



Letter to the Editor

Comment on “Non-vitamin K antagonists oral anticoagulants are as safe and effective as warfarin for cardioversion of atrial fibrillation: A systematic review and meta-analysis”



Ensiyeh Jenabi

Pediatric Developmental Disorders Research Center, Hamadan University of Medical Sciences, Hamadan, Iran

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 3 August 2018

Accepted 4 September 2018

Available online 5 September 2018

Dear Editor in Chief

I have read a recently accepted article by Telles-Garcia et al. [1] entitled “Non-vitamin K antagonists oral anticoagulants are as safe and effective as warfarin for cardioversion of atrial fibrillation: A systematic review and meta-analysis”. The purpose of this study was to compare by meta-analytical techniques, the safety and efficacy of antagonist oral anticoagulants (NOACs) versus warfarin in patients undergoing cardioversion. They found that NOACs, as compared to warfarin, resulted in similar risk of side effects. There are some methodological issues which might be of interests to readers.

At first, Telles-Garcia et al. [1] did not explore Web of Science database with the broad subject areas. Selection of a restricted subset of databases for conducting the literature search can lead to biased results and incorrect conclusions [2].

Second, as we know a well-constructed search strategy is the core of the systematic review. Given only 179 studies have been identified though initial search in this study, it seems that the search strategy was not sensitive enough. Appropriate use of “OR” as a Boolean operator can broaden our results.

Finally, in interpretation of results, no significant difference does not necessarily mean the similarity of the side effects of the two treatments. If the researcher fails to find a difference between the two groups, it means that nothing was found. In comparison between groups, the enough statistical power is required in detecting a meaningful difference between study groups [3]. In conclusion, these results should be interpreted under the lights of above mentioned limitations.

References

- [1] N. Telles-Garcia, K. Dahal, C. Kocherla, G.Y. Lip, P. Reddy, P. Dominic, Non-vitamin K antagonists oral anticoagulants are as safe and effective as warfarin for cardioversion of atrial fibrillation: a systematic review and meta-analysis, *Int. J. Cardiol.* 268 (2018) 143–148.
- [2] S. Khazaei, M. Karami, Y. Veisani, Comment on “Alcohol and incident atrial fibrillation-a systematic review and meta-analysis”, *Int. J. Cardiol.* 257 (2018) 117.
- [3] S. Sexton, N. Ferguson, C. Pearce, D. Ricketts, The misuse of ‘no significant difference’ in British orthopaedic literature, *Ann. R. Coll. Surg. Engl.* 90 (1) (2008) 58–61.

E-mail address: ejenabi@umsha.ac.ir.