

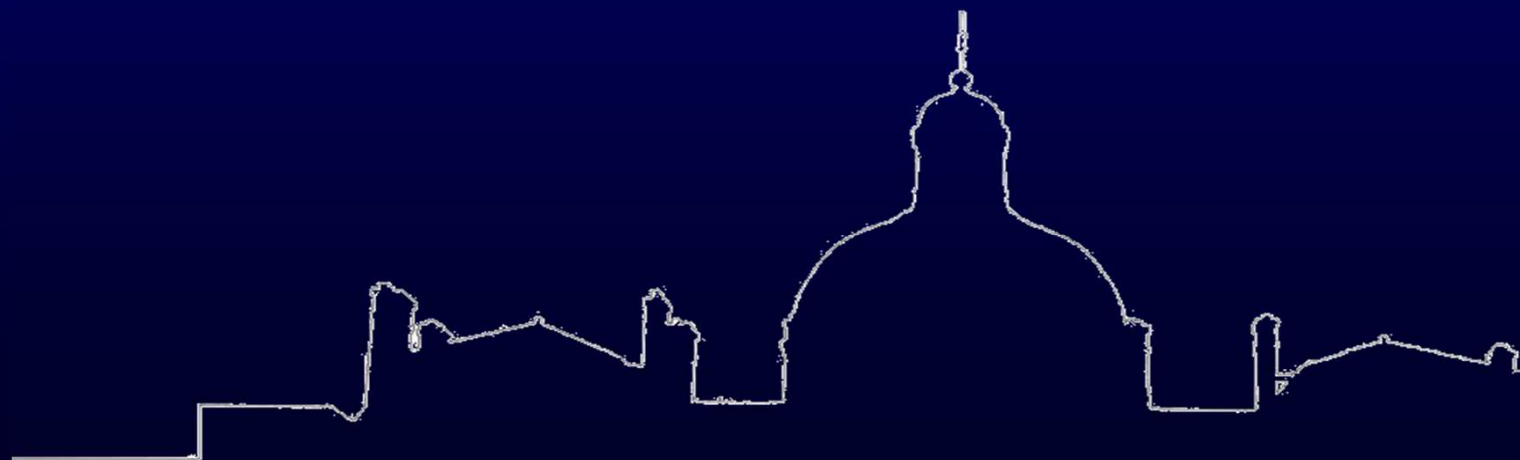


**ACTION Study Group**  
**Institute of Cardiology**  
**Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital**  
**Paris - France**



**Advancing patient care with NOACs  
in other cardiac interventions**

**Gilles Montalescot**



[www.action-cœur.org](http://www.action-cœur.org)

