Clinical Leaders of Thrombosis Newsletter

Winter 2004

Dear Member

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If you have any items to include in the newsletter, send all details to ***Lesley Dolan*** by:

Email
anticoag21@yahoo.co.uk

Post
Path Lab
Rochdale Infirmary
Whitehall Street
Rochdale
OL12 0ND

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2004.

The Executive Committee would like to wish all CLOT members a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2005.

Mrs Lesley Dolan
Newsletter Editor
Anticoag21@yahoo.co.uk

18th International Congress on Thrombosis in Ljubljana, Slovenia 20-24 June 2004

This 4 day meeting had a variety of presentations. The scientific programme consisted of plenary lectures, oral communications and symposia on all aspects of thrombosis and haemostasis. It also had a large number of poster presentations that were featured for 24 hours at a time and satellite events where there was the opportunity for discussion on a variety of practice management and prevention.

The CLOT group was well represented at this meeting. It was attended by:
Caroline Baglin(Cambridge) Sarah Bond (Swindon), Michelle Taylor (Swindon) and Pamela Birchell (Wigan).

Sarah Bond gave two oral presentations; the first on 'Analysis of Predisposing Factors and Six Month Outcomes of DVT management in 668 Patients Treated with Low Molecular Weight Heparin of Outpatients'. She also gave a presentation on 'Bleeding Complications of Oral Anticoagulation Therapy'- A perspective study done with both Swindon and Coventry NHS Trusts.

It was to the credit of the CLOT group which has grown over the last few years that a group of healthcare professionals can go to an international meeting and already have a network of colleagues to spend time with and discuss issues. It is also, as Caroline points out, extremely impressive that CLOT members are presenting at international meetings. Well Done.

CLOT Meeting-Milton Keynes 3-4 October 2004

CLOT has recently held their autumn meeting, comprising of workshop sessions and presentations by guest speakers. Once again the meeting was well attended with over 80 delegates present.

In the first workshop, nurse practitioner Julie Braine described her anticoagulant service in the largely rural Cambridge and Fenland area. Julie presented two cases of patients with difficult anticoagulant control and workshop participants discussed possible strategies to improve anticoagulation control.

Steve Davidson described the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham protocol for care of patients with heart valve prostheses when the INR becomes subtherapuetic. Steve highlighted the fact that there was a lack of UK literature concerning the management of such cases. Participants discussed different protocols in use (or lack of them).

The CLOT dinner followed the workshops and members continued their lively discussions well into the night.

Diane Kitchen from UK NEQAS (National External Quality Assurance Scheme) started the meeting on the Monday with a presentation on external quality control for near patient testing devices. NEQAS offer a service to professional users and are piloting a service for patients who self test.

Trevor Baglin, Consultant Haematologist, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge discussed the recent large increase in thrombophilia screening and its predictive value for risk of recurrent venous thromboembolism. (VTE)

Sue Rhodes, nurse practitioner from Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust discussed the results of a five-year study of outpatient managed DVT patients, which looked at risk factors for VTE and clinical outcomes. Sue also presented results of an audit of bleeding complications in patients taking oral anticoagulants.

Fiona Woods, Director Welsh Medicines Information Centre spoke on interactions between anticoagulants and herbal medicines. Fiona mentioned the lack of reliable information concerning safety of combinations of herbal and anticoagulant medicines. She proposed that the use of herbal medication in any condition where disease state control is critical, such as anticoagulation, is a high risk situation where ideally all implicated herbal medicines should be avoided.

Caroline Baglin, Thrombophilia Clinical Nurse Specialist at Addenbrookes Hospital, reviewed oral direct thrombin inhibitors and their potential to become the anticoagulants of the future; this promoted a lively discussion amongst the delegates.

Becky Brain, representing the thrombosis charity, Lifeblood, gave the final presentation. Lifeblood aims to raise the profile of thrombosis as a disease and bring it to the fore of the healthcare agenda. Lifeblood is involved in fundraising for research and its patient education programme.

The meeting seemed to meet the needs of everyone who attended those new to the field of anticoagulation and members that have had several years experience in anticoagulation.

Transcripts of presentations are available to members through the website, www.clotuk.com

For those CLOT members who are interested in applying for a grant to do thrombosis research, please look at the 'Lifeblood' Thrombosis Charity website, the address is www.information@thrombosis-charity.org.uk

If any members wish to suggest any topics they would like to be included in the CLOT meetings please e-mail anticoag21@yahoo.co.uk

Anticoagulant Courses

I recently attended the Anticoagulation Management 3 day training course at the University of Birmingham. This course is for General Practitioners, Practice Nurses and other Primary Care professionals. Day 1 gave us a theoretical and practical overview of anticoagulation management which included sessions on indications for

warfarin, how it works and BSH guidelines; management of INR results; stroke prevention and atrial fibrillation; quality control plus workshops on Near Patient Testing and Computerised Decision Support Software.

Day 2 was a more practical session which covered protocol development and accountability; audit parameters for community anticoagulation management and a session on litigation which involved the group being divided into defence and prosecution-this caused a lively debate!

Day 3 dawned with some trepidation as the sessions were followed by a written and practical assessment but we all survived.

