

About the Future of Anticoagulation Report

Overview

The 'Future of Anticoagulation' is a pan-European expert-led initiative committed to advancing understanding of the current unmet needs in atrial fibrillation, (AF), including anticoagulation management and the burden faced by patients, healthcare professionals and health systems, both now and in the future.

Through the undertaking of robust quantitative and qualitative research, the initiative aims to foster an in-depth and increased understanding of how disease management is evolving within Europe, the future implications for patients and their care, and the practical steps that could be taken to improve the future of anticoagulation management across Europe.

The Future of Anticoagulation Initiative was funded by Daiichi Sankyo Europe. The research and production of the Future of Anticoagulation report¹ was led by RAND Europe, with input from an independent steering committee.

Rationale behind the Future of Anticoagulation Report

The Future of Anticoagulation report has a focus on the management of AF, the most common type of sustained cardiac arrhythmia² and a leading cause of death and disability across Europe.

There are approximately 10 million patients with AF in Europe.¹ AF prevalence is predicted to be 3.3% in 2050 and constitutes a rapidly growing public health burden for Europe.²

Until recently, studies and research have focused on understanding the current unmet need and burden of AF and stroke; however there is little existing research to show the potential impact and burden of these conditions if the situation, in terms of how it is currently managed, remains unchanged.

Aims and objectives

The report aims were to assess the current landscape and challenges for the management of AF in Europe, and explore how this landscape could evolve. It focused on six key countries in Europe; Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK.

The two main goals of the study were to:

- Develop an evidence base on the current reality of AF-related anticoagulation management in these six countries.
- Develop an understanding of actions that could be taken today to improve the outlook for future AF management.

Study approach and methodology

RAND Europe have led the research and produced the report, with input from an independent steering committee. The research has comprised an assessment of the literature, 60 interviews with experts and the use of future scenarios as a tool for refining understanding of the dynamics and issues that will impact the future landscape.

Steering committee

All of the activities were carried out with feedback and input from a steering committee made up of 10 experts in cardiology and related areas from the six European focus countries, to ensure representation from key disciplines across the fields of cardiology and neurology, as well as health economists, pharmacologists, primary care and patient groups.

Steering committee members	
Name	Professional role and affiliation
Professor John Camm (Chair)	Professor of Clinical Cardiology, St. George's, University of London and Professor of Cardiology, Imperial College London, United Kingdom
Professor Josep Brugada	Medical Director of the Hospital Clinic of Barcelona and Chief of Arrhythmias of the Pediatric Hospital Sant Joan de Déu, Spain
Professor Jean-Marc Davy	Professor and Chief of Cardiology Department, Montpellier University Hospital, France
Professor Raffaele De Caterina	Professor of Cardiology and Director, University Cardiology Division, G. D'Annunzio University, Italy
Professor Hans-Christoph Diener	Professor and Head of Neurology, Chair of the Department of Neurology, Director of University Hospital & Essen Headache Centre, Essen, Germany
Dr Andreas Goette	St Vincenz Hospital Paderborn and University Hospital Magdeburg, Germany and Chair of European Heart Rhythm Association Scientific Programme Committee
Professor Reinhold Kreutz	Head of Pharmacology, Institute of Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology, Berlin, Germany
Trudie Lobban	Chief Executive Officer, AF Association, UK
Dr Jonathan Salter	General Practitioner, NHS South Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, UK
Dr Andrew Walker	Health Economist, Institute of Health and Wellbeing, University of Glasgow, UK

Literature and clinical guidelines analysis

Initial research included an assessment of the latest literature, clinical guidelines from the six focus countries, European guidelines, and key reports from patient organisations and professional bodies in each focus country.

The data were then synthesised, identifying common themes addressing each objective across Europe and the specific countries of focus, as well as elements unique to the focus countries.

Key informant interviews

A total of 60 interviews with healthcare professionals, patient representatives and policymakers/influencers were carried out to gather perspectives on the current landscape and future of AF.

The interviews were employed at two points in the research.

- The first round of interviews was carried out to complement the literature and clinical guidelines analysis; to gain an understanding of the AF landscape in each of the six focus countries, including the healthcare system and preferred management options.
- A further round of interviews was conducted to explore the drivers of change shaping the future of AF, with a particular focus on the use of oral anticoagulants, (OACs), in the prevention of AF-related stroke. This was complimented with additional interviews to provide a pan-European perspective on the issues facing AF by focusing on general trends across Europe.

PESTLE analysis

Findings from the literature assessment and expert interviews were analysed with a focus on political, economic, social, technological, legal and environmental (PESTLE) factors, in addition to population trends.

The analysis was used to develop future scenarios, which were refined through input from the steering committee.

Development and exploration of future scenarios

Future scenarios were constructed to help build a picture of what the future landscape of AF may look like and provide insight into potential developments and how they might impact AF prevention, treatment and management.

The steering committee played an active part in reviewing and refining the future scenarios and in identifying the risks and opportunities that would arise within each scenario. This feedback formed the basis of the Future of Anticoagulation report recommendations.

Short-term and long-term recommendations

Based on the research conducted, a series of short-term and longer-term recommendations for improving AF-related patient outcomes were devised.

About RAND Europe

Data collection, analysis and preparation were performed by an independent research organisation RAND Europe, in collaboration with an independent Steering Committee.

RAND Europe is an independent not-for profit policy research organisation that aims to improve policy and decision making in the public interest, through research and analysis. RAND Europe's clients include European governments, institutions, non-governmental bodies (NGOs) and firms with a need for rigorous, independent, multidisciplinary analysis. This report has been subject to RAND's quality assurance process, which consists of rigorous peer review.

Sponsorship of the Future of Anticoagulation Initiative

The Future of Anticoagulation Initiative was funded by the pharmaceutical company Daiichi Sankyo Europe.

Daiichi Sankyo, a global expert in cardiovascular care, is driven by its passion for innovation and compassion for patients. It has provided the financial support to facilitate the convening of an independent expert Steering Committee and the undertaking of new primary research to examine the future implications for anticoagulation management within Europe.

References

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- ¹ Lichten, C., Castle-Clarke, S., Manville, C., Horvath, V., Robin, E., Krapels, J., Parks, S., Sim, M., van Zijverden, O., Chataway, J. (2015). The future of anticoagulation management in atrial fibrillation in Europe: An assessment of today's challenges with recommendations for the future. Rand Corporation.
- ² Krijthe, B.P., et al. 2013. 'Projections on the number of individuals with atrial fibrillation in the European Union from 2000 to 2060.' *European Heart Journal*. 34(35): 2746–51.