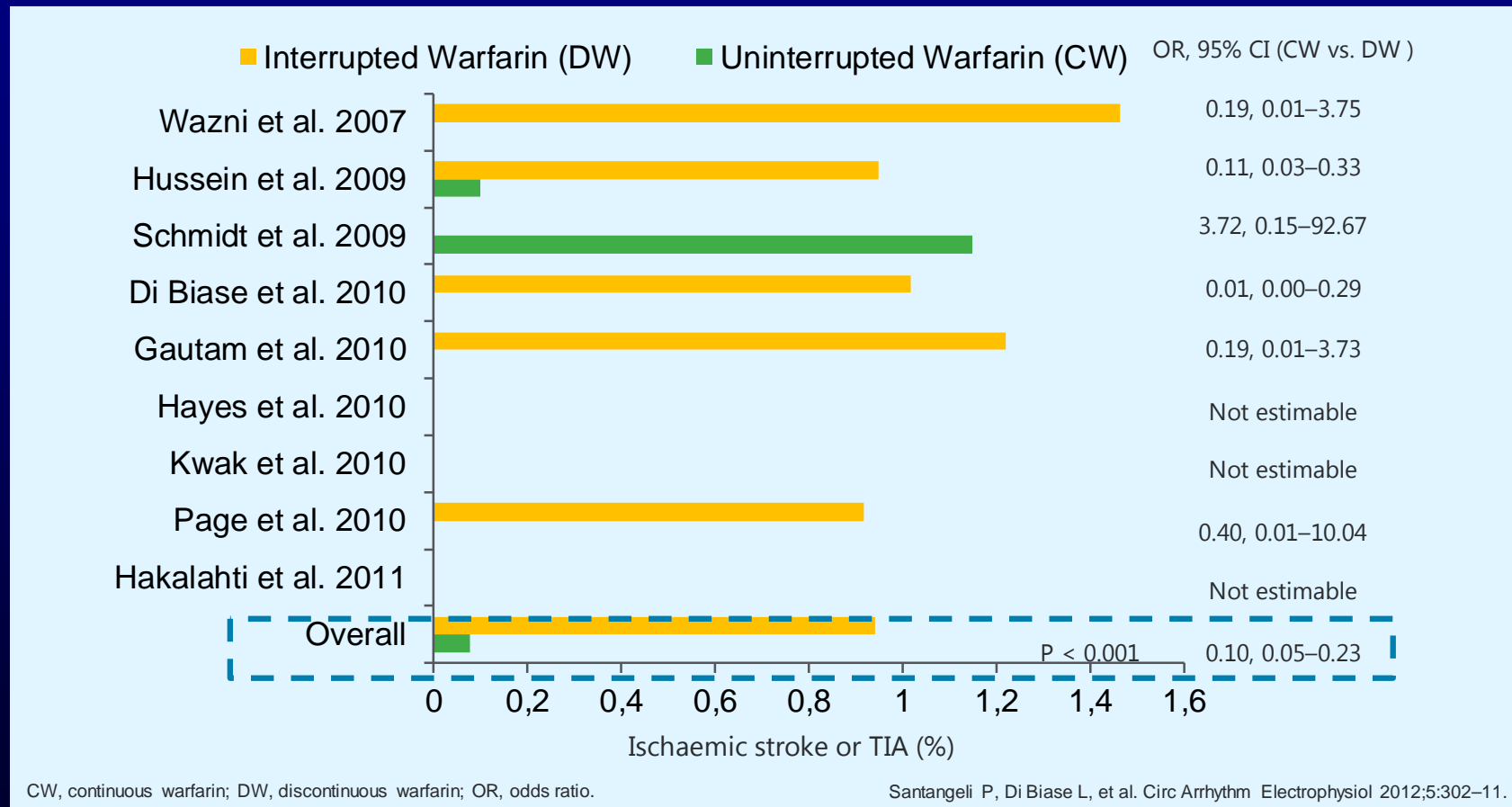
# Disclosures

Dr. Montalescot reports receiving research grants to the Institution or consulting/lecture fees from:

Abbott, American College of Cardiology Foundation, Actelion, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Axis-Santé, Bayer, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical, Boehringer Ingelheim, Boston-Scientific, Brigham Women's Hospital, Bristol-Myers Squibb, China heart House, Daiichi-Sankyo, Elsevier, Europa, Fédération Française de Cardiologie, ICAN, Idorsia, Lead-Up, Medtronic, Menarini, MSD, NovoNordisk, Partners, Pfizer, Quantum Genomics, Sanofi, Servier and WebMD.

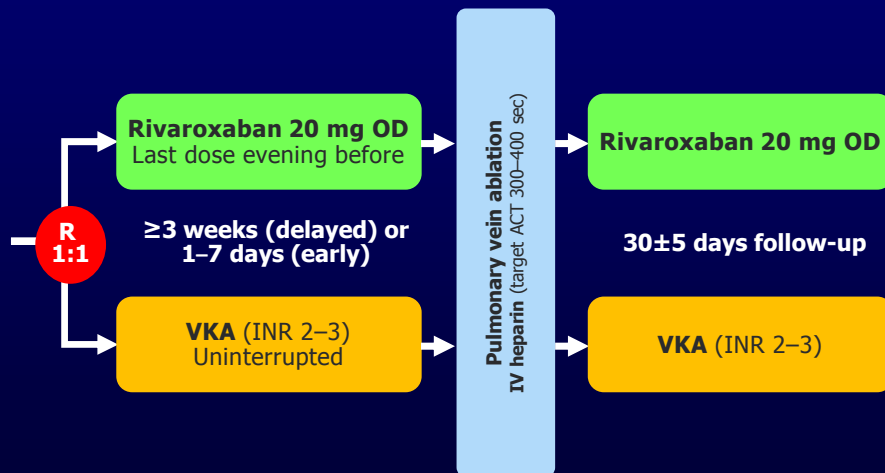
# NOACs and AF ablation

# Stroke/TIA risk when anticoagulation is interrupted in patients undergoing ablation: Meta-analysis<sup>1</sup>



# VENTURE-AF: Rivaroxaban vs VKA in AF ablation<sup>1</sup>

- Patients with paroxysmal or persistent NVAf, scheduled for pulmonary vein ablation
- 248 patients randomised
  - Mean age  $59.6 \pm 10.2$  years
  - Mean CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc score  $1.6 \pm 1.3$



