

62. Journal Club

Mittwoch, 25.10.2023 um 19.30 Uhr online

Risk of adverse events following the initiation of antihypertensives in older people with complex health needs: a self-controlled case series in the United Kingdom

BackgroundWe assessed the risk of adverse events—severe acute kidney injury (AKI), falls and fractures—associated with use of antihypertensives in older patients with complex health needs (CHN). **Setting**UK primary care linked to inpatient and mortality records. **Methods**The source population comprised patients aged >65, with ≥ 1 year of registration and unexposed to antihypertensives in the year before study start. We identified three cohorts of patients with CHN, namely, unplanned hospitalisations, frailty (electronic frailty index deficit count ≥ 3) and polypharmacy (prescription of ≥ 10 medicines). Patients in any of these cohorts were included in the CHN cohort. We conducted self-controlled case series for each cohort and outcome (AKI, falls, fractures). Incidence rate ratios (IRRs) were estimated by dividing event rates (i) during overall antihypertensive exposed patient-time over unexposed patient-time; and (ii) in the first 30 days after treatment initiation over unexposed patient-time. **Results** Among 42,483 patients in the CHN cohort, 7,240, 5,164 and 450 individuals had falls, fractures or AKI, respectively. We observed an increased risk for AKI associated with exposure to antihypertensives across all cohorts (CHN: IRR 2.36 [95% CI: 1.68–3.31]). In the 30 days post-antihypertensive treatment initiation, a 35–50% increased risk for falls was found across all cohorts and increased fracture risk in the frailty cohort (IRR 1.38 [1.03–1.84]). No increased risk for falls/fractures was associated with continuation of antihypertensive treatment or overall use. **Conclusion** Treatment with antihypertensives in older patients was associated with increased risk of AKI and transiently elevated risk of falls in the 30 days after starting antihypertensive therapy.

Fazit:

Es scheint wichtig zu sein, den Blutdruck bei älteren Menschen gerade in den ersten Monaten den Blutdruck sehr vorsichtig zu senken. Auch die Zielwerte sollte man mit Bedacht wählen und auch höhere Grenzwerte akzeptieren. Wenn Kontrolle der Nierenwerte, vor allem am Anfang der Therapie.

Bessere Behandlung durch „Peer effect“ – Qualitätszirkel, App Gruppen oder ListServer

Experimental evidence for structured information-sharing networks reducing medical errors

Damon Centola et al;

<https://ndg.asc.upenn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/pnas.2108290120.pdf>

Der Austausch unter Kollegen kann die Gefahr von ärztlichen Diagnose- und Behandlungsfehlern vermindern. Dies zeigen die Ergebnisse einer experimentellen Studie in der Ärzte ihre diagnostischen und therapeutischen Entscheidungen verbesserten, wenn sie die Ansichten ihrer Kollegen kannten.

Die Diagnose von Krankheiten und die Wahl der besten Behandlung sind schwierig und ärztliche Entscheidungen anfällig für Fehler. Studien haben gezeigt, dass 10 % bis 15 % aller klinischen Entscheidungen bei einer späteren Überprüfung revidiert werden mussten. In Zweifelsfällen kann es helfen, einen Kollegen um Rat zu fragen. Dies muss kein Experte sein. Auch die Ansicht anderer Ärzte auf derselben Versorgungsstufe („peer to peer“) könnte helfen, wie das Experiment zeigt, das ein Team um Damon Centola von der „Network Dynamics Group“ an der Universität von Pennsylvania in Philadelphia durchgeführt hat.

Die Forscher baten 2.941 Ärzte, sieben klinische Fall-Vignetten zu beurteilen, die ihnen in einer App vorgestellt wurden. Es handelte sich um alltägliche Fälle wie akute kardiale Ereignisse, geriatrische Erkrankungen, Rückenschmerzen oder die Prävention von Diabetes-bedingten Herz-Kreislauf-Erkrankungen. Nach der Lektüre wurden die Ärzte zunächst gebeten, das diagnostische Risiko für den Patienten auf einer Skala von 1 bis 100 einzuschätzen. Dabei ging es um konkrete Fragen, beispielsweise wie wahrscheinlich es ist, dass ein Patient mit Brustschmerzen innerhalb der nächsten 30 Tage einen Herzinfarkt erleidet. In einer zweiten Frage sollten die Ärzte eine diagnostische Entscheidung fällen. Sie konnten dabei unter mehreren Optionen auswählen, beispielsweise, ob sie den Patienten nach Hause schicken, ihm ASS verabreichen oder zur Beobachtung ins Krankenhaus überweisen.

