



Adequacy of Thromboembolic Prophylaxis Prescribed in an Emergency Department

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SUMMARY. An observational, longitudinal and prospective study was carried out from October 2011 to March 2012 in order to evaluate the adequacy of thromboembolic prophylaxis prescribed in an Emergency Department according to the PRETEMED (Prevention of thromboembolic venous disease in medical patients) guide. For each patient an adjusted risk of venous thromboembolism (VTE) was calculated and the clinical pharmacist compared the prescribed prophylaxis to the recommended by the PRETEMED guide and assessed concordance. A total of 73 patients were included in the study and in 34.2% of them, the recommendation of prophylaxis did not match with the prophylaxis prescribed at admission: omission of prophylaxis (16.4%), no indication of mechanical or pharmacological prophylaxis (5.5%), indication of mechanical prophylaxis, but not pharmacological prophylaxis (11.0%) and overdosage (1.4%). In a high proportion of patients the thromboprophylaxis prescribed was not consistent with PRETEMED recommendations. The existence of discrepancies in both directions (underestimation and overestimation of VTE risk and both in similar percentages) could suggest that the individual risk is not valued enough.

KEY WORDS: Anticoagulants, Emergency medical services, venous thrombosis

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