NEW VERSUS OLD ORAL ANTICOAGULANTS IN DENTISTRY - LITERATURE REVIEW AND CASE REPORT

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Introduction: Anticoagulants are used for the prevention and treatment of thrombotic disorders. The new oral anticoagulants (NOACs) are designed to counteract the limitations of traditional anticoagulants (Vitamin K antagonist, Unfractionated Heparin or Low Molecular Weight Heparins). The main disadvantage of NOACs is the absence of clinically researched protocols regarding their management in case of bleeding dental procedures.

Material and Methods: The literature review of the NOACs protocols in dentistry was performed (by searching in PubMed, Medscape, Cochrane medical databases). The resulting articles were analysed through a two-step algorithm in order to identify the eligible papers.

Results: After the articles selection process, 20 papers were included in the present review. The analysis revealed that five used or recommended a protocol including only the cessation of NOACs, three used or recommended the non-cessation of NOACs and twelve eligible papers gave specific recommendations for both cases.

Clinical Presentation: A 62-year old patient under treatment with a NOAC, Rivaroxaban (Xarelto), complained of transitory pain during mastication in the posterior upper-right jaw. The extraction of 1.7 was indicated. The non-cessation of the anticoagulant was decided, in accordance with the available literature on the subject, the tooth was extracted and the socket was sutured. During the following days of the intervention, repeated bleeding incidents were reported in direct correlation with the administration of Rivaroxaban.

Conclusions: The subject of NOACs in relation with bleeding procedures has not been researched enough. The available indications were mostly developed based on the pharmacodynamics or on small cohort studies. Thus, further clinical research on the subject is needed.

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