【CKD education Course 1-1】

Atrial fibrillation in chronic kidney disease treatment

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Atrial fibrillation (AF) is a common comorbidity in patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD), significantly increasing their risk of stroke, heart failure, and mortality. Treating AF in CKD patients presents unique challenges due to the complexities of anticoagulation management and the altered pharmacokinetics associated with reduced kidney function. Traditional anticoagulation therapies, such as warfarin, carry an increased risk of bleeding complications in CKD, while the safety and efficacy of novel oral anticoagulants (NOACs) vary depending on the stage of kidney disease. Emerging evidence suggests that certain NOACs, particularly at adjusted doses, may offer a safer alternative for AF management in advanced CKD. This review discusses the therapeutic considerations, risks, and benefits of anticoagulation strategies in CKD patients with AF, explores the latest findings on NOACs and warfarin in this population, and highlights the need for further research to guide evidence-based treatment recommendations for this high-risk group.