Overall, a very informative 3 days.
For further information contact: Ellen Murray, Tel 0121 414 3761 or
E-mail: e.t.murray@bham.ac.uk

A second scientific meeting of the Anticoagulation Working Party of the Primary Care Cardiovascular Society will take place on Thursday 3rd February 2005 in Birmingham.

For further information contact: LynShlds@aol.com Conference Organiser.

Anticoagulation workshop for Pharmacists

In January 2005 there will be a new 4-day workshop for pharmacists working in the field of anticoagulation. It will be based at the University of Hertfordshire in Hatfield. It is a unique opportunity for pharmacists to explore the key factors influencing the management of anticoagulation. The course has been developed based upon the highly successful anticoagulation for nurse specialist's course that has run at the University for the last 3 years. The tutors on this course Carol Law and Rebecca Brown have responded to need expressed by many pharmacists working in the area.

The course will also have input from specialist lecturers from the universities pharmacology department.
The main areas to be covered are:

1) The clotting cascade and laboratory monitoring of anticoagulation.
2) The aetiology, care and management of key conditions requiring anticoagulation
3) Anticoagulation pharmacology
4) Legal issues influencing the management of anticoagulation in Primary and Secondary care.

It is hoped that pharmacists working in both hospitals and the community will benefit, by extending their knowledge base and expertise. It will be an opportunity to share and debate best practice and develop a support network for the future.

To apply contact:

Short Courses Administrator
School of Continuing & Professional Development
University of Hertfordshire
Meridian House
32-36 The Common
Hatfield, Herts AL10 9AB
Tel 01707 285810, Fax 01707285814,
E-mail H+Hshortcourses@herts.ac.uk

Request for information

Sharon Gilshenan is interested in looking at protocols/guidelines for compression hosiery. If any CLOT member could help with this request please contact Sharon by E-mail Sharon.Gilshenan@epsom-sthelier.nhs.uk

Presentation to retiring Membership Secretary, Vicki Warburton

Vicki retired from the post of CLOT membership secretary last year and the CLOT committee wanted to thank Vicki in person on behalf of the members for her service with CLOT. At the recent meeting in Milton Keynes, Steve Davidson, CLOT chairman, presented Vicki with a bouquet and gardening gift vouchers.

Vicki has sent this message: A big thank you to CLOT for my beautiful bouquet and the garden vouchers. I have had a very busy year in my new role as chairman of the local horticultural society since handing over CLOT membership secretary.

We also moved house last year and plan to move again before Christmas! I do miss the involvement with the CLOT committee but it was so nice to come and relax and enjoy the meeting without all the hassle of committee commitments.

Thank you to all
Vicki.

Vacancy for CLOT Library Assistant

We would like to update the CLOT website library to provide an up to date resource for members. In order to do this the committee would like to appoint a library assistant to help the CLOT secretary.

The role of the library assistant will include;

- Maintaining an up to date library of anticoagulant documentation.
- Posting links to current guidelines e.g. BSH, SIGN, and RCOG
- Promotion of anticoagulant practitioner research
- Posting links to websites of professional interest to anticoagulant practitioners
- Current literature review

Benefits to the library assistant would include CLOT study weekend fees paid.
Additional expenses would be paid as agreed with the committee.

If you would like to apply for the position, please send your CV and a brief statement explaining why you are interested in the position to:
Margaret Munro, Pharmacy Department, Bristol Royal Infirmary, Marlborough Street, Bristol BS2 8HW. Tel 0117 928 3874 or e-mail margaret.munro@uhbt.swest.nhs.uk

Thank you to our sponsors

CLOT would like to thank our Gold Sponsor, Roche Diagnostics and Silver Sponsor, Amdipharm for their continuing support, which enables us to hold our CLOT meetings.

Thanks also to the companies who have stands at our meetings.

CLOT Meeting

The next study weekend will be the 25th CLOT meeting. This will be held on Sunday/Monday 17-18 April 2005 at the Village Hotel, Bury Lancashire.

More details of this 'Silver Anniversary' will be posted to members and also on the website.

Coagulation Scientific Forum Meeting Mannheim, Germany

On October 20th and 21st, 2004 Roche Diagnostics UK hosted their first Coagulation Scientific Forum in celebration of the Tenth birthday of Patient Self Testing.

The meeting hosted in Mannheim Germany, Roche Diagnostics head quarters, was designed to discuss and share information and experiences from anticoagulation clinics in secondary and primary care hosting Patient Self Testing and Patient Self Management. It was a great chance to:

- Get updates of the latest data from the experts
- Understand the quality management at Roche
- See the CoaguChek Production line
- Learn from other clinics how you can make PST work for your patients
- Hear from the patients who have been self testing for years

Guests included:

- Anticoagulation Specialist Nurses
- Haematologists
- PCT Prescribing advisors

As the event was a great success Roche Diagnostics UK have organised 3 more scientific forums for 2005. The dates are:

- *8-9th April*
- *9-10th June*
- *22-23rd September*

If you are interested in attending one of the above dates please contact CLOT who will put you in touch with the Roche Diagnostics CoaguChek Product Manager. Places are limited so don't hesitate and put forward your applications now.

Places are at the discretion of Roche Diagnostics. All costs and expenses are covered by Roche Diagnostics.