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## **SPECIFIČNOSTI TROMBOPROFILAKSE KOD STARIJIH PACIJENATA U ORTOPEDSKOJ HIRURGIJI KUKA I KOLENA**

**Sažetak:** Stariji pacijenti sa frakturom kuka su u značajno visokom riziku za razvoj venskog tromboembolizma (VTE). Incidenca fatalnih plućnih embolija (PE) se javlja kod 2–3% pacijenata nakon elektivnih operacija kuka i kolena i oko 6–7% nakon hirurgije frakture kuka, pri čemu je veći rizik kod muškaraca (10,2%) nego kod žena (4,7%). Primena farmakološke profilakse značajno redukuje incidencu simptomatske VTE. Farmakološka profilaksa obuhvata primenu antitrombocitnih lekova (aspirin), nefrpcionisanog heparina (UFH), niskomolekularnih heparina (LMWH), vitamin K antagonist (VKA), Fondaparinux-a i direktnih oralnih antikoagulanasa (DOAC). Primena niskomolekularnih heparina (LMWH) – enoxaparin, predstavlja zlatni standard tromboprofilakse u ortopedskoj hirurgiji i za sada su jedini lekovi koji su u preporukama za tromboprofilaksu hirurgije frakture kuka. Rivaroksaban se koristi u profilaksi VTE kod elektivnih operacija kuka i kolena u fiksnoj dozi od 10 mg jedanput dnevno, a apixaban u dozi 2,5 mg dva puta dnevno kod artroplastike kolena najmanje 14 dana, a nakon artroplastike kuka najmanje 35 dana. Rana hirurgija frakture kuka što pre je moguće, najbolje unutar 24h, a najkasnije do 48h od prijema u bolnicu, značajno smanjuje morbiditet i mortalitet starijih bolesnika.

**Ključne reči:** tromboprofilaksa, venski tromboembolizam, niskomolekularni heparin, aspirin, rivaroksaban, apixaban, fraktura kuka

Venski tromboembolizam (VTE), koji podrazumeva plućnu tromboemboliju (PT) i duboku vensku trombozu (DVT), predstavlja signifikantan uzrok mortaliteta i morbiditeta kod hospitalizovanih pacijenata. Stariji pacijenti sa frakturom kuka su u značajno visokom riziku za razvoj venskog tromboembolizma (VTE). Bez farmakološke profilakse DVT se registruju kontrasnom venografijom kod 54% pacijenata nakon elektivnih operacija ugradnje proteze kuka ("total hip arthroplasty" – THA) i kod 64% pacijenata nakon ugradnje proteze kolena ("total knee arthroplasty" – TKA).

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od kojih je većina DVT bila asimptomatska (1). Incidencu fatalnih PE se javlja kod 2–3% pacijenata nakon elektivnih operacija kuka i kolena i oko 6–7% nakon hirurgije frakture kuka, pri čemu je veći rizik kod muškaraca (10,2%) nego kod žena (4,7%). Hronična bubrežna insuficijencija, srčana insuficijencija i atrijalna fibrilacija predstavljaju nezavisne faktore rizika povećanog mortaliteta nakon ortopedske hirurgije (2, 3).

Primena farmakološke profilakse značajno redukuje incidencu simptomatske VTE: DVT se javlja kod 0,7%, a PE kod 0,3% pacijenata nakon elektivne operacije kuka, a kod elektivne operacije kolena DVT se javlja kod 0,9% pacijenata, a PE kod 0,3% pacijenata. Upotreba adekvatne tromboprofilakse redukuje incidencu VTE nakon hirurgije frakture kuka na 1,4–3,5% (4, 5).

Faktori rizika za razvoj tromboembolizma su: gojaznost, arterijska hipertenzija, pušenje, životna dob, varikozne vene, pozitivna porodična anamneza, trombofilija, oralni kontraceptivi, hormonska terapija, maligniteti, trudnoća, nepokretnost, anestezija i centralni venski kateteri (6). Ključni faktori rizika za razvoj VTE nakon ortopedske hirurgije predstavljaju: prethodni VTE, kardiovaskularna oboljenja, povišen BMI (gojaznost je povezana sa 2–4 puta većim rizikom za razvoj VTE), starija životna dob (preko 85 godina), trombofilija, varikozne vene i muški pol (7).

Farmakološka profilaksa venskog tromboembolizma (VTE) nakon ortopedske hirurgije kuka i kolena obuhvata primenu antitrombocitnih lekova (aspirin), nefrakcionsanog heparina (UFH), niskomolekularnih heparina (LMWH), vitamin K antagonista (VKA), Fondaparinux-a i direktnih oralnih antikoagulanasa (DOAC) (8).

Acetil-salicilna kiselina (aspirin) ireverzibilno inhibiše enzim ciklooksigenazu i sprečava produkciju tromboksana koji dovodi do agregacije trombocita i formiranja tromba. Pokazano je da je aspirin efikasniji u prevenciji VTE u odnosu na placebo, ali znatno inferiorniji od niskomolekularnih heparina (LMWH). Većina preporuka ne savetuje primenu aspirina kao jedinog terapeutskog agensa u prevenciji VTE kod ortopedske hirurgije, a jedna metaanaliza iz 2016. godine je pokazala da aspirin može da se koristi u profilaksi VTE kod elektivnih operacija kuka i kolena. U novijim preporukama preporučuje se primena Rivaroxabana prvih 5 dana nakon operacije, a potom nastaviti sa aspirinom u dozi od 81mg jedanput dnevno (9).

