

# Spontaneous Atrial Fibrillation and Noacs and Reversal agents

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# Educational Goals

- relationship between atrial fibrillation and stroke
- benefits and risks of NOACS versus warfarin
- factors that effect optimum selection of NOACS
- monitoring of anticoagulant effects of NOACS.
- reversal agents available and when to use.

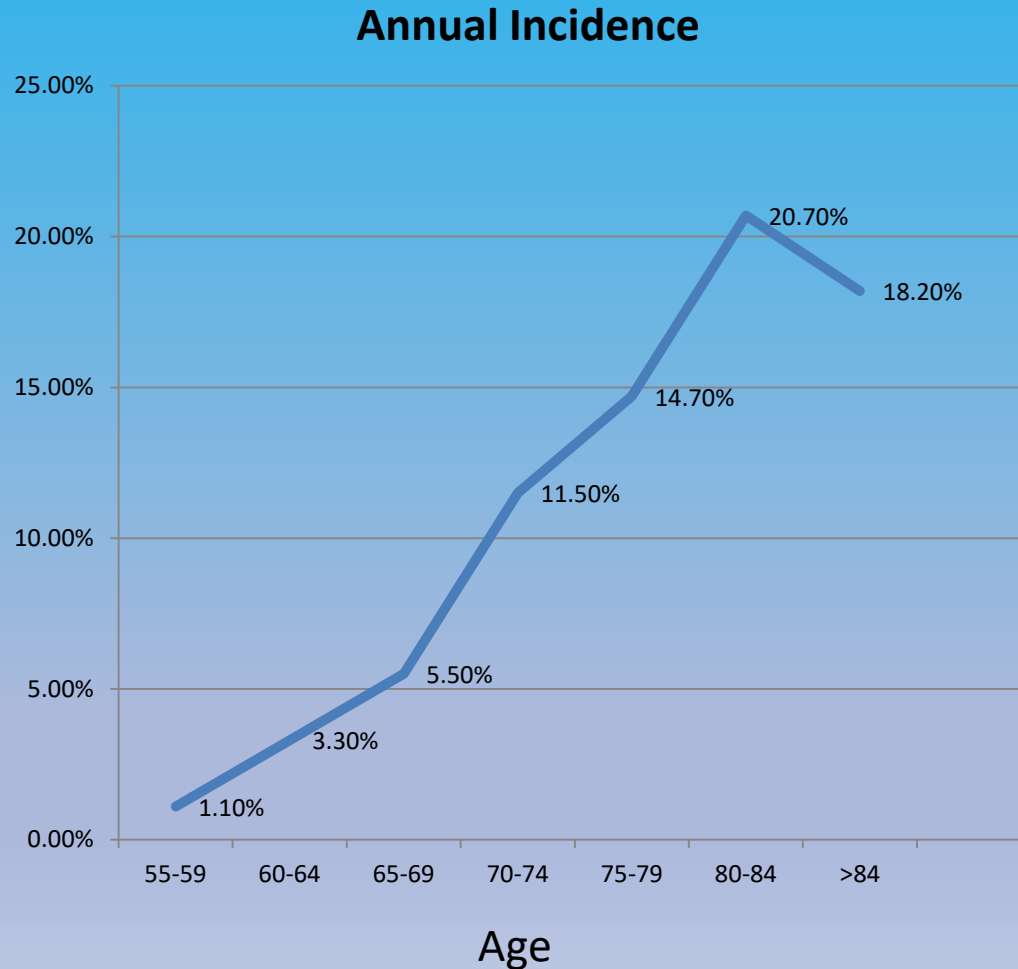
# Atrial Fibrillation

- AF increases in prevalence with advancing age
- In the United States, the percentage of Medicare Fee-for-Service beneficiaries with AF in 2010 was reported as 2% for those <65 years of age and 9 % for those ≥65 years of age
- For individuals of European descent, the lifetime risk of developing AF after 40 years of age is 26% for men and 23% for women (Rotterdam Study)
- In African Americans, although risk factors for AF are more prevalent, the AF incidence appears to be lower

# Effect of Atrial Fibrillation on Patients

Event	Association with AF
Death	Increased mortality, especially cardiovascular mortality due to sudden death, heart failure or stroke.
Stroke	20–30% of all strokes are due to AF. A growing number of patients with stroke are diagnosed with 'silent', paroxysmal AF.
Hospitalizations	10–40% of AF patients are hospitalized every year.
Quality of life	Quality of life is impaired in AF patients independent of other cardiovascular conditions.
Left ventricular dysfunction and heart failure	Left ventricular dysfunction is found in 20–30% of all AF patients. AF causes or aggravates LV dysfunction in many AF patients, while others have completely preserved LV function despite long-standing AF.
Cognitive decline and vascular dementia	Cognitive decline and vascular dementia can develop even in anticoagulated AF patients. Brain white matter lesions are more common in AF patients than in patients without AF.

# AF and Age from the Rotterdam Study

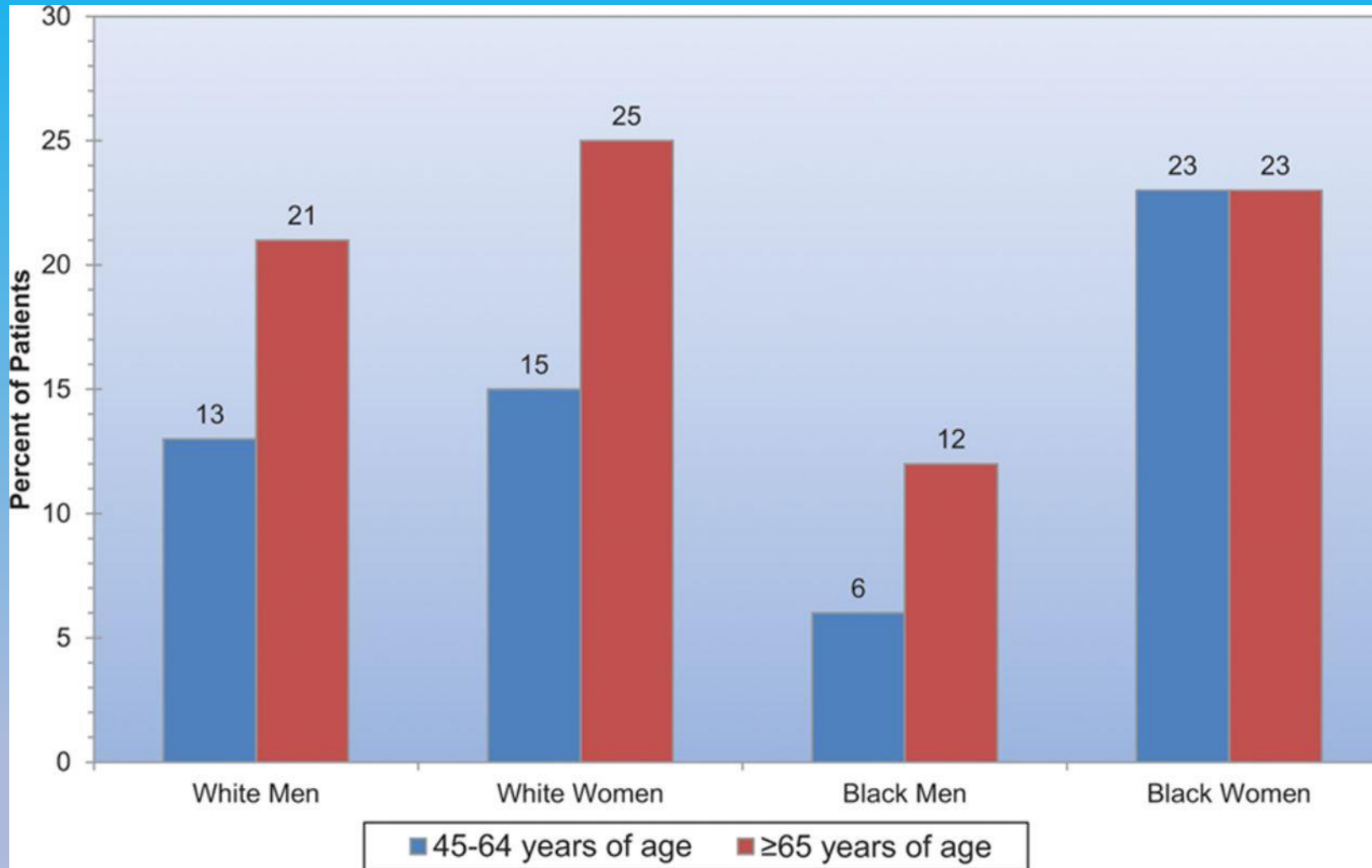


**Table 5** Incidence rates of AF in three population-based studies

Age group	Framingham Study	Rotterdam Study	Cardiovascular Health Study
<b>Men</b>			
55-64	3.1	2.2	
65-74	~9.0	9.9	
65-69			12.3
70-74			22.8
75-84	~18	21.9	
75-79			34.8
≥80			58.7
≥85	38	25.4	
<b>Women</b>			
55-64	1.9	1.6	
65-74	~5.0	7.7	
65-69			10.9
70-74			9.1
75-84	~15	15.4	
65-69			23.1
≥80			25.1
≥85	31.4	16.2	

Rates are per 1000 person-years.

# Proportion of patients with recurrent stroke within 5 years after first stroke (Framingham Heart Study)



Go A S et al. Circulation. 2014;129:e28-e292

# Risk Factors for Developing Atrial fibrillation

**Table 8** Cardiovascular and other conditions independently associated with atrial fibrillation

Characteristic/comorbidity	Association with AF
Genetic predisposition (based on multiple common gene variants associated with AF) <sup>14</sup>	HR range 0.4–3.2
Older age <sup>15</sup>	HR: 50–59 years: 1.00 (reference) 60–69 years: 4.98 (95% CI 3.49–7.10) 70–79 years: 7.35 (95% CI 5.28–10.2) 80–89 years: 9.33 (95% CI 6.68–13.0)
Hypertension (treated) vs. none <sup>16</sup>	HR 1.32 (95% CI 1.08–1.60)
Heart failure vs. none <sup>17</sup>	HR 1.43 (95% CI 0.85–2.40)
Valvular heart disease vs. none <sup>25a</sup>	RR 2.42 (95% CI 1.62–3.60)
Myocardial infarction vs. none <sup>18</sup>	HR 1.46 (95% CI 1.07–1.98)
Thyroid dysfunction <sup>26a,26b</sup>	(reference: euthyroid)
Hypothyroidism	HR 1.23 (95% CI 0.77–1.97)
Subclinical hyperthyroidism	RR 1.31 (95% CI 1.19–1.44)
Overt hyperthyroidism	RR 1.42 (95% CI 1.22–1.63)
Obesity <sup>19,20a</sup>	HR: None (BMI <25 kg/m <sup>2</sup> ): 1.00 (reference) Overweight (BMI 25–30 kg/m <sup>2</sup> ): 1.13 (95% CI 0.87–1.46) Obese (BMI ≥31 kg/m <sup>2</sup> ): 1.37 (95% CI 1.05–1.78)
Diabetes mellitus vs. none <sup>19</sup>	HR 1.25 (95% CI 0.98–1.60)
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease <sup>20b</sup>	RR: FEV1 ≥80%: 1.00 (reference) FEV1 60–80%: 1.28 (95% CI 0.79–2.06) FEV1 <60%: 2.53 (95% CI 1.45–4.42)
Obstructive sleep apnoea vs. none <sup>21a</sup>	HR 2.18 (95% CI 1.34–3.54)
Chronic kidney disease <sup>21b</sup>	OR: None: 1.00 (reference) Stage 1 or 2: 2.67 (95% CI 2.04–3.48) Stage 3: 1.68 (95% CI 1.26–2.24) Stage 4 or 5: 3.52 (95% CI 1.73–7.15)
Smoking <sup>22</sup>	HR: Never: 1.00 (reference) Former: 1.32 (95% CI 1.10–1.57) Current: 2.05 (95% CI 1.71–2.47)
Alcohol consumption <sup>23</sup>	RR: None: 1.00 (reference) 1–6 drinks/week: 1.01 (95% CI 0.94–1.09) 7–14 drinks/week: 1.07 (95% CI 0.98–1.17) 15–21 drinks/week: 1.14 (95% CI 1.01–1.28) >21 drinks/week: 1.39 (95% CI 1.22–1.58)
Habitual vigorous exercise <sup>24</sup>	RR: Non-exercisers: 1.00 (reference) <1 day/week: 0.90 (95% CI 0.68–1.20) 1–2 days/week: 1.09 (95% CI 0.95–1.26) 3–4 days/week: 1.04 (95% CI 0.91–1.19) 5–7 days/week: 1.20 (95% CI 1.02–1.41)

