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Guidelines, New Data and Real-World Evidence with Oral Anticoagulants

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (26 January 2023)

Message from the Guest Editor

There has been considerable progress in the pharmacology of oral anticoagulants (OAC) over the last twenty years, and non-vitamin K antagonists OAC (NOAC) have dramatically changed clinical practice. NOAC have demonstrated a favorable risk–benefit profile in patients with atrial fibrillation and with venous thromboembolism in phase III trials, although real-world evidence highlights that several issues in the implementation of NOAC in clinical practice still remain unresolved in specific subsets. On the other hand, re-emerging concepts on the pathophysiology of atherothrombosis have paved the way for a new therapeutic option consisting in the association of antiplatelet and low-dose NOAC, known as dual pathway inhibition. While guidelines issued by scientific societies summarize and evaluate available evidence to facilitate clinicians in their decision making for daily practice, continuously evolving research introduces new diagnostic algorithms and challenges therapeutic concepts.



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