CHRONIC SUBDURAL HAEMATOMA AND WARFARIN – CHANGING THE PARADIGM

LAPČIĆ M[1], Veršić Bratinčević M[2], Cvitković I[1], Bušić Ž[1], Ledenko V[1], Bušić Ž[1]

[1] *Department of Neurosurgery, Clinical Hospital Centre Split*

[2] *Department of Forensic Medicine, School of Medicine University of Split*

mirkolapcic@gmail.com

Aim: Taking into consideration the prolonged life expectancy and the increasing incidence of chronic subdural haematoma (cSDH) in elderly and observing a higher incidence of cSDH as well as worse postoperative result in patients treated with oral anticoagulants, we compared clinical outcomes in patients that have warfarin in therapy and drugfree patients.
Secondary aim of the presentation is to show an ongoing study that is analyzing occurence of warfarin metabolites in the full blood sample and content of cSDH before and after the operative irrigation of subdural space and its correlation with clinical outcome through several endpoints.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective observational study based on medical data of 197 patients treated operatively at our Department through the period 2010. – 2015. Patients were divided in two groups according to warfarin therapy and we compared the results of preoperative CT findings, postoperative CT findings, hospital days and mortality using independent t – test, and Chi-square test.

Results: 18,3% of all operated patients had warfarin in therapy. There was no statistically significance between questioned variables of both patient groups. Preoperative CT findings p=0,916, postoperative CT findings p=0,228, hospital days p=0,215, mortality p=0,755.

Conclusion: Outcome of the operated patients that are treated with warfarin is no worse than in drugfree group of patients. However, we found certain limits of the study primary due to the inadequate follow up of the operated patients.

The work in progress we are going to show is a designed prospective randomised study. Aim of this study is a precise quantification of warfarin metabolites in the content of chronic subdural haematoma, preoperatively and postoperatively, using high performance liquid chromatography. We are going to test a correlation of these results with clinical outcome of our patients. Expected results will enlighten the clinical paradigm of warfarin as neurosurgeon's deadly enemy.