age

HTN

HF

Valvular dz

MI

Thyroid

obesity

Diabetes

copd

OSA

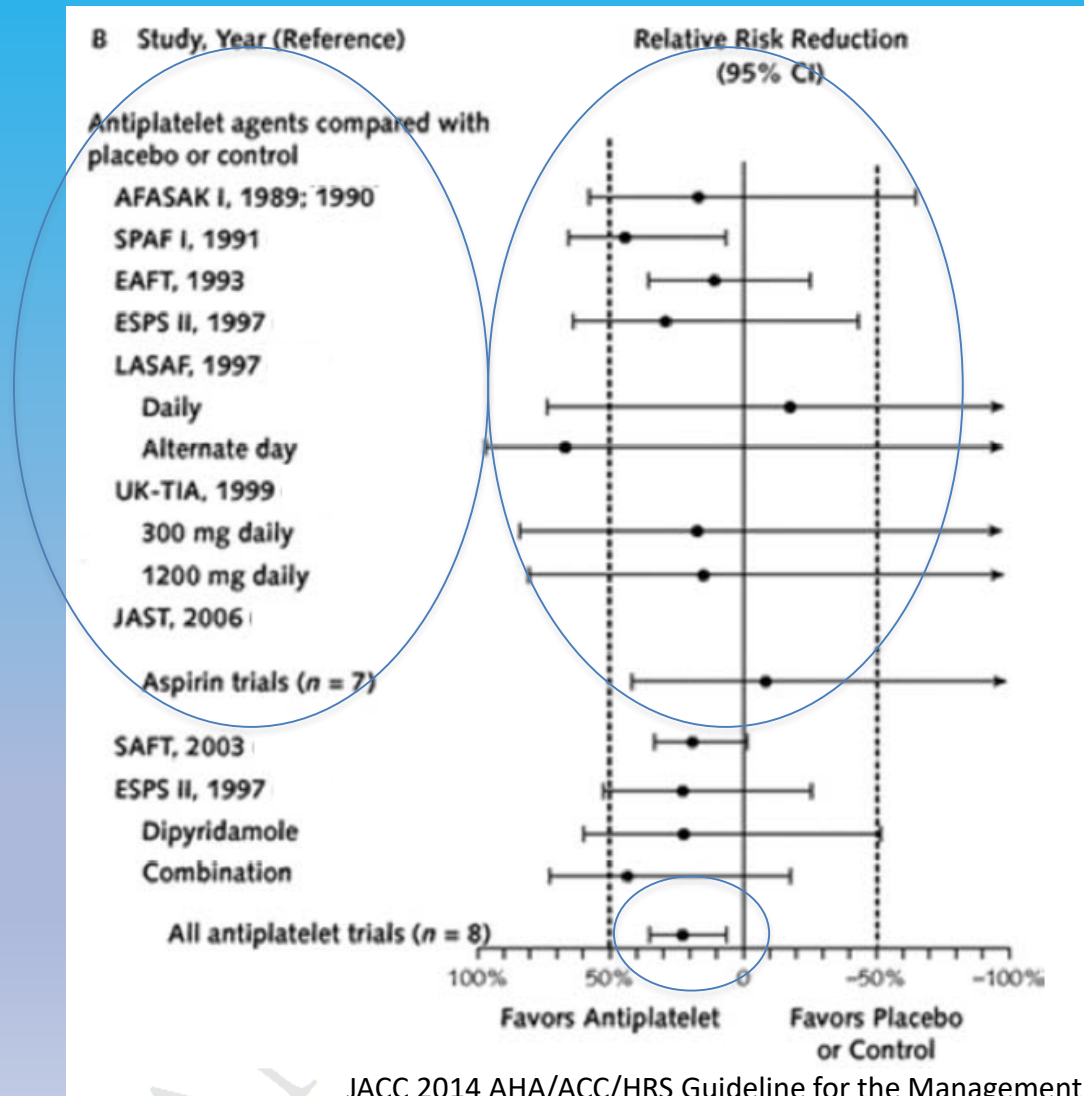
CKD

smoking

ETOH

Exercise – dose dependent

# Antiplatelets for stroke prevention in patients with AF





# Anticoagulation Guidelines

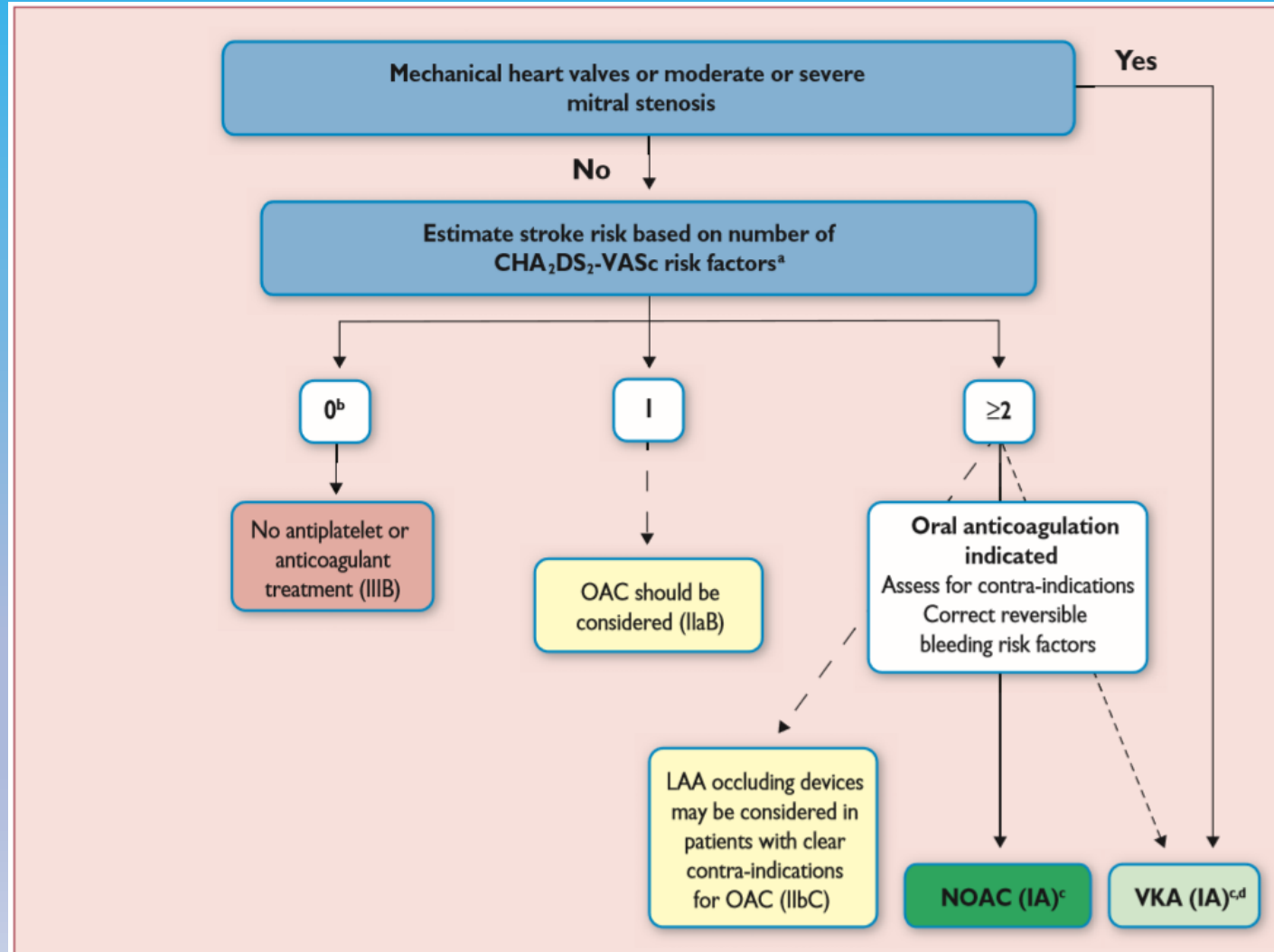
Risk Factor	Score
<b>C</b> ongestive heart failure/LV dysfunksjon	1
<b>H</b> ypertensjon	1
<b>A</b> ge $\geq 75$ y	2
<b>D</b> iabetes mellitus	1
<b>S</b> troke/TIA/TE	2
<b>V</b> ascular disease (prior myocardial infarction, peripheral artery disease, or aortic plaque)	1
<b>A</b> ge 65-74 y	1
<b>S</b> ex <b>C</b> ategory (ie female gender)	1

LV = left ventricular; TE=thromboembolism.

# CHADS2 vasc score and stroke risk

• chads 2 score	stroke risk
• 0	1.9%
• 1	2.8%
• 2	4%
• 3	5.9%
• 4	8.5%
• 5	12.5%
• 6	18.2%

# Recommendation for Anticoagulation ESC



# Treatment with OAC as Secondary Prevention in atrial fibrillation

**Recommendations for secondary stroke prevention**

Recommendations	Class <sup>a</sup>	Level <sup>b</sup>	Ref <sup>c</sup>
Anticoagulation with heparin or LMWH immediately after an ischaemic stroke is not recommended in AF patients.	III (harm)	A	477
In patients who suffer a TIA or stroke while on anticoagulation, adherence to therapy should be assessed and optimized.	IIa	C	
In patients who suffer a moderate-to-severe ischaemic stroke while on anticoagulation, anticoagulation should be interrupted for 3–12 days based on a multidisciplinary assessment of acute stroke and bleeding risk.	IIa	C	
In AF patients who suffer a stroke, aspirin should be considered for prevention of secondary stroke until the initiation or resumption of oral anticoagulation.	IIa	B	485
Systemic thrombolysis with rtPA is not recommended if the INR is above 1.7 (or, for patients on dabigatran, if aPTT is outside normal range).	III (harm)	C	472, 474
NOACs are recommended in preference to VKAs or aspirin in AF patients with a previous stroke.	I	B	363, 482
After TIA or stroke, combination therapy of OAC and an antiplatelet is not recommended.	III (harm)	B	486
After intracranial haemorrhage, oral anticoagulation in patients with AF may be reinitiated after 4–8 weeks provided the cause of bleeding or the relevant risk factor has been treated or controlled.	IIb	B	483, 484, 487

NOACs recommended as OAC of choice over VKA in secondary prevention patients with AF

Class I recommendation ESC.



AF = atrial fibrillation; INR = international normalized ratio; LMWH = Low Molecular Weight Heparin; NOAC = non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulant; OAC = oral anticoagulation;

TIA = transient ischaemic attack; VKA = vitamin K antagonist.

<sup>a</sup>Class of recommendation.

<sup>b</sup>Level of evidence.

<sup>c</sup>Reference(s) supporting recommendations.

## 2014 ACC/AHA Atrial Fibrillation Guidelines

CHA <sub>2</sub> DS <sub>2</sub> -VASc	Antithrombotic Regimen
0	No therapy
1	No therapy <u>or</u> Aspirin <u>or</u> Warfarin (INR 2-3) <u>or</u> DOAC
≥2	Warfarin (INR 2-3) <u>or</u> DOAC

Circulation. 2014;129:000-000.

