ASH-McMaster Guidelines on Venous Thromboembolism: a case study

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REVIEW ARTICLE

Living systematic reviews: 4. Living guideline recommendations

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When to update the guidelines?
When to update the guidelines?
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When to update the guidelines?
Living guidelines

• Living guidelines
  • Not a new approach to guideline development or updating
  • An optimization of the standard guideline development methods to allow updating of individual recommendations as soon as new relevant evidence becomes available

• Living recommendation: a recommendation which is updated as soon as relevant new evidence becomes available
Living guidelines

• Develop the “base” guideline (i.e., all recommendations)

• As soon as “base” guideline is produced
  - Switch to the living mode
  - The unit of update being the recommendation
New Evidence

Surveillance Process

Base Process

Living Process
Living guidelines

• ASH-McMaster Clinical Practice Guidelines on Venous Thromboembolism
• >200 recommendations

1. Prevention of VTE in Surgical Hospitalized Patients
2. Prevention of VTE in Medical Hospitalized Patients
3. Treatment of Acute VTE
4. Optimal Management of Anticoagulation Therapy
5. Prevention and Treatment of VTE in Patients with Cancer
6. Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia
7. Thrombophilia
8. Pediatric VTE
9. VTE in the Context of Pregnancy
10. Diagnosis of VTE
Living guidelines

• ASH-McMaster Clinical Practice Guidelines on Venous Thromboembolism

• “Base” recommendations to be completed soon
• At that time, the living mode could be switched ON
• Currently selecting the guideline chapter to use as a pilot
Parenteral anticoagulation in ambulatory patients with cancer

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Editorial note: This is a living systematic review. Living systematic reviews offer a new approach to review updating in which the review is continually updated, incorporating relevant new evidence, as it becomes available. Please refer to the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews for the current status of this review.
Conclusion

• Living guidelines is not a new methodology but an optimized process

• Given the expected burden, such undertaking has to be well calculated and planned

• Need to experiment and develop the research agenda
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