



Anticoagulants

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

After 60 years with warfarin and heparins as the only commonly used anticoagulants, the past 20 years have provided an impressive row of new agents. Low-molecular-weight heparins resulted in the first change of paradigm by enabling outpatient care of many patients with venous thromboembolism. The next shift should be the obviated need for routine laboratory monitoring and frequent dose adjustments of the oral anticoagulant. The purpose of this special issue is to assess the current status of the array of new anticoagulants at advanced stages of clinical trials. There are, however, still hurdles on the way, for example the question of reversal of such agents in emergency situations and how the higher cost of any new drug can be justified to the payers in view of the very inexpensive vitamin K antagonists, keeping in mind the considerable management costs associated with the latter.

Prof. Sam Schulman, MD

Guest Editor





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