# Atrial Fibrillation and Flutter

- Atrial Flutter is often initiated by a brief episode of atrial tachycardia or by AF <sup>1</sup>
- $\geq 80\%$  of patients who undergo radiofrequency catheter ablation of typical atrial flutter will have AF within the following 5 years <sup>2</sup>
- AF may be misdiagnosed as atrial flutter when AF activity is prominent on ECG (correctly identified as atrial fibrillation by 31%) <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Waldo et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2008 Feb 26;51(8):779-86. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2007.08.066

<sup>2</sup> Ellis et al. J Cardiovasc Electrophysiol. 2007 Aug;18(8):799-802. Epub 2007 Jun 25

<sup>3</sup> Knight, et al. J Electrocardiol. 1999 Oct;32(4):315-9.

# Relationship between device-detected AF and stroke

Author, year, reference	No. of patients	AF burden associated with stroke	HR (95% CI) p-value	Other findings
Glotzer et al., 2003 (26)	312 (patients with sinus node dysfunction)	≥ 5 min	2.79 (1.51–5.15) p = 0.0011	
Capucci et al., 2005 (27)	725 (patients with bradyarrhythmias and history of PAF)	> 24 h	3.1 (1.1–10.5) p = 0.044	
Botto et al., 2008 (13)	568 (patients with bradyarrhythmias and history of PAF)	> 5 min		Combining AF burden and CHADS <sub>2</sub> make it possible to distinguish a subgroup at low and high risk of stroke
Glotzer et al., 2009 (28)	2486 (patients with ≥ 1 stroke risk factor implanted with a pacemaker or an ICD)	≥ 5.5 h	2.20 (0.96–5.05) p = 0.06	
Ziegler et al., 2010 (29)	163 (previous thromboembolic event, no PAF)	≥ 5 min		73% of new AF patients with previous TE experienced episodes of AF < 10% of follow-up days
Boriani et al., 2011 (30)	568 (patients with bradyarrhythmias and history of PAF)	> 5 min		Combining AF burden and CHADS <sub>2</sub> or CHA <sub>2</sub> DS <sub>2</sub> -VASc improves prediction of stroke, reaching C-statistics of 0.713 and 0.910, respectively
Healey et al., 2012 (31)	2580 (≥ 65 years, hypertension, no history of PAF)	> 6 min	2.49 (1.28–4.85) p = 0.007	
Shanmugam et al., 2012 (32)	560 (heart failure patients treated with CRT)	≥ 3.8 h	9.4 (1.8–47.0) p = 0.006	40% of the study population had at least 1 day with AF burden > 14 min
Boriani et al. 2013 (33)	10,016 patients with a CIED, without permanent AF, median age 70 years (pooled analysis of three studies)	≥ 1 h	2.11 (1.22–3.64) p = 0.008	

# The Asymptomatic Atrial Fibrillation and Stroke Evaluation in Pacemaker Patients and the Atrial Fibrillation Reduction Atrial Pacing Trial (ASSERT)

- Enrolled 2580 PPM and ICD patients aged  $\geq 65$  years with a history of HTN but **without** a history of AF
- PPM and ICDs logged the time and duration of all episodes of sub-clinical AF (SCAF) that lasted  $>6$  minutes and recorded electrograms that were adjudicated by experts
- Of 51 patients who experienced stroke or systemic embolism during follow-up, 26 (51%) had SCAF.



# Implantable loop Recorders

- Medtronic:
  - Reveal XT (2007)
  - Reveal Linq (02/14)
- St. Jude Medical:
  - Confirm (2008)(2016)



# Reveal Linq

- 3-year longevity
- 49.5 minutes of ECG storage
- MR Conditional
- Remote data transmission through CareLink<sup>®</sup>
- Patient activated, as well as automatic detection of abnormal heart rhythms including AF
- Daily trended diagnostics via Cardiac Compass<sup>®</sup>



<b>Prior Session</b>	<b>Last Session</b>
21-Oct-2007 to	21-Nov-2007 to
20-Nov-2007	20-April-2008
60 days	6 months

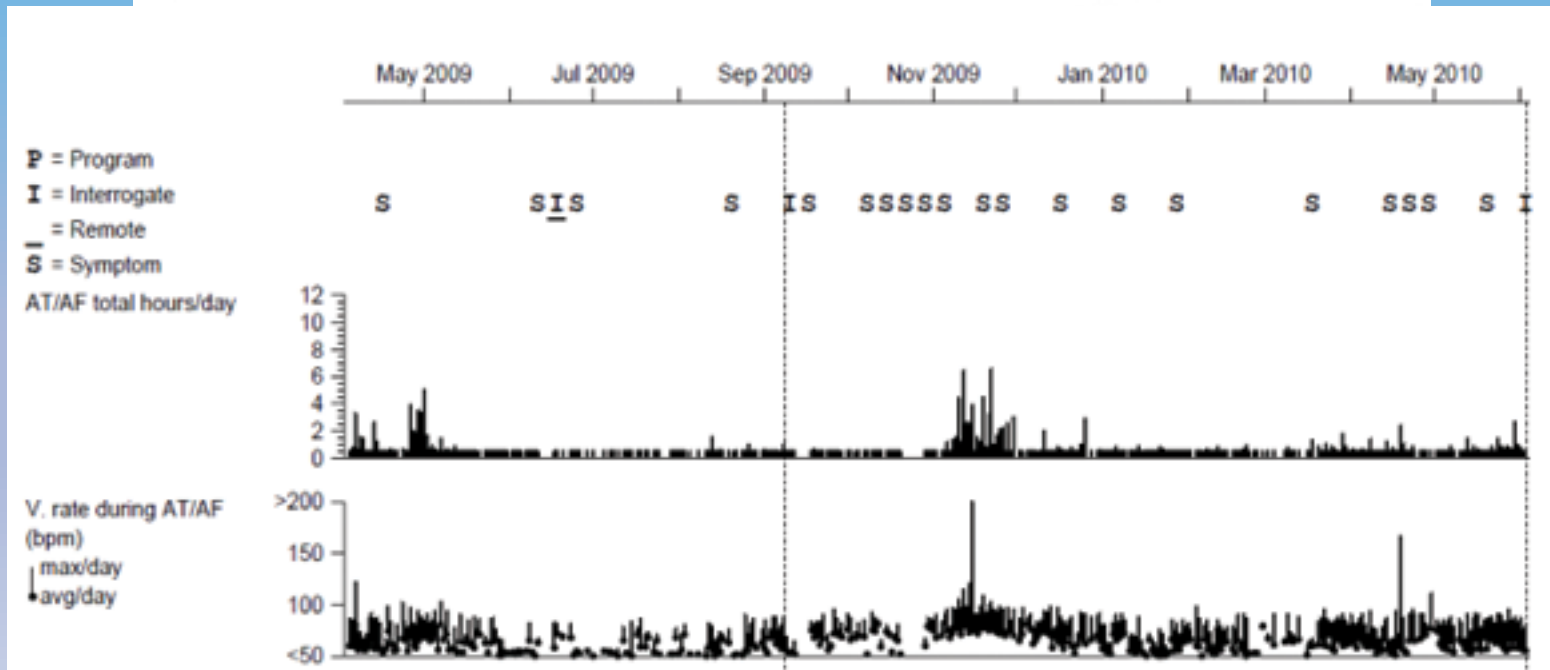
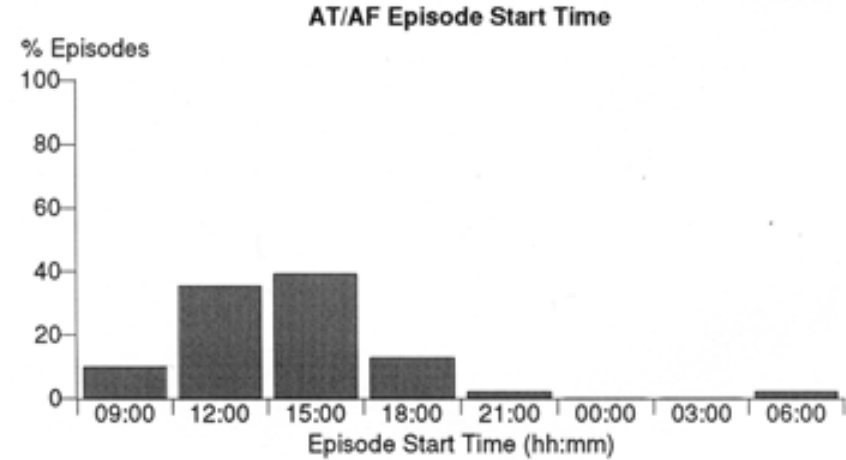
**AT/AF Summary**

% of Time AT/AF	21.3 %	2.0 %	↓
Average AT/AF time/day	5.1 hours/day	0.5 hours/day	↓

Since Last Session 20-Oct-2006 to 19-Apr-2007

**AT/AF Durations**

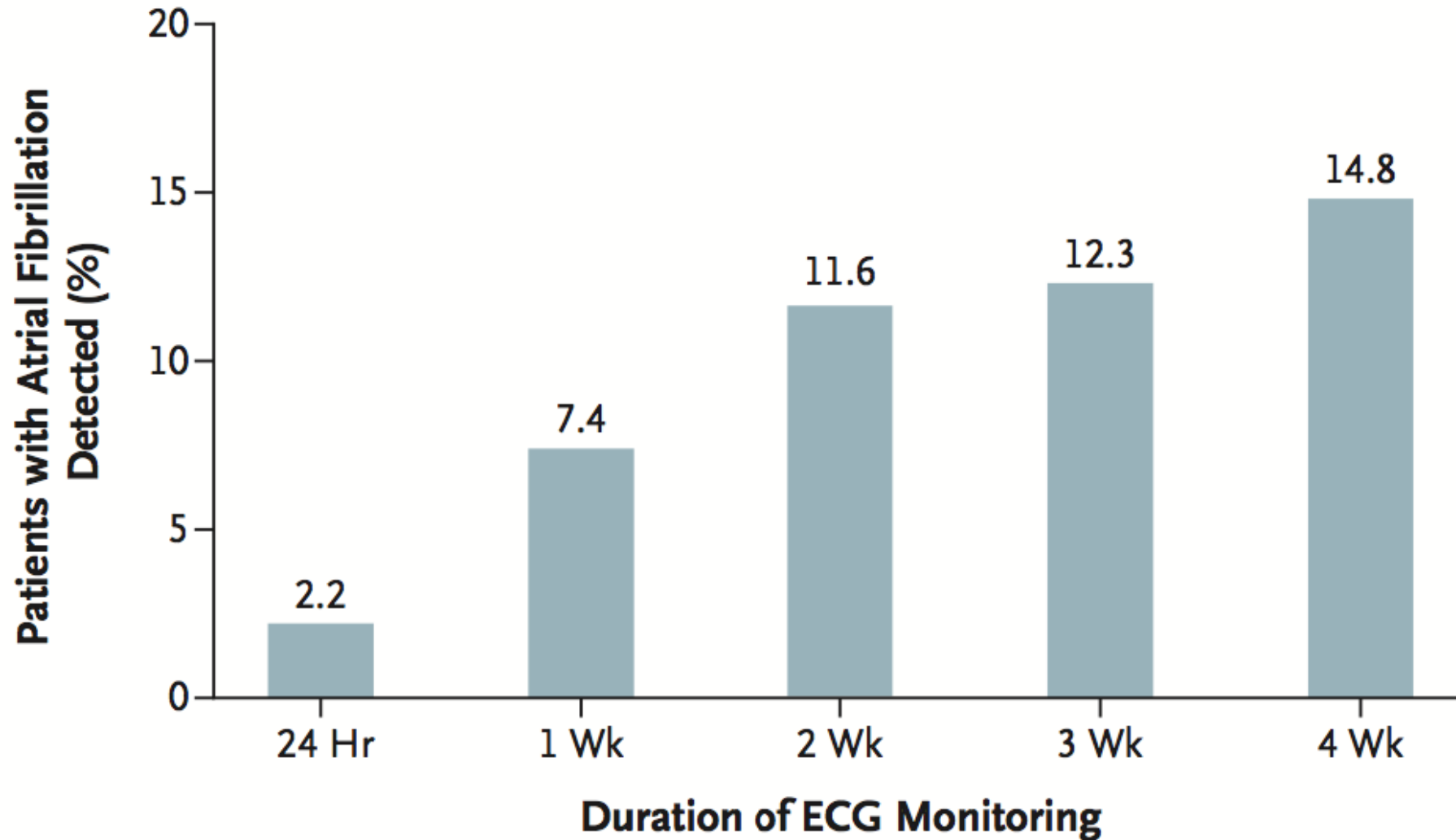
Duration	Episodes
>72 hr	0
48 hr to 72 hr	0
24 hr to 48 hr	0
12 hr to 24 hr	0
4 hr to 12 hr	5
1 hr to 4 hr	21
10 min to 1 hr	8
2 min to 10 min	0



