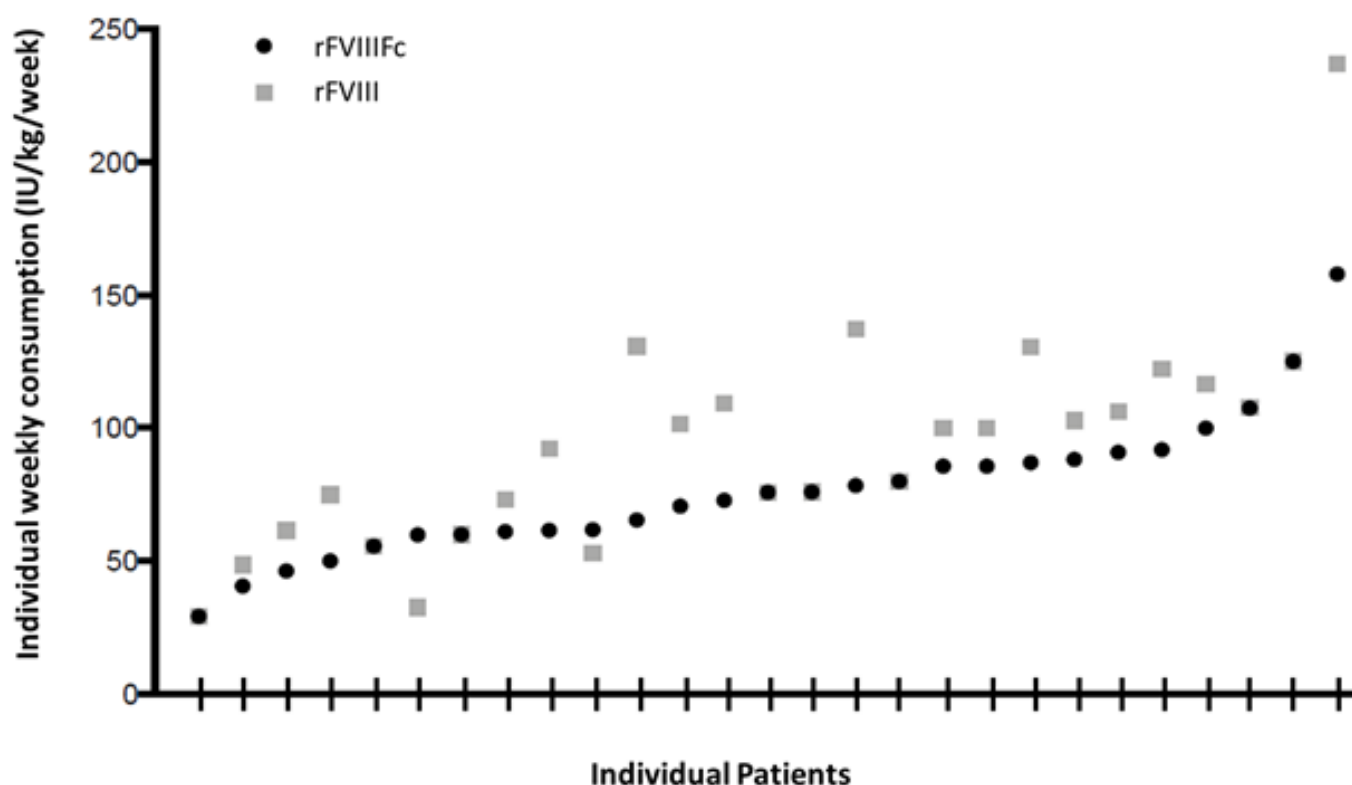
#### Perioperative management

Hemostatic efficacy was rated as excellent during all surgical procedures as defined by Srivastava et al. (20) [20]. Mean consumption in the postoperative setting per patient as well as treatment days are shown in Table 3. In total, eleven surgeries had been conducted in nine patients with severe hemophilia A, after switching to rFVIII Fc. Of five

major surgeries, four were orthopaedic. Six interventions were considered minor surgeries. All patients adhered to their prescribed treatment regimen prior to surgery. The evening before surgery, a mean preloading dose of  $38 (\pm 7)$  and  $34 (\pm 13)$  IU/kg rFVIII Fc was given in major and minor surgeries, respectively. Prior to surgery, an additional dose of  $56 (\pm 30)$  IU/kg in major and  $49 (\pm 22)$  IU/kg in minor surgeries was administered Table 4.

