

Appropriateness of the prescriptions of conventional versus new oral anticoagulants at discharge from a department of internal medicine

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Abstract

Background : The recently introduced oral direct anticoagulants (ODAs), presumably safer, and with comparable efficacy to the vitamin K antagonists (VKAs), may reshape the world of anticoagulation medicine. This study aimed to assess the prescription appropriateness of ODAs and VKAs at discharge from hospital.

Methods : We performed a one year retrospective study between August 2012 and July 2013 in the department of internal medicine of a regional hospital (HVs Sion) using Electronic Medical Records. All patients receiving an ODA were included and matched to a patient treated with a VKA. The appropriateness of prescription at discharge was defined by an adequate indication and dosing, the absence of contraindication, a minimal risk of drug–drug interactions and no major bleeding or venous thromboembolism during the hospitalization. The bleeding risk was evaluated with the HAS-BLED score when the indication was atrial fibrillation (AF). **Propos :** L'arrivée des anticoagulants oraux directs (AOD) présentant des différences importantes avec les antagonistes de la vitamine K (AVK) pourrait modifier les pratiques. Dans ce contexte, nous avons réalisé une évaluation de la pertinence des prescriptions d'anticoagulants oraux (ACO) à la sortie de l'hôpital.

Results : Out of the 44 patients included (22 with an ODA and 22 with a VKA), 38 received an appropriate prescription according to all criteria. Two patients had an inadequate dosing. A potential drug–drug interaction was detected in 3 patients receiving a VKA and in 1 patient receiving an ODA. No major contraindication was found, but a relative contraindication was discussed in 3 cases. The majority of patients receiving an ODA for an AF had a minor bleeding risk.

Conclusion : No significant difference was ascertained between the two groups regarding the appropriateness of prescription. Our results suggest that ODAs were cautiously used in our setting.

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