Challenging issues in the management of cancer-associated venous thromboembolism

Ho-Young Yhim
Jeonbuk National University Hospital, Korea

Venous thromboembolism (VTE) is a common complication among cancer patients and is associated with delays in underlying cancer treatment and increase in morbidity and mortality. Acute and long-term treatments with low-molecular-weight-heparin (LMWH) have been recommended as a standard of care in cancer patients with VTE for past 20 years. Direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) have recently been emerged as a new therapeutic modality for cancer-associated VTE because of the convenience of oral administration and rapid onset of action. Our knowledge regarding DOACs for cancer-associated VTE has been expanded in recent years, and thus recent major pivotal trials comparing DOACs with LMWH in managing cancer-associated VTE are reviewed here. Moreover, a recently updated understanding of DOACs in the treatment of cancer-associated VTE in specific challenging situations is also presented.