Prevalence of risk factors and HIV infection among patients with Doppler-proven deep vein thrombosis at Kimberley Hospital

Introduction

Kimberley Hospital is a 394-bed regional/tertiary hospital in Northern Cape, which serves a population of about one million people. Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) is a common condition at Kimberley Hospital. There is a clinical impression that most of the patients who are diagnosed with DVT at the hospital present without its classic risk factors.

Aim

To determine the prevalence of HIV infection in Doppler-proven DVT patients at Kimberley Hospital, as well as of the risk factors associated with DVT.

Method

This was a retrospective descriptive study with an analytical component. All the adult patients with Doppler-proven DVT between January 2010 and December 2014 were included in the study. These patients were identified from the Radiology Department’s ultrasound register. The data were extracted from the ultrasound register and clinical files of the selected patients, and listed on a specially designed data collection sheet. Statistical analysis was carried out by a biostatistician from University of the Free State.

Results

A total of 852 patients were included in the study. The majority of the patients were female (536; 62.9%) while 316 (37.1%) were male. The median age of the patients was 45 years. The prevalence of HIV infection among these patients was 52%. The most common risk factors in the study population were tuberculosis (12%), cancer (11%) and smoking (9%). The least common risk factors were long-distance travel (0.4%) and thrombophilia (0.4%). The left popliteal vein was the most frequently affected site (15.3%), followed by the left superficial femoral vein (14.5%) and left common femoral vein (12.6%). The location of the DVT was not associated with the HIV status of the patients.

Conclusion

There is a high prevalence of HIV infection among the DVT patients at Kimberley Hospital. Tuberculosis, cancer and smoking are the most common risk factors in the DVT patients.