



SNS COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

SNS Kalvi Nagar, Coimbatore - 35

Affiliated to Dr MGR Medical University, Chennai



**DEPARTMENT : CARDIO PULMONARY PERFUSION CARE
TECHNOLOGY**

COURSE NAME : PHARMACOLOGY

UNIT : ANTICOAGULANTS

**TOPICS : DEFINITION, VITAMIN K ANTAGONISTS, DIRECT
ORAL ANTICOAGULANTS, HEPARINS, OTHER
ANTICOAGULANTS,**



ANTICOAGULANTS



- Anticoagulants are drugs that inhibit the formation or extension of blood clots.
- They are commonly used in various clinical conditions to prevent or treat thromboembolic disorders. Anticoagulants work by interfering with different stages of the blood clotting process.



VITAMIN K ANTAGONISTS



Examples: Warfarin

Mechanism of Action:

- Inhibits the synthesis of vitamin K-dependent clotting factors (II, VII, IX, X) in the liver.

Pharmacodynamics:

- Warfarin prevents the carboxylation of clotting factors, decreasing their activity.



Pharmacokinetics:

- Well-absorbed orally, undergoes hepatic metabolism, and has a relatively long half-life.

Indications:

- Prevention and treatment of venous and arterial thrombosis, atrial fibrillation, and prosthetic heart valves.



Monitoring:

- International Normalized Ratio (INR) is regularly monitored to adjust dosage.

Contraindications:

- Pregnancy, liver disease, bleeding disorders.



DIRECT ORAL ANTICOAGULANTS(DOACs)



Direct Thrombin Inhibitors:

Examples: Dabigatran

Mechanism of Action:

- Inhibits thrombin directly.

Indications:

- Stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation, treatment and prevention of venous thromboembolism.



Monitoring:

- No routine monitoring; assess renal function.

Contraindications:

- Renal impairment.



Factor Xa Inhibitors:

Examples: Apixaban, Rivaroxaban, Edoxaban

Mechanism of Action:

- Inhibit factor Xa, a key factor in the coagulation cascade.

Indications:

- Prevention and treatment of venous thromboembolism, stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation.



Monitoring:

- No routine monitoring; assess renal function.

Contraindications:

- Severe renal impairment, pregnancy.



HEPARINS



Unfractionated Heparin (UFH):

Mechanism of Action:

- Enhances antithrombin III activity, inhibiting thrombin and factor Xa.

Indications:

- Immediate anticoagulation in acute situations (e.g., pulmonary embolism, deep vein thrombosis).

Monitoring: Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time (aPTT) is monitored to adjust dosage.



Low Molecular Weight Heparins (LMWH):

Examples: Enoxaparin, Dalteparin

Mechanism of Action:

- Selectively inhibits factor Xa.

Indications:

- Prophylaxis and treatment of venous thromboembolism, acute coronary syndromes.

Monitoring: Generally not required.



Fondaparinux:

Mechanism of Action:

- Selectively inhibits factor Xa.

Indications:

- Prophylaxis and treatment of venous thromboembolism.

Monitoring:

- Generally not required.



OTHER ANTICOAGULANTS



Direct Factor Xa Inhibitors:

- Examples: Betrixaban, Andexanet alfa (reversal agent for factor Xa inhibitors).

Vitamin K Antagonist Reversal Agent:

- Example: Vitamin K (reverses the effects of warfarin).



TECHNICIAN ROLE



- **Monitoring:** Regular monitoring of coagulation parameters is necessary for certain anticoagulants (e.g., INR for warfarin, aPTT for UFH).
- **Dosing Adjustments:** Individualized dosing is essential, and adjustments are often needed based on monitoring results and patient characteristics.



- **Reversal Agents:** Some anticoagulants have specific reversal agents (e.g., vitamin K for warfarin, idarucizumab for dabigatran, andexanet alfa for factor Xa inhibitors) in case of bleeding or urgent procedures.
- **Renal Function:** Assessing renal function is crucial for drugs excreted through the kidneys (e.g., DOACs).
- **Patient Education:** Educating patients on signs of bleeding, the importance of medication adherence, and interactions with other medications.



ASSESSMENT



- What is Anticoagulants ?
- What is Heparins ?