

Preliminary study to establish a new link between hospital pharmacists and retail pharmacists to follow up patients treated by vitamin K antagonists

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Introduction

Vitamin K antagonists (VKA) overdose is the most common cause of iatrogenic adverse drug reaction in France. Since 2013, the French health authorities are requesting the retail pharmacists to conduct patient's information sessions about VKA therapy

Aim : To assess the functionality of a new link between hospital pharmacists and retail pharmacists in order to improve patients' knowledge on VKA

Material and methods

Patient enrolment

- In cardiology unit
- Patient information form

45 min/week

Information session

- collective / individual
- By a pharmacist or a nurse
- Questionnaire to fill in

1h 1x/week

Communication with retail pharmacist

- By phone
- Information sent by fax / mail

10 min/ patient

PATIENT IDENTITY

Name :
First name :
Date of birth :

PATIENT INFORMATION FORM

Cardiology unit



Patient information

- Age :
- Gender :
- Professional situation : Working / Retired
- Existence of a caregiver : Yes / No
Precision : family / nurse / Other :
- Special diet :
- Sources of difficulty understanding :

Treatment information :

- VKA prescribed: Previscan/ Coumadine/ Sintrom
- VKA indication : Arrythmia / Phlebitis / Pulmonary embolism / Valvulopathy / Other :
- Initiation date of treatment :
- INR target : between 2 and 3 / Other :
- Associated pathologies :

VKA consultation :

- Deliver and explanation of supervision book : Yes / No
- Date of consultation :

QUESTIONNAIRE ON VKA MEDICATION

QUESTIONS	HOSPITAL		RETAIL PHARMACY / INSTITUTION	
	Acquired	Not acquired / To review	Acquired	Not acquired / To review
1. What is the name of your VKA drug ? (Previscan, Coumadine...)				
2. What is the indication for your treatment ? (arrhythmia, phlebitis...)				
3. How do you monitor this treatment ? (INR)				
4. What is your INR target ? (Between 2 and 3 or other...)				
5. When during the day do you take your medicine ? (in the evening)				
6. What do you do if you forget to take your medicine ? (do not double the dose)				
7. What are the precautions to take daily? (avoid actions like to cut or bump)				
8. What is the clinical symptoms in case of overdose ? (Bleeding...)				
9. What do you do in case of overdose ? (Call doctor)				
10. With people do you have to talk about your treatment ? (Family, health professionals...)				
Score				

NAME :
FIRST NAME :

Date :
interlocutor :
Individual session : yes / no
Collective session : yes / no

Interlocutor :
Date :
interlocutor :

Score

Retail pharmacy / Institution :
Adress :
Phone :
Fax / Email :

Results

11 patients enrolled

During 2 months

9 pharmacies agreed to participate

After 1 month

7 complete answers from retail pharmacists

Good understanding

- Name of VKA
- INR target values
- Time of drug intake

Poor understanding

- How to deal with a missing dose
- Importance of the monitoring

Number of patients	Score after hospital session /10	Score after retail pharmacy session /10
4	7 (average)	10 (average)
2	10 (average)	10 (average)
1	6	5

Conclusion

This first study is encouraging. To improve the follow-up of patients, a link between pharmaceutical services and general practitioners' consultations should also be developed.

More patients need to be enrolled to assess the efficiency of this collaboration on improving patient's knowledge.