

The knowledge of warfarin therapy among atrial fibrillation patients in Cardiology Clinic, Queen Elizabeth Hospital II, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

Alfauzi Noorismahwati¹, Chin Dona Cyrelina²

¹Queen Elizabeth Hospital II, Kota Kinabalu, ²Institut Latihan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia, Kota Kinabalu

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Patients with atrial fibrillation (AF) are treated with anticoagulant therapy to reduce the risk of developing a stroke. Studies have shown that inadequate patient knowledge regarding warfarin therapy corresponds to the risk of adverse events, primarily significant bleeding, and difficulties in maintaining treatment within the therapeutic index. The purpose of this study is to assess knowledge of warfarin therapy among patients with atrial fibrillation and to determine the relationship between the patient's demographic data and their knowledge of warfarin therapy. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted on 156 patients with AF at Sabah Heart Centre. The knowledge was measured using a validated questionnaire. **Results:** The findings showed that 98 (62.8%) of the patients have adequate knowledge regarding warfarin therapy. However, more than 50% of the patients have inadequate knowledge when it comes to taking other medications such as antibiotics. A significant relationship was found between the patients' level of education and their knowledge of warfarin therapy ($p=0.025$). **Conclusion:** The current study revealed that almost 40% of the patients have inadequate knowledge about warfarin therapy. Future research should emphasize identifying this inadequate knowledge group and design more patient-friendly and effective health education tools in order to improve the therapeutic effects of warfarin.