BACKGROUND

- Venous thromboembolism (VTE) is associated with long-term risk of recurrent VTE and major bleeding.
- Extended anticoagulation reduces the risk of recurrence at the expense of an increased risk of bleeding.
- The impact of concurrent anemia upon global anticoagulation management and clinical outcomes has not been conclusively investigated.
- GARFIELD-VTE is a non-interventional prospective observational study of VTE outcomes and therapy.

AIM: To compare the baseline characteristics, treatment patterns, and 24-month clinical outcomes of VTE patients with and without anemia in GARFIELD-VTE.

METHODS

- Eligible patients (≥18 years) required confirmed diagnosis of primary or recurrent VTE within 30 days of enrolment, and haemoglobin (Hb) values measured within 30 days following entry.
- The study was approved by the individual ethics committees of each participating site. All patients provided written informed consent.

ANEMIA CHARACTERISATION

- Anemia was characterized as Hb <12 g/dL (women) and <13 g/dL (men).
- Severe anemia was characterized as Hb <10 g/dL for both men and women.

RESULTS

Study design and patient demographics

- Between May 2014 and January 2017, 10,870 patients from 413 sites in 28 countries were eligible for enrolment into GARFIELD-VTE.
- A total of 7,704 were eligible for analysis (Figure 1).
- Patients with anemia were slightly older, had a lower BMI and were more often female.
- Patient demographics and clinical characteristics are summarized in Table 1.

24-months anticoagulation patterns

- The number of patients commencing anticoagulation at baseline was comparable, however choice of anticoagulation differed in patients with and without anemia (Figure 2).
- DOAC usage, with or without parenteral therapy was lower in patients with anemia.
- VKA usage was comparable between groups.

CONCLUSIONS

- Real-world anticoagulation strategies differ between patients with and without anemia.
- Anemia patients were more likely to have an increased risk of major bleeding and mortality.
- Increasing severity of anemia is associated with enhanced long-term bleeding and mortality risks.

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REFERENCES


DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflicts of interest in relation to this study.

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