

Research Article





Pharmacotherapy evaluation in patients with anticoagulant therapy in internal medicine at hospital Universidad Del Norte through medication therapy management using the DADER methodology.

Abstract

Objective: Evaluate the pharmacotherapy of patients with anticoagulant therapy in internal medicine at the Hospital Universidad del Norte through medication therapy management using the DADER methodology.

Materials and methods: Quasi-experimental and ampispective descriptive study. It included a retrospective study population called reference group who were 78 anticoagulant therapy patients hospitalized in three months of 2022, which were performed a sociodemographic, clinical, pharmacological characterization and analysis of drug-related problems (DRP) and negative outcomes associated with drugs (NOM), to determine the approach of the patient in medication therapy management who were hospitalized patients in three months of 2023 corresponding to the group attended with 66 patients. The activities performed were based onthe DADER methodology. Statistical analysis of the data was performed with the STATGRAPHICS Centurion XVI version 16.1.03 program, for quantitative and qualitative data

Results: In the group attended the DRP and the most frequent NOM was drug-drug interactions, and quantitative insecurity respectively, while in the reference group the most frequent DRP was inadequate dose, regimen and/or duration, followed by the NOM quantitativeineffectiveness. The drug associated with the occurrence of NOMs was Warfarin with 57.15% in the reference group, and with 62.5% in the attended group. Finally, through tests of independence (CHI2) it was shown that: Patients with DRP have 8.83 probability of presentinga pharmaceutical intervention.

Conclusion: It was possible to perform the pharmaco therapeutic evaluation, and the need toapproach the patient with oral anticoagulants was identified, specifically with Warfarin due to the labiality of the INR, because, according to our study, the INR of 100% of the patients with Warfarin in the group attended was outside the therapeutic window, and for the reference groupit was 78.44% respectively. It was also identified that patients with atrial fibrillation should be atarget population for medication therapy management

Limitations: Lack of recognition from health professionals about the role of the pharmacist in the evaluation of pharmacological treatment, likewise the application of Dader methodology in the hospital setting, and delays in Colombia healthcare system in an ambulatory care for doseadjustment and INR control

Keywords: drug therapy management, anticoagulant drug, pharmaceutical care, drug-drug interactions

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Introduction

According to the WHO in 2019, there were 55.4 million deaths in the world, of which 55% werecommunicable and non-communicable diseases, and with 8.9 million, ischemic heart disease was established as the greatest cause of death, responsible for 16% of the world total of deaths. Likewise, in the United States by 2019, ischemic heart disease was the leading cause of death in that country, causing 153.4 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants. In the Colombian context, according to the DANE, by 2022 the leading cause of death was ischemic heart disease, which registered 41,783 deaths. In relation to treatment to effectively reduce the risk of stroke and systemic embolism, anticoagulant drugs are indicated, but these drugs have many limitations such as: unpredictable pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetic

responses,⁴ narrow therapeutic margin, so that variations in their plasma concentration can affect coagulation, leading to hemorrhagic or thrombotic processes, and a high frequency of interactions with drugs and food.⁵ Therefore,there is a need to monitor the anticoagulant effect of these drugs, and for this purpose the pro thrombin time is used, by means of a standardization formula called International Normalized Ratio (INR),⁶ and pharmaceutical chemists are part of the essential health teamto promote pharmacological adherence, identify, assess and prevent drug-related problems, such as interactions with drugs or food, in addition to referral to the physician due to the risk ofadverse effects. Currently, serious medication-related problems are identified at the hospital level, making the need to address them, and by implementing the medication therapy management programs (MTM), is possible to detect drug related problems (DPR), in order to prevent





and resolve negative outcomes associated with NOM medication,⁷ This is why this practice was implemented in this study, which was aimed at evaluating the pharmacotherapy of patients withanticoagulant therapy, through of socio demographic, clinical and pharmacological characterization, PRM and NOM analysis, and the determination of this population as a targetfor pharmaceutical care.