Die Ärzte waren auf zwei Gruppen randomisiert worden. In einer Gruppe waren sie bei ihren Antworten allein, in der anderen Gruppe wurde ihnen mitgeteilt, wie 40 andere Kollegen den Fall beurteilt hatten. Danach wurde ihnen die Gelegenheit gegeben, ihre Ansicht zu revidieren. Wie Centola und Mitarbeiter berichten, waren die Ärzte bereit, sich an den Antworten der anderen Kollegen zu orientieren. Die Zahl der richtigen Einschätzungen in den beiden Fragen verbesserte sich um 5-%-Punkte (von 76,3 % auf 81,3 %), während sich die Ärzte in der Kontrollgruppe beim zweiten und dritten Blick auf denselben Fall nur um 2,5 %-Punkte (von 76,8 % auf 79,3 %) verbesserten.

Am meisten profitierte das Viertel der Kollegen, die in der ersten Runde die häufigsten Fehlentscheidungen getroffen hatten. Hier kam es zu einer Verbesserung um 15-%-Punkte im Vergleich zu den Kontrollen. Die Ärzte, die mit der ersten Ansicht richtig lagen, ließen sich dagegen nicht verunsichern. Die diagnostische und therapeutische Trefferrate änderte sich kaum. Damit ist laut Centola ein wichtiger Einwand widerlegt, nach dem das Netzwerken zu einem Mittelmaß führt, bei dem sich die schlechten Ärzte verbessern, die guten dagegen verschlechtern.

Centola hofft, die Erkenntnisse für die Entwicklung einer App nutzen zu können, in der sich Netzwerke von Ärzten gegenseitig austauschen würden, etwa indem sie ihre unklaren Fälle posten und dann die Kollegen nach ihrer Ansicht fragen. Der Zeitaufwand für den Informationsaustausch sei gering. In der Studie benötigten die Ärzte gerade einmal 20 Minuten für die sieben Vignetten.

Hier ein Beispiel für eine Fallvignette aus der Studie:

11:47 AM 63%
Time remaining :38

Case Description

A 40 year-old female presents to your office with a sore throat that began three days ago. She has no cough or rhinorrhea. She has experienced some chills, but never took her temperature. On exam, she is febrile ($>38^{\circ}\text{C}$), has exudate on her tonsils bilaterally, and no cervical lymphadenopathy.

Question

What is the probability that her pharyngitis is streptococcal (Group A Beta Hemolytic Strep (GABHS))?

Provide Estimate

Enter estimate here

Treatment Option

Select one of the following

- A - Treatment
- B - Rapid Testing
- C - Follow up
- D - Culture & treatment

Submit

Webseite mit kurzem Youtube Film zu Ergebnissen der Studie
<https://ndg.asc.upenn.edu/experiments/physician-reasoning-2/>

<https://ndg.asc.upenn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/pnas.2108290120.sapp-1.pdf>

Fazit:

Wir freuen uns, dass wir in einem vergleichbaren Setting seit vielen Jahren durchführen. Für Ärzte, die anfänglich eher unsicher waren, hatte die gegenseitige Rückmeldung einen deutlichen Erfolg, Ärzte, die sich anfangs sicher waren, konnten sich bestätigt fühlen. Der Austausch untereinander hat offensichtlich einen positiven Effekt. Auch unserer Erfahrung nach profitieren alle Teilnehmenden, auch mit unterschiedlichem Erfahrungshintergrund.

Association Between Consumption of Ultraprocessed Foods and Cognitive Decline

Question: Is the consumption of ultraprocessed foods associated with cognitive decline?

Findings: In a cohort study of 10 775 individuals, higher consumption of ultraprocessed foods was associated with a higher rate of global and executive function decline after a median follow-up of 8 years.

Meaning: These findings suggest that limiting consumption of ultraprocessed food could be associated with reduced cognitive decline in middle-aged and older adults.

