

ORAL ANTICOAGULANTS ADVERSE EVENTS IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM

D. Micera

A.O.R.N. "San Giuseppe Moscati", U.O.C. Farmacia, Avellino, Italy

Background:

The Oral Anticoagulant Therapy (OAT) is the common pharmacological treatment in preventing stroke and thromboembolism in patients with atrial fibrillation or prosthetic heart valves. The major complication of OAT is the risk of bleeding. High intensity of anticoagulants, targeted International Normalized Ratio (INR)>3, is associated at a higher risk of hemorrhagic events. This risk is also related to the length of therapy, the concomitant use of drugs that interfere with hemostasis and with patient characteristics.

Purpose:

This work evaluated frequency, seriousness and evolution of hemorrhagic events in patients in OAT among all the Adverse Drug Events (ADEs) that lead people in Emergency Room (ER).

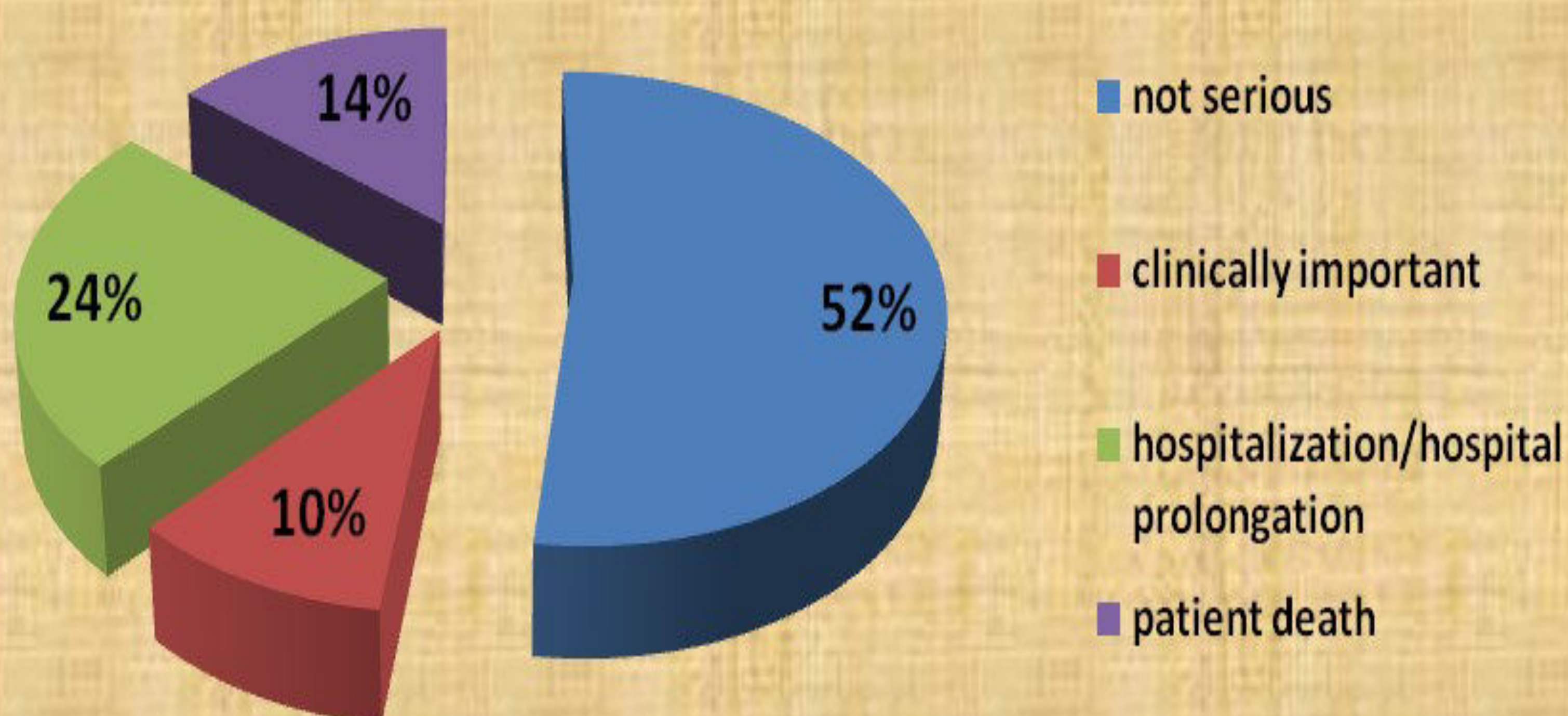
Material and methods:

The Hospital Pharmacist monitored patients who enter in ER of "S. Giuseppe Moscati" Hospital in Avellino because of ADEs in a range of four months. The cases of bleeding due to OAT were selected and analyzed.

Results:

During the considered time 89 ADEs were detected in ER. 21 cases (about 24%) involved patients with OAT who used warfarin (71%) and acenocoumarol (29%) because of atrial fibrillation (91%) and prosthetic heart valves (9%). 52% of these ADEs were "not serious" while the "serious" ones were clinically important (10%), needed hospitalization/hospital prolongation (24%) and ended with the patient death (14%). The complete resolution after hospital treatments concerned 19% of cases only. The main ADEs detected were hematomas, epistaxis, retroperitoneal bleedings and two fatal intracranial bleedings in old women with increased values of INR. Patients involved were females (67%) and over 65 years of age (71%). About 5% of them used acetylsalicylic acid too.

ADEs



Conclusion:

The pharmacovigilance activity produces new data and informations that improve the pharmacological treatments with serious risk and the wide knowledge that comes from continuous investigations is necessary to make safe the using therapies.