# The Cryptogenic Stroke and Underlying AF (CRYSTAL AF): Design

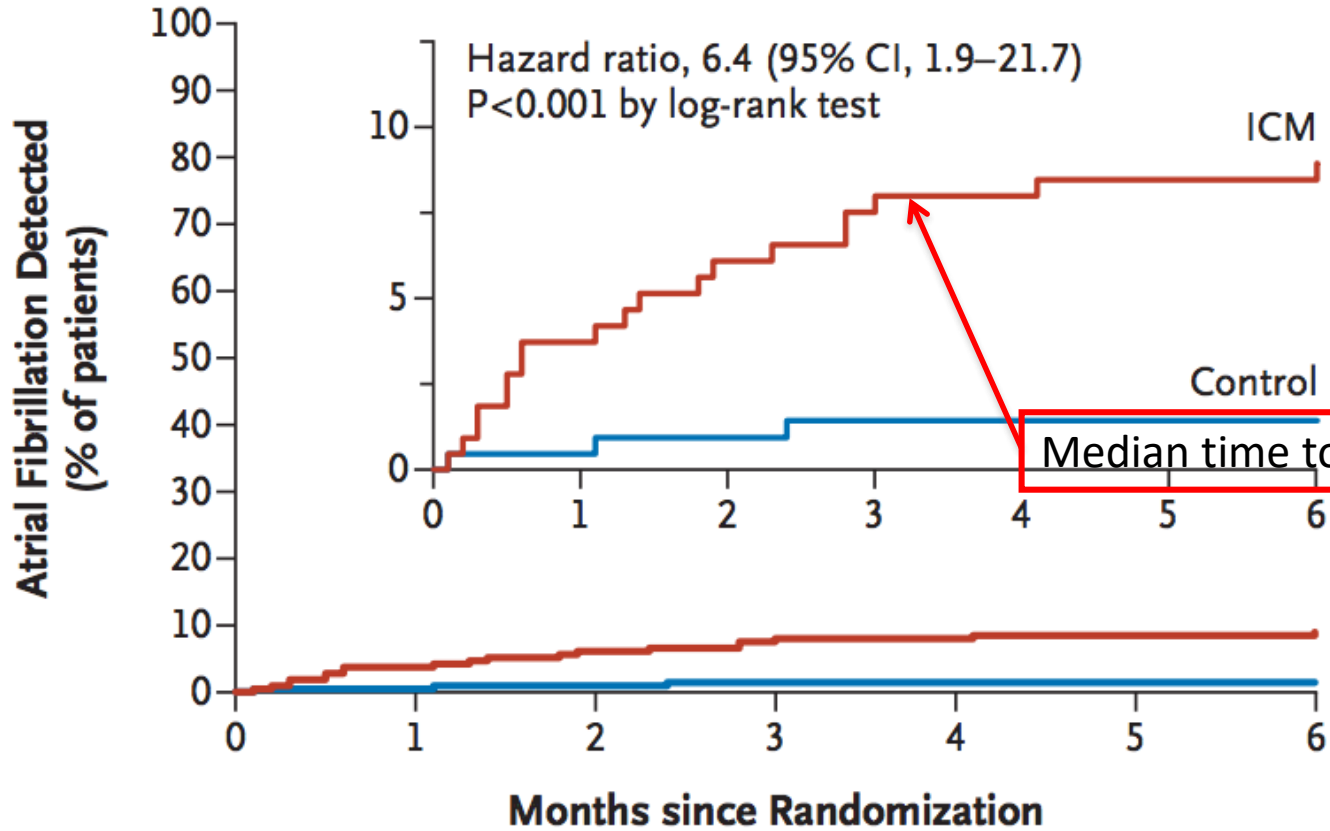
- Randomized trial (1:1 ratio) comparing the time to detection of atrial fibrillation with an ILR versus conventional follow-up
- 55 centers in Europe, Canada and USA
- Primary endpoint: time to first detection of atrial fibrillation (30 sec) at 6 months of follow-up
- Secondary end points: time to first detection of atrial fibrillation at 12 months, recurrent stroke or TIA, and the change in use of oral anticoagulant drugs
- Atrial fibrillation was defined as an episode of irregular heart rhythm, without detectable P waves, lasting more than 30 seconds

# Incremental Yield of Prolonged ECG Monitoring for the Detection of Atrial Fibrillation in Patients with Cryptogenic Stroke or TIA



# CRYSTAL AF: Results

## A Detection of Atrial Fibrillation by 6 Months



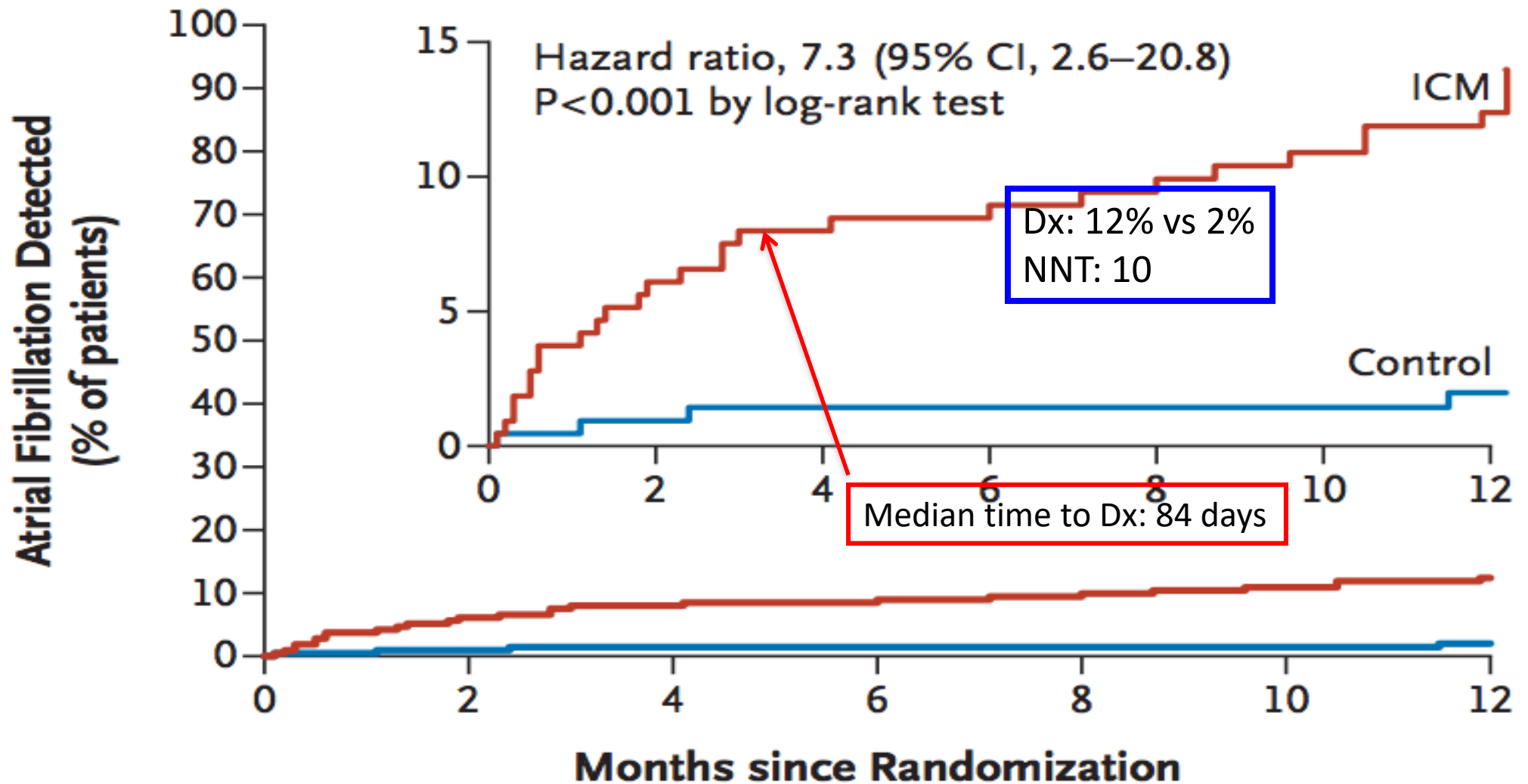
Dx: 8.% vs 1.4%  
NNT: 14

Median time to Dx: 41 days

### No. at Risk

Control	220	214	200	198	197	197	194
ICM	221	205	198	195	194	193	191

## B Detection of Atrial Fibrillation by 12 Months

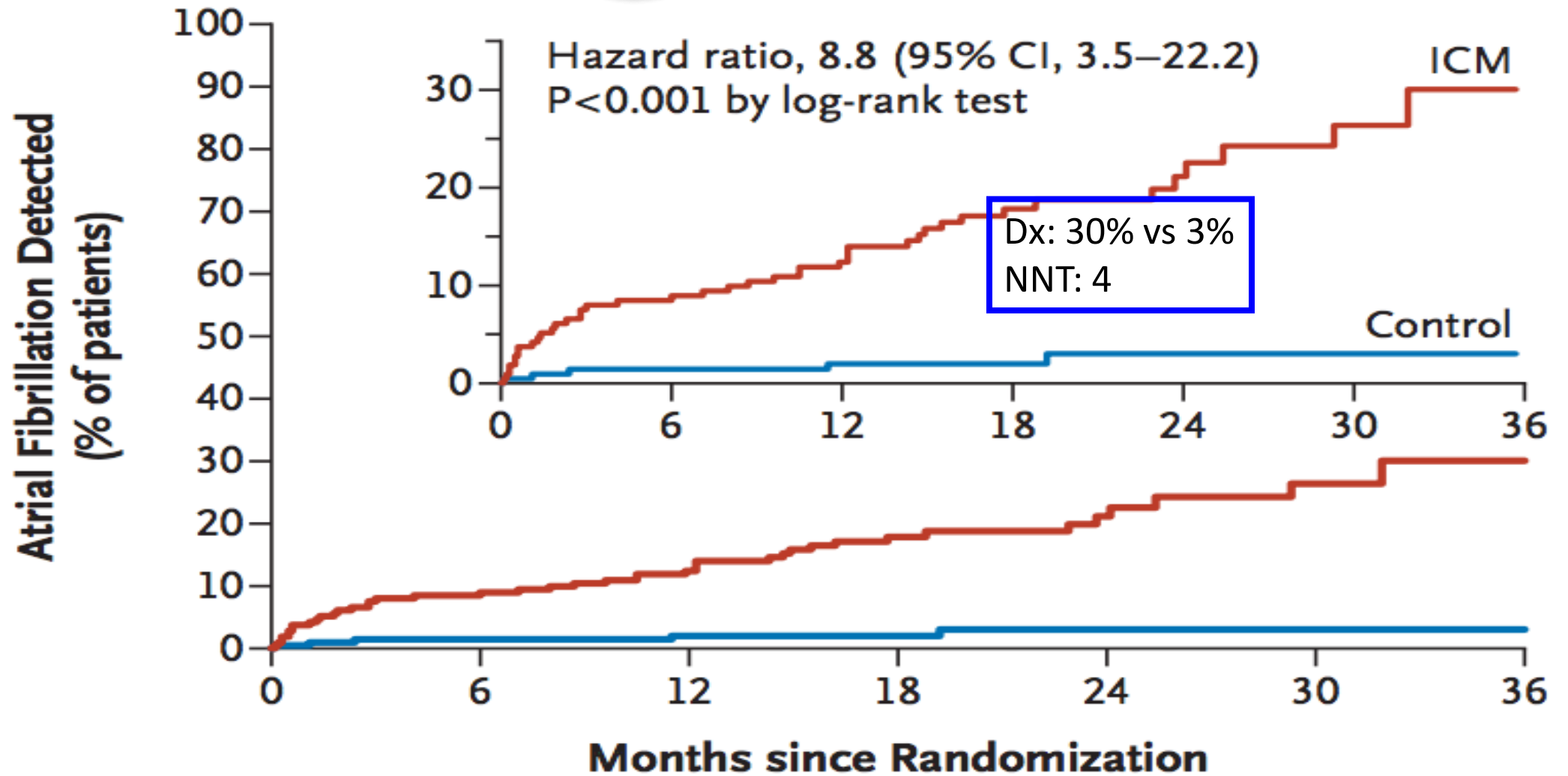


### No. at Risk

Control	220	200	197	194	184	184	167
ICM	221	198	194	191	186	182	173



# C Detection of Atrial Fibrillation by 36 Months



## No. at Risk

Control	220	194	167	114	72	36	7
ICM	221	191	173	102	57	29	8



# Other findings

- AF caused no symptoms in 23/29 (79%) ILR and 2/4 patients in control group
- Recurrent CVA was observed in 5.2% pts in ILR and 8.6% in control group after 6 months post randomization, and 7.1 vs. 9.1% at 12 months
- OAC was more frequently prescribed in patients with ILR (10.1%) than in patients in the control group (4.6%) at 6 mo and at 12 months (14.7% vs 6%)

