

EXPLORING THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS IN PERIOPERATIVE ANTITHROMBOTIC MANAGEMENT: BARRIERS, FACILITATORS, AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Andreas Capiou^{1,2}, Isaura Kint¹, Els Mehuys¹, Tine De Backer^{3,4}, Annemie Somers^{1,2}, Koen Boussery¹

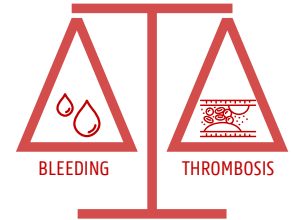
¹Pharmaceutical Care Unit, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium; ²Department of Pharmacy, Ghent University Hospital, Ghent, Belgium; ³Department of Cardiology, Ghent University Hospital, Ghent, Belgium; ⁴Department of Internal Medicine and Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium.

BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

Antithrombotic agents are considered as high-risk medications

↳ particularly during the perioperative period because of the increased bleeding risk

Finding the balance between bleeding and thrombosis risk is crucial in invasive procedures



AIM AND OBJECTIVES



To explore the role of community pharmacists (CPs) in perioperative antithrombotic management

focusing on their experiences, patients' questions, and the barriers and facilitators to expand their involvement

METHODS



Qualitative study using semi-structured, in-depth interviews based on the Theoretical Domains Framework with 13 CPs

RESULTS

1. Current role of CPs in perioperative antithrombotic management

Preoperative Phase



Postoperative Phase

Limited involvement
Reactive >> Proactive

Frequently involved
Medication reconciliation

2. Barriers and Facilitators influencing their role



- Knowledge gaps
- Time constraints
- Difficulties to reach hospital physicians
- Between-hospital variability in perioperative protocols
- Limited access to clinical data



- Comprehensive medication overview
- Strong patient relationships
- Early post-discharge contact
- Motivation to expand role

3. CPs' perspectives on the future evolution of their role



Desire to expand their knowledge, enabling them to take on a more comprehensive advisory role

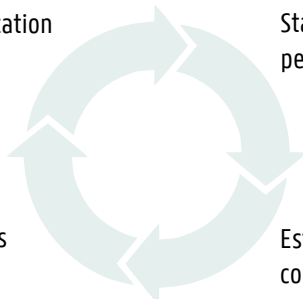
Opportunity to enhance multidisciplinary collaboration

Believe that, through medication counselling and monitoring, they could significantly improve patient care

4. Suggestions for improvement

Increase education and training

Standardise perioperative protocols



Improve access to clinical data

Establish clear communication channels

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

- CPs' role in perioperative antithrombotic management is currently limited
- Addressing barriers and implementing suggested improvements could strengthen their role and improve patient outcomes
- Further research is necessary to validate these findings and guide interventions

Abstract No. 4CPS-087



Contact

Andreas Capiou (PharmD, PhD)
Hospital Pharmacist – Postdoctoral Researcher
Andreas.Capiou@UGent.be