Vitamin K antagonisti (VKA) inhibišu sintezu vitamin K-zavisnih prokoagulantnih faktora: F II, F VII, F IX, F X i proteine C i S, i koriste se u prevenciji VTE nakon ortopedske hirurgije. Monitoring antikoagulantne aktivnosti se prati preko protrombinskog vremena (PT), koje se procenjuje preko INR-a (International Normalized Ratio) sa terapijskim vrednostima između 2 i 3 i ciljnim INR-om od 2,5. Acenokumarol ima poluživot 8–11h, a Varfarin 2,5 dana, što je važno u terapijskom praćenju tokom primene leka: inicijalni monitoring INR-a započeti nakon druge ili treće doze leka, a potom merenje INR-a na nekoliko dana ili jednom nedeljno, a potom nakon postizanja terapijskih doza leka najmanje jedanput mesečno. Kada je potrebno odmah započeti profilaksu efekat se postiže istovremenom primenom niskomoleku-

larnog heparina (LMWH) i VKA, do postizanja terapijskog INR-a kada se isključuje LMWH. Preklapanje se vrši i kada se želi isključiti VKA, a primeniti LMWH (8).

Nefrakcionisani heparin (UFH) blokira antitrombin (AT) i kompleks heparin/AT inaktivše trombin (F II) i faktore: Xa, IXa, XIa i XIIa. Neophodna je parenteralna primena heparina (intravenski ili subkutano), a njegov terapijski učinak se prati preko aktiviranog parcijalnog tromboplastinskog vremena (aPTT). Nefrakcionisani heparin se prema preporukama može koristiti u prevenciji VTE nakon elektivnih operacija kuka i kolena, kao i nakon operacija frakture kuka. Najčešći neželjeni efekti primene UFH su heparinom indukovana trombocitopenija (HIT) i osteoporozra (10, 11).

Primena niskomolekularnih heparina (LMWH) – enoxaparin, predstavlja zlatni standard tromboprofilakse u ortopedskoj hirurgiji. LMWH su potentniji inhibitori F Xa od heparina, primenjuju se supkutano jedanput ili dva puta dnevno sa značajno povoljnijim farmakodinamskim i farmakokinetskim profilom od UFH i ostalih anti-koagulanasa. LMWH su, prema studijama, signifikantno superiorniji od UFH i VKA u prevenciji VTE nakon ortopedske hirurgije sa značajno manjim procentom rizika od krvarenja i značajno manjim rizikom od razvoja HIT-a (0,2%) u odnosu na UFH (2,6%). Enoksaparin se u tromboprofilaksi primenjuje u dozi od 30 mg supkutano dva puta dnevno ili u jednoj dozi od 40 mg kod artroplastike kuka najmanje 35 dana, a nakon artroplastike kolena najmanje 14 dana. Iste doze enoksaparina se primenjuju i nakon hirurgije frakture kuka u trajanju od najmanje 35 dana. LMWH su za sada jedini lekovi koji su u preporukama za tromboprofilaksu hirurgije frakture kuka. Preporuka je započeti primenu LMWH nakon 12h od operacije (10, 12).

Fondaparinux je sintetski pentasaharid sa specifičnom inhibicijom faktora Xa koagulacije koja je značajno veća od LMWH i dužim poluživotom u plazmi (oko 17h) u odnosu na LMWH (oko 4h) sa manjom incidencom VTE u odnosu na LMWH (enoksaparin i dalteparin) i UFH. Doza Fondaparinux-a od 2,5 mg primenjena supkutano jedanput dnevno koristi se u profilaksi VTE i terapiji akutnog koronarnog sindroma (AKS). Tretman PE i DVT je 7,5 mg/dan Fondaparinux-a za paciente težine 50–100 kg, 5 mg/dan za paciente težine manje od 50 kg i 10 mg/dan supkutano za paciente sa više od 100kg (13).

Direktni oralni antikoagulansi (DOAC): apixaban, rivaroksaban i dabigatran u odnosu na VKA imaju prednost zbog primene fiksnih doza, a bez potrebe monitoringa (14).

Rivaroksaban je direktni inhibitor aktiviranog faktora X (F Xa). Koristi se u profilaksi VTE kod elektivnih operacija kuka i kolena u fiksnoj dozi od 10 mg jedanput dnevno. Inicijalnu dozu treba započeti 6 do 10 sati nakon elektivne operacije i primenjivati kod zamene zglobovog kolena najmanje 14 dana, a nakon zamene zglobovog kolena najmanje 35 dana. Trenutno se ne preporučuje kao rutinska profilaksa nakon operacija frakture kuka, mada sve više novijih studija ide u prilog primene rivaroksabana i nakon hirurgije frakture kuka sa malim rizikom od krvarenja, ali većim od LMWH (15, 16).

Apixaban je direktni inhibitor aktiviranog faktora X (F Xa) koji je odobren u profilaksi VTE nakon elektivnih operacija kuka i kolena, kao i tretmanu akutne VTE i PE. Prema sadašnjim preporukama, profilaktičke doze apixabana su 2,5 mg dva puta dnevno, koje se započinju 12–24h nakon hirurgije i nastavljaju najmanje 35 dana nakon elektivne operacije zglobovskih kuka i najmanje 14 dana nakon elektivne operacije zglobovskog kolena. Apixaban se i dalje ne preporučuje u tromboprofilaksi nakon hirurgije frakture kuka (16).

Dabigatran je selektivni, reverzibilni, direktni inhibitor trombina. U tromboprofilaksi kod elektivnih ortopedskih operacija koristi se u dozi 220 mg ili 150 mg dnevno, a ne preporučuje se u tromboprofilaksi nakon hirurgije frakture kuka (16).

Frakture kuka predstavljaju česte povrede starije populacije i dovode do većeg broja sekvela – od nepokretnosti, pogoršanja opšteg stanja i povećanog mortaliteta. Postoje jasne preporuke i dokazi da rana hirurgija frakture kuka što je pre moguće, najbolje unutar 24h, a najkasnije do 48h od prijema u bolnicu, predstavlja zlatni standard, koji značajno smanjuje morbiditet i mortalitet. Brojni komorbiditeti koji su zastupljeni kod starije populacije (koronarna arterijska bolest, dijabetes, demencija, bubrežna insuficijencija) udruženi su sa povećanim mortalitetom kod pacijenata sa frakturom kuka i mogu biti uzročnik odlaganja vremena operacije. Odlaganje hirurgije frakture kuka preko 48h značajno povećava jednogodišnji mortalitet i dovodi do komplikacija koje nastaju posledično zbog produžene imobilizacije i dovode do povećanog rizika za razvoj pneumonije, urinarnih infekcija, sepse i dekubitusa. Brojne opservacione studije su pokazale da je hirurgija unutar 12h od frakture kuka udružena sa niskom incidentom mortaliteta, a retrospektivne kohortne studije su pokazale da odlaganje hirurgije za svaki sat povećava za 1,8% incidentu 30-dnevног mortaliteta nakon 24h od frakture kuka (17).

