

Knowledge on oral anticoagulants and associated factors among patients with warfarin therapy at cardiology clinic, Teaching Hospital Jaffna

Alanroxy T¹, Bogahapitiya D D¹, Rajamanokary N¹, Rathnayake R M C U¹, Sajitha S, Surenthirakumaran R², Guruparan M³

¹*Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna*

²*Department of Community and Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna*

³*Teaching Hospital Jaffna*

Introduction and Objectives: Oral anticoagulant is the most essential treatment of thromboembolic disorders. Regular coagulation monitoring and appropriate dose adjustments are important for safe and effective management. All patients who are on oral anticoagulants should have adequate knowledge regarding the drug as it has serious side effect profile too. This study evaluates patient's knowledge regarding oral anticoagulant therapy and factors affecting the treatments, in cardiac clinic, Teaching Hospital Jaffna. The aim of this study was to assess the knowledge about anticoagulant drugs and the influence of sociodemographic, treatment related and service factors on it among patients on anticoagulants at cardiology clinic, Teaching hospital Jaffna.

Methods: This was a hospital based descriptive cross-sectional study carried out among patients on anticoagulants at cardiology clinic THJ. Totally 332 participants were included in this study. Data was collected with an interviewer administered questionnaire and analyzed by SPSS statistical software. Ethical clearance was obtained from ERC of the Jaffna medical faculty.

Results: A total of 332 patients were participated. Of them 44.6% have scored the average knowledge score and 39.8% of patients scored a poor knowledge score followed by 15.7% with a good knowledge score. Majority of females (90.1%), younger age participants (89.8%) had adequate knowledge when compared with males (75.2%) and older age participants (80.0%) respectively. There was no association between duration of treatment and participants knowledge ($p=0.129$). There was not an association between knowledge and maintaining average INR value within target INR level. Majority (91.0%) who weren't within target INR had adequate knowledge when compared with those who were within target INR (82.6%). There is an association among participants knowledge on anticoagulant therapy and whether the participants were given information or not ($p=0.004$). None of the participant (0.00%) had adequate knowledge who weren't given information about their therapy.

Conclusion: This study revealed the majority of the participants have adequate knowledge about anticoagulant drugs. According to sociodemographic, treatment related and service factors their knowledge about anticoagulant drugs is also at an adequate level.

Keywords: Anticoagulants, Knowledge on anticoagulant, INR