

Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Clinical & Population Health Research Program

Announces the PhD Thesis Defense of

QIAOXI CHEN

Improving Oral Anticoagulant Use among the U.S. Nursing Home Population with Atrial Fibrillation

Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 1 p.m. in AS9.2072 and zoom

Currently, more than 1.4 million residents live in one of the approximately 16,000 nursing homes in the United States. The prevalence of atrial fibrillation in US nursing homes is projected to reach for more than 320,000 residents by the year 2030. Oral anticoagulants (OAC) are used in the treatment of atrial fibrillation and the prevention of strokes, heart attacks, deep vein thrombosis, and pulmonary embolism.

As in the real-world setting, less than 50% of nursing home residents with atrial fibrillation were on OACs. The underuse of anticoagulants could be due to advanced age, multimorbidity, and high burden of polypharmacy. Nursing home residents entering hospice may have to go through the more complicated decision-making process concerning the use of an oral anticoagulants which requires a case-by-case evaluation and patient input.

Additionally, the nursing home population is the least likely to have rich risk/benefit weighing information from clinical trials, yet this population is in significant need of more supportive clinical evidence regarding anticoagulation therapy.

Since the safety and efficacy profile of OAC in nursing home residents entering hospice is likely different from the evidence from community dwelling older adults and even the general nursing home population, addressing this evidence gap is important.

This dissertation aimed to: 1) explore the oral anticoagulant utilization pattern and subsequent time to death after hospice enrollment, which might have a different risk/benefit weighing mechanism; 2) provide comparative effectiveness and safety evidence across nursing homes to inform evidence-based anticoagulant therapy decisions.

Mentor

Matthew Alcusky, PhD, PharmD

Dissertation Exam Committee

Rajani Sadasivam, PhD (Chair)

Jennifer Tjia, MD

Kate Lapane, PhD

Shao-Hsien Liu, PhD

Vittorio Maio, PharmD, MS (Thomas Jefferson University) - External Member