Methodology

The study was descriptive, quasi-experimental and ambispective (retrospective and prospective phase), carried out in Fundación Hospital Universidad del Norte with a duration of 16 months, in patients with anticoagulant therapy attended in the specialty of internal medicine, over 18 years of age; patients who did not agree to sign the informed consent, patients who belonged to a specialty other than internal medicine and pregnant women were not included. In the first phase (retrospective) a sociodemographic, clinical and pharmacological characterization was performed and the application of the Dáder method⁷ in phases such as:State of situation, study phase and evaluation phase, the information was obtained through thereview of medical records of a population of 78 anticoagulated patients of internal medicine admitted in a period of 3 months in the year 2022, in order to identify possible DRP and NOM, and to determine the risk patterns inherent to the application of this type of medication, such as diagnosis, history, Para clinical, type of anticoagulant, therefore this group of patients was considered as a reference group. As for the second phase (prospective), a convenience samplewas taken considering the size of the population (reference group), and in three months, from October to December 2023, 66 patients considered as the group attended, who entered the medication management program in relation to their day of hospitalization, The methodology of the study was based on an adaptation of the Dáder method to the hospital setting, using all phases. This group also underwent sociodemographic, clinical, and pharmacological characterization, analysis of DRPs and NOMs, with the addition of pharmaceutical interventions and care plans, data necessary to determine statistically whether this was a target population for pharmaceutical care. The statistical analysis was performed with the STATGRAPHICS Centurion XVI version 16.1.03 program, for

quantitative data: mean and standard deviation, Kolmogorov-Smirnov (normality distribution), and Student's t-test (comparing means of two variables). In addition, a Chi-squareand ANOVA test were performed on the qualitative data. This study was approved by the mission research committee of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy of the Universidad Del Atlántico, by the research committee of the research center of the Hospital Universidad del Norte, and by the Research Ethics Committee of the Health Sciences Division of the Universidad del Norte.

Results

For all analyses, a confidence level of 95% and an error of 5% corresponding to a P-value of 0.05% was considered. In total, 144 patients were evaluated, in the reference group 78 were retrospectively reviewed, and according to this number the sample of patients in the prospective segment corresponding to 66 patients was estimated. In the socio demographic characterization (Table 1), different types of variables were reviewed:

- a) Female gender in each group was the most predominant with a percentage greater than 50%.
- b) The affiliation regime presented similarities with the subsidized regime in both groups with a percentage of more than 70%.
- c) In relation to age, there were statistically significant differences through the Student's t-test; the demographic segment was mostly adults over 68 years of age.
- d) As for the occupation variable, an ANOVA test was performed, and the result was not significant.
- e) To compare the relationship between the occupation variable and the subsidized regime, aCHI2 test was performed for the housewife occupation in the reference group, which had a P-value of 0.000, being statistically significant, and through the odds ratio test it was indicated that there is a 10.456 probability that a patient with housewife occupation is in thesubsidized regime.

Table I Socio demographic and clinical characterization

Variables		F Attended group	RF (%)	F Reference group	RF (%)	Test	P-Value
Count		66	-	78	-	-	-
Age (years ± SD)		68,90 ±15,61	-	73,64 ± 12,45	-	t: 2,042	0,043
Female Gender		34	51,56	49	62,82	-	-
Male Gender		32	48,49	29	37,18		
Weight (kg ± SD)		74,27 ±19,39	-	68,54 ± 16,63	-	t = 1,869	0,064
III lat (Class)	Subsidized	48	72,73	60	76,92	CL 112 1 4 E 2	0,000
Health affiliation regime	Contributory	18	27,27	18	23,08	CHI2: 1,652	
	Unemployed	23	34,85	18	23,08		
0	Housewife	19	28,79	36	46,15	ANOVA: 2,42	0,206
Occupation	Retired	4	6,06	12	15,38		
	Other occupations	20	30,30	12	15,38		
Glomerular filtration rate (CKD-EPI) mL/min/1.73 m2		55,50 ± 20,94	-	51,08 ± 21,58	-	t: 1,228	0,221
INR in seconds patient with Warfarin (seconds ± SE)		3,00 ±1,82	-	2,29 ± 1,29	-	t: 1,919	0,058
Days to target INR (Warfarin patients) (days ± SD)		7.0 ± 7.0	-	5,66 ± 3,78	-	t: 0,290	0,786
	Low risk	7	23,3	17	27,9		
Bleeding risk has- bled score	Intermediate risk	9	30,0	22	36, I	ANOVA: 0,33	0,744
	High risk	14	46,7	22	36, I		