COVID-19 pozitivni stariji pacijenti sa hirurgijom frakture kuka imaju povećan rizik za razvoj postoperativnih komplikacija koje uključuju infekcije respiratornog trakta, ARDS, duboke venske tromboze i pulmonarni embolizam, dužu hospitalizaciju i boravak u jedinicama intenzivne nege i povećan mortalitet (18).

Antikoagulaciona i antiagregaciona terapija predstavlja sastavni deo terapije pacijenata nakon 65. godine života u terapiji koronarne bolesti, atrijalne fibrilacije, venskog tromboembolizma, cerebrovaskularnih oboljenja, valvularnih oboljenja srca i veštačkih zalistaka. Oko 30–40% pacijenata sa frakturom kuka ima propisanu antikoagulacionu ili antiagregacionu terapiju, što nosi povećan rizik od krvarenja, razvoja hematoma, povećanom potrebom za transfuzijama i povećanim rizikom od razvoja infekcija i dužom hospitalizacijom (19).

Incidenca DVT je preoperativno zastupljena kod 6–9% pacijenata unutar 48h od hirurgije frakture kuka, a 54–62% ako je intervencija odložena duže od 48h. Duplex scan krvnih sudova donjih ekstremiteta se ne preporučuje kao rutinska metoda ako je intervencija unutar 48h, a studije preporučuju imidžing DVT donjih ekstremiteta

ako je hirurgija odložena nakon 48h i određivanje D-dimera kod klinički sumnjivog VTE. Kod potvrđene DVT preporučuje se primena terapijskih doza niskomolekularnog heparina (LMWH) – enoxaparin 1 mg/kg na 12h. Nekoliko prospективnih randomizovanih kontrolnih studija je pokazalo da primena Rivaroxabana 10 mg jednom dnevno pre hirurgije efikasno redukuje rizik od razvoja preoperativne DVT kod pacijenata sa frakturom vrata femura bez povećanog rizika od razvoja krvarenja kao alternativa primeni LMWH (enoxaparin 30 mg/12h s.c. ili 40 mg s.c. jednom dnevno) koji je prva linija terapije u važećim preporukama (20, 21, 22).

Najčešća indikacija za antikoagulantnu terapiju kod starije populacije je atrijalna fibrilacija sa incidencom 7–10% kod pacijenata sa frakturom kuka. Sadašnje preporuke su da vitamin K antagonisti – VKA (varfarin ili acenokumarol) prekinu pre hirurgije kuka, kod pacijenata koji primaju VKA zbog VTE ili tranzitornog ishemičnog ataka (TIA) koji su imali unazad 3 meseca, genetski dokazano trombotsko oboljenje, imaju atrijalnu fibrilaciju sa CHADS2 skor >5, pacijenata sa mehaničkom valvulom, prethodni cerebrovaskularni insult i neki od faktora rizika: neregulisana hipertenzija (>140/90 mmHg), više od 75 godina ili diabetes mellitus, uz "bridge" sa profilaktičkim dozama LMWH sve do 12h pre hirurgije i postizanja INR-a manjeg od 1,5 kada je sigurno vreme za hirurgiju frakture kuka i smanjenje rizika od krvarenja i potrebom za transfuzije (23).

Varfarin ima poluživot od 36h i trebalo bi prekinuti lek 5 dana pre elektivne operacije kuka i kolena za normalizovanje hemostaze, a kod starijih pacijenata taj period je i duži i imaju nepredvidivi trend smanjenja INR-a, posebno kod frakture kuka. Kod pacijenata koji su na terapiji sa VKA, a imaju nizak rizik za razvoj VTE, multiple studije su pokazale značajnu korist od aktivne reverzne strategije koja signifikantno redukuje vreme do hirurgije, a bez povećanog rizika od krvarenja i tromboembolijskih događaja. Kao reverzibilni agensi se koriste oralni ili intravenski vitamin K, sveže smrznuta plazma (FFP) i koncentrat protrombin kompleksa. Primena vitamina K se kroz studije pokazala bezbednim pristupom bez povećanja trombotskih komplikacija. Vitamin K u dozi od 1 do 10 mg u sporoj intravenskoj infuziji se pokazala bezbednim (uobičajeno manje doze: 2–5 mg i.v.) uz retke komplikacije (anafilaksu). Oralna primena istih doza vitamina K postiže sporiji efekat od intravenske infuzije. Sveže smrznuta plazma (FFP) postiže brzo reverznu antikoagulaciju bez uzroka dalje rezistencije na varfarin ili heparin, a efekti traju 8–12h nakon primene i optimalno je primeniti do 4h pre procedure sa manjim dozama vitamina K da bi se povećao efekat antikoagulacije, što ubrzava vreme do hirurgije, a bez povećanog rizika od komplikacija. Koncentrat protrombin kompleksa sadrži visoke koncentracije koagulacionih faktora, uključujući F II, F VII, F IX i F X i inaktiviju varfarin 5 puta brže od sveže smrznute plazme, ali imaju povećan rizik od razvoja kasnijih trombogenih događaja: cerebrovaskularni insult, infarkt miokarda, PE, DVT, zbog čega se daju u trećoj liniji za postizanje reverzibilne antikoagulacije kod selektovanih pacijenata sa frakturama

kuka. Varfarin se može nastaviti nakon 24h od hirurgije kod nekomplikovanih pacijenata sa uspostavljenom hemostazom (20, 22).

