

Cancer and venous thromboembolism. How to manage complexity? Proposal for a multidisciplinary approach

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Background

Venous thromboembolism (VTE) is a common complication among cancer patients with an estimated risk of 20%, highly burdensome and associated with risk of worse outcomes for patients with cancer. The approach to the cancer patient with VTE is often difficult and requires adequate knowledge of the anticoagulant drugs available for this indication, their pharmacological properties and the strategies that can be implemented to deal with the potential complications of anticoagulant treatment. The use of direct oral anticoagulants for this indication has provided possibilities for rapid hospital management with low risk of mortality and new perspectives for the prevention of recurrences. The close relationship between thrombosis and cancer therefore constitutes a clinical and diagnostic-therapeutic problem of great interest, involving specialists from multiple disciplines. Therefore, only a multidisciplinary approach is currently able to allow the optimal management of thromboembolic pathology in cancer patients.

Materials

We propose to create an Oncological-Internal-Cardio logical

Team, exclusively dedicated, with every indispensable tool for the baseline and periodic evaluation of oncological patients. Patients to be enrolled are subject's ≥ 18 y, with active malignancy or with a history of malignancy, at risk of VTE or with VTE in progress or with a history of VTE, as well as patients with malignancy. Strengths of the project: dedicated sessions with expert staff, multidisciplinary, collective decisions on high risk and/or particular cases, reduction of intra and inter-observer variability, comparability over time, with clinical database, reduction of waiting times for the evaluation, continuity in the doctor-patient relationship with a dedicated case manager.

Conclusions

The close relationship between thrombosis and cancer constitutes a clinical and diagnostic-therapeutic problem of great interest, involving specialists from multiple disciplines. Therefore, only a multidisciplinary approach, based on evidence and taking into account the most recent scientific acquisitions, is currently in able to allow optimal management of thromboembolic pathology in cancer patients.