

AUDIT OF THE MANAGEMENT OF ATRIAL FIBRILLATION IN STROKE UNITS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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AF - Background

- Commonest cardiac arrhythmia
- Prevalence
 - 1% general population
 - 9% those aged 80+
- Significant risk factor for stroke
- Anticoagulation
 - Significantly lower risk of stroke
 - Despite benefits remains under used

AF – Background

- **2010 National Stroke Audit**
 - At admission 27% in AF taking warfarin
 - At discharge 39% AF taking warfarin

2010 National Stroke Audit

“a failure to provide large numbers of people at risk of stroke because of AF with effective prevention”

2010 National Stroke Audit

“Patients are dying and having disabling strokes because of our failure to anticoagulate people appropriately”

AF audit - Methods

- Stroke Units
 - » Belfast City Hospital
 - » Royal Victoria Hospital
 - » Antrim Hospital
 - » Daisy Hill Hospital
 - » Craigavon Hospital
 - » Ulster Hospital
- All patients discharged over 3 month period with a diagnosis of TIA/Stroke and AF
- Audit tool
 - » Investigations
 - » Anticoagulation
 - » Other medication
 - » Communication

AF audit - Results

- **Demographics**
 - 6 local stroke units
 - 91 subjects
 - 61% of subjects were female
 - Mean age was 81 years

AF audit - Results

- **Basic investigations**

- ECG performed - 100%
- AF on ECG - 82%
- New diagnosis of AF - 34%
- Screening bloods tests for AF done - 93%

AF audit - Results

- **Thromboprophylaxis**
 - Anti-coagulation prescribed - 43%
 - Reason not to anti-coagulate
 - Patient choice - 5%
 - Contraindication - 64%
 - No reason recorded - 31%
 - Aspirin prescribed - 63%

AF audit - Results

- **Other Medications**

- Hypertension treated -93%
- Rate control medication
 - Beta-blocker -61%
 - Digoxin -26%
 - Calcium antagonist -20%
 - Sotalol -2%
 - Other rate control -15%

AF audit - Results

- **Communication**

- Information on AF provided -33%
- Pros/Cons anticoag outlined -33%

AF audit - Conclusions

- **Positive aspects**

- Everyone had an ECG
- Majority had screening blood tests
- Majority on antiHTN treatment
- B-blocker commonest rate control med

AF audit - Conclusions

- **Areas for improvement**
 - **Communication**
 - Information on AF with Pros/Cons of anticoagulation explained in only $\frac{1}{3}$
 - **Decision not to anticoagulate**
 - No reason given in $\frac{1}{3}$
 - **Rate of Anticoagulation – 43%**
 - 39% 2010 National stroke audit
 - 60% target set by Stroke Improvement programme / DOH in England

AF audit - Conclusions

- **Final thoughts**

- Audit useful

- Good baseline data
- Identified areas for improvement

- Future audits could be refined

- Results to be combined with primary care audit

- Education
- Re-audit

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