## 4 | DISCUSSION

Successful long-term outcome in PwHA consists of an efficient prophylaxis to reduce the occurrence of bleeding episodes and to maintain joint health. Despite widespread availability of safe and effective replacement therapies, PwHA remain to be exposed to a significant treatment burden of frequent intravenous injections, while still experiencing breakthrough bleedings, and progressive joint disease over a lifetime (9, 21–24). Novel therapeutic approaches have been developed to overcome these challenges including Efmoroctocog alfa (rFVIII Fc). Attachment to the IgG1 Fc domain permits binding to the FcRn, which is responsible for protection of IgG from lysosomal degradation and facilitates its recycling (12). As a result, rFVIII Fc shows prolonged clearance-related pharmacokinetics with the potential to improve bleed prevention without increasing the over-

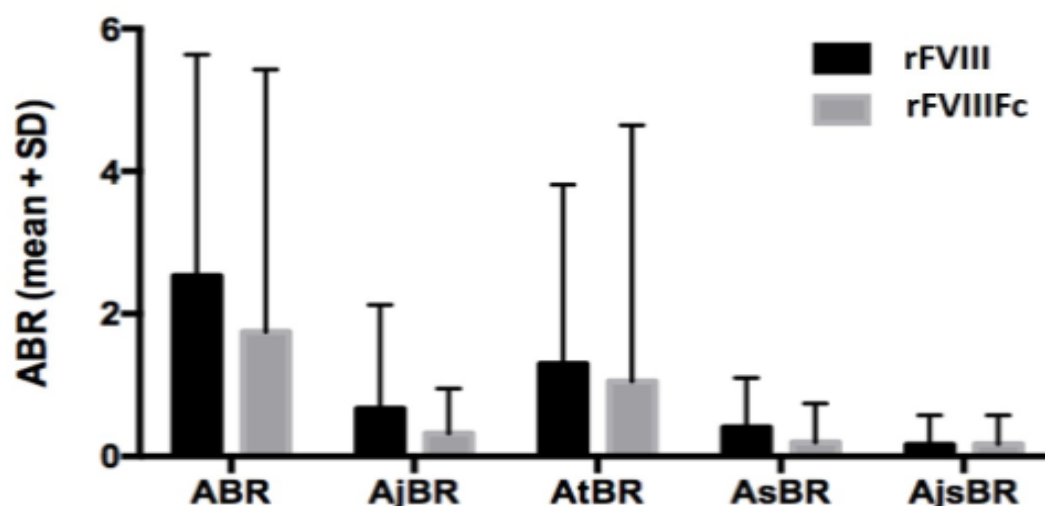


**FIGURE 3:** Intra-patient dosing for prophylaxis with rFVIII Fc and previous rFVIII product. X-axis shows individual patient data. Dosing for each patient on rFVIII Fc is plotted in black; dosing with previous rFVIII product is plotted in grey.

all factor consumption and concurrently to reduce treatment burden with less frequent injections (13, 14, 18).

In the present study, the real-world usage and potential therapeutic benefits of long-acting rFVIII Fc were analyzed in 27 patients with severe hemophilia A previously treated with conventional recombinant factor products. The mean follow-up period after switching to rFVIII Fc was 24.9 months. While randomized clinical trials remain the gold standard to establish efficacy and safety of new therapeutic agents, data from clinical routine produce evidence of therapeutic effectiveness in real-world practice settings. Extensive analyses from clinical trials have been published (13–17, 25–31), but uncertainties prevail among physicians despite of a recent uptake in published real-world evidence (32–38). Especially, the inhibitor risk of patients with a prior history of inhibitors is an issue of debate since those patients are excluded from clinical trials. In our study four

patients with a prior history of inhibitors (two with high-titer inhibitors, two with low-titer inhibitors) against FVIII switched to rFVIII Fc and none of those patients developed inhibitors. These data are consistent with an analysis of 36 patients pooled from the phase 4 observational study programs of PREVENT and A-SURE, respectively (39). Furthermore, a recently published Italian single-center study corroborates these findings for the use of rFVIII Fc in clinical routine (37). In our study, overall, the weekly dose of rFVIII Fc was lower compared to that of previous SHL FVIII concentrate. The observed reduction of 18.3% corresponds to 19% reported in a Canadian analysis (40) and 17–26% according to a meta-analysis (41). In the aforementioned single center study conducted in Italy Tagliaferri et al. report a ~12% reduction in weekly dose (37). Importantly, the reduction in factor consumption did not adversely affect bleed protection. Iorio et al. detected significantly lower ABRs on rFVIII Fc compared to



(A)

(B)

	ABR*		AjBR**		AtBR***		AsBR****		AsjBR#	
	rFVIII	rFVIII Fc	rFVIII	rFVIII Fc	rFVIII	rFVIII Fc	rFVIII	rFVIII Fc	rFVIII	rFVIII Fc
Median	1.7	0.5	0	0	0.3	0	0	0	0	0
(min; max)	0.0; 11.3	0.0; 18.8	0.0; 7.3	0.0; 2.6	0.0; 11.0	0.0; 18.8	0.0; 2.7	0.0; 2.6	0.0; 2.0	0.0; 1.6

\* Annualized bleeding rate

\*\* Annualized joint bleeding rate

\*\*\* Annualized traumatic bleeding rate

\*\*\*\* Annualized spontaneous bleeding rate

# Annualized spontaneous joint bleeding rate

**FIGURE 4:** Mean annualized bleeding rates (ABRs) in patients who received rFVIII Fc prophylaxis compared to prophylaxis on prior rFVIII product (A). Median ABR values and minimum-to-maximum ranges are presented below (B).