# Summary of CRYSTAL AF

- Continuous monitoring detected a significantly higher number of episodes of AF at the 6 and 12-months
- Short-term monitoring is not sufficient, as the median time to AF detection over 6 months was 41 days and over 12 months was 84 days
- Patients randomized to ILR had lower incidence of recurrent CVA (5.2 vs 8.6% at 6 mo and 7.1 vs 9.1 at 12 mo) and were more likely to be treated with OAC (10.1 vs 4.6% at 6 mo and at 12 months 14.7% vs 6%)

# SUMMARY OF DATA

- unclear what duration (30 secs, 5-6 min, 1 hour, 24 hours) of AF has to be used to consider a patient at “significantly” high risk of CVA to start anticoagulation
- High percentage of patients who experienced a stroke did not have AF around the time of event
- The NNT with a 30 day event monitor to detect an episode of AF, in patients with cryptogenic stroke, lasting more than 30s is 8 and lasting more than 2.5 min is 14
- The NNT with an ILR to detect an episode of AF lasting more than 30 sec is 16 in 6 months, 10 in 12 mo. and 4 in 36 mo.

# Take Away points thus far

- Unclear how low afib events or burden required for stroke
- Prolonged monitoring in Cryptogenic stroke more effective
- Antiplatelet therapy is not adequate for stroke prevention in Afib.

# Benefits of NOAC over VIT K antagonists

1. Can be given in fixed dosing
2. Do not require monitoring
3. Rapid onset of action 1 to 3 hours
4. Have shorter half lives 8 to 14 hours versus 36 hours
5. Have Lower incidence of intracranial hemorrhage
6. Have similar antithrombotic effect
7. Have higher GI bleeding

## What Do We Know About the DOACs vs Warfarin for AF?

### DOAC Pros

- Better, or just as good at, preventing stroke
- Less ICH
- Rapid onset
- Fixed dose
- No INR monitoring required
- Fewer drug interactions
- No dietary restrictions with regard to vitamin-K foods

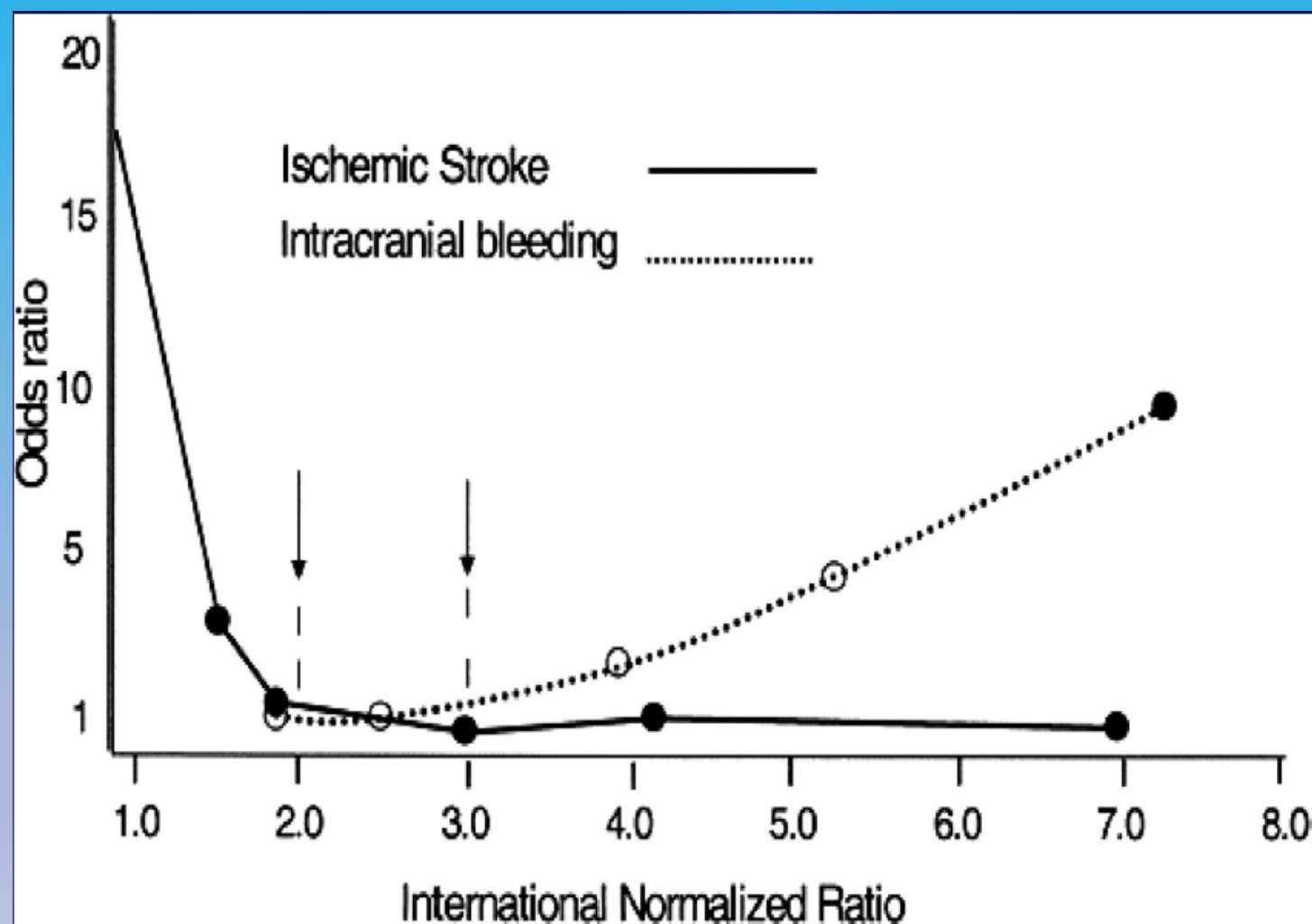
### DOAC Cons

- Short track record
- Bleeding and periprocedural management poorly defined
- Renal dosing/cutoff
- Not as easy to dose as we thought
- No readily available way to assess degree of anticoagulation
- More difficult to ensure adherence
- More expensive

### MIXED BAG

- Bleeding
- Rapid offset

# Risk Benefit of Level of Anticoagulation with VKA



# Phase 3 Trials in Atrial Fibrillation: TTR and warfarin Efficacy



Study	Mean TTR (%)	Mean CHADS <sub>2</sub> Score	CHADS <sub>2</sub> ≥3 Patients (%)	Primary Efficacy Rate (warfarin Arm)*		
				Overall	CHADS <sub>2</sub> 2	CHADS <sub>2</sub> ≥3
ROCKET AF <sup>1</sup>	55	3.5	87.0	2.2	1.3	2.3
RE-LY <sup>2</sup>	64	2.1	32.5	1.7	1.4	2.7
ARISTOTLE <sup>3</sup>	62	2.1	30.2	1.6	1.4	2.8

- ◆ *ROCKET AF enrolled a population of patients with AF at higher risk of stroke*
- ◆ *The overall event rate for the warfarin arm in ROCKET AF was higher than those reported in RE-LY and ARISTOTLE*
- ◆ *This difference may have been driven by the greater proportion of CHADS<sub>2</sub> ≥3 patients enrolled in ROCKET AF/*

\*Rate per 100 patient-years.

1. Patel MR et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2011;365(10):883-891

2. Connolly SJ, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2009;361:1139-51. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa0905561.

3. Granger CB, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2011 [Aug 28]. ePub ahead of print. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1107039.



# TTR for warfarin

- Mean TTR for 100 centers Vamedical centers - 57%
- Mean TTR from Quest diagnostics in 140000 in US – 54%

## The DOACs

- Dabigatran (Pradaxa®) – 2010
- Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®) – 2011
- Apixaban (Eliquis®) – 2012
- Edoxaban (Savaysa®) – 2015
- Betrixiban (Bevyxxa)- VTE 2017

**Year of FDA approval for non-valvular AF**

# Currently Available Noacs

Table 1 | NOAC targets, licensed indications, and considerations<sup>4,7,64</sup>

Parameter	Apixaban	Betrixaban	Dabigatran	Edoxaban	Rivaroxaban
Target	Factor Xa	Factor Xa	Thrombin	Factor Xa	Factor Xa
FDA-approved indications	Nonvalvular AF, VTE (treatment <sup>*</sup> , secondary prevention, prophylaxis <sup>†</sup> )	VTE (prophylaxis <sup>§</sup> )	Nonvalvular AF, VTE (treatment <sup>  </sup> , secondary prevention, prophylaxis)	Nonvalvular AF, VTE (treatment <sup>§</sup> )	Nonvalvular AF, VTE (treatment <sup>*</sup> , secondary prevention, prophylaxis <sup>†</sup> )
Safety in nonvalvular AF	Lower risk of major bleeding than with warfarin	Lower risk of major bleeding than with warfarin	Higher risk of GI bleeding than with warfarin	Lower risk of major bleeding than with warfarin; higher risk of GI bleeding (60 mg dose) than with warfarin	Higher risk of GI bleeding than with warfarin
Specific reversal agent	Andexanet alfa	Andexanet alfa	Idarucizumab	Andexanet alfa	Andexanet alfa
Half-life (h)	12	20	8–15	10–14	7–11
Renal clearance (%)	25	6–13	80	50	33
Dialysable	No	No	Yes	No	No
Prodrug	No	No	Yes	No	No
Bioavailability (%)	60	34	6	62	60–80
Time to peak effect (h)	1–2	3–4	1–3	1–2	2–4

AF, atrial fibrillation; GI, gastrointestinal; NOAC, non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulant; VTE, venous thromboembolism.

<sup>\*</sup>Twice daily for the first 21 days of VTE treatment; once daily for other indications for rivaroxaban or twice daily for apixaban.

<sup>†</sup>Approved for VTE prophylaxis after knee or hip surgery only. <sup>§</sup>Prophylaxis of VTE in adult patients hospitalized for an acute medical illness and for extended use. <sup>||</sup>After 5–10 days of parental anticoagulant treatment only.