Direktni oralni antikoagulansi (DOAC-s): dabigatran – direktni inhibitor trombina i direktni inhibitori faktora Xa (apixaban, rivaroxaban i edoxaban) se poslednjih godina češće koriste kod pacijenata sa visokim rizikom od tromboembolijskih događaja. DOAC-s su utemeljeni kao prva linija terapije prevencije insulta i sistemskog embolizma kod nevalvularne atrijalne fibrilacije i tretmana venskog tromboembolizma, a bez potrebe rutinskog monitoringa i bezbednijeg farmakokinetskog profila od VKA. Postoji manji broj studija vezanih za perioperativnu primenu DOAC-a kod frakturna kuka, a veći broj studija je pratio primenu kod elektivnih operacija kuka i kolena. Preporučuje se prekid terapije Xa inhibitorima (apixaban, rivaroxaban i edoxaban) 48h pre elektivnih intervencija kuka i kolena, a kod pacijenata sa oštećenjem bubrešta 72h pre elektivnih procedura. Dabigatran bi trebalo prekinuti 48h pre elektivnih procedura, a kod pacijenata sa klirensom kreatinina (Cl Cr) manjim od 50 ml/min preporučuje se prekid terapije 96h pre procedure. U pojedinim studijama preporučeni interval prekida terapije je skraćen na 24h pre procedure za rivaroksaban i edoxaban, a za dabigatran najmanje 12h pre elektivne procedure ako je manji rizik od hemoragijskih događaja ili kod hitnih operacija. Ukoliko kod pacijenata postoji visok rizik za trombotične događaje period do elektivne intervencije se može premostiti ("bridging") profilaktičkim dozama niskomolekularnog heparina (LMWH), a poslednja doza da bude 12h pre intervencije. DOAC-s se preporučuju da se nastave sa primenom što je pre moguće nakon operacije, a 48h nakon operacije je dovoljno bezbedno vreme sa uspostavljenom hemostazom (24).

Sadašnje studije ukazuju da pacijenti koji uzimaju antiagregacionu terapiju – aspirin ili klopidogrel, ne bi trebalo da imaju odloženu hirurgiju, ali bi trebalo izbeći spinalnu ili regionalnu anesteziju kod pacijenata sa klopidogrelom zbog rizika od razvoja spinalnog hematoma. Dvojna antitrombocitna terapija (DAPT) je indikovana kod visokorizičnih kardiovaskularnih pacijenata, pacijenti koji su imali u skorije vreme koronarnu intervenciju. Najčešće kombinacije u okviru DAPT terapije su aspirin sa klopidogrelom, prasugrelorom, tiktagrelorom ili glikoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitorima (abciximab, eptifibatid i tirofiban). DAPT je udružena sa signifikantno većim rizikom od krvarenja tokom hirurških intervencija (14,7%) u odnosu na aspirin (4,1%). Prerani prekid DAPT, posebno u stanjima nakon frakture kuka kada je povećana protrombotska aktivnost i povećana aktivacija trombocita, može dovesti do tromboze stenta, naročito u toku 30 dana od implantacije BMS, odnosno u toku 6 meseci od implantacije DES. Kod ovih visokorizičnih pacijenata, bez obzira na visok rizik od krvarenja, ne preporučuje se prekid DAPT, već zamena P2Y12 inhibitora sa glikoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitorima koji imaju kratko poluvreme eliminacije ( $T_{1/2}$ ) i mogu se prekinuti neposredno pre intervencije i brzo nastaviti nakon intervencije. Kod pacijenata koji imaju antitrombocitnu terapiju intravenska primena tranexamične

kiseline je bezbedna kod urgentnih operacija sa visokim rizikom od krvarenja i ima bolji bezbednosni profil od primene infuzije trombocita. Kod značajno povećanih rizika od krvarenja tokom hirurgije može se dati infuzija 2 doze trombocita nakon 2 sata od poslednje doze aspirina i 12–24h od poslednje doze klopidogrela. Tigacrelor i prasugrel kao mnogo potentniji antitrombocitni agensi od klopidogrela nose povećan rizik od krvarenja tokom hirurgije kuka i kolena i infuzija trombocita ne umanjuje rizik od hemoragijskih komplikacija tokom intervencije (17).

Neuroaksijalna anestezija kod pacijenata koji imaju elektivnu operaciju kuka i kolena, a primaju antitrombocitnu terapiju, izaziva povećan rizik od razvoja spinalnog hematoma. Primena aspirina se ne mora prekidati pre intervencije, a prasugrel i klopidogrel bi trebalo prekinuti 7 dana pre intervencije, tikagrelor 5 dana pre intervencije, tirofiban i epifibatid 8h pre, a abciximab 48h pre neuroaksijalne anestezije tokom izvođenja elektivnih operacija (25).

Preoperativna ehokardiografija se preporučuje pre operacije frakture kuka u cilju stratifikacije rizika kod pacijenata koji imaju srčanu insuficijenciju, valvularno oboljenje ili atrijalnu fibrilaciju, kao i kod pacijenata koji imaju dispneju nepoznatog uzroka. Stariji pacijenti imaju povećan rizik od razvoja infarkta miokarda nakon hirurgije frakture kuka i povećan nivo troponina nakon intervencije nosi povećan rizik od postoperativnog mortaliteta (26).

Anemija je često prisutna kod starije populacije i nosi povećan rizik od postoperativnih komplikacija. Preporučuje se transfuzija krvi preortopedske hirurgije kod pacijenata sa simptomima anemije ili kod asimptomatskih pacijenata sa nivoom hemoglobina ispod 80g/l. Preoperativna primena intravenskog gvožđa ima ograničen benefit, a nosi povećan rizik od razvoja mialgije i artralgije (27).

