Periprocedural Considerations for Anticoagulated Atrial Fibrillation Patients
Angela Collins-Yoder PhD RN CCNS ACNS-BC, Rachel E. Collins PharmD

Abstract

Periprocedural patient instruction and coordination is an important piece in achieving safe outcomes for patients needing procedures and receiving anticoagulants for atrial fibrillation. Balancing the needs for anticoagulation versus bleeding during the procedure requires clinical reasoning and preparation. In this article, the current guidelines for use of anticoagulants with atrial fibrillation, the relevant pharmacology, and the use of standardized tools to quantify the risks of thrombus or bleeding in the procedures will be discussed. In addition, resources for examining the optimal practice for these case types will be provided. Perianesthesia health care providers are pivotal to lead relevant stakeholders in the perianesthesia setting work together to create protocols and individual plans of care for this patient population.