

Antidote for Non Vitamin K Antagonist Oral Anticoagulants

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Sir,

This refers to review article titled "Current Perspective on Use of NOAC in Clinical Practice in India" written by Jamshed J Dalal et al in JAPI 2016 April.¹ The authors have made great efforts to review literature and enlighten readers about latest trends in safe use of these novel non vitamin K oral anticoagulants introduced recently in India. The authors mention that there is no antidote for Dabigatran. It may please be noted that monoclonal

antibody "Idarucizumab" has been recently approved by US FDA as specific antidote for Dabigatran.²⁻⁴ Five grams of IV Idarucizumab {Praxbind} reverses Dabigatran induced anticoagulation in just few minutes. This accelerated approval by US FDA is keeping in view safety of the patients who need emergency surgery or have uncontrolled bleeding. It is possible that such specific antidotes for other NOACs {Rivoroxaban & Apixaban} may also become available in near future. It is very important for practicing clinicians to have these antidotes ready for emergency use. This is similar to keeping Protamin Sulfate

ready to reverse action of heparin in emergency. Anticoagulants are double edged weapons and clinicians must master judicious & properly individualised usage. Having a safe & effective antidote always ready at hand would allow clinicians to use these newer anticoagulants with easy mind.

References

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4. <https://www.boehringer-ingenelheim.com/press-release/fda-approves-praxbind-idarucizumab-specific-reversal-agent-pradaxa-dabigatran>.