Diabetes mellitus tip 2 (DMT2) predstavlja drugi najčešći komorbiditet nakon hipertenzije kod starijih pacijenata sa frakturom kuka. Hiperglikemija nosi povećan rizik za razvoj postoperativnih komplikacija, periprostetičnih infekcija i povećanog postoperativnog mortaliteta i dužine hospitalizacije. Primena insulina predstavlja najpouzdaniji metod regulacije glikemije u perioperativnom periodu i, prema ADA preporukama, ciljne vrednosti glikemije kod hirurgije frakture kuka su ispod 7,8 mmol/l (manje od 140 mg/dl), a kod elektivnih operacija ispod 10 mmol/l (180mg/dl). Preporuka je svakodnevna kontrola glikemije preprandijalno i postprandijalno uz korekcije doza insulina i postizanja dobre glikoregulacije u ranom postoperativnom periodu u cilju smanjenja komplikacija i mortaliteta (28).

Pacijenti sa terminalnom bubrežnom slabošću, koja zahteva hemodializu, imaju 4,4 puta veći rizik od razvoja frakturne kuke zbog smanjenje koštane gustine i značajno veći rizik mortaliteta (45% veći mortalitet tokom 2 godine nakon operacije) i hirurških komplikacija (29). Perioperativna priprema pacijenata podrazumeva procenu rizika od kardiovaskularnih komplikacija, hemodializu dan pre hirurgije frakture kuka, a elektivne operacije mogu da se izvedu najmanje 6h nakon hemodialize sa heparinom

koji minimalizuje rizik od perioperativnog krvarenja, postdijalizni krvni pritisak da bude manji od 130/80 mm/Hg i hemoglobin minimum 90–100 g/l uz hematokrit veći od 30% i glikozilirani hemoglobin (HbA1c) 6–8% (30).

Osteoporozu kao uzrok frakturna je u stalnom porastu i javlja se često i pri manjoj traumi, posebno kod starijih osoba koje karakteriše fragilnost i povećana sklonost ka frakturama kuka. Merenje koštane gustine nije potrebno pre ortopedske procedure, ali se preporučuje nakon operacije radi daljeg tretmana. Preporučuje se profilaktička primena vitamina D (800 IU/dan), uz kalcijum (1200mg/dan), u ranom postoperativnom tretmanu nezavisno od nivoa vitamina D u krvi, a kasnije doziranje u zavisnosti od nivoa vitamina D u krvi, kao i primena terapije osteoporoze: oralni ili parenteralni bisfosfonati (31).

Multiple studije su pokazale da hronična opstruktivna bolest pluća (HOBP) povećava rizik od frakture kuka za 1,5 puta. Kod težih formi HOBP postoperativni mortalitet je 1,66 veći od onih sa blažom formom HOBP zbog povećanog rizika od razvoja pneumonije, infekcija rane i razvoja sepse (32).

### Zaključci

Starija životna dob i prisustvo komorbiditeta značajno povećavaju postoperativni mortalitet nakon elektivne hirurgije kuka i kolena, a signifikantno nakon hirurgije frakture kuka. Prema važećim preporukama, cilj tromboprofilakse je započeti što ranije nakon operacije, po uspostavljanju hemostaze u cilju smanjenja rizika za razvoj VTE, redukovanja intrahospitalnog i jednogodišnjeg mortaliteta i omogućavanje hirurgije frakture kuka što ranije je moguće u odnosu na stratifikaciju faktora rizika kod starijih pacijenata i pridruženim komorbiditetima.

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## **CHARACTERISTICS OF THROMBOPROPHYLAXIS IN ELDERLY PATIENTS BEFORE AND AFTER ORTHOPEDIC HIP AND KNEE SURGERY**

**Abstract:** Elderly patients with a hip fracture are at significantly higher risk for developing venous thromboembolism (VTE). The incidence of fatal pulmonary embolism (PE) occurs in 2-3% of patients after elective hip and knee surgery and about 6-7% after hip fracture surgery, with a higher risk in men (10,2%) than in women (4,7%). The use of pharmacological prophylaxis significantly reduces the incidence of symptomatic VTE. Pharmacological prophylaxis includes the use of antiplatelet drugs (aspirin), unfractionated heparin (UFH), low molecular weight heparins (LMWH), vitamin K antagonists (VKA), Fondaparinux and direct oral anticoagulants (DOAC). The use of low molecular weight heparins (LMWH) - enoxaparin, represents the gold standard of thromboprophylaxis in orthopedic surgery, and for now, they are the only drugs that are recommended for thromboprophylaxis in hip fracture surgery. Rivaroxaban is used in the prophylaxis of VTE in elective hip and knee surgeries at a fixed dose of 10 mg once daily, and apixaban at a dose of 2,5 mg twice daily in knee arthroplasty for at least 14 days, and after hip arthroplasty for at least 35 days. Early hip fracture surgery as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours, and no later than 48 hours after admission to the hospital, significantly reduces the morbidity and mortality of elderly patients.

**Key words:** thromboprophylaxis, venous thromboembolism, low molecular weight heparin, aspirin, rivaroxaban, apixaban, hip fracture

Venous thromboembolism (VTE), which includes pulmonary thromboembolism (PT) and deep vein thrombosis (DVT), is a significant cause of mortality and morbidity in hospitalized patients. Elderly patients with a hip fracture are at significantly higher risk for developing venous thromboembolism (VTE). Without pharmacological prophylaxis, DVTs are registered by contrast venography in 54% of patients after elective hip arthroplasty (THA) and in 64% of patients after total knee arthroplasty

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(TKA), most of whom DVT was asymptomatic (1). The incidence of fatal PE occurs in 2-3% of patients after elective hip and knee surgery and about 6-7% after hip fracture surgery, with a higher risk in men (10.2%) than in women (4.7%). Chronic renal failure, heart failure and atrial fibrillation are independent risk factors for increased mortality after orthopedic surgery (2, 3).

The use of pharmacological prophylaxis significantly reduces the incidence of symptomatic VTE: DVT occurs in 0.7% and PE in 0.3% of patients after elective hip surgery, and in elective knee surgery DVT occurs in 0.9% of patients and PE in 0.3% of patients. The use of adequate thromboprophylaxis reduces the incidence of VTE after hip fracture surgery to 1.4-3.5% (4, 5).