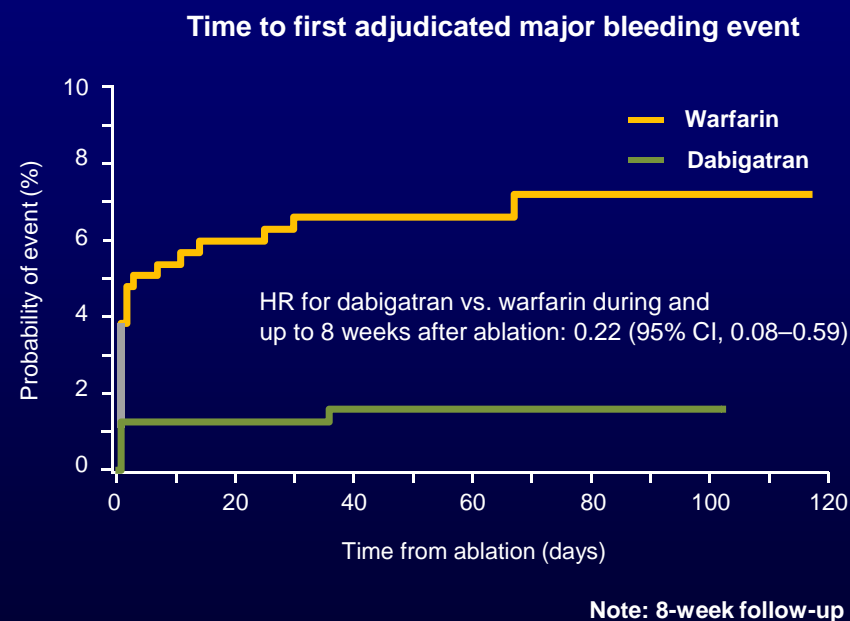
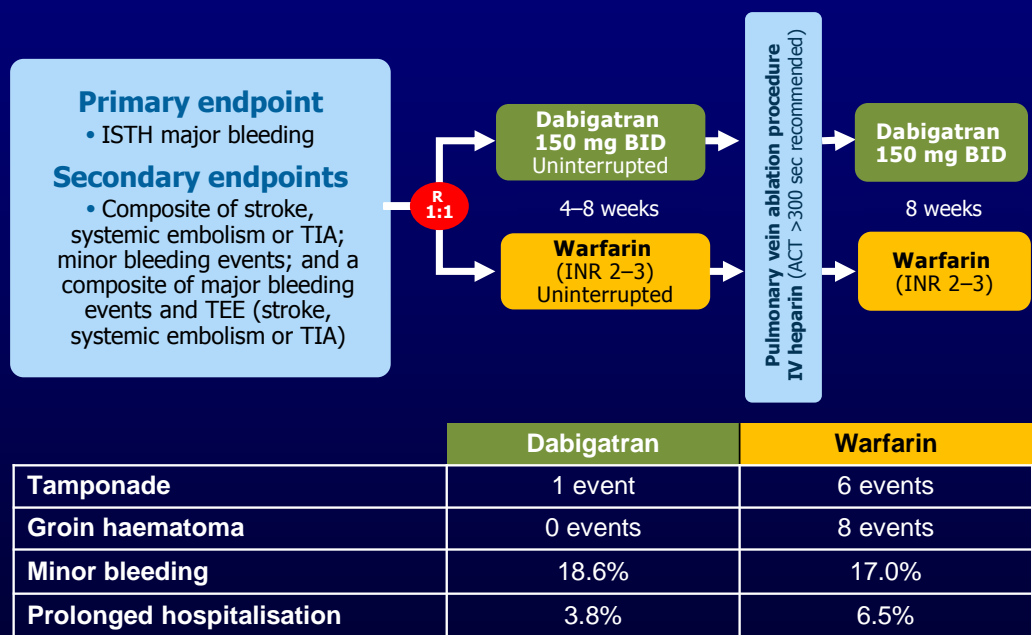
Number of events	Rivaroxaban (n=124)	VKA (n=124)
<b>Primary outcome (post-procedure major bleeding)</b>		
Major bleed	0	1
<b>Secondary outcomes</b>		
Thromboembolic event	0	2
Any bleeding events	21	18

INR, international normalised ratio; IV, intravenous; NVAf, non-valvular atrial fibrillation; OD, once daily; R, randomisation; SmPC, summary of product characteristics; VKA, vitamin K antagonist. Please refer to the SmPC for further information.<sup>2</sup>