Importance: Although consumption of ultraprocessed food has been linked to higher risk of cardiovascular disease, metabolic syndrome, and obesity, little is known about the association of consumption of ultraprocessed foods with cognitive decline.

Objective: To investigate the association between ultraprocessed food consumption and cognitive decline in the Brazilian Longitudinal Study of Adult Health.

Design, Setting, and Participants This was a multicenter, prospective cohort study with 3 waves, approximately 4 years apart, from 2008 to 2017. Data were analyzed from December 2021 to May 2022. Participants were public servants aged 35 to 74 years old recruited in 6 Brazilian cities. Participants who, at baseline, had incomplete food frequency questionnaire, cognitive, or covariate data were excluded. Participants who reported extreme calorie intake (<600 kcal/day or >6000 kcal/day) and those taking medication that could negatively interfere with cognitive performance were also excluded.

Exposures: Daily ultraprocessed food consumption as a percentage of total energy divided into quartiles.

Main Outcomes and Measures: Changes in cognitive performance over time evaluated by the immediate and delayed word recall, word recognition, phonemic and semantic verbal fluency tests, and Trail-Making Test B version.

Results: A total of 15 105 individuals were recruited and 4330 were excluded, leaving 10 775 participants whose data were analyzed. The mean (SD) age at the baseline was 51.6(8.9) years, 5880 participants (54.6%) were women, 5723 (53.1%) were White, and 6106 (56.6%) had at least a college degree. During a median (range) follow-up of 8 (6-10) years, individuals with ultraprocessed food consumption above the first quartile showed a 28% faster rate of global cognitive decline ($\beta = -0.004$; 95% CI, -0.006 to -0.001 ; $P = .003$) and a 25% faster rate of executive function decline ($\beta = -0.003$, 95% CI, -0.005 to 0.000 ; $P = .01$) compared with those in the first quartile.

Conclusions and Relevance: A higher percentage of daily energy consumption of ultraprocessed foods was associated with cognitive decline among adults from an ethnically diverse sample. These findings support current public health recommendations on limiting ultraprocessed food consumption because of their potential harm to cognitive function

Fazit:

Die Studie sollte uns darin bestärken, unseren Patienten eine gesunde und ausgewogene Ernährung zu empfehlen.

Non-vitamin K Antagonist Oral Anticoagulants in Patients With Atrial High Rate Episodes (NOAH)

NOAH-AFNET 6 Studie - TERMINATED following a recommendation from the data safety and monitoring board due to safety concerns and a tendency towards futility.

Study Overview

Brief Summary

NOAH is an investigator-initiated, prospective, parallel-group, double-blind, randomised, multi-centre trial. The objective of the trial is to **demonstrate that oral anticoagulation using the NOAC edoxaban is superior to current therapy to pre-vent stroke, systemic embolism, or cardiovascular death in patients with AHRE and at least two stroke risk factors but without AF**. The trial will be conducted in several European countries.

Detailed Description

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is a common cause of stroke, especially ischemic stroke. So far, all available data that demonstrate a beneficial effect of oral anticoagulation for stroke prevention have been collected in populations with AF documented by conventional ECG recordings. It is well established that a large proportion of AF episodes remain undiagnosed ("silent AF"), and many of these patients present with a stroke as the first clinical sign of AF. Earlier initiation of anticoagulation could prevent such events. **Continuous monitoring of atrial rhythm by implanted devices could close this diagnostic gap. Pacemakers, defibrillators, and cardiac resynchronisation devices already provide automated algorithms alerting to the occurrence of highly organised atrial tachyarrhythmia episodes, also called "subclinical atrial fibrillation" or, more commonly, "atrial high rate episodes" (AHRE). Data from large prospectively followed patient cohorts demonstrated that stroke rate is increased in patients with AHRE.** A sizeable portion of these patients **develops clinically detected AF over time**. In these patients, AHRE can be considered as an **early manifestation of paroxysmal AF**. A few AHRE patients do not develop clinically overt AF, and the absolute stroke rates are lower in patients with AHRE when compared to stroke rates in patients with clinically diagnosed AF. **In light of the bleeding complications associated with oral anticoagulant therapy, there is thus uncertainty about the optimal antithrombotic therapy in patients with AHREs.**

