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Title

Over-the-Counter Product-Apixaban Interactions: Patient Perspectives on Information-Seeking

Priority 1 (Research Category)

Cardiovascular disease

Presenters

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Abstract

CONTEXT: Patients taking direct-acting oral anticoagulants (DOACs) may be at risk for bleeding if they take interacting over-the-counter (OTC) products, yet little information exists about why patients may or may not seek information about potential interactions.

OBJECTIVE: To investigate perspectives of patients taking apixaban (a commonly prescribed DOAC) regarding seeking information about OTC products.

STUDY DESIGN and ANALYSIS: Semi-structured interviews were analyzed using thematic analysis.

SETTING: Two large academic medical centers.

POPULATION: English-, Mandarin-, Cantonese-, or Spanish-speaking adults taking apixaban.

OUTCOME MEASURES: Themes associated with information-seeking about potential apixaban-OTC product interactions.

RESULTS: Forty-six patients aged 28-93 years (35% Asian, 15% Black, 24% Hispanic, and 20% White; 58% women), were interviewed. Respondents took 172 total OTC products, of which the most common were: vitamin D and/or calcium (15%), non-vitamin non-mineral dietary supplements (13%), acetaminophen (12%), NSAIDS/aspirin (9%), and multivitamins (9%). Themes related to lack of information-seeking about OTC products included: 1) failure to recognize that apixaban-OTC product interactions might exist; 2) beliefs that providers are responsible for disseminating information about interactions; 3) previous suboptimal interactions with providers; 4) infrequent OTC product use; and 5) lack of prior problems with OTC product use (with or without concomitant apixaban use). Conversely, themes associated with seeking information included: 1) believing that patients are responsible for their own medication-related safety; 2) greater trust in providers; 3) unfamiliarity with the OTC product; and 4) prior medication-related problems. Patients noted that information sources ranged from in-person sources (e.g., physicians, pharmacists) to online and written materials.

CONCLUSIONS: Patients taking apixaban raised reasons for information-seeking about OTC products related to their perceptions of OTC products, provider-patient interactions, and their prior experiences with and frequency of OTC product use. Greater patient education about the need for information-seeking about potential DOAC-OTC product interactions may be needed at the time of prescribing.