1. Cappato R, et al. Eur Heart J 2015;36:1805–11;  
2. Rivaroxaban SmPC. Available at: <http://www.ema.europa.eu>.

# RE-CIRCUIT: Dabigatran vs warfarin in AF ablation<sup>1</sup>

- Patients with paroxysmal (~68%) or persistent NVAf, scheduled for first pulmonary vein ablation (n=635)
  - Time in therapeutic range (INR 2–3) was 66% in the warfarin arm
  - Mean CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc score was 2 and mean age was 59 years, in both arms

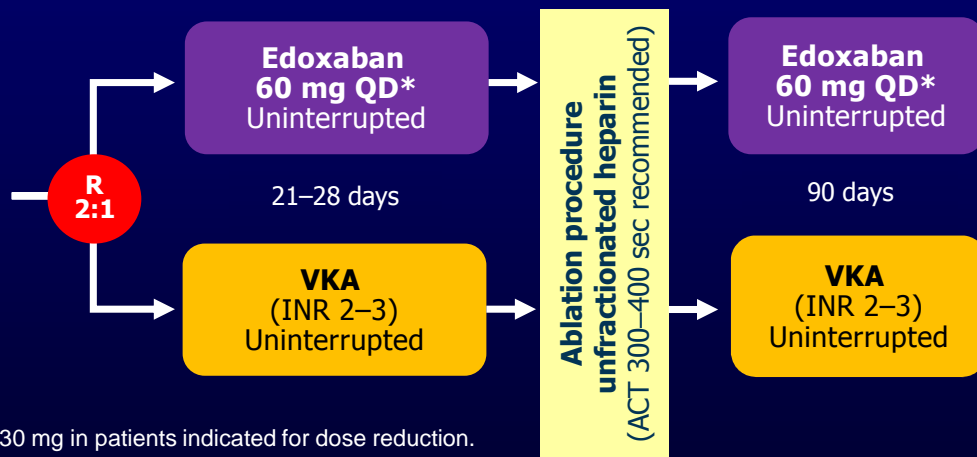


ACT, activated clotting time; BID, twice daily; HR, hazard ratio; ISTH, International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis; TEE, transesophageal echocardiography. Please refer to the SmPC for further information.<sup>2</sup>

1. Calkins H, et al. New Engl J Med 2017;376:1627–36;  
2. Dabigatran SmPC. Available at: <http://www.ema.europa.eu>.

# ELIMINATE-AF: Edoxaban vs VKA for AF ablation<sup>1</sup>

- Patients with paroxysmal, persistent or long-standing persistent NVAf, scheduled for first or repeated catheter ablation
- 614 patients randomised
  - Median age 60.5 (Q1–Q3: 53–67) years
  - CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VAsC scores ≥2=50.2%; 1=27.0%; 0=22.8%
  - 533 patients received study drug and underwent catheter ablation
  - 177 underwent brain MRI to assess silent cerebral infarcts



\*30 mg in patients indicated for dose reduction.  
Extracted from Hohnloser SH, et al. Eur Heart J 2019.

Primary endpoint (composite of death, stroke, or ISTH-defined major bleeding post-ablation) in the PP and the mITT population

	Edoxaban	VKA	HR (95% CI)
<b>PP population post-ablation<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>N=316</b>	<b>N=101</b>	
Primary endpoint events, n (%)	1 (0.3)	2 (2.0)	0.16 (0.02–1.73)
<b>mITT population peri- and post-ablation<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>n=375</b>	<b>n=178</b>	
Primary endpoint events, n (%)	10 (2.7)	3 (1.7)	1.60 (0.44–5.78)

<sup>a</sup>From the end of catheter ablation to day 90/end of treatment;  
<sup>b</sup>From the start of catheter ablation to day 90/ end of treatment.

