To explore physicians’ barriers to optimal anticoagulation in atrial fibrillation in HK public primary care

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Keywords:
Hong Kong
barriers
anticoagulation
atrial fibrillation
primary care

Introduction
Optimal anticoagulation in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most important modifiable factor to reduce stroke risk. It was not employed as common as suggested by international guidelines.

Objectives
this study sought to explore physicians' barriers to optimal anticoagulation in AF in Hong Kong (HK) public primary care.

Methodology
qualitative study based on in depth person on person interviews conducted from May to July in 2017.
Subjects: purposeful sample of experienced family physicians working in HK Government Outpatient Clinic (GOPC) with diverse family medicine trainings.
Methods: in depth person on person semistructured interviews were performed to identify barriers to optimal anticoagulation by the principal investigator. The generated narrative data was analyzed by 3 independent researchers using constant comparative method. Interviews were conducted until thematic saturation occurred.

Result
Total 15 physicians participated this study, The years of clinical experience of our sample ranged from 5- 16 years with mean 10.2 year and median 12 year. 12 physicians in our sample were FHKCFP and 6 of them were also fellows of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (Family Medicine) (FHKAM (FM)). The remaining 3 physicians were in family medicine training.3 unifying and recurrent themes were identified and they were: unfavourable perception to anticoagulants, AF related resources insufficiency and self-perceived knowledge and experience inadequacy in AF.