TITLE: Heparin Prophylaxis for Hospitalized Patients at Risk for Thrombotic Events: Clinical Effectiveness and Safety

DATE: 31 March 2011

RESEARCH QUESTION

1. What is the clinical effectiveness and safety of unfractionated heparin prophylaxis for the prevention of thrombotic events in hospitalized patients?

2. What is the clinical effectiveness and safety of low molecular weight heparin prophylaxis for the prevention of thrombotic events in hospitalized patients?

KEY MESSAGE

The evidence suggests that unfractionated heparin and low molecular weight prophylaxes demonstrate some clinical effectiveness and safety in the prevention of thrombotic events in hospitalized patients.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including MEDLINE, PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2011, Issue 3), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. Methodological filters were applied to limit retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses and randomized controlled trials. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2001 and March 24, 2011. Internet links were provided, where available.

RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials.
Nine systematic reviews and meta-analyses and 28 randomized controlled trials were identified relevant to the comparative effectiveness and safety of unfractionated heparin and low molecular weight heparin prophylaxis for the prevention of thrombotic events in hospitalized adult patients. Additional information of potential interest has been included in the appendix.

Health technology assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses


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Randomized controlled trials


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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Health technology assessments (abstract not provided)


Systematic reviews and meta-analyses (abstract not provided)


   Structured abstract available from: http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/CRDWeb/ShowRecord.asp?ID=12009101993 [cited 2011 Mar 31].

   Structured abstract available from: http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/CRDWeb/ShowRecord.asp?ID=12009107036 [cited 2011 Mar 31].


44. Rasmussen MS, Jorgensen LN, Wille-Jorgensen P. Prolonged thromboprophylaxis with low molecular weight heparin for abdominal or pelvic surgery. Cochrane Database Syst