# Noacs versus Warfarin

## A. Primary Efficacy Outcome



## B. Haemorrhagic stroke



# Noacs and Bleeding versus VKA

## A. Major bleeding



## B. Major gastrointestinal bleeding



# Noacs and Intracranial Bleeding

## C. Intracranial bleeding

Study or Subgroup	NOAC		Warfarin		Risk Ratio 95% CI	Risk Ratio 95% CI
	Events	Total	Events	Total		
Apixaban 5mg bid	52	9088	122	9052	0.42 [0.31, 0.59]	<p>0.2 0.5 1 2 5 Favours NOAC Favours Warfarin</p>
Dabigatran 110mg bid	27	6015	87	6022	0.31 [0.20, 0.48]	
Dabigatran 150mg bid	36	6076	87	6022	0.41 [0.28, 0.60]	
Edoxaban 30mg daily	41	7002	132	7012	0.31 [0.22, 0.44]	
Edoxaban 60mg daily	61	7012	132	7012	0.46 [0.34, 0.62]	
Rivaroxaban 20mg daily	55	7111	84	7125	0.66 [0.47, 0.92]	

## FDA-Approved Indications

Anticoagulant	Stroke Prevention in Non-Valvular AF	VTE (DVT/PE) Treatment (Acute and Longterm)	Mechanical Heart Valve
Warfarin (Coumadin®)	YES	YES	YES
Dabigatran (Pradaxa®)	YES	YES, but requires 5-10 days of parenteral first	NO, contraindicated (RE-ALIGN)
Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)	YES	YES	NO, do not use (RE-ALIGN)
Apixaban (Eliquis®)	YES	YES	NO, do not use (RE-ALIGN)
Edoxaban (Savaysa®)	YES	YES, but requires 5-10 days of parenteral first	NO, do not use (RE-ALIGN)



# Pharmacology and Pharmacokinetics

	<b>Warfarin (Coumadin®)</b>	<b>Dabigatran (Pradaxa®)</b>	<b>Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)</b>	<b>Apixaban (Eliquis®)</b>	<b>Edoxaban (Savaysa®)</b>
<b>Mechanism of Action</b>	Inhibits synthesis of vitamin K-dependent clotting factors	Direct IIa (thrombin) Inhibitor	Direct Factor Xa Inhibitor	Direct Factor Xa Inhibitor	Direct Factor Xa Inhibitor
<b>Onset to full, therapeutic anticoagulation</b>	5-9 days	0.5-2 hr	3-5 hr	2-4 hr	1-2hr
<b>Elimination Half-life</b>	20-60 hr	12-17 hr	5-9 hr	8-15 hr	10-14 hr
<b>Dosing frequency</b>	Daily	BID	Daily	BID	Daily

Pradaxa® [package insert]. Ridgefield, CT: Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals; 2011.

Xarelto® [package insert]. Titusville, NJ: Janssen Pharmaceuticals; 2011.

Eliquis® [package insert]. Princeton, NJ: Bristol-Myers Squibb Company; 2012.  
N Engl J Med 2011;365:981-9.

Savaysa® [package insert]. Parsippany, NJ: Daiichi-Sankyo, Inc; 2015.



## Renal Dosing Approved but Not Studied

Agent	Trial	Renal Function Exclusions
Apixaban	ARISTOTLE	<25 ml/min
Rivaroxaban	ROCKET-AF	<30 ml/min
Dabigatran	RE-LY	<30 ml/min

- **KPCO does not recommends NOAC use in patients with CrCl below what was studied**
- **AHA/ASA agrees**

N Engl J Med 2009;361:1139-51

N Engl J Med 2011;365:981-9

N Engl J Med 2011; 365:883-91

## Preferred/Formulary DOAC at KPCO: Pradaxa

- **“Warfarin remains the preferred anticoagulant at KPCO.”**

Excellent INR control at KPCO: TTR 72%

- **Why**

- Pradaxa is the only DOAC superior to warfarin at preventing ischemic stroke
- Less expensive for patient and KP vs other DOACs
- Reversal agent/antidote: Praxbind;  
Reversal agent/ andexanet not available

- **Clinical**

- 150mg BID standard AF dose
- Take with full glass of water and remain upright for 30 minutes to mitigate potential dyspepsia

# Effect of TTR on Comparison to Dabigatran

Format: Abstract ▾

Send to ▾

[Lancet](#). 2010 Sep 18;376(9745):975-83. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(10)61194-4.

## Efficacy and safety of dabigatran compared with warfarin at different levels of international normalised ratio control for stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation: an analysis of the RE-LY trial.

[Wallentin L](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Yusuf S](#), [Ezekowitz MD](#), [Alings M](#), [Flather M](#), [Franzosi MG](#), [Pais P](#), [Dans A](#), [Eikelboom J](#), [Oldgren J](#), [Poque J](#), [Reilly PA](#), [Yang S](#), [Connolly SJ](#); RE-LY investigators.

[+](#) Author information

### Abstract

**BACKGROUND:** Effectiveness and safety of warfarin is associated with the time in therapeutic range (TTR) with an international normalised ratio (INR) of 2.0-3.0. In the Randomised Evaluation of Long-term Anticoagulation Therapy (RE-LY) trial, dabigatran versus warfarin reduced both stroke and haemorrhage. We aimed to investigate the primary and secondary outcomes of the RE-LY trial in relation to each centre's mean TTR (cTTR) in the warfarin population.

**METHODS:** In the RE-LY trial, 18 113 patients at 951 sites were randomly assigned to 110 mg or 150 mg dabigatran twice daily versus warfarin dose adjusted to INR 2.0-3.0. Median follow-up was 2.0 years. For 18 024 patients at 906 sites, the cTTR was estimated by averaging TTR for individual warfarin-treated patients calculated by the Rosendaal method. We compared the outcomes of RE-LY across the three treatment groups within four groups defined by the quartiles of cTTR. RE-LY is registered with ClinicalTrials.gov, number [NCT00262600](#).

**FINDINGS:** The quartiles of cTTR for patients in the warfarin group were: less than 57.1%, 57.1-65.5%, 65.5-72.6%, and greater than 72.6%. There were no significant interactions between cTTR and prevention of stroke and systemic embolism with either 110 mg dabigatran (interaction  $p=0.89$ ) or 150 mg dabigatran (interaction  $p=0.20$ ) versus warfarin. Neither were any significant interactions recorded with cTTR with regards to intracranial bleeding with 110 mg dabigatran (interaction  $p=0.71$ ) or 150 mg dabigatran (interaction  $p=0.89$ ) versus warfarin. There was a significant interaction between cTTR and major bleeding when comparing 150 mg dabigatran with warfarin (interaction  $p=0.03$ ), with less bleeding events at lower cTTR but similar events at higher cTTR, whereas rates of major bleeding were lower with 110 mg dabigatran than with warfarin irrespective of cTTR. There were significant interactions between cTTR and effects of both 110 mg and 150 mg dabigatran versus warfarin on the composite of all cardiovascular events (interaction  $p=0.036$  and  $p=0.0006$ , respectively) and total mortality (interaction  $p=0.066$  and  $p=0.052$ , respectively) with reduced event rates at low cTTR, and similar rates at high cTTR.

**INTERPRETATION:** The benefits of 150 mg dabigatran at reducing stroke, 110 mg dabigatran at reducing bleeding, and both doses at reducing intracranial bleeding versus warfarin were consistent irrespective of centres' quality of INR control. For all vascular events, non-haemorrhagic events, and mortality, advantages of dabigatran were greater at sites with poor INR control than at those with good INR control. Overall, these results show that local standards of care affect the benefits of use of new treatment alternatives.

# Renal clearance for NOACS

- Apixaban -25%
- Betrixaban 6-13%
- Edoxaban 50%
- Rivaroxaban 33%
- Dabigatran 80%

# Interactions for Dabigatran and Rivaroxaban

**Table 4. Drug interactions with at least 50% change in the exposure to Dabigatran or Rivaroxaban.** Reproduced with permission from *Blood* 2012; **119**(13): 3016-23.<sup>7</sup>

	Dabigatran		Rivaroxaban	
	Interacting drug	Exposure, %		Exposure, %
P-gp inhibition	<b>Ketoconazole*</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>Ketoconazole*</b>	<b>160</b>
	Quinidine	53		
	Amiodarone	60		
	Verapamil	50†		
P-gp induction	<b>Rifampicin</b>	<b>-67</b>	<b>Rifampicin</b>	<b>-50</b>
	St John's wort	ND	St John's wort	ND
CYP3A4 inhibition			<b>Ketoconazole*</b>	<b>160</b>
			<b>Clarithromycin</b>	<b>50</b>
			<b>Ritonavir</b>	<b>50</b>
CYP3A4 induction			<b>Rifampicin</b>	<b>50</b>
			St John's wort	ND

\*Contraindicated

†Variable depending on verapamil formulation

ND = not determined

# Strong P –GP

Strong P-glycoprotein Inhibitors			Strong P-glycoprotein Inducers
Alfentanil	Indinavir	Quinidine	Barbiturates
Amiodarone	Itraconazole	Ritonavir	Carbamazepine
Bepiridil	Ketoconazole	Saquinavir	Dexamethasone
Carvedilol	Lapatinib	Tacrolimus	Phenytoin
Clarithromycin	Lovastatin	Tamoxifen	Rifampin
Conivaptan	Mefloquine	Telaprevir	St John's Wort
Cyclosporine	Mifepristone	Telithromycin	
Diltiazem	Nelfinavir	Testosterone	
Dronedarone	Nicardipine	Ticagrelor	
Duloxetine	Posaconazole	Verapamil	
Fenofibrate	Propafenone		

# P-GP and CYP3A4 drugs to avoid with Rivaroxaban and Apixaban

Combined Strong P-glycoprotein AND CYP3A4 Inhibitors		Combined Strong P-glycoprotein AND CYP3A4 Inducers
amiodarone	nelfinavir	barbiturates
clarithromycin	posaconazole	carbamazepine
conivaptan	ritonavir	dexamethasone
cyclosporine	saquinavir	phenytoin
indinavir	tamoxifen	rifampin
itraconazole	telaprevir	St John's wort
ketoconazole	telithromycin	
mifepristone		



# Testing for presence and excess NOAC

Clinical objective						
Drug	Determine if clinically relevant below on-therapy drug levels are present		Estimate drug levels within on-therapy range		Determine if above on-therapy drug levels are present	
	Suggested test	Interpretation	Suggested test	Interpretation	Suggested test	Interpretation
Dabigatran	TT	Normal TT likely excludes clinically relevant drug levels	Dilute TT, ECA, ECT		aPTT, dilute TT, ECA, ECT	Normal aPTT likely excludes excess drug levels; only dilute TT, ECA, and ECT are suitable for quantitation
Rivaroxaban	Anti-Xa	Normal anti-Xa activity likely excludes clinically relevant drug levels	Anti-Xa		Anti-Xa, PT	Normal PT likely excludes excess drug levels; only Anti-Xa is suitable for quantitation
Apixaban	Anti-Xa	Normal anti-Xa activity likely excludes clinically relevant drug levels	Anti-Xa		Anti-Xa	Normal PT may not exclude excess drug levels; only Anti-Xa is suitable for quantitation
Edoxaban	Anti-Xa	Normal anti-Xa activity likely excludes clinically relevant drug levels	Anti-Xa		Anti-Xa, PT	Normal PT likely excludes excess drug levels; only Anti-Xa is suitable for quantitation

*aPTT* Activated partial thromboplastin time, *ECA* ecarin chromogenic assay, *ECT* ecarin clotting time, *PT* prothrombin time, *TT* thrombin time, need permission from Cuker et al. JACC 2014 [40]



# Summary conclusion for Testing of NOACs

- Dabigatran - the a(P TT) is prolonged in dose dependent fashion but but plateaus at higher concentration.
  - Serious bleeding or urgent surgery in a patient on Dabigatran ( Pradaxa) with a prolonged a(P TT) is an indication for reversal
  - **A normal a( P TT) with sensitive reagent excludes clinically significant presence of Dabigatran**
  - **A normal thrombin time excludes the presence of Dabigatran**

# Summary conclusion for Testing of NOACs


- Rivaroxaban – a normal PT excludes excess drug levels
- Edoxaban - a normal PT excludes excess drug levels
  
- Apixaban - a normal PT does not exclude excess drug levels..