Risk factors for the development of thromboembolism are: obesity, arterial hypertension, smoking, age, varicose veins, positive family history, thrombophilia, oral contraceptives, hormonal therapy, malignancies, pregnancy, immobility, anesthesia and central venous catheters (6). The key risk factors for the development of VTE after orthopedic surgery are: previous VTE, cardiovascular diseases, increased BMI (obesity is associated with a 2-4 times greater risk of developing VTE), older age (over 85 years), thrombophilia, varicose veins and male gender (7).

Pharmacological prophylaxis of venous thromboembolism (VTE) after orthopedic hip and knee surgery includes the use of antiplatelet drugs (aspirin), unfractionated heparin (UFH), low molecular weight heparins (LMWH), vitamin K antagonists (VKA), Fondaparinux and direct oral anticoagulants (DOAC) (8).

Acetyl-salicylic acid (aspirin) irreversibly inhibits the cyclooxygenase enzyme and stop the production of thromboxane, which leads to platelet aggregation and thrombus formation. Aspirin has been shown to be more effective in preventing VTE than placebo, but significantly inferior to low molecular weight heparins (LMWH). Most recommendations do not advise the use of aspirin as the only therapeutic agent in the prevention of VTE in orthopedic surgery, and one meta-analysis from 2016 showed that aspirin can be used in the prophylaxis of VTE in elective hip and knee surgeries. In recent recommendations, it is recommended to use Rivaroxaban for the first 5 days after surgery, and then continue with aspirin at a dose of 81 mg once a day (9).

Vitamin K antagonists (VKA) inhibit the synthesis of vitamin K-dependent procoagulant factors: F II, F VII, F IX, F X and proteins C and S and are used in the prevention of VTE after orthopedic surgery. Anticoagulant activity is monitored through the prothrombin time (PT), which is estimated using the INR (International Normalized Ratio) with therapeutic values between 2 and 3 and a target INR of 2.5. Acenocoumarol has a half-life of 8-11 hours, and Warfarin 2,5 days, which is important in therapeutic monitoring during the use of the drug: initial INR monitoring should begin after the second or third dose of the drug, and then INR measurement for several days or once a week, and then after reaching therapeutic doses of the drug at least once a month. When it is necessary to start prophylaxis immediately, the effect is achieved

by simultaneous administration of low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) and VKA, until the therapeutic INR is reached, when LMWH is switched off. Overlapping is also done when you want to turn off VKA and apply LMWH (8).

Unfractionated heparin (UFH) blocks antithrombin (AT) and the heparin/AT complex inactivates thrombin (F II) and factors: Xa, IXa, XIa and XIIa. Parenteral administration of heparin (intravenous or subcutaneous) is necessary, and its therapeutic effect is monitored through the activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT). According to the recommendations, unfractionated heparin can be used in the prevention of VTE after elective hip and knee surgeries, as well as after hip fracture surgeries. The most common side effects of UFH administration are heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT) and osteoporosis (10, 11).

The use of low molecular weight heparins (LMWH) – enoxaparin, represents the gold standard of thromboprophylaxis in orthopedic surgery. LMWH are more potent inhibitors of F Xa than heparin, they are administered subcutaneously once or twice a day with a significantly more favorable pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic profile than UFH and other anticoagulants. According to studies, LMWHs are significantly superior to UFH and VKA in the prevention of VTE after orthopedic surgery with a significantly lower percentage of bleeding risk and a significantly lower risk of developing HIT (0.2%) compared to UFH (2.6%). Enoxaparin is used for thromboprophylaxis in a dose of 30 mg subcutaneously twice a day or in a single dose of 40 mg for at least 35 days after hip arthroplasty, and for at least 14 days after knee arthroplasty. The same doses of enoxaparin are administered after hip fracture surgery for at least 35 days. LMWH are currently the only drugs recommended for thromboprophylaxis in hip fracture surgery. It is recommended to start the application of LMWH after 12 hours after the surgery (10, 12).

Fondaparinux is a synthetic pentasaccharide with a specific inhibition of factor Xa of coagulation that is significantly higher than LMWH and a longer half-life in plasma (about 17h) compared to LMWH (about 4h) with a lower incidence of VTE compared to LMWH (enoxaparin and dalteparin) and UFH. Fondaparinux dose of 2.5 mg administered subcutaneously once a day is used in VTE prophylaxis and acute coronary syndrome (ACS) therapy. Treatment of PE and DVT is 7,5 mg/day of Fondaparinux for patients weighting 50-100 kg, 5 mg/day for patients weighting less than 50 kg and 10 mg/day subcutaneously for patients weighting more than 100 kg (13).

Direct oral anticoagulants (DOAC): apixaban, rivaroxaban and dabigatran compared to VKA have an advantage due to the application of fixed doses, without the need for monitoring (14).

Rivaroxaban is a direct inhibitor of activated factor X (F Xa). It is used for the prophylaxis of VTE in elective hip and knee surgeries in a fixed dose of 10 mg once a day. The initial dose should be started 6 to 10 hours after elective surgery and administered for at least 14 days after knee replacement, and for at least 35 days after hip

replacement. Currently, it is not recommended as routine prophylaxis after hip fracture surgery, although recent studies support the use of rivaroxaban after hip fracture surgery with a low risk of bleeding, but greater than LMWH (15, 16).

Apixaban is a direct inhibitor of activated factor X (F Xa) which is approved for the prophylaxis of VTE after elective hip and knee surgeries, as well as the treatment of acute VTE and PE. According to the current recommendations, prophylactic doses of apixaban are 2.5 mg twice a day, which start 12-24 hours after surgery and continue for at least 35 days after elective hip surgery and at least 14 days after elective knee surgery. Apixaban is still not recommended for thromboprophylaxis after hip fracture surgery (16).

Dabigatran is a selective, reversible, direct thrombin inhibitor. For thromboprophylaxis in elective orthopedic surgeries, it is used in a dose of 220 mg or 150 mg per day, and it is not recommended in thromboprophylaxis after hip fracture surgery (16).

