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Incidence and risk factors associated with venous thromboembolism in spine surgery using national representative patient sample in Korea

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Aim: This study aimed to identify the incidence of and risk factors and the utilization of thromboprophylaxis for perioperative Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) in patients undergoing spine surgery using National Health Insurance claims data in Korea.

Method: The incidence of VTE in adult patients with spine surgery was extracted from 2014 National Inpatient Sample dataset provided by the Health Insurance Review and Assessment Service (HIRA-NIS-2014), a sample of all patients using medical services in Korea. The association of patient and surgery procedure variables, including VTE prophylaxis were determined with multivariable logistic regression.

Result: In 2014, total incidence of VTE was found to be 1.5% (314) among 20,900 spine surgeries in Korea. Multivariable logistic regression analysis identified several independent predictors of VTE, including age over 80, length of stay (over 10 days), vein diseases, cancer, prolonged surgery (over 2 hours), perioperative blood transfusion (over 2 liters), cardiovascular diseases and respiratory diseases. Only 5.7% of total spine surgeries is provided with VTE prophylaxis.

Conclusion: Patients undergoing spine surgery in Korea represent a population at a higher risk for VTE, however, relatively less concerned by care providers. Understanding the risk factors associated with perioperative VTE in spine surgery may provide an opportunity for early intervention and risk stratification in this population.

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