

Warfarin

DEFINITION

- Warfarin inhibits vitamin K epoxide reductase, preventing reactivation of vitamin K and coagulation factor synthesis.

CORE CONCEPTS

Monitoring - The base-line prothrombin time should be determined but the initial dose should not be delayed whilst awaiting the result.

It is essential that the INR be determined daily or on alternate days in early days of treatment, *then* at longer intervals (depending on response), *then* up to every 12 weeks.

Change in patient's clinical condition, particularly associated with liver disease, intercurrent illness, or drug administration, necessitates more frequent testing.

Side effect- haemorrhage

INR- Yellow book, diet

Target INR

INR 2.5 for:

- treatment of deep-vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism, atrial fibrillation, cardioversion, dilated cardiomyopathy, mitral stenosis, bioprosthetic heart valves, myocardial infarction.

INR 3.5 for:

recurrent deep-vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism in patients currently receiving anticoagulation and with an INR above 2

Understand how warfarin works.

The dietary requirements for warfarin

The drug interactions for warfarin

When warfarin is required- and not DOAC for example the contraindications.

