

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF WARFARIN IN
TREATING PATIENTS WITH ATRIAL
FIBRILLATION IN HOSPITAL SERDANG**

AMIRAH BINTI BAHRAIN

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ABSTRACT

Background: Warfarin is an anticoagulant that is used in prophylaxis of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF). A total of 133 patients were recruited in this study is composed of 73 males and 60 females. 50% patients are of 65 years old and below, 33% are between age 65 and 74 and 17% are 75 years old and above. 73% of the patients have TTR less than 75% while the remaining 27 % have TTR of 75% and above. Factors that can influence INR reading and affecting TTR are missing dose (23%), not taking the right dose (10%), food and supplements (19%), more than one reason (17%), dental extraction (3%) and unknown (28%). Safety and efficacy of warfarin is greatly dependent on close monitoring of its use.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is one of the most common sustained cardiac rhythm disturbance and its prevalence increases with age. Connolly et al (2011) reported that there is less than 1% under 60 years of age and more than 6% above 80 years old are diagnosed with AF. It is the condition when the normal rhythmic contraction of the atria is replaced by rapid, inconsistent twitching of the muscular wall, causing the ventricles to respond irregularly to it (Ferguson et al., 2014). Upon the irregular beating of the heart, it will not pump blood efficiently as it should hence cause the pooling of the blood and clot formation inside the heart. There is possibility of the clot in the heart to break and block the blood flow travelling to the brain, causing stroke ("What is Atrial Fibrillation? | Blood Clots," n.d.). Due to this problem, anticoagulant such as warfarin is given to prevent platelet aggregation and clot formation, reducing the risk of thromboembolism and stroke in patients.