Abbreviations SD, estándar deviation; F, frecuency; R, relative frecuency; t, student's t test; CKD-EPI, chronic kidney disease epidemiology collaboration; other occupations, miscellaneous jobs; elementary occupation, physician, lawyer, electrician, driver, sales agent, launderes, tradesman, recycler, domiciliary, welder, industrial supervisor.

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Moving on to the clinical characterization, the relevant Para clinical parameters are presented:

- a) GFR had a mean greater than 50 ml/min/1.73 m2 in both groups, thus patients had renal disease and/or renal injury.
- b) Regarding the INR parameter, 11% of the patients in the group treated were anticoagulated with Warfarin and in the reference group it was 28.57%.

With an average INR of 3.00 for the group attended and 2.29 for the reference group, an analysis was made by pathology and INR value (supra-therapeutic, infra-therapeutic and therapeutic), the distribution according to INR values is as follows:

a) For the attended group there were patients with treatment for venous thrombosis with 40%, atrial fibrillation with 40% and

- mechanical valve replacement with 20%, for these pathologies the INR is 2-3 except for mechanical valve replacement in mitral position which is 2.5-3.5.
- b) For the reference group, there were 46.85% of patients with mechanical valve replacement, 7.14% for patients with biological valve replacement, 35.74% in patients with treatment for venous thrombosis and 14.28% in treatment for stroke prevention dueto atrial fibrillation. The INR for biological valve replacement is 2-3 but there is scientificevidence that approves the use of other oral anticoagulants.
- c) The INR (Table 2) was determined according to the value of the patients whether it wastherapeutic, infra-therapeutic or supra--therapeutic.

Table 2 INR characterization according to range and pathology

Sub therapeutic INR AG	Pathology	Therapeutic INR range (8-9)	Patient value	Remarks	
	Atrial fibrillation	2-3.	1,0		
	Intra-cavitary thrombus	2-3.	1,16	Extension of hospital stay	
60%	Mechanical valve replacement	2,5-3,5	1,14	No INR monitoring	
Sub therapeutic INR RG	Pathology	Therapeutic INR range (8-9)	Patient value	Remarks	
64,30%	Mechanical valve replacement	2,5-3,5	1,45	Lack of knowledge in therapeutic range	
	Atrial fibrillation	2-3.	1,70	Patients with GRF less	
	Deep vein thrombosis	2-3.	1,44	than 15	
Therapeutic INR RG	Pathology	Therapeutic INR range (8-9)	Patient value	Remarks	
21,43%	Mechanical valve replacement	2,5-3,5	2,5	Abrupt increase in INR due dose adjustment	
Supra-therapeutic AG	Pathology	Therapeutic INR range (8-9)	Patient value	Remarks	
	Mechanical valve replacement	2,5-3,5	4,08-7,15		
40%	Deep vein thrombosis	2-3.	3,14-3,22	Interactions with analgesics	
INR supra therapeutic	Pathology	Therapeutic INR range (8-9)	Patient value	Remarks	
14,30	Mechanical valve replacement	2,5-3,5	4,98-7,05	INR sensitivity	
17,50	Atrial fibrillation	2-3.	3-75.	Posology no clear	

Abbreviations AG, group attended; GR, Reference group.

