Anticoagulation in Patients with End-Stage Renal Disease and Non-Valvular Atrial Fibrillation – Review Article

MAHMOUD KHALIFA 💿 YARA ADEL ALTAHAN 💿 PAAVANA VARANASI 💿

*Author affiliations can be found in the back matter of this article

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PUBLISHED ABSTRACT

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ABSTRACT

Over the years, the number of patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) have been steadily increasing. Cardiovascular causes account for 55.2% of all deaths among ESRD patients. In particular, there is an increased risk of atrial fibrillation (AF) & venous thromboembolism (VTE). AF is more prevalent in hemodialysis (HD) (21.3%) than in peritoneal dialysis (PD) (15.5%) or in patients with kidney transplant (13.7%). In addition to AF, the risk of stroke (event rate of 5.61 per 100 person years) in ESRD patients is greatly increased compared to those without renal impairment (event rate of 3.61 per 100 person years), which is very concerning due to the already increased cardiovascular mortality among these patients.

ESRD is a complex condition in which usual interventions do not often provide the desired outcome seen in other comorbidities. The inherent paradox of hypercoagulability and increased risk of bleeding along with the lack of risk stratification models further complicate the selection of anticoagulants in patients with ESRD and AF. Due to the lack of controlled trials and the contradictory results and outcomes, it is not possible to argue for or against the use of any particular therapeutic agent. Data regarding risks and benefits of antiplatelet agents use among ESRD patients with AF has been conflicting and there is no consensus or guideline regarding their routine use. CORRESPONDING AUTHOR: Mahmoud Khalifa

BronxCare Health System, US msakms1991@gmail.com

KEYWORDS:

End stage renal disease; ESRD; Atrial fibrillation; Anticoagulation; Non valvular; dialysis; Novel oral anticoagulants; NOACs; Direct oral anticoagulants; DOACs; Coumadin; Warfarin; Vitamin K antagonist

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COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors have no competing interests to declare.

AUTHOR AFFILIATIONS

Mahmoud Khalifa 🕩 orcid.org/0000-0002-7603-507X BronxCare Health System, US

Yara Adel Altahan D orcid.org/0000-0003-0435-0895 Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, RCSI, IE

Paavana Varanasi D orcid.org/0000-0001-9669-397X BronxCare Health System, US Khalifa et al. Journal of Scientific Innovation in Medicine DOI: 10.29024/jsim.102

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