PRESCRIPTION ERRORS OF ANTICOAGULANTS

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PURPOSE

✓ To identify and quantify the prescription errors that occur during the hospital admission of patients taking anticoagulants with vitamin K antagonists (VKA) and enoxaparin
✓ To quantify the degree of acceptance of the intervention of the pharmacist to avoid such errors

MATERIAL AND METHODS

✓ Prospective observational study conducted in a hospital
✓ Duration: 5 months
✓ Patients included those taking anticoagulants with VKA who were admitted to the hospital and underwent an analytical check by haematology on admission
✓ Sources of information: Silicon v. 9.59 electronic prescription program and haematology instructions
✓ Discrepancies between the prescription of the anticoagulant and the instructions were codified:
  ▪ VKA1 Different VKA dose prescribed
  ▪ VKA2 Lack of enoxaparin prescription
  ▪ VKA3 Different enoxaparin frequency
  ▪ VKA4 Different enoxaparin dose
  ▪ VKA5 Lack of VKA prescription
  ▪ VKA6 VKA does not match instructions
  ▪ VKA7 Instructions recommend discontinuing enoxaparin and on the prescription it is not discontinued
  ▪ VKA8 Enoxaparin prescribed when it is not recommended in the instructions
  ▪ VKA9 Apixaban, enoxaparin and acenocoumarol prescribed
✓ Pharmaceutical interventions (PI):
  ▪ P11 Suspend medication and prescribe the correct one
  ▪ P12 Suggest prescription of necessary medication
  ▪ P13 Correct enoxaparin frequency
  ▪ P14 Correct enoxaparin dose
  ▪ P15 Prescribe the VKA
  ▪ P16 Review instructions
  ▪ P17 Suspend enoxaparin (recommendation in instructions)
  ▪ P18 Suspend enoxaparin (no recommendation in instructions)
  ▪ P19 Interaction with other anticoagulants.

RESULTS

✓ One hundred and nine patients were analysed (194 haematology instructions)
✓ Errors in the prescription: 37.63%
✓ Degree of acceptance of PI: 100%
✓ The discrepancies and interventions detected:
  ▪ VKA5, I5 (37%), VKA2, I2 (20.55%), VKA1, I1 (12.35%), VKA and I4, six, seven and eight (6.85%) and VKA and I3, nine (1.35%).

CONCLUSIONS

✓ In our population, a high percentage of errors were detected in the prescription of anticoagulants
✓ Pharmaceutical intervention was key to minimising prescription errors and improving patient safety

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