

Abstract



The knowledge attitude behavior op community PCPs on anticoagulant therapy for NVAF patients

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Aims: In Iraq, the majority of Atrial Fibrillation (AF) patients are managed by primary care physicians (PCPs). Therefore, this study aims to evaluate the PCPs' knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) toward the use of oral anticoagulants (OAC) in patients with AF and to identify the barriers to OAC prescription and to patients' compliance.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study that applied self-administered questionnaire online. KAP scores were calculated and the scores were categorized as poor ($\leq 39.0\%$), fair ($40.0-69.0\%$), and good ($\geq 70.0\%$). Stepwise binary logistic regressions were conducted to predict the variables significantly associated with KAP levels.

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Results: 150 PCPs (85 males) filled the questionnaire. Most of the PCPs were physicians or residents and more than half of them had an experience of less than 5 years. 63.3% of the PCPs had poor knowledge and none had good knowledge score. On the other hand, 78% of the PCPs had good attitude score. Having more than 5 years of experience increased the odds of having high KAP levels (B=-2.53, -1.40, and -2.53 respectively). Attending a training about OAC in AF patients increased the odds of having better knowledge and practice (B=-1.51 and -1.70 respectively). The most frequently mentioned obstacle of starting OAC was the fear of bleeding (48%) while the most frequently mentioned barrier for patients' compliance was the fees of anticoagulation (43.3%).

Conclusion: Iraqi PCPs had poor knowledge, but satisfactory attitudes toward the use of OAC in AF patients. The majority were willing to attend training about AF disease and anticoagulation therapy. Such trainings will significantly increase the PCPs' knowledge about OAC which would improve AF patients' management.