	Major surgeries (N=5)		Minor surgeries (N=6)		All surgeries (N=11)	
	Mean	(Min–Max)	Mean	(Min–Max)	Mean	(Min–Max)
Number of injections	28	(12–61)	5	(1–30)	18	(2–61)
Treatment duration (days)	25	(9–57)	4	(1–23)	15.5	(2–57)
Total dose (IU/kg)*	967	(566–2,593)	227	(57–1,250)	660	(57–2,593)

\*Total consumption was calculated for the first 10 treatment days.

**FIGURE 5:** Post surgery treatment with rFVIII Fc. Number of injections, treatment durations and total consumption are shown for major, minor, all surgeries. Referring values are provided as mean and as minimum-to-maximum range, respectively.

						Pre- and Intraoperative			Postoperative											
									Trough before injection											
						rFVIII Fc consumption (IU/kg)			Morning dose (IU/kg)									Total consumption (IU/kg)		
									Evening dose (IU/kg)											
Major surgery	Patient	Age	Weight	Type of surgery	Treatment days	Pre-loading dose	Loading dose	At day of surgery	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10		
	2	79	61	Arthrodesis of ankle	22	33	49	82	137%			112%	111%			126%				
									49.2	49.2	49.2	49.2	32.8	32.8	32.8	32.8	32.8	32.8	32.8	426.4
									32.8											
	2	79	61	Kyphoplasty of sacrum	21	49	66	131	230%	161%	126%									147.6
									65.6	49.2	32.8									
	5	33	60	Endoscopic appendectomy	9	33	67	117	87%	125%	79%									
									50	50	50									150
	14	62	108	Re-plate osteosynthesis	37	37	37	66	118%	140%	141%	219%	148%		140%					
								27.8	27.8	27.8	27.8	27.8	37	37					315	
								27.8	27.8	27.8	9.3	9.3								
23	42	81	Total knee arthroplasty	57	37	62	111	111%	176%	175%		124%		115%			95%			
								49.4	49.4	24.7	24.7	24.7	24.7	24.7	24.7	24.7	24.7	24.7	568.1	
								49.4	24.7	24.7	24.7	24.7	24.7	24.7	24.7	24.7	24.7	24.7		
7	15	68	Ingrown toenail	2	no	29	29	29.4											29.4	
Minor surgery	8	53	60	Facet joint infiltration	3	50	67	133	66.7	66.7									250.1	
									66.7	50										
	9	16	55	Milk tooth extraction	4	36	55	91	45.5		45.5		45.5						136.5	
	17	37	120	Tooth extraction	6	17	25	50		25	25		25						91.7	
									16.7											
21	7	25	Adenotomy, paracentesis w. drum drainage	7	40	80	120	80	80	80	80	80	40						480	
								40												
23	42	75	Plantar wart excision	4	27	40	40	40	40	40									120	

**FIGURE 6:** Overview of the eleven surgeries conducted in nine patients with severe hemophilia A post-switch to rFVIII Fc: patients' age and weight, intervention type, pre-, peri- and post-surgery treatment with rFVIII Fc, rFVIII Fc factor consumption.

standard rFVIII, while ABRs remained stable in our and the Italian study.

The improved prevention of bleeding episodes, especially in joints (70% of patients with zero AjBR within 2 years observation time), might be likely beneficial to long-term joint health.

The reduced clearance of rFVIII Fc allows for a high degree of treatment personalization. PwHA may be enabled to reduce annualized factor consumption and mean dosing frequency to lift the burden of frequent injections. Conversely, an alternative treatment strategy can result in treatment intensification to improve bleed protection and joint health by raising the factor trough levels from 1% to 3-5% or even higher. This assumption is supported by recently published efficacy data on another EHL, rurioctocog alfa pegol, by Klamroth et al. (42). In concordance with this uplift of target trough levels concept PwHA may be

switched from SHL to EHL in a 1:1 manner with respect to injection dose and injection frequency (18). Revised treatment strategies as such are increasingly being supported by national and international treatment recommendations and guidelines, that advocate for target trough levels of 1-3% or more recently even 3-5% (20, 43-45). Observations from clinical practice according to which PwHA dosed to trough levels of 1% still display a considerable risk for developing hemophilic arthropathies are dissatisfactory (21). This and the introduction of EHL factor concentrates such as rFVIII Fc advocate for a more progressive preservation of joint health. Doing so, the otherwise inevitable detrimental triad of recurrent joint bleeds, chronic synovitis and hemophilic arthropathy might be almost prevented.