Continuing with the pharmacological characterization, it was found that the most frequent drug was enoxaparin with 53.85% in the 66 patients in the group attended. In contrast, in the reference group, themost frequent drug was Apixaban with 31.53% and rivaroxaban with 18.02% for a total of 49.55% in direct oral anticoagulants. Regarding the indication (Figure 1 and 2), in both groups, stroke prevention and systemic embolism due to atrial fibrillation stood out, with 45.45% for the group treated and 66.67% for the reference group. The correlation of the most frequent indication with anticoagulant drugs is also described:

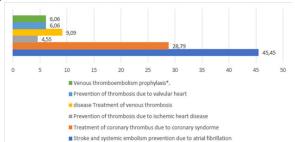


Figure I Anticoagulants indications in attended group.

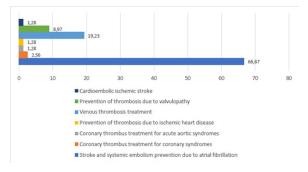


Figure 2 Anticoagulants indications in reference group.

- a) Group attended in stroke prevention and systemic embolism due to atrial fibrillation: apixabanwith 17.95%, followed by rivaroxaban with 14.10%, and finally enoxaparin with 12.92%.
- b) Reference group for stroke and systemic embolism prevention due to atrial fibrillation: Apixabanwith 27.93%, followed by enoxaparin with 17.11%.

On the other hand, a total of 67 Drug Related Problems (DRP) were identified in the group attended, the most frequent being Drug interactions with 28.35% followed by prescription errors with 25.37%, while in the reference group there were 83 DRP, with inadequate dose, regimen and/or duration as themost frequent DRP with 24.10% followed by probability of adverse effects with 20.48% and in third place interactions with 15.66%. According to the Dáder method, the DRP situation was characterized as risk of occurrence with 40.30%

for the group receiving care and 33.73% for the reference group, as well asthe problems manifested (defined as NOM) with 11.94% for the group receiving care and 25.30% for the reference group. An analysis of variance was performed on all the variables through the ANOVA test: 3.22 P-value: 0.012, so there are statistically significant differences between the means of the variables. To determine which means are significantly different from others, the Levene's variance testwas used in (Table 3).

Table 3 Variance verification test of all variables associated with drug-related problems

Comparison	Sigma-I	Sigma-2	F-ratio	P-value	
Number of DRP attended/Manifested health problems attended	7,751	1,103	49,328	0,000	
Number of DRP attended/ Health problem manifested referral	7,751	3,176	5,954	0,009	
Number of DRP attended/ Risk of occurrence reference	7,751	3,697	4,394	0,028	
Number of DRP referral/ Reported health problem addressed	7,146	1,103	41,925	0,000	
Number of DRP referral/ Health problem reported referral	7,146	3,176	5,061	0,017	
Number of DRP reference/ Risk of occurrence reference	7,146	3,697	3,735	0,049	
Reported health problem addressed/Reported health problem referral	1,104	3,562	0,096	0,002	
Manifested health problem treated/Risk of occurrence treated	1,104	4,156	0,070	0,000	
Manifested health problem addressed/ Risk of occurrence referral	1,104	3,698	0,089	0,000	

There were 21 NOMs in the reference group Table 4 and they are distributed in: ineffectiveness with 57.14% (quantitative ineffectiveness 47.61% and 9.52% non-quantitative ineffectiveness), safety with 33.33% (all are quantitative insecurities) and necessity with 9.52% (untreated health problem). The drug with the highest association was Warfarin with 57.15%, and the NOM most frequently presented as the main cause of NOM was inadequate dose, regimen and/or duration with 52.38%. Table 5 shows the NOMs of the group attended, where 8 NOMs were presented withthe same frequency, with 50% for safety NOMs and 50% for effectiveness (37.5% quantitative effectiveness and 12.5% non-quantitative effectiveness), as for the drug with the greatest association of NOMs was Warfarin with 62.5%, followed by the most frequent NOM dose and duration of the treatment, with a rate of 62.38%, and the most frequent NOM dose and duration of the treatment, with a rate of 12.38%, In total there

were 5 pharmaceutical interventions corresponding to 38.46% of 13 interventions carried out, and 4 interventions were accepted because most of them were associated with patient and family education. To finalize the results, CHI2 independence tests were performed, p-value 0.012 on diagnostic variables (atrial fibrillation) and DRP, demonstrating that patients with atrial fibrillation have a high probability of presenting a DRP, with an odds ratio (OR) that showed that they are 4.65 times morelikely to present a DRP, demonstrating that they are a target population to be attended in pharmaceutical care. The same analysis was performed on DRP and interventions with the CHI2 test p-value 0.004. As for the OR, patients with DRP have 8.83 times the probability of being intervened, which shows that it is necessary for the pharmacist to intervene so that they do not progress to NOM.

