

Abstract Submission for ESCP 2017 Symposium

Hospital Pharmacy - Pharmaceutical Care

ESCP17SY-1089

Value of Pharmacists in detecting atrial fibrillation during World Heart Rhythm Week.

F. Alves da Costa^{* 1}, S. Antoniou², J. Papastergiou³, M. Dolores Murillo⁴, T. Lobban⁵, K. Ladova⁶, V. WY Lee⁷, H. Williams⁸, D. Griffiths⁹, S. Tous¹⁰, N. Breakwell⁵, M.-C. Chaumais¹¹ and on behalf of International Pharmacist for Anticoagulation Care Taskforce

¹pharmacy, Centre for Interdisciplinary Research Egas Moniz (CiiEM, ISCSEM), Lisbon, Portugal, ²Barts Health NHS Trust, London, United Kingdom, ³centre for practice excellence, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, ⁴Sociedad Española de Farmacia Familiar y Comunitaria SEFAC, , madrid, Spain, ⁵Heart rhythm alliance, Warwickshire, United Kingdom, ⁶Department of Social and Clinical Pharmacy, Charles University in Hradec Králové, Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, ⁷School of Pharmacy, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong, ⁸Health Innovation Network, London, United Kingdom, ⁹Westview Pharmacy, Auckland, New Zealand, ¹⁰Sociedad Española de Farmacia Familiar y Comunitaria SEFAC,., Barcelona, Spain, ¹¹Pharmacie Clinique, Paris, France

Please specify your abstract type: Research abstract

Background and Objective: Atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most common cardiac arrhythmia globally, responsible for one third of strokes, and often resulting in death or incapacity. This condition is estimated to be up to 50% undiagnosed. The International Pharmacist for Anticoagulation Care Taskforce- [iPACT] created a partnership with the Atrial Fibrillation Association (AFA) whereby pharmacists are actively involved in opportunistic screening for AF and demonstrate the feasibility of pharmacists implementing pulse checks and enable identification of new cases of AF

Setting and Method: A steering group was constituted to develop and implement the study protocol. iPACT was used as the platform for recruiting pharmacists worldwide. An e-learning platform was developed to support education and dissemination materials for display in pharmacies. A secure web based application was developed for all pharmacists to enter patient relevant data and findings. During world heart rhythm week (5-11th June) pharmacists were instructed to take the pulse manually, assess symptoms and risk factors. Whenever an abnormal heart rate or rhythm was detected, the patient was referred to a physician with a referral letter containing additional information.

Main outcome measures: Detection of irregular pulse and confirmation of atrial fibrillation

Results: Ten countries participated in the initiative, across 4 continents, where 2706 participants were involved in the awareness campaign. For the screening event, individuals younger than 40 and those already on anticoagulants were excluded (n=133). A total of 2573 patients were included in the analysis. The majority were female (68.9%; n=1773); mean age was 64.71±12.95, ranging from 40 to 101 years, median 66. The most common risk factor identified was: hypertension (n=1258; 48.9%), followed by diabetes (n=508; 19.8%) and peripheral heart disease (n=397; 15.4%). The least common was having had a stroke, Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA) or Thromboembolism (TE), which had only occurred in 26 patients (1.1%). Mean heart rate detected was 72.7±12.0, ranging from 32 to 134. Bradycardia was detected in 107 patients (<55 bpm) and tachycardia in 14 patients (>100 bpm). An irregular pulse was detected in 212 patients (8.3%). So far, atrial fibrillation has been confirmed in 35/2572 (1.4%).

Conclusion: European international guidance recommends opportunistic screening for AF by pulse taking or ECG rhythm strip in patients >65 years of age. Our data is synonymous with meta-analyses identifying 1.4% of those aged 65 or older on a single time point check for presence of AF. Pharmacies are ideally located to support awareness campaigns and in the case of atrial fibrillation, early detection.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared