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Determination of the knowledge on rational usage of oral anticoagulant among patients attending to Cardiology Clinic at Teaching Hospital Jaffna

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Background: Thrombosis is a common condition in patients with thromboembolic and cardiac diseases. Warfarin has been the mainstay oral anticoagulant agent for the last several decades. Since it's a narrow therapeutic index medicine, it requires proper usage in outpatient setting with prolonged treatment. Knowledge on rational usage of warfarin can prevent insufficient therapeutic outcome, adverse drug reactions and improving the quality of life.

Objective: To determine the knowledge regarding the rational usage of oral anticoagulant among patients attending cardiology clinic at Teaching Hospital Jaffna.

Method & Materials: This was a hospital based cross-sectional study. Data were collected by using pre designed an interview administrated questionnaire from 18th June 2019 to 18th of July 2019. Nearly all the patients who are attending to the clinic were included in this study. Data were processed using SPSS. The knowledge part of the questionnaire contains four different categories of questions and each correct response was scored with one mark while incorrect response was received zero mark. Total of twenty six marks was given for this part in the questionnaire. The score from 14 to 26 was considered as good knowledge and score from 0 to 13 was considered as poor knowledge.

Results: Totally 337 participants were included in this study. The majority (58.5%) had good knowledge and 41.5% had poor knowledge on rational usage of oral anticoagulant. The majority of the participants (84.6%) had knowledge on warfarin-meal time interval. Of the sample, (80.7%) were had inadequate knowledge on INR monitoring.

Conclusion: This study demonstrated most of the participants (58.5%) had good knowledge on rational usage of oral anticoagulant.