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EFFECT OF SARS-CoV-2 PANDEMIC ON DIRECT ORAL ANTICOAGULANTS USE IN THE PRIMARY CARE SETTING

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BACKGROUND

Direct oral anticoagulants (DOAC) were moderately used in the Primary Care setting due to their associated risks in elderly and high cost; in contrast, Acenocoumarol was much more common in Catalonia, even if it requires intense monitoring. During the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic the use of DOAC has been encouraged to reduce patients' medical visits.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

- **Analyze the change in DOAC use in our area**
- **Evaluate prescription appropriateness.**

MATERIALS AND METHODS

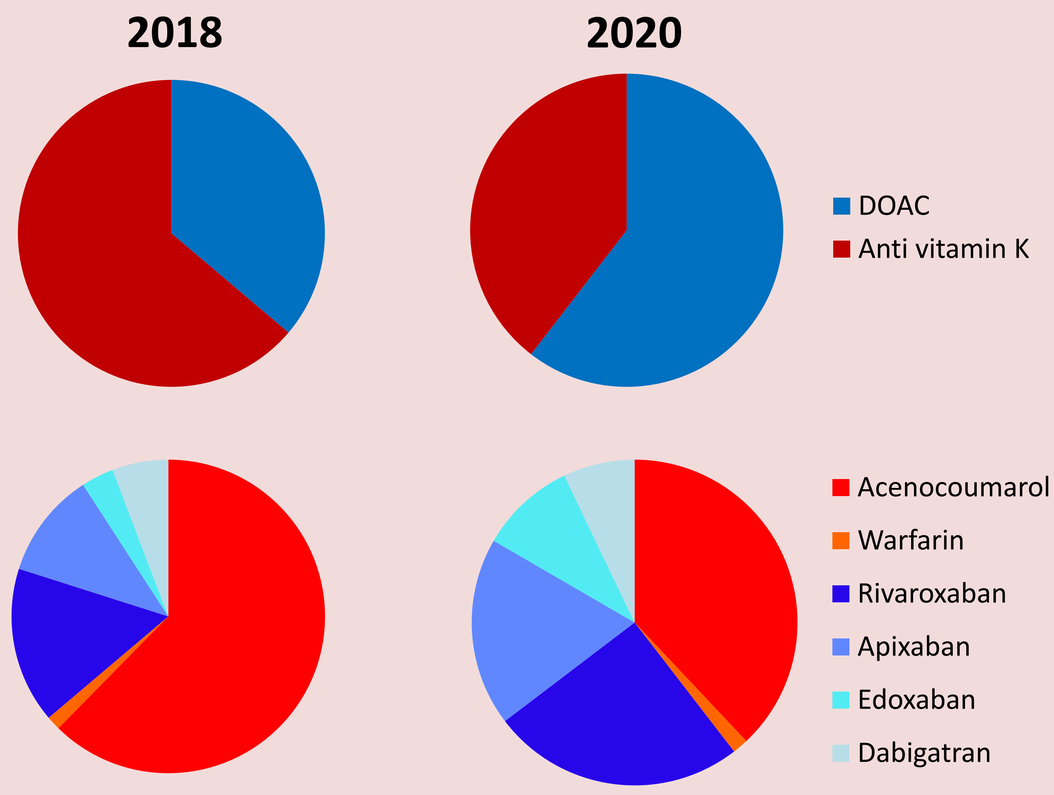
- Cross-sectional study analyzing the use of DOAC in a population of a PC Area in Barcelona in September 2020. Results were compared to historical data from December 2018.
- Demographic variables (age, gender), pharmacotherapeutical data (drugs, dose, frequency) and clinical data (glomerular filtration [GF], International normalized ratio [INR], CHA2DS2-VASc score) were obtained from the Electronic Medical Record (September 2020).
- Prescription appropriateness was evaluated according drugs' Summary of Product Characteristics.

RESULTS

- The study included 351,732 patients in 2018 and 364,350 in 2020.
- 9,194(2.65%) and 10,017(2.75%) of them were treated with oral anticoagulants, respectively.

DOAC prescription appropriateness in 2020
The main indication was atrial fibrillation: 8403 patients (83.9 %)
There were cases where anticoagulation was not recommended according to CHA2DS2-VASc - 892 male had CHA2DS2-VASc<2 - 554 women had CHA2DS2-VASc<3
Cases of DOAC contraindication (1136; 18.8 %)
-Renal impairment (76; 1.3 %) -Valvulopathy (1060; 17.5 %)
Cases in wich DOAC where not recommended
-Use of non steroideal anti inflammatory drugs (44; 0.7 %) - Use of phenytoin or phenobarbital (7; 0.1 %) -Use of selective serotonin or noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors (1356; 22.4 %) - Dose was not appropriately reduced in 526 patients (5.3 %).

Distribution of type of anticoagulants prescribed in 2018 and 2020



	2018			2020			
	Prevalence	CI 95%		Prevalence	CI 95%		p
Oral anticoagulant	2,6	2,6	2,7	2,8	2,7	2,8	**<0,05**
Acenocoumarol	62,4	61,4	63,4	38	37	39	**<0,0001**
Warfarin	1,5	1,2	1,7	1,6	1,3	1,8	**>0,05**
DOAC	36,19	35,2	37,2	60,5	59,5	61,4	**<0,0001**
Apixaban	10,9	10,3	11,6	18,7	18	19,5	**<0,0001**
Edoxaban	3,4	3	3,8	9,5	9	10,1	**<0,0001**
Dabigatran	5,8	5,3	6,3	7,1	6,6	7,6	**<0,05**
Rivaroxaban	16,1	15,4	16,9	25,1	24,3	26	**<0,0001**
% Apixaban (DOAC)	30,2	28,7	31,8	31	29,8	32,1	**>0,05**
% Edoxaban (DOAC)	9,3	8,4	10,3	15,8	14,9	16,7	**<0,0001**
% Dabigatran (DOAC)	16	14,8	17,3	11,8	11	12,6	**<0,05**
% Rivaroxaban (DOAC)	44,5	42,8	46,2	41,5	40,3	42,8	**<0,05**

Prevalence of direct oral anticoagulants (DOAC) in our population, comparison between 2018 and 2020.

- **DOAC use has increased notably in our Primary Care area during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. There was an increased use of edoxaban and a decreased use of dabigatran and rivaroxaban.**
- **We found a relevant percentage of DOAC prescription when treatment was contraindicated (18.8%) or not recommended.**
- **Interventions should be done to improve DOAC prescription and ensure patients' safety.**