



Pharmacist plays an important role in managing anticoagulation therapy

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BACKGROUND

The complexity of the management of vitamin K antagonist therapy has led to the development in many countries of anticoagulant management services. In Belgium, a previous study in Erasme hospital showed that the implementation of a pharmacist-provided anticoagulation therapy management improved patient education and family physician (FP) communication. Moreover, initiation of direct oral anticoagulants (OAC) also requires adequate management to enhance patient adherence to treatment.

PURPOSE

To analyse the role of a pharmacist in managing anticoagulation therapy.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

PERIOD : From January 2012 to September 2013 (21 months)

POPULATION :

Inclusion criteria : Consecutive inpatients newly initiated on OAC in an urban teaching tertiary care hospital.

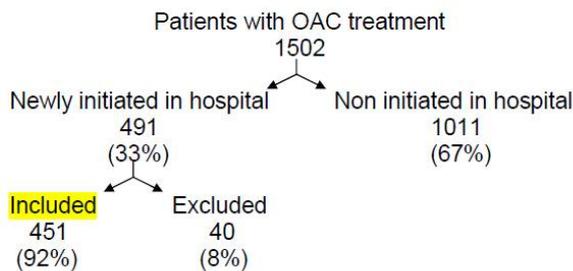
Exclusion criteria : OAC stopped, death

OAC THERAPY MANAGEMENT BY THE PHARMACIST :

- Structured therapeutic education (with a pocket-book for patients)
- Standardized anticoagulant treatment discharge report for FP
- Pharmaceutical advices :
 - interventions on treatment
 - solicitations by nurses, physicians, and patients

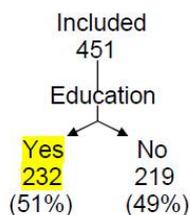
RESULTS

1. POPULATION



2. OAC THERAPY MANAGEMENT

• **Therapeutic education**



51% of included patients with OAC therapy newly initiated in hospital receive a therapeutic education

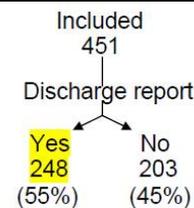
219 (49%) of included patients don't receive a therapeutic education because :

	Reasons
Discharge before the pharmacist visit*	158 (72%)
Transfer to other institution	56 (26%)
Others	5 (2%)

*Reason of the substantial proportion of patients :

Hospitals have a strong incentive to discharge patients as quickly as possible

• **Anticoagulant treatment discharge report**



Pharmacist sent an anticoagulant treatment discharge report for 55% of included patients

203 (45%) discharge reports are not send because :

	Reasons
Discharge before the pharmacist visit*	173 (85%)
Weekend discharge	14 (7%)
Others	16 (8%)

• **Pharmaceutical advices**

✓ Interventions (n=235)

	Interventions
Dose adjustments	106
Others	59
Drug interactions	39
Stop or start a treatment (not OAC)	31

✓ Solicitations (n=455)

	Solicitations
Answers to various questions	150
Help with dose adjustments	97
Ask to therapeutic educations	84
Outpatients follow up	76
Others	48

CONCLUSION

Pharmacist plays an important role in anticoagulation management therapy including a structured patient education, a standardized discharge report for FP, provision nurses and physicians with advices. However, coordination between the pharmacist and the medical staff could be optimized to reduce the proportion of patients discharged before the pharmacist visit.

CONTACT