The Importance of Venous Thromboembolism Management in the Oncology Population.

Maura Price RN, BSN, OCN
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Maura_E.Price@lvhn.org

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarlyworks.lvhn.org/patient-care-services-nursing

Part of the Nursing Commons

Published In/Presented At

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by LVHN Scholarly Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in LVHN Scholarly Works by an authorized administrator. For more information, please contact LibraryServices@lvhn.org.
SIGNIFICANCE & BACKGROUND

- Venous thromboembolism (VTE) is defined as the development of a thrombus in the form of a deep vein thrombosis (DVT), a pulmonary embolism (PE), or a combination thereof (McCance et al., 2010).
- Due to the hypercoagulable state that occurs with malignancy, oncology patients are 4-7 times more likely to develop VTE than the general population.
- VTE coupled with thrombocytopenia, a common toxicity experienced by patients undergoing chemotherapy or radiation, can make VTE management challenging.
- Risks of anticoagulant administration versus anticoagulant holds during thrombocytopenia must be considered to ensure patient safety.

INTERVENTIONS

- A literature search was completed.
- National guidelines for VTE management were reviewed and compared.
- Guidelines were presented to Lehigh Valley Health Network’s (LVHN) Cancer Committee.
- Standard parameter for anticoagulant holds in the thrombocytopenic oncology patient was established:
  - Unless contraindicated, anticoagulants can be safely administered to oncology patients with a platelet count of 50,000/ml or higher.

EVALUATION

- Education on VTE management in the oncology population was assigned to inpatient oncology nurses via LVHN’s online learning system.
- Nurses have voiced their appreciation for the education, review of guidelines, and establishment of a standard parameter for anticoagulant holds.
- The education has led to decreased confusion over when to administer versus hold anticoagulants during thrombocytopenia.

DISCUSSION

- Proper VTE management in the oncology population can lead to:
  - Decreased morbidity and mortality
  - Reduced costs associated with VTE
  - Positively impact quality of life and reduce chances of future VTE recurrence
  - Decrease the overall incidence of VTE in the oncology population.
- Assessment and evaluation of VTE risk in oncology patients is essential.
- Plans to implement a validated VTE risk assessment tool into EPIC are underway at LVHN.

REFERENCES:


PURPOSE

To fill a gap in knowledge regarding proper anticoagulant dosing and administration in the thrombocytopenic oncology patient.

The Importance of Venous Thromboembolism Management in the Oncology Population

Maura Price MSN, RN, OCN
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

© 2017 Lehigh Valley Health Network