Table 4 Manifested health problems related to negative outcomes associated with medication in reference group

Manifested health problems	NOM classification			Anticoagulant	Drug related problem	
	Е	N	S			
			I	Warfarin	Inadequate dosage pattern and/ or duration	
Supra-therapeutic INR			1	Warfarin	Interactions: Warfarin-Clopidogrel Warfarin-Omeprazole	
			1	Warfarin	Prescription error	
Cub ab aura auria INID	8			Warfarin	Inadequate dosage pattern and/ or duration	
Sub therapeutic INR	I			Warfarin	Insufficient treated health problem	
Thurst control of			1	Apixaban	Inadequate dosage pattern and/ or duration	
Thrombocytopenia			1	Enoxaparin	Probability of adverse effects	
Thrombocytosis			I	Enoxaparin	Probability of adverse effects	
Bleeding		2	1	Enoxaparin Patient was not	Administration error (Dose not adjusted based drug presentation)	
Stroke of cardioembolic origin	ı	2		anticoagulated Apixaban	Insufficient treated health problem Other heatlh problems affecting treatment	
	ı			Rivaroxaban	Inadequate dosage pattern and/ or duration	
Deep venous thrombosis in lower limb	1			Rivaroxaban	Other heatlh problems affecting treatment	
Total	12	2	7	57,15% Warfarin	52,38% Inadequate dosage pattern and/ or duration	

Abbreviations E, effectiveness; N, need; S, safety.

Table 5 Manifested health problems related to negative outcomes associated with medication in attended group

Manifested health problems	NC	ом с	lassification	Anticoagulant	Drug related problem	Pharmaceutical intervention	
-	Е	Ν	S				
Supra-therapeutic INR			1	Warfarin	Interaction: Warfarin + Acetaminophen/ Tramadol.	Patient education For self- medication	
			1	Warfarin	Interaction:Warfarin + tramadol	Drug substitution (Not accepted)	
	I			Warfarin	Other health problems affecting treatment	Patient education: INR levels, green vegetable and fruits	
Sub therapeutic INR	I			Warfarin	Inadequate dosage pattern and/ or duration	Not performed	
	I			Warfarin	Inadequate dosage pattern and/ or duration	Add anticoagulant	
Thrombocytopenia			1	Enoxaparin	Probability of adverse effects	Not performed	
Thrombocytosis			1	Enoxaparin	Probability of adverse effects	Not performed due active bleeding	
Stroke of cardio embolic origin	I			Apixaban	Sub therapeutic dose (2.5 mg/12h)	Patient education (the dose adjustment was out of the hospital)	
Total	4	0	4	62,5% Warfarin	37,5% Inadequate dosage pattern and/ or duration	62,5% Pharmaceutical interventions performed.	

Abbreviations E, effectiveness; N, need; S, safety.

Discussion

In our study we found some similarities with previous research, of which we highlight the prevention of stroke associated with atrial fibrillation for the two groups, in agreement with whatwas reported in the study by García, M & Méndez⁸ likewise in the DRP, in this study we found that interactions and probability of adverse effects were the most frequent, equal to whatwas presented in the group attended and the reference group, respectively. On the other hand, a more detailed analysis was carried out for the NOM that were classified according to need, effectiveness and safety, in relation to the NOM of need in the study of Cortez LJ9 it was found that it was caused by medication not indicated for the current health problem, similar to the insufficiently treated health problem presented in the reference group, following with the effectiveness, there were quantitative ineffectivities associated to dose, regimen and/or duration or adequate with frequencies higher than 60% in both groups, while in the study of Cortez LJ similar causes were presented with 52% in inadequate dose for the current health problem and 10% of infradosification, on the other hand in the non-quantitative infectivitythe DRPs were connected with other health problems that affect the treatment, such as the patient's idiosyncrasy like obesity. Finally, the NOM of safety in the two groups was quantitative in the study of Cortez JL, the NOM of association was frequency or inadequate mode of administration with 32%, unlike in our study, the most frequent NOM were dose, regimen and/orduration not adequate and probability of adverse effects, with cases of clinical significance suchas interactions with acetaminophen.¹⁰