The Non-vitamin K antagonist Oral anticoagulants (NOACs) provide similar or slightly better stroke prevention, and appear slightly safer compared to vitamin K antagonists (VKAs). In addition, no individual therapy adjustment of NOACs has to be performed. Edoxaban, a newly introduced NOAC, at a dose regime of 60 mg once daily (OD) has a favourable profile compared to dose-adjusted VKA therapy: In the ENGAGE-TIMI 48 trial, edoxaban prevented strokes at least as effectively as VKA therapy but caused less major bleeding events than VKA therapy

Fazit:

Die Studie wurde offensichtlich abgebrochen, weil die Verhinderung von Schlaganfällen bei AHRE nur sehr moderat war, dafür aber die Blutungskomplikationen deutlich erhöht waren.

Zufällig aufgezeichnetes AHRE (nur durch Schrittmacher erkennbar) scheint von der Antikoagulation nicht zu profitieren.

Edoxaban versus Warfarin in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation

ENGAGE-TIMI 48 trial

BACKGROUND

Edoxaban is a direct oral factor Xa inhibitor with proven antithrombotic effects. The long-term efficacy and safety of edoxaban as compared with warfarin in patients with atrial fibrillation is not known.

METHODS

We conducted a randomized, double-blind, double-dummy trial comparing two once-daily regimens of edoxaban with warfarin in 21,105 patients with moderate-to-high-risk atrial fibrillation (median follow-up, 2.8 years). The primary efficacy end point was stroke or systemic embolism. Each edoxaban regimen was tested for noninferiority to warfarin during the treatment period. The principal safety end point was major bleeding.

RESULTS

The **annualized rate of the primary end point** during treatment was **1.50% with warfarin** (median time in the therapeutic range, 68.4%), as compared with **1.18% with high-dose edoxaban** (hazard ratio, 0.79; 97.5% confidence interval [CI], 0.63 to 0.99; $P < 0.001$ for noninferiority) and **1.61% with low-dose edoxaban** (hazard ratio, 1.07; 97.5% CI, 0.87 to 1.31; $P = 0.005$ for noninferiority). In the intention-to-treat analysis, there was a trend favoring high-dose edoxaban versus warfarin (hazard ratio, 0.87; 97.5% CI, 0.73 to 1.04; $P = 0.08$) and an unfavorable trend with low-dose edoxaban versus warfarin (hazard ratio, 1.13; 97.5% CI, 0.96 to 1.34; $P = 0.10$). **The annualized rate of major bleeding was 3.43% with warfarin versus 2.75% with high-dose edoxaban** (hazard ratio, 0.80; 95% CI, 0.71 to 0.91; $P < 0.001$) **and 1.61% with low-dose edoxaban** (hazard ratio, 0.47; 95% CI, 0.41 to 0.55; $P < 0.001$). The corresponding annualized **rates of death from cardiovascular causes were 3.17% versus 2.74%** (hazard ratio, 0.86; 95% CI, 0.77 to 0.97; $P = 0.01$), **and 2.71%** (hazard ratio, 0.85; 95% CI, 0.76 to 0.96; $P = 0.008$), and the corresponding rates of the key secondary end point (a composite of stroke, systemic embolism, or death from cardiovascular causes) were 4.43% versus 3.85% (hazard ratio, 0.87; 95% CI, 0.78 to 0.96; $P = 0.005$), and 4.23% (hazard ratio, 0.95; 95% CI, 0.86 to 1.05; $P = 0.32$).

CONCLUSIONS

Both once-daily regimens of edoxaban were noninferior to warfarin with respect to the prevention of stroke or systemic embolism and were associated with significantly lower rates of bleeding and death from cardiovascular causes. **(Funded by Daiichi Sankyo Pharma Development; ENGAGE AF-TIMI 48 ClinicalTrials.gov)**

Fazit:

Es bleibt unglaublich schwierig, die verschiedenen Studien, die oft von Pharmafirmen durchgeführt werden, unabhängig zu beurteilen. Wir können auch nicht erkennen, ob unsere hausärztlich betreuten Patienten dort abgebildet wurden.

Es bleibt am Ende eine individuelle Entscheidung der jeweiligen Ärzte mit ihren Patienten, welches Medikament gewählt wird.