Hip fractures are frequent injuries of the elderly population and lead to a greater number of sequelae - such as immobility, worsening of the general condition and increased mortality. There are clear recommendations and evidence that early hip fracture surgery as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours, and no later than 48 hours after admission to the hospital, is the gold standard, which significantly reduces morbidity and mortality. Numerous comorbidities that are present in the elderly population (coronary artery disease, diabetes, dementia, renal insufficiency) are associated with increased mortality in patients with hip fracture and may be a cause of delay in surgery. Postponing hip fracture surgery for more than 48 hours significantly increases one-year mortality and leads to complications that arise as a result of prolonged immobilization and lead to an increased risk of developing pneumonia, urinary infections, sepsis and decubitus. Numerous observational studies have shown that surgery within 12 hours of hip fracture is associated with a low incidence of mortality, and retrospective cohort studies have shown that delaying surgery 24 hours after hip fracture increases the incidence of 30-day mortality by 1.8% per hour (17).

COVID-19-positive elderly patients undergoing hip fracture surgery are at increased risk for developing postoperative complications including respiratory tract infections, ARDS, deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism, longer hospitalization and intensive care unit stays, and increased mortality (18).

Anticoagulation and antiaggregation therapy is an integral part of the therapy of patients after the age of 65 in the treatment of coronary disease, atrial fibrillation, venous thromboembolism, cerebrovascular diseases, valvular heart diseases and artificial valves. About 30-40% of patients with a hip fracture are prescribed anticoagulation or antiplatelet therapy, which carries an increased risk of bleeding, hematoma development, an increased need for transfusions, and an increased risk of developing infections and longer hospitalization (19).

The incidence of DVT preoperatively occurs in 6-9% of patients within 48 hours of hip fracture surgery, and 54-62% if the intervention is delayed for more than 48 hours. Duplex scan of blood vessels of the lower extremities is not recommended as a routine method if the intervention is within 48h, and studies recommend imaging DVT of the lower extremities if surgery is delayed after 48h and evaluation of D-dimer in clinically suspected VTE. In the case of confirmed DVT, the use of therapeutic doses of low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) – enoxaparin 1mg/kg every 12 hours is recommended. Several prospective randomized control studies have shown that the administration of Rivaroxaban 10 mg once a day before surgery effectively reduces the risk of developing preoperative DVT in patients with a femoral neck fracture without an increased risk of developing bleeding, as an alternative of the administration of LMWH (exoxaparin 30 mg/12h s.c. or 40 mg s.c. once daily) which is the first line therapy in current recommendations (20, 21, 22).

The most common indication for anticoagulant therapy in the elderly population is atrial fibrillation with an incidence of 7-10% in patients with a hip fracture. Current recommendations are to stop vitamin K antagonists-VKA (warfarin or acenocoumarol) before hip surgery, in patients receiving VKA for VTE or transient ischemic attack (TIA) that they had in the last 3 months, genetically proven thrombotic disease, have atrial fibrillation with CHADS2 score >5, patients with a mechanical valve, previous cerebrovascular insult and some of the risk factors: unregulated hypertension (>140/90 mmHg), over 75 years or diabetes mellitus, with “bridge” with prophylactic doses of LMWH up to 12 hours before surgery and achieving an INR of less than 1,5 when it is safe time for hip fracture surgery and reducing the risk of bleeding and the need for transfusions (23).

Warfarin has a half-life of 36 hours, and the drug should be disrupted 5 days before elective hip and knee surgery to normalize hemostasis, and in elderly patients, this period is even longer and they have an unpredictable trend of INR reduction, especially in cases of hip fractures. In patients who are on VKA therapy and have a low risk of developing VTE, multiple studies have shown a significant benefit from an active reverse strategy that significantly reduces the time to surgery, without an increased risk of bleeding and thromboembolic events. Oral or intravenous vitamin K, fresh frozen plasma (FFP) and prothrombin complex concentrate are used as reversible agents. Through studies, the use of vitamin K has been shown to be a safe approach without increasing thrombotic complications. Vitamin K in a dose of 1 to 10 mg in a slow intravenous infusion has been shown to be safe (usually smaller doses: 2-5 mg i.v.) with rare complications (anaphylaxis). Oral administration of the same doses of vitamin K achieves a slower effect than intravenous infusion. Fresh frozen plasma (FFP) achieves rapid reversal of anticoagulation without causing further resistance to warfarin or heparin, and the effects last 8-12 hours after application and it is optimal to apply up to 4 hours before the procedure with smaller doses of vitamin

K to increase the anticoagulation effect, which accelerates time to surgery, without increasing the risk of complications. Prothrombin complex concentrate contains high concentrations of coagulation factors, including F II, F VII, F IX and F X and inactivate warfarin 5 times faster than fresh frozen plasma, but have an increased risk of developing subsequent thrombogenic events: cerebrovascular insult, myocardial infarction, PE, DVT, that's why they are given in the third line to achieve reversible anticoagulation in selected patients with hip fractures. Warfarin can be continued 24 hours after surgery in uncomplicated patients with established haemostasis (20, 22).

Direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs): dabigatran – direct thrombin inhibitor and direct factor Xa inhibitors (apixaban, rivaroxaban and edoxaban) have been used more often in recent years in patients with a high risk of thromboembolic events. DOACs are established as the first line of therapy for the prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in non-valvular atrial fibrillation and the treatment of venous thromboembolism, without the need for routine monitoring and a safer pharmacokinetic profile than VKA. There are a smaller number of studies related to the perioperative use of DOAC in hip fractures, and a larger number of studies followed the use in elective hip and knee surgeries. It is recommended to stop therapy with Xa inhibitors (apixaban, rivaroxaban and edoxaban) 48 hours before elective hip and knee interventions, and in patients with kidney damage 72 hours before elective procedures. Dabigatran should be disrupted 48 hours before elective procedures, and in patients with creatinine clearance (Cl Cr) less than 50 ml/min, it is recommended to delay therapy 96 hours before the procedure. In some studies, the recommended interval of therapy delay is shortened to 24 hours before the procedure for rivaroxaban and edoxaban, and for dabigatran at least 12 hours before the elective procedure if there is a lower risk of hemorrhagic events or in emergency operations. If the patients have a high risk for thrombotic events, the period until the elective intervention can be bridged with prophylactic doses of low molecular weight heparin (LMWH), and the last dose should be given 12 hours before the intervention. DOACs are recommended to be continued as soon as possible after surgery, and 48 hours after surgery is a safe enough time with established haemostasis (24).

