Abstract Submission

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Abstract Title:
Characterising patients with VTE identified as low risk by the Kucher risk score

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Accurate estimation of risk for venous thromboembolism (VTE) may help clinicians assess prophylaxis needs. Previously, we assessed the performance of an empirical risk score (‘Kucher’), which is based on 8 VTE risk factors (cancer, prior VTE, hypercoagulability, surgery, age>75 yrs, BMI>29, bed rest, hormonal factor) using a cohort of patients enrolled in VERITY, a multicentre VTE treatment registry. Kucher was tested by receiver operating characteristic curve analysis; the c statistic (area under the curve, representing the ability of the model to correctly classify patients) = 0.614 (95% CI 0.598 to 0.630) was significantly better than random allocation (P<0.001), but poor to average as a predictive test. The aim of this retrospective analysis was to characterise those patients with VTE who were not identified as at-risk by the Kucher score.

At the last data review in 2006, the registry had 32 active centres and 55,996 patient entries. Data were collected by trained hospital staff using a standardised case report form. Demographic characteristics, medical history, presenting symptoms, diagnosis, treatment practices, and follow-ups were collected.

VTE status and all 8 risk factors were known in 5938 patients, of whom 1919 (32%) had a positive VTE diagnosis. One fifth of patients (n=390) were identified as having no risk of VTE (i.e. Kucher score of zero). Male sex was over-represented (69.7% with risk score of zero compared with 50.7% of VTE-negative patients with risk score of zero). Review of additional risk factors recorded in the registry showed that smoking (41.8%), intravenous drug abuse (13.3%) and family history (11%) occurred frequently in patients with risk score of zero, but leg paralysis was not represented (0%). These findings confirm that additional factors contribute to VTE risk beyond those identified by the Kucher score, a finding we have confirmed in a separate multiple logistic regression analysis of VTE risk.

Presentation:
Either

Topic:
18 Thrombosis and Haemostasis

Covering Message:
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