The study highlights representative findings in each NOM presented, in the reference group two patients with a history of atrial fibrillation were identified who presented stroke of cardioembolic origin, who were not anticoagulated, taking into account that ischemic stroke is the main risk of AF, according to the Framingham study, stroke events due to AF can be fatal, and it was even determined that mortality increased by 1.84 in the presence of AF. 11,12 In the case of quantitative in affectivities a patient in the group attended, aged 70 years with 80 kg and normal renal function presented a stroke of cardioembolic origin, as she had a history of atrial fibrillation and was anticoagulated with Apixaban 2.5 mg/12h, this dose according to the FDA is defined as a reduced dose accordingto compliance with 2 of the following 3 criteria: Age>80 years, body weight \leq 60 kg,

or serum creatinine > 1.5 mg/dL (133 micromoles/L),13 which the patient did not meet at that time, thus it could have been a possible ineffectiveness associated with under-dosing. In contrast, inthe nonquantitative ineffectiveness, in the group attended there was a case of a patient anticoagulated with Warfarin at a dose considered adequate, with a history of morbid obesity and a BMI > 40 kg7m2, who reached his target INR after one week, according to the literature, Warfarin does not have enough clinical studies to prove efficacy in patients with obesity this idea is supported by Moll S, Crona DJ, Martin K in their opinion-type article, who share thatthere is a lack of solid clinical data to support the prescription of direct oral anticoagulants in patients with BMI > 40kg/m2. Finally, the NOM of safety in the two groups was quantitative, the study by Cortez JL,11 the NOM of association was frequency or inadequate mode of administration with 32%, unlike in our study the NOM of greater frequency were dose, regimenand/or duration not adequate and probability of adverse effects, with cases of clinical significance as interactions with acetaminophen, which according to a study by Parra D, BeckeyNP, Stevens¹⁴ to determine if there is interaction between acetaminophen and Warfarin that alters INR which was prospective, randomized, double blind and placebo controlled, and it was determined that this interaction is clinically significant and patients had supra-therapeutic INR at 2g/24h dose after the second week because they presented a significantly higher mean INRthan the placebo group (p=0.01). Due to these findings, the medical team of the hospital will give more importance to patients with anticoagulant therapy through the management of clinical practice protocols in the institution including the participation of the pharmaceutical chemist, likewise it was determined that the patient with Warfarin and the patient with atrial fibrillation should immediately enter the medication management program.

To conclude, the pharmacotherapeutic evaluation was carried out, and some opportunities for improvement in the management of anticoagulation in hospitalized patients were identified. Therefore, future studies should focus on the implementation of more personalized pharmaceutical interventions, for example, using health technologies to monitor and analyze the behavior of the INR on platforms such as applications or web pages, investigate the impact of education programs on adherence to treatment, food interactions and risks of self-medication on the optimization of this therapy, as well as explore the safety and effectiveness between DOACs and Warfarin in different

populations in order to offer a safe, effective and efficient therapy to the entire population.

Limitations

This study faced limitations associated with the lack of recognition by the health team of the figure of the pharmaceutical chemist with the capacity to evaluate the pharmacological treatment of the patient, as for the Dader methodology, which is defined for the community pharmacy in Europe, in our study it was applied to the hospital pharmacy, which limited the execution of all the phases, Finally, the ambulatory health system in Colombia limits the dose adjustment of patients with Warfarin, because the laboratory tests are analyzed days after taking the sample and the dose adjustment is not done with a real INR measurement.

Acknowledgments

None.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

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