

INTRODUCTION

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A wise General deals with supplies from the enemy.

Sun Tzu

Perioperative bleeding is associated with high morbidity and mortality. This complication has increased its prevalence and incidence in recent years with regard to various factors, notably the trauma, more complex surgical procedures, the need for anticoagulation to a larger number of patients with vitamin K inhibitors, and the introduction of new and powerful oral anticoagulants like the inhibitors of thrombin and factor Xa.

The narrow and complex balance of coagulation favors an adequate systemic perfusion, but when it is lost, the development of conditions ranging from thrombosis to incoercible bleeding, especially in those anticoagulated patients, is favored.

Better understanding of the molecular processes that mediate these events has made possible the development of treatment algorithms, especially the rational use of blood products and for reversal of anticoagulation, both inhibitors of vitamin K, and the new oral anticoagulants.

The campaign called "Stop the bleeding", aims to analyze this serious public health problem by the premise of detect, recognize, treat and prevent, which has resulted in a more rational and comprehensive approach for the management of acute bleeding.

Furthermore, the introduction of new drugs used as reversal for different anticoagulants, such as prothrombin complex concentrate, has open new windows of opportunity.

For this reason, the Colegio Mexicano de Anestesiología A. C. (Mexican College of Anesthesiology) and the Grupo Mexicano para el Estudio de la Medicina Intensiva (Mexican Group for the Study of Intensive Care Medicine) committed to disseminating current academic topics, developed this supplement of the Revista Mexicana de Anestesiología (Mexican Journal of Anesthesiology), addressing new concepts related to the management of perioperative acute haemorrhage and reversal of anticoagulation.

Each chapter of this supplement addresses highly topical concepts which, undoubtedly, will be very useful for those who are facing the management of acute bleeding.

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