Safety Of Uninterrupted Periprocedural Apixaban In Patients Undergoing Atrial Fibrillation Catheter Ablation: A Metaanalysis Of 1,057 Patients

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Background

Apixaban (factor Xa inhibitor) is a novel anticoagulant and may be beneficial during atrial fibrillation (AF) ablation for prevention of thromboembolic events. However, the adverse effects of periprocedural apixaban therapy have not been thoroughly evaluated.

Methods

A meta-analysis was performed to evaluate the safety of apixaban for anticoagulation in AF ablation. We searched the online databases till September 2015 for studies comparing Apixaban with Vitamin K antagonists in atrial fibrillation patients undergoing catheter ablation. Primary outcome of our study was composite of thromboembolic event and bleeding (includes major and minor bleeding).

Results

A total of 1,057 atrial fibrillation patients in 3 studies undergoing catheter ablation were included in this analysis. Zero thromboembolic events were reported in the apixaban group and 1 in the VKA group with no statistical difference (95% CI 0.03-18.49). No major differences were observed for the primary outcome (OR 0.92; 95% CI 0.54-1.55), risk of overall bleeding (OR 0.94, 95% CI 0.55-1.58), major bleeding (OR1.37; 95% CI 0.33-5.67), minor bleeding (OR 0.89; 95% CI 0.50-1.55), pericardial effusion (OR 0.50; 95% CI 0.18-1.38) and groin hematoma (OR 1.36; 95% CI 0.70-2.65).

Conclusion

Uninterrupted apixaban administration in patients undergoing AF catheter ablation was non-inferior to VKA without increasing the risk of major and minor bleeding.