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*Conflict of interest: none declared*

### Self-test questions

*The following statements are either true or false (answers on page 87)*

7. Increased dietary intake of vitamin K reduces a patient's warfarin requirements.
8. Most of the inter-individual variation in warfarin requirements can be explained by genetic variation in cytochrome P450 2C9.

## Dental notes

*Prepared by Michael McCullough, Chair, Therapeutics Committee, Australian Dental Association*

### Pharmacogenetics of warfarin

The international normalised ratio (INR) is a simple test commonly used by dentists to gauge the likelihood that a patient taking warfarin will have excessive haemorrhage following tooth extraction. There is a clearly defined range of INR values within which simple local post-extraction measures, such as suturing, pressure and tranexamic acid mouth rinses, are adequate to control bleeding. Patients within this range can continue warfarin.<sup>1</sup>

The large variation in INR values, related to genetic and dietary factors, particularly the intake of vitamin K, reinforces the need to have this test undertaken shortly before the dental procedure.

The metabolism of warfarin can be reduced by azole antifungals such as miconazole. Topical oral miconazole can profoundly increase the INR and thus the risk of bleeding due to over-anticoagulation.<sup>2,3</sup> Similarly metronidazole, which is commonly used in the management of oral infections, can greatly increase the INR. Dentists therefore need to review patients' current medication before prescribing any drugs, even those topically applied, for possible interactions with warfarin.

### References

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## New drugs: transparency

Access to information about drugs is essential for the quality use of medicines. Since 2003 *Australian Prescriber* has therefore recorded details about the willingness of pharmaceutical companies to disclose the information that supported the Australian approval of their new products.<sup>1</sup> These details are published as the T(ransparency)-score at the end of each new drug comment in *Australian Prescriber*.

Table 1 shows the responses to requests for evaluation data between January 2007 and January 2009. The Editorial Executive Committee of *Australian Prescriber* is pleased to report that there has been an improvement since the previous

reports were published.<sup>1,2</sup> Most manufacturers now provide some information to assist in the preparation of the new drug comments. The Editorial Executive Committee hopes this trend to increased transparency continues.

### References

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