

WARFARIN INITIATION

Supporting information

This guideline has been prepared with reference to the following:

Keeling D, Baglin T, Tait C et al. Guidelines on oral anticoagulation with warfarin – fourth edition. Br J Haematol. 2011;154:311-24

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/enhanced/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2141.2011.08753.x/>

National Patient Safety Agency. Actions that can make anticoagulant therapy safer: alert and other information. 2007

What is the optimal loading dose for warfarin initiation?

A Cochrane review (Tyndel, 2012) found that there is considerable uncertainty between the use of a 5 mg and a 10 mg loading dose for the initiation of warfarin. In the elderly, there is some evidence that lower initiation doses or age adjusted doses are more appropriate, leading to fewer high INRs. However, there is insufficient evidence to warrant genotype guided initiation.

Tyndel S, Heneghan CJ, Bankhead C, et al. Optimal loading dose of warfarin for the initiation of oral anticoagulation. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2012, Issue 12. Art. No.: CD008685

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD008685.pub2/full>

Evidence Level: I

Last amended July 2016
Last reviewed January 2026