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CPC019

THE USE OF DABIGATRAN ETEXILATE IN HOSPITALISED PATIENTS

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BACKGROUND

Dabigatran etexilate (DE) is a new oral anticoagulant. It was included in the hospital's formulary as a restricted-use drug in December 2009.

PURPOSE

To analyze DE use, compliance with the authorised indications and use restrictions, and to quantify the incidence of adverse events.

METHODS

An observational, prospective, utilization study was carried out during four months in a general tertiary care hospital.

Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee approved DE with prescription restricted to the Traumatology and Geriatrics Departments → **Primary prevention of thromboembolic events in adults who have undergone elective total hip or knee replacement surgery**

Prescription (CPOE program) → **Review of patients' treatments, tests and clinical records** → **Examination of indications and posology comparing to the product specifications and the hospital's use protocol** → **Record the incidence of adverse events related to DE**

Standard recommended dose in adults is 220 mg/day during 10 or 28-35 days after total knee or hip replacement respectively

The only difference between the drug specifications and the hospital's protocol is that the latter brings the possibility to extend the treatment to 4-6 weeks after total knee replacement

RESULTS

138 patients started treatment with DE

- **78.99% women**
- **6.52% had taken it previously**
- **97.10% admitted to the Traumatology Dpt.**

Licensed indications (89,13%)

"Off-label" (10.87%), mainly after hip fracture

Total hip replacement surgery (26.02%) → **Treatment duration stuck to the indications in 82.42%**

Total knee replacement surgery (73.98%) → **Treatment duration stuck to the indications in 78,13%**

- **Overall, 57.24% of prescriptions stuck to the recommendations.**
- **Most commonly reported adverse events were: bleeding in surgical wound (7.97%) followed by gastrointestinal side effects (4.35%).**
- **15.94% of patients needed red blood cells concentrates transfusion**

CONCLUSION

Use of dabigatran etexilate was adequate in most patients, but more studies and a close pharmacosurveillance are needed to confirm the safety of this drug in common practice.

No conflicts of interest