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Point of Care Testing of Direct Oral Anticoagulants in Patients with Stroke at the Emergency

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Background and aims: The incidence of the stroke is increasing and its adequate treatment is still challenging. One of the key factors in management of stroke patients is the coagulation status, which can be significantly affected in patients on direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs).

Methods: Management of stroke requires fast assessment of coagulation status, however patient’s history is often unknown and standard coagulation laboratory tests are time consuming. Therefore, rapid identification of patients on DOACs is important and the Dipstick® point of care test (POCT) is available for this purpose. It is a diagnostic urine strip test, intended for qualitative detection of DOACs (Dabigatran, Apixaban, Edoxaban and Rivaroxaban). The result can be read with naked eye by or by using a photometric reader (DOASENSE Reader®). Dipstick® POCT was performed since 15th May 2002 in all stroke patients with unknown medical history who were admitted to Emergency department of University hospital Brno, Brno, Czech Republic.

Results: Between 15 May 2020 and 31 December 2020 193 stroke patients were admitted at the Emergency department. Dipstick® POCT was performed in 23 patients and the test was positive in eight cases (35%).

Conclusion: We were able to quickly detect an effective level of DOAC in the blood in eight patients with unknown medical history. This information significantly influenced the therapeutic process.

Disclosure: The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.