Adherence to FVIII prophylaxis was generally high in the patient population of this study. However, after



switching to rFVIII<sup>IFc</sup>, adherence further improved significantly from 87% to 94%. The data are in accordance with a review of Ingersoll and Cohen who described that treatment burden and regimen complexity are likely determinants of adherence. Less complex regimens with fewer doses, by contrast, were shown to promote adherence (7). In this regard the benefits of higher trough levels for joint health at equal dosing intervals should be carefully weighed against the possible risk of lower treatment adherence. Hence, the treatment strategy of choice needs to fit the individual needs of the respective patient (46).

In addition to bleeding prevention in the daily lives of PwHA, surgical procedures require an optimal therapeutic management for adequate hemostasis. Eleven surgeries were performed with rFVIII<sup>IFc</sup> within this study. Importantly, rFVIII<sup>IFc</sup> was shown to be safe and effective in the perioperative setting, and hemostasis management was excellent in both major and minor surgeries.

Limitations of this study are the relatively small number of patients and the single center design. Furthermore, our hemophilia A cohort exclusively consists of patients who had switched to rFVIII<sup>IFc</sup> from a prior replacement product. Despite the potential limitations of our analyses, however, the results are consistent with published data on rFVIII<sup>IFc</sup> and add to the body of real-world evidence regarding the therapeutic effectiveness and safety of rFVIII<sup>IFc</sup> in PwHA previously treated with conventional factor concentrates.

## 5 | CONCLUSION

This is the first study to provide real-world evidence on personalized prophylaxis in a German cohort of PwHA being switched from conventional SHL factor concentrates to rFVIII<sup>IFc</sup>. Data were in line with previously published pivotal rFVIII<sup>IFc</sup> studies.

Prophylaxis with rFVIII<sup>IFc</sup> was efficacious in all patients and generally well tolerated. There was no inhibitor development, even in patients with inhibitor history. rFVIII<sup>IFc</sup> was associated with low overall and joint bleeds as well as significantly improved

treatment adherence. Perioperative management was performed according to guidelines and hemostatic efficacy was rated as excellent.

Our findings suggest that rFVIII<sup>IFc</sup> can improve effectiveness compared to conventional rFVIII concentrates in real-world clinical settings.

### Declaration of interest

Johannes Oldenburg: Honoraria; fees for speaking, consulting or symposium/congress attendance; or research funding: Bayer, Biogen Idec, Biotest, Chugai, CSL Behring, Grifols, Novo Nordisk, Octapharma, Pfizer, Roche, Shire Swedish Orphan Biovitrum.

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Natascha Marquardt: Honoraria; fees for speaking, consulting or symposium/congress attendance; Bayer, Chugai, CSL Behring, Novo Nordisk, Octapharma, Pfizer, Roche, Shire and Swedish Orphan Biovitrum.

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### Author contribution

Georg Goldmann: Conceptualization, Methodology, Investigation, Writing- Original draft preparation

Natascha Marquardt: Investigation, Writing- Reviewing and Editing

Silvia Horneff: Data curation, Writing- Reviewing and Editing,

Claudia Klein: Investigation, Writing- Reviewing and Editing

Thilo Albert: Software, Data curation, Validation, Visualization, Project administration

Johannes Oldenburg: Supervision, Writing- Reviewing and Editing

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### Highlights

- Real-world clinical experience of extended half-life recombinant factor VIII Fc
- Fewer injections and lower factor consumption compared to factor VIII prophylaxis
- Further optimization of adherence to prophylaxis was possible
- Annualized bleeding rates remained at least stable or slightly improved
- Perioperative hemostasis management was excellent

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**Abbreviations**

ABR	annualized bleeding rate
AjBR	annualized joint bleeding rate
AsBR	annualized spontaneous bleeding rate
AsjBR	annualized spontaneous joint bleeding rate
AtBR	annualized traumatic bleeding rate
EHL	extended half-life
FVIII	factor VIII
HCV	hepatitis C virus
HEK	human embryonic kidney
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
Ig	immunoglobulin
IU	international unit
PwHA	patients with hemophilia A
rFVIII	recombinant factor VIII
rFVIII <sub>Fc</sub>	recombinant factor VIII Fc fusion protein, efmoctocog alfa
SHL	standard half-life