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Title: *Switching Anticoagulants, A Patient Perspective*

Abstract

Introduction

Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs) are a mainstay of drug therapy for the treatment of both Atrial Fibrillation (AFib) and Venous Thromboembolism (VTE). These are two very prevalent disease states in the United States today. Due to the prevalence of these drugs, it is important to understand tolerability in patients. The literature is lacking in head to head comparisons of tolerability among the DOACs.

Methods

In order to begin to bridge this gap, a survey was handed out to patients directly in a pharmacy to assess the reasons why they switched from one DOAC to another. The survey was handed out to patients directly and then returned immediately after completion and analyzed using Qualtrics software

Results

The survey found that the majority of respondents, 49%, were using DOACs as treatment of AFib and had only switched drug therapy once. The two main agents switched between were apixaban and rivaroxaban. The main reasons cited for switching were insurance related in nature, such as cost and coupon usage. This was the case in 77% of respondents.

Conclusion

The most common reason why patients switch anticoagulants appears to be insurance related most of the time. This small study only brushes the surface of the issue but has identified areas of continued study, such as the use of DOACs in the obese.