

Prescribing direct-acting oral anticoagulants—mind the evidence gap

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Abstract

Direct-acting oral anticoagulants (DOACs) are licensed for the prevention of thromboembolism in non-valvular atrial fibrillation amongst other indications. Prescribers use information derived from the summary of product characteristics which is based on the key trials supporting the DOAC's market authorisation. However, prescribers may be aware of the limitations of these trials regarding underrepresentation of patient populations commonly encountered in clinical practice and how this may adversely impact them. This review highlights the gaps in the licensing evidence using 3 clinical vignettes that explore prescribing challenges in the elderly, obese and female patients.

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