Strategies for a better outcome of the TTR and an improved patient compliance

In Austria reimbursement is not the same in all states. Furthermore, some doctors are not aware of PSM. However, PSM should be offered to all oral anticoagulated patients who are able and willing to perform PSM. Austria has about 28 official training sites which train approximately 750 patients per year according to a structured and standardized training plan. A key point is the dosing scheme ("traffic light concept") according to which patients perform dosing themselves and thereby Austrian PSM patients reach a time in therapeutic range of 80%.

The Danish way was presented by Nini Leroul, Tina Ginnerup (www.Akpatient.dk) and Torben Bjerregaard Larsen, MD.

Key message from the conference: Use the Danish national updated guidelines! These guidelines should be written in an understandable language for the patient. In Denmark, yes a patient can convince the physician he wants to do self-management.

The Austrian way was presented by Ulrike Walchshofer (www.inr-austria.at) and Benjamin Dieplinger, MD.

Key message from the conference: Increasing the number of PSM patients is a key point to reach a time in therapeutic range > 70%. PSM patients have very high 85% compliance and are still performing PSM after >4 years.

The French way was presented by Antoine Gobillard (www.avkcontrol.com) and Ludovic Drouet, MD.

Key message from the conference: General bad situation of VKA control in France. There are only very few anticoagulation clinics in France like the CREATIF which based in the Paris area. Why is the TTR percentage so low in France? Because there is no organization with anticoagulation clinics and to few clinics. At the origin the concept of anticoagulation clinics did not work in France, mainly because it was introduced as an additional step in the standard procedure in place and therefore did bring much improvement.
The example of a successful anticoagulation clinic like the CREATIF is due to the change in organization: This anticoagulation clinic based on telemedicine technology is active with an increasing numbers of INR monitored each year. The CREATIF group has direct communication with the patients with information of the GPs. As this mode of functioning is innovative it has difficulties not to introduce in the medical environment, which needs improvement, but to get financial support from the “classical and official” environmental sources.

**The Italian way** presented by Nicola and Alessandra Merlin (www.aipapadova.com) and Gentian Denas, MD.

**Key message from the conference:** The road to a 70% will require increased collaboration between patients and doctors, telemedicine, and increased patients education and level of knowledge. Self-management and POC have been improved, but there is still scepticism on the accuracy and precision of the devices and the best way to educate the patients and introduce insurance coverage for the devices. There is a need to break the dogma in Italy by increasing patient and physician awareness on self-management, POCT, and telemedicine as a way of improving anticoagulation management. The road to a 70% will require collaboration between patients and doctors including better POCT, telemedicine, patient education.

**The Spanish way** presented by Luciano Arochena (www.anticoagulados.info) and Angeles Fernández, MD.

**Key message from the conference:** FEASAN is the association of patients education on self-management. FEASAN established in 1997 join forces and defend right of patients. In Spain, November 18th is the day of anticoagulated patients. Several activities took place, in 2010 promotional Internet, 2011 awareness campaign, info stands at different hospitals and in 2012 we are working on it. The aim of self-management of OAT must be to achieve 90% of INRs within TTR, this will only be possible if improving compliance with adequate patients education not only on anticoagulation therapies but also on rational of use of drugs.

*Reporter: M. Simon*

Participants (physicians and patients) of eleven countries discussed in Vienna for two days the topic: How to improve the TTR (time in therapeutic range)?