# Individual NOAC Selection

- Avoid Dabigatran and Rivaroxaban if previous GI bleeding
- Avoid NOACS if complicating medications
  - P-GP inhibitors with Pradaxa and Rivaroxaban, Apixaban, edoxaban
  - CYP3a4 inhibitors factor 10a inhibitors.
- Avoid NOACS I pregnancy and breast feeding
- Avoid NOACS in extremes of weight < 50 kg or greater than BMI 35
  - Extremes of weight appears not to effect peak concentration of **Dabigatran**
  - Elevates concentration in 10a inhibitors in low an reduced BMI and in high BMI greater than 35

# NOACS in Renal Failure

## Outcomes Associated with Apixaban Use in End-Stage Kidney Disease Patients with Atrial Fibrillation in the United States

Konstantinos C. Siontis , Xiaosong Zhang, Ashley Eckard, Nicole Bhave, Doug E. Schaebel, Kevin He, Anca Tilea, Austin G. Stack, Rajesh Balkrishnan, Xiaoxi Yao, Peter A. Noseworthy, Nilay D. Shah, Rajiv Saran, and Brahmajee K. Nallamothu

Originally published 24 Jul 2018 | Circulation. 2018;0:CIRCULATIONAHA.118.035418

### Abstract

**Background**—Patients with end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) on dialysis were excluded from clinical trials of direct oral anticoagulants for atrial fibrillation (AF). Recent data have raised concern regarding the safety of dabigatran and rivaroxaban, but apixaban has not been evaluated despite current labeling supporting its use in this population. The goal of this study was to determine patterns of apixaban use and its associated outcomes in dialysis-dependent ESKD patients with AF.

**Methods**—We performed a retrospective cohort study of Medicare beneficiaries included in the United States Renal Data System (October 2010 to December 2015). Eligible patients were those with ESKD and AF undergoing dialysis who initiated treatment with an oral anticoagulant. Due to the small number of dabigatran and rivaroxaban users, outcomes were assessed only in patients treated with apixaban or warfarin. Apixaban and warfarin patients were matched (1:3) based on prognostic score. Differences between groups in survival free of stroke or systemic embolism, major bleeding, gastrointestinal bleeding, intracranial bleeding, and death were assessed using Kaplan-Meier analyses. Hazard ratios (HR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI) were derived from Cox regression analyses.

**Results**—The study population consisted of 25,523 patients (45.7% women; age 68.2±11.9 years), including 2,351 patients on apixaban and 23,172 patients on warfarin. An annual increase in apixaban prescriptions was observed following its marketing approval in the end of 2012, such that 26.6% of new anticoagulant prescriptions in 2015 were for apixaban. In matched cohorts, there was no difference in the risks of stroke/systemic embolism between apixaban and warfarin (HR 0.88, 95% CI 0.69-1.12; P=0.29), but apixaban was associated with significantly lower risk of major bleeding (HR 0.72, 95% CI 0.59-0.87; P<0.001). In sensitivity analyses, standard dose apixaban (5 mg twice a day; n=1,034) was associated with significantly lower risks of stroke/systemic embolism and death as compared with either reduced dose apixaban (2.5 mg twice a day; n=1,317; HR 0.61, 95% CI 0.37-0.98, P=0.04 for stroke/systemic embolism; and HR 0.64, 95% CI 0.45-0.92, P=0.01 for death) or warfarin (HR 0.64, 95% CI 0.42-0.97, P=0.04 for stroke/systemic embolism; and HR 0.63, 95% CI 0.46-0.85, P=0.003 for death).

**Conclusions**—Among ESKD patients with AF on dialysis, apixaban use may be associated with lower risk of major bleeding compared with warfarin, with a standard 5 mg twice a day dose also associated with reductions in thromboembolic and mortality risk.

# NOAC use in Dialysis patients

- Retrospective Medicare review of patients with AF and Dialysis.
- 25523 patients over 5 years
- Similar stroke and systemic embolism compared to warfarin
- Reduced incidence of major bleeding with Apixaban

# Switching to NOAC

## Warfarin to DOAC

Dabigatran <sup>a</sup>	Start when INR < 2.0
Rivaroxaban <sup>a</sup>	Start when INR < 3.0
Apixaban <sup>a</sup>	Start when INR < 2.0
Edoxaban <sup>a</sup>	Start when INR ≤ 2.5

## LMWH to DOAC

Dabigatran	
Rivaroxaban	Start DOAC within 0–2 h of the time of next scheduled dose of LMWH
Apixaban	
Edoxaban	

## (iv) UFH to DOAC

Dabigatran <sup>a</sup>	
Rivaroxaban <sup>a</sup>	Start DOAC immediately after stopping iv UFH
Apixaban <sup>a</sup>	
Edoxaban <sup>a</sup>	Start edoxaban 4 h after stopping iv UFH

As a general rule, we suggest that as INR drops below 2.5, a DOAC can be started

As a general rule, we suggest that each DOAC can be started within 30 min after stopping (iv) UFH

<sup>a</sup> Recommendations adapted from company's package insert

# Switching to warfarin

---

## DOAC to warfarin

Dabigatran <sup>a</sup>	Start warfarin and overlap with dabigatran; CrCl $\geq 50$ mL/min, overlap 3 days CrCl 30–50 mL/min, overlap 2 days CrCl 15–30 mL/min, overlap 1 day
Rivaroxaban <sup>a</sup> Apixaban <sup>a</sup>	Stop DOAC; start warfarin and LMWH at time of next scheduled DOAC dose and bridge until INR $\geq 2.0$
Edoxaban <sup>a</sup>	For 60 mg dose, reduce dose to 30 mg and start warfarin concomitantly For 30 mg dose reduce dose to 15 mg and start warfarin concomitantly Stop edoxaban when INR $\geq 2.0$

---

Overlap intended to avoid under-anticoagulation while warfarin effect developing. When DOAC overlapped with warfarin, measure INR just before next DOAC dose since DOAC can influence INR

As a general rule, we believe either approach (i.e. stop DOAC then start LMWH and warfarin; or overlap warfarin with DOAC, measure INR just before next DOAC dose and stop DOAC when INR  $\geq 2.0$ ) can be used for all DOAC to warfarin transitions

*CrCl* creatinine clearance



# Hold times prior to procedures

**TABLE 2**

**Recommended Durations for Withholding DOACs Based on Procedural Bleed Risk and Estimated CrCl When There Are No Increased Patient Bleed Risk Factors**

CrCl, mL/min	Dabigatran					Apixaban, Edoxaban, or Rivaroxaban		
	≥80	50-79	30-49	15-29	<15	≥30	15-29	<15
Estimated drug half-life, h	13	15	18	27	30 (off dialysis)	6-15	Apixaban: 17 Edoxaban: 17 Rivaroxaban: 9	Apixaban: 17 (off dialysis) Edoxaban: 10-17 (off dialysis) Rivaroxaban: 13 (off dialysis)
<b>Procedural bleed risk</b>								
Low	≥24 h	≥36 h	≥48 h	≥72 h	No data. Consider measuring dTT and/or withholding ≥96 h.	≥24 h	≥36 h	No data. Consider measuring agent-specific anti Xa level and/or withholding ≥48 h
Uncertain, intermediate, or high	≥48 h	≥72 h	≥96 h	≥120 h	No data. Consider measuring dTT.	≥48 h	No data. Consider measuring agent-specific anti Xa level and/or withholding ≥72 h.	



# Bruise Control 2

- Interrupted versus continued NOAC use during device implantation
- Apixaban , Rivaroxaban , Dabigitran  
prior to implantation of devices

Major hematoma both arms 2.1%

Hematoma requiring discontinuation of drug  
no difference

Hematoma prolonging hospitalization  
no difference

Hematoma requiring drainage  
no difference.

# Reversal Agents

- Idarucizumab- Fab fragment binds Dabigatran 350 times that of thrombin
- Andexanet alpha-recombinant modified factor 10a
- Ciraparantag - binds low molecular weight and unfractionated
  - heparin and thrombin and 10a inhibitors.

# Reversal mechanisms

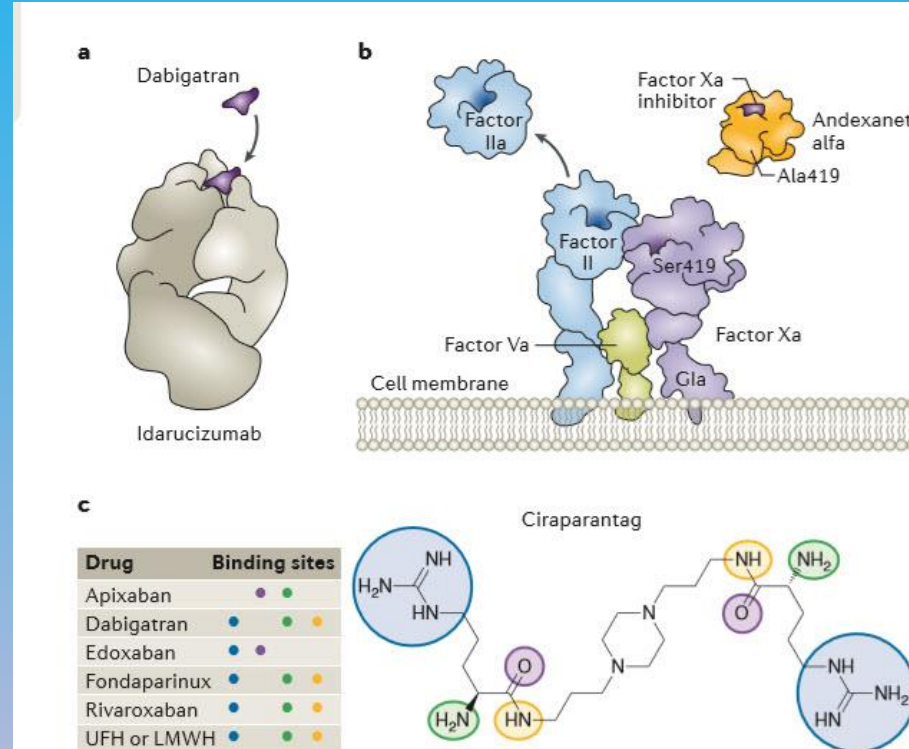
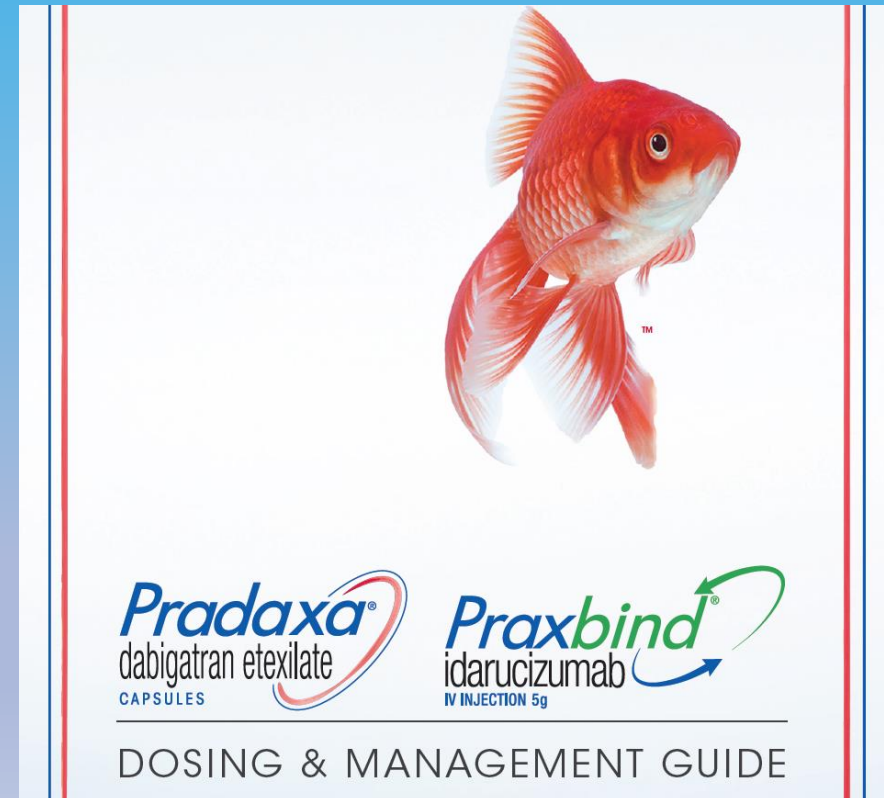


Figure 1 | **Reversal agents for non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulants.**

**a** | Idarucizumab is an antibody antigen-binding fragment (Fab) that binds to dabigatran with an affinity >350 times that of thrombin and effectively and immediately reverses its anticoagulant effect. **b** | Andexanet alfa is a modified recombinant coagulation factor Xa molecule that competitively binds factor Xa inhibitors (apixaban, betrixaban, edoxaban, and rivaroxaban) and is catalytically inactive. Andexanet has been modified to include amino acid substitutions and deletion of the  $\gamma$ -carboxyglutamic acid (Gla)-rich membrane-binding domain to prevent assembly of factor Xa and factor Va and creation of the prothrombinase complex. **c** | Ciraparantag is a synthetic inorganic molecule that binds multiple anticoagulation agents through noncovalent hydrogen bonding and charge-charge interactions. LMWH, low-molecular-weight heparin; UFH, unfractionated heparin.

