Antithrombotic management in patients with atrial fibrillation undergoing stent implantation: An assessment of the ESC guidelines adherence

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Background: Patients with atrial fibrillation (AF) who undergo percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) and stenting initially require triple antithrombotic therapy according to the current ESC 2010 guidelines. The purpose of this study was to assess guidelines adherence and detect predictive factors of the prognosis linked to ESC guidelines adherence and clinical characteristics of this population.

Methods: AF patients referred for PCI with stenting were enrolled since the year 2011 to 2013. Prescription and chronology of the antithrombotic treatment (ATP), occurrence of bleeding, myocardial ischemia, stroke and death were obtained by screening hospitalization reports and phone call with standardized questions during follow-up.

Results: Among 259 AF patients with PCI and stenting (age 76±10 years; CHA2DS2-VASc score 4.3±1.7), 40% had acute coronary syndrome and 60% had elective PCI. During 633±352 days follow-up, 53/156 (34%) of those admitted for elective PCI were guidelines adherent, whilst they were 10/49 (20%) for non ST elevation myocardial infarction (NSTEMI) and 8/54 (15%) among those who underwent PCI and stenting initially. OAC underused was associated with an increased risk of death in this population.

Conclusion: Guidelines for antithrombotic therapy in patients with AF who undergo PCI and stent implantation are still poorly followed in clinical practice. OAC underuse was associated with an increased risk of death in this population.

Delphinidin and calcium signaling in human T lymphocytes: a basis to elucidate pathways leading to proliferation and apoptosis

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Delphinidin, an anthocyanin present in red wine, has been reported to exert vasculoprotective properties due to its vasodilatory and antioxidant effects at the level of the endothelium. However, the effect of delphinidin on cells involves in inflammation in cardiovascular diseases remains unknown. We have investigated the effect of delphinidin on the proliferation and apoptosis of T lymphocytes with respect to calcium signaling. Human T cells were isolated from blood of healthy patients. Proliferation was assessed using CyQUANT® NF Cell Proliferation Assay Kit and apoptosis by flow cytometry. Calcium signaling was analyzed using Fluor-4 probe and the mechanisms were depicted using appropriate drugs. Delphinidin did not modify basal proliferation but it was able to decrease the thymidin incorporation and apoptosis. These effects concur to the protective effect of delphinidin on processes leading to inflammation as associated with T lymphocyte activation.