NOVEL ANTICOAGULANTS – NEW SCENARIOS, NEW CASTS

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Patterns of anticoagulant underuse in European AF patients in 2012 - results from PREFER in AF registry

1. University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom; 2. Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden; 3. University Hospital Ramon y Cajal, Madrid, Spain; 4. Daichi Sankyo Europe GmbH, Munich, Germany; 5. Vivantes Neukölln Medical Center, Berlin, Germany; 6. Institute of Cardiology, University G.D’Annunzio, Chieti, Italy; 7. College of Medical and Dental Sciences, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom.

Purpose: To describe the patterns of anticoagulant therapy in AF patients from 2012, when the new oral anticoagulants (NOACs) were introduced, and to compare these with previous data obtained in the PREVENT registry from 2007.

Methods: Data from the PREVENT registry were obtained from 2007 and from PREFER in AF from 2012, both were observational registries of patients with AF in the European Union (EU).

Results: In PREVENT, 5,292 patients were treated with warfarin while in PREFER, 5,234 patients were treated with NOACs. The use of warfarin decreased from 70.4% in PREVENT to 58.8% in PREFER, while NOACs increased from 2% to 41.6%. The median INR in the warfarin group was 2.7 in PREVENT vs. 2.2 in PREFER. The bleeding risk was similar in both registries, with a higher risk in the elderly and in patients with renal insufficiency.

Conclusions: The introduction of NOACs has led to a significant decrease in the use of warfarin in AF patients in Europe, with a concomitant increase in the use of NOACs. The choice of anticoagulant therapy should be based on individual patient characteristics and risk factors.