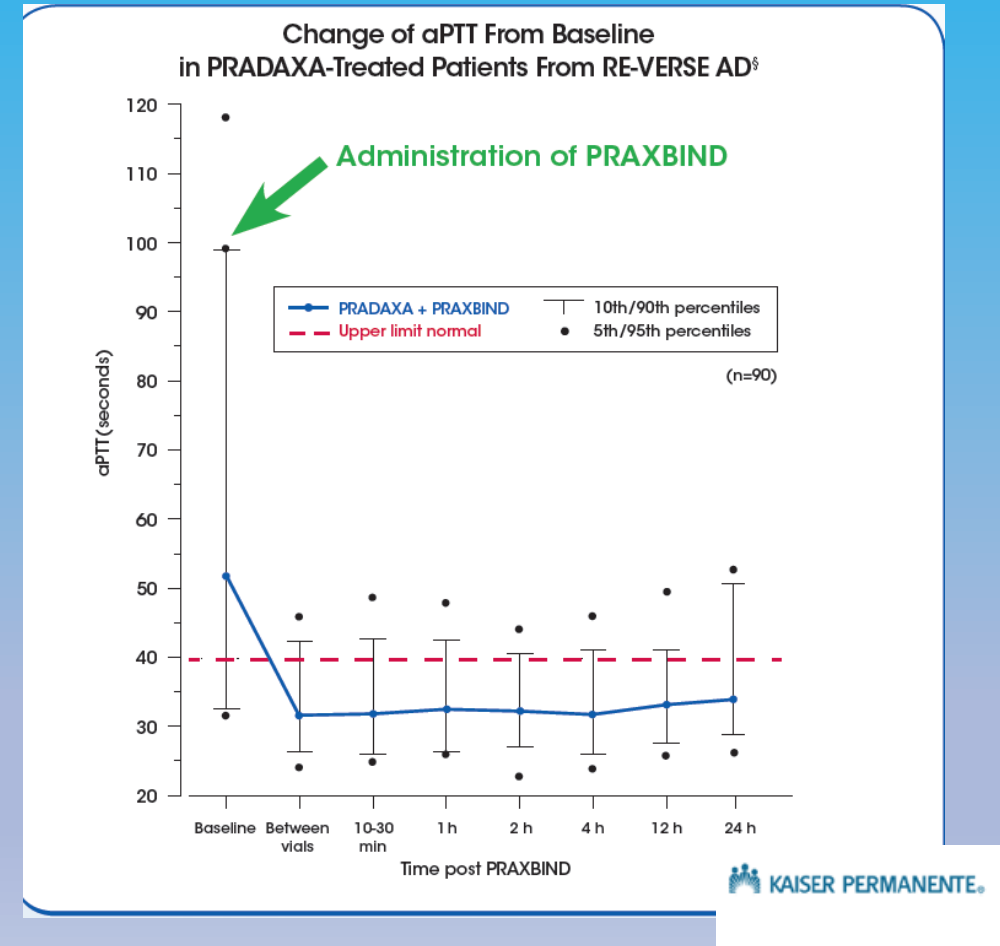
# Indarucizumab-(Praxabind)

- Indicated for emergency lifethreatening bleeding
  - Indicated for emergency surgery
  - Administered as 2 2.5 mg infusions
- 
- Can reinitiate Pradaxa after 24 hours



# Reverse –AD trial

- Group A serious bleeding , Group B urgent surgery in less than 8 hours
- Median reversal with Praxabind in 4 hours 100%
- Median time to cessation of non cranial bleeding 2.4 hours
- Assessment of normal of coagulation by surgeons at 1.5 hours 94%
- Median time to surgery 1.6 hours.
- 5% thromboembolic event in 30 days



# FDA approval for factor 10-A inhibitors

## ANDEXANET ALFA, FIRST REVERSAL AGENT FOR FACTOR Xa INHIBITORS, FINALLY GAINS FDA APPROVAL

THE AGENT IS THE SECOND ANTIDOTE APPROVED FOR THE NOACs, JOINING IDARUCIZUMAB, DABIGATRAN'S REVERSAL AGENT.



By [TODD NEALE](#) | MAY 04, 2018

A graphic featuring a world map with a grid pattern. The left side of the map is red, and the right side is dark blue. A white rectangular box with a thin border is centered over the map, containing the text 'Breaking News' in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**Breaking News**

# Andexanet Alpha

- Indicated for emergent surgery or life threatening bleeding in patient with Apixaban , and Rivaroxaban. ( also reverses heparins )
- Recombinant factor (10A)

**Table 1: ANDEXXA Dosing Regimens**

Dose*	Initial IV Bolus	Follow-On IV Infusion
Low Dose	400 mg at a target rate of 30 mg/min	4 mg/min for up to 120 minutes
High Dose	800 mg at a target rate of 30 mg/min	8 mg/min for up to 120 minutes

\*The safety and effectiveness of more than one dose have not been evaluated.

The recommended dosing of ANDEXXA is based on the specific FXa inhibitor, dose of FXa inhibitor, and time since the patient's last dose of FXa inhibitor (see [Table 2](#)).

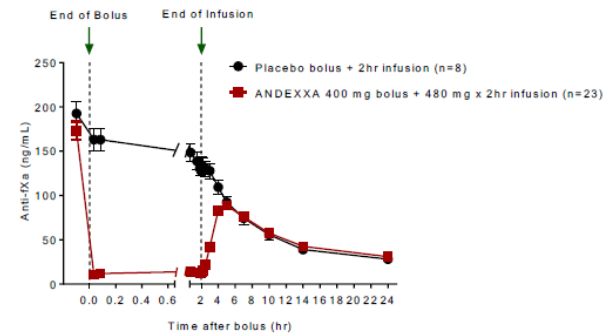
**Table 2: ANDEXXA Dose Based on Rivaroxaban or Apixaban Dose (Timing of FXa Inhibitor Last Dose Before ANDEXXA Initiation)**

FXa Inhibitor	FXa Inhibitor Last Dose	< 8 Hours or Unknown	≥ 8 Hours
Rivaroxaban	≤ 10 mg	Low Dose	Low Dose
Rivaroxaban	> 10 mg / Unknown	High Dose	
Apixaban	≤ 5 mg	Low Dose	
Apixaban	> 5 mg / Unknown	High Dose	

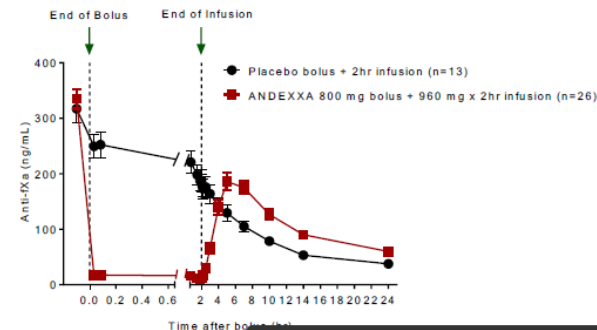
# Andexanet Alpha

- Rapid reversal of 10A inhibition with bolus and sustained with infusion
- Recovery of 10A inhibition occurred and peaked 4 hours after infusion, with resolution according to  $\frac{1}{2}$  life 10A inhibitor.
- 17.8% of patients with reversal had thrombotic complications.

Figure 1: Change in Anti-FXa Activity (ng/mL) in Subjects Anticoagulated with Apixaban (A – Study 1) and Rivaroxaban (B – Study 2)



(A)





# Ciraparantag

- Not FDA approved
- Appears to reverse 10a, IIA(thrombin) and all heparins.
- Phase 1 trial full reversal of Edoxaban in 10 minutes

# Price of Reversal

- Indarucizumab – wholesale  
\$4200.00
- Andexanet alpha ( Portola)-  
\$58,000.00



# Summary Points

- Atrial fibrillation is associated with significant morbidity
- Detection is elevated with prolonged monitoring
- Risk factors correlate with increased risk of Stroke
- NOACS are associated with similar or lower stroke and intracranial bleeding compared to warfarin
  - But higher GI bleeding ( Dabigitran, Rivaroxiban)


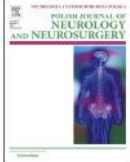
# Summary II

- PRADAXA – may be best choice for Low and High BMI patients ( controversial)
- Apixaban – less bleeding than warfarin with dialysis in retrospective evaluation.
- Avoid – combination of P-GP and CYP3a4 inhibitors and inducers with factor 10 a inhibitors
- Avoid – ( Ketoconazole ) with rivaroxaban, Rivaroxaban, and Dabigatran
- Hold NOAC 24 hours for low , 48 hours for high risk bleeding procedures.
  - Alter hold time based on GFR
- Idaricuzimab – 5 mg for life threatening bleeding with Dabigatran
- Andexanet Alpha- low or high dose for Factor 10 A I with bleeding
  - Low or high base dose on dose and if greater than 8 hours since last dose.

# Anticoagulation always has Risks


NEUROLOGIA I NEUROCHIRURGIA POLSKA 50 (2016) 200–202

Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)  
**ScienceDirect**  
journal homepage: <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/pjnns>

## Case report

### Fatal consequences of climbing a ladder under apixaban and drunken

 CrossMark

Claudia Stöllberger\*, Josef Finsterer  
Krankenanstalt Rudolfstiftung, Wien, Austria

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<p><b>ARTICLE INFO</b></p> <p><b>Article history:</b> Received 22 November 2015 Accepted 25 January 2016 Available online 5 February 2016</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Anticoagulation Apixaban Atrial fibrillation Cerebral hemorrhage</p>	<p><b>ABSTRACT</b></p> <p><b>Background:</b> Apixaban, a factor-Xa-inhibitor, is one of the non-vitamin-K-antagonist oral anticoagulants (NOACs) which are increasingly used in atrial fibrillation (AF). In real life even patients with contraindications to vitamin K antagonists (VKAs) receive NOAC because NOAC are considered as “safer” than VKAs.</p> <p><b>Case description:</b> In a 61-years-old man with hypertension, heart failure and paroxysmal AF apixaban was started. Despite advices from his physicians, he continued alcohol abuse and suffered from recurrent falls. After 9 months he fell from a ladder and suffered from extensive subarachnoidal and intraparenchymal hemorrhages, subdural hematoma, brain edema with midline shift and a left-sided skull fracture. Because of the inability to reverse the anticoagulant therapy, no neurosurgical intervention was carried out and the patient died without regaining consciousness.</p> <p><b>Conclusions:</b> Patients with recurrent falls or chronic alcohol abuse should not be considered as candidates for NOACs. If anticoagulation is deemed necessary, VKA with its potential for prompt reversibility should be favored.</p> <p>© 2016 Polish Neurological Society. Published by Elsevier Sp. z o.o. All rights reserved.</p>
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### 1. Introduction

Apixaban, a factor-Xa-inhibitor, is one of the non-vitamin-K-antagonist oral anticoagulants (NOACs) which are increasingly used in atrial fibrillation (AF). Apixaban was compared with patients nonetheless receive NOACs because NOACs are considered as “safer” than VKAs.

### 2. Case report



Risk can only be mitigated not eliminated



# P- GP and Dabigatran

- Rifampin reduces exposure to Dabigatran and should be avoided
- P-GP inhibitors amiodarone, Verapamil, quinidine and clarithromycin
  - Do not require Dabigatran dose adjustment