Recent studies indicate that patients taking antiplatelet therapy – aspirin or clopidogrel should not have delayed surgery, but spinal or regional anesthesia should be avoided in patients on clopidogrel because of the risk of spinal hematoma development. Dual antiplatelet therapy (DAPT) is indicated in high-risk cardiovascular patients, patients who have recently undergone coronary intervention. The most common combinations of DAPT therapy are aspirin with clopidogrel, prasugrel or ticagrelor or glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitors (abciximab, eptifibatide and tirofiban). DAPT is associated with a significantly higher risk of bleeding during surgical interventions (14.7%) compared to aspirin (4.1%). Premature termination of DAPT, especially in conditions after a hip fracture when prothrombotic activity and platelet activation are increased, can lead to stent thrombosis, especially within 30 days of BMS implantation, or within 6 months of

DES implantation. In these high-risk patients, regardless of the high risk of bleeding, it is not recommended to stop DAPT, but to replace P2Y12 inhibitors with glycoproteins IIb/IIIa inhibitors that have a short elimination half-life ( $T_{1/2}$ ) and can be stopped immediately before the intervention and continued as soon as possible after the intervention. In patients receiving antiplatelet therapy, intravenous administration of tranexamic acid is safe in emergency surgeries with a high risk of bleeding and has a better safety profile than administration of platelet infusion. With significantly increased risks of bleeding during surgery, an infusion of 2 doses of platelets can be given 2 hours after the last dose of aspirin and 12-24 hours after the last dose of clopidogrel. Ticagrelor and prasugrel, as much more potent antiplatelet agents than clopidogrel, carry an increased risk of bleeding during hip and knee surgery, and platelet infusion does not reduce the risk of hemorrhagic complications during the intervention (17).

Neuroaxial anesthesia in patients who have elective hip and knee surgery, and receive antiplatelet therapy, there is an increased risk of spinal hematoma development. Aspirin does not have to be stopped before the intervention, and prasugrel and clopidogrel should be delayed 7 days before the intervention, ticagrelor 5 days before the intervention, tirofiban and epifibatide 8 hours before, and abciximab 48 hours before neuraxial anesthesia during the performance of elective surgeries (25).

Preoperative echocardiography is recommended before hip fracture surgery for risk stratification in patients with heart failure, valvular disease, or atrial fibrillation, as well as in patients with dyspnea of unknown cause. Elderly patients have an increased risk of developing myocardial infarction after hip fracture surgery and an increased troponin level after the intervention carries an increased risk of postoperative mortality (26).

Anemia is often present in the elderly population and carries an increased risk of postoperative complications. Pre-orthopedic surgery blood transfusion is recommended in patients with symptoms of anemia or in asymptomatic patients with a hemoglobin level below 80g/l. Preoperative administration of intravenous iron has limited benefit, and carries an increased risk of developing myalgia and arthralgia (27).

Diabetes mellitus type 2 (DMT2) is the second most common comorbidity after hypertension in elderly patients with hip fracture. Hyperglycemia carries an increased risk for the development of postoperative complications, periprosthetic infections, and increased postoperative mortality and length of hospitalization. The use of insulin is the most reliable method of glycemic regulation in the perioperative period and according to the ADA recommendations, the target glycemic values for hip fracture surgery are below 7.8 mmol/l (less than 140 mg/dl), and for elective surgeries below 10 mmol/l (180 mg/dl). The recommendation is daily control of glycemia fasting and after meals with corrections of insulin doses and achieving optimal glycoregulation in the early postoperative period in order to reduce complications and mortality (28).

Patients with end-stage renal disease requiring hemodialysis have a 4,4 times higher risk of developing hip fractures due to decreased bone density and a significantly

higher risk of mortality (45% higher mortality during 2 years after surgery) and surgical complications (29). Perioperative preparation of patients includes an assessment of the risk of cardiovascular complications, hemodialysis the day before hip fracture surgery, and elective surgery can be performed at least 6 hours after hemodialysis with heparin, which minimizes the risk of perioperative bleeding, postdialysis blood pressure to be less than 130/80 mm Hg and hemoglobin minimum 90-100 g/l with hematocrit greater than 30% and glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1c) 6-8% (30).

Osteoporosis as a cause of fractures is constantly increasing and often occurs even with minor trauma, especially in elderly people who are characterized by fragility and an increased tendency to hip fractures. Bone density measurement is not necessary before the orthopedic procedure, but is recommended after the operation for further treatment. The prophylactic administration of vitamin D (800 IU/day) along with calcium (1200 mg/day) is recommended in the early postoperative treatment regardless of the level of vitamin D in the blood, and later dosing depending on the level of vitamin D in the blood, as well as the use of osteoporosis therapy: oral or parenteral bisphosphonates (31).

Multiple studies have shown that chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) increases the risk of hip fracture by 1,5 times. In severe forms of COPD, postoperative mortality is 1.66 times higher than in those with milder forms of COPD due to the increased risk of developing pneumonia, wound infections and developing sepsis (32).

## ***Conclusions***

Older age and the presence of comorbidities increase postoperative mortality after elective hip and knee surgery, and significantly increase after hip fracture surgery. According to the current recommendations, the goal of thromboprophylaxis is to start as early as possible after surgery after establishing haemostasis in order to reduce the risk of developing VTE, reduce in-hospital and one-year mortality and enable hip fracture surgery as early as possible in relation to the risk factor stratification in elderly patients and associated comorbidities.

There is no conflict of interest.

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