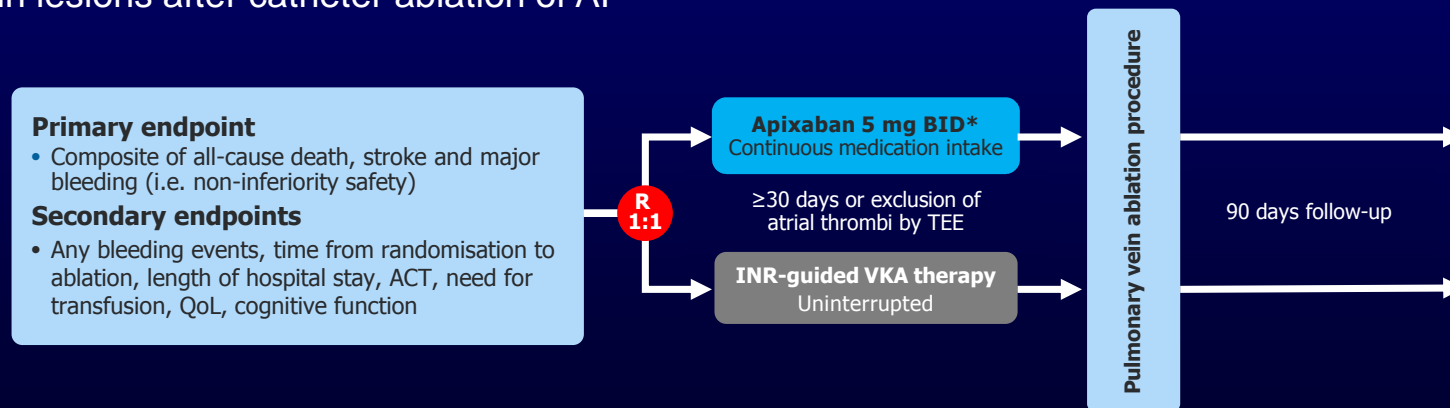
- Rates of acute cerebral microemboli were similar (13.8% vs 9.6%) after catheter ablation under edoxaban compared with VKA (MRI sub-analysis)

mITT, modified intent-to-treat; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging;  
PP, per-protocol; Q, quartile; QD, once daily.  
Please refer to the SmPC for further information.<sup>2</sup>

1. Hohnloser SH et al. Eur Heart J. 2019; doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehz190;  
2. Edoxaban SmPC. Available at: <http://www.ema.europa.eu>.

# AXAFA: Apixaban vs VKA in AF ablation<sup>1</sup>

- Open, blinded endpoint non-inferiority study
- Patients with AF scheduled for pulmonary vein ablation and CHADS<sub>2</sub> ≥1
  - Median time in the therapeutic range (INR ≥2) was 84% in the warfarin arm
  - Mean CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VAsC score was 2.4 and median age 64 years, in both arms
- In a subset of patients, MRI analyses performed to explore clinically silent brain lesions after catheter ablation of AF



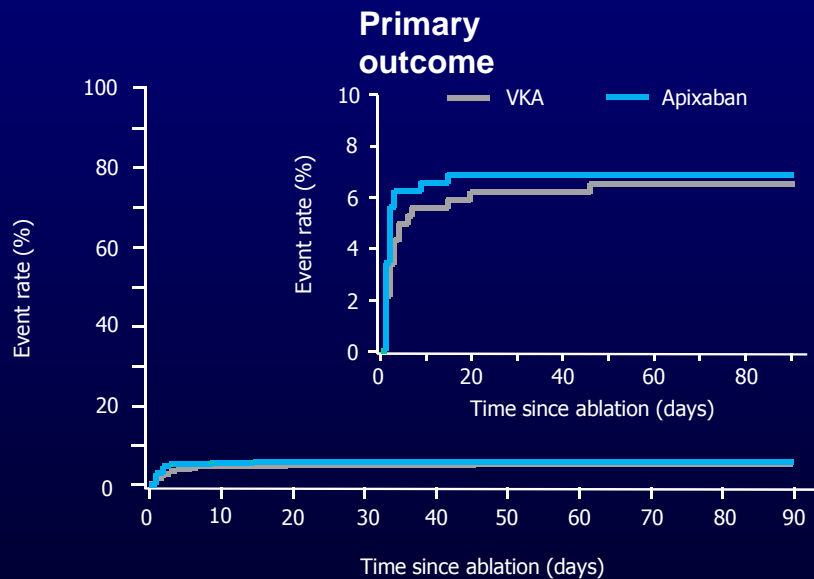
\*2.5 mg BID if ≥2 of the following criteria: age ≥80 years, weight ≤60 kg or serum creatinine ≥1.5 mg/dL (133 μmol/L). QoL, quality of life.  
Please refer to the SmPC for further information.<sup>2</sup>

1. Kirchhof P, et al. Eur Heart J 2018; 39:2942–55;  
2. Apixaban SmPC. Available at: <http://www.ema.europa.eu>.



# AXAFA: Primary outcome<sup>1</sup>

- Difference in primary outcome (composite of all-cause death, stroke or major bleeding) rate
  - -0.38% (90% CI -4.0%, 3.3%); non-inferiority  $p=0.0002$
  - Apixaban was also non-inferior to VKA among all randomized patients as assessed by Cox proportional hazards model comparison between treatment groups using a relative non-inferiority margin of 1.44 (HR=0.88, 90% CI 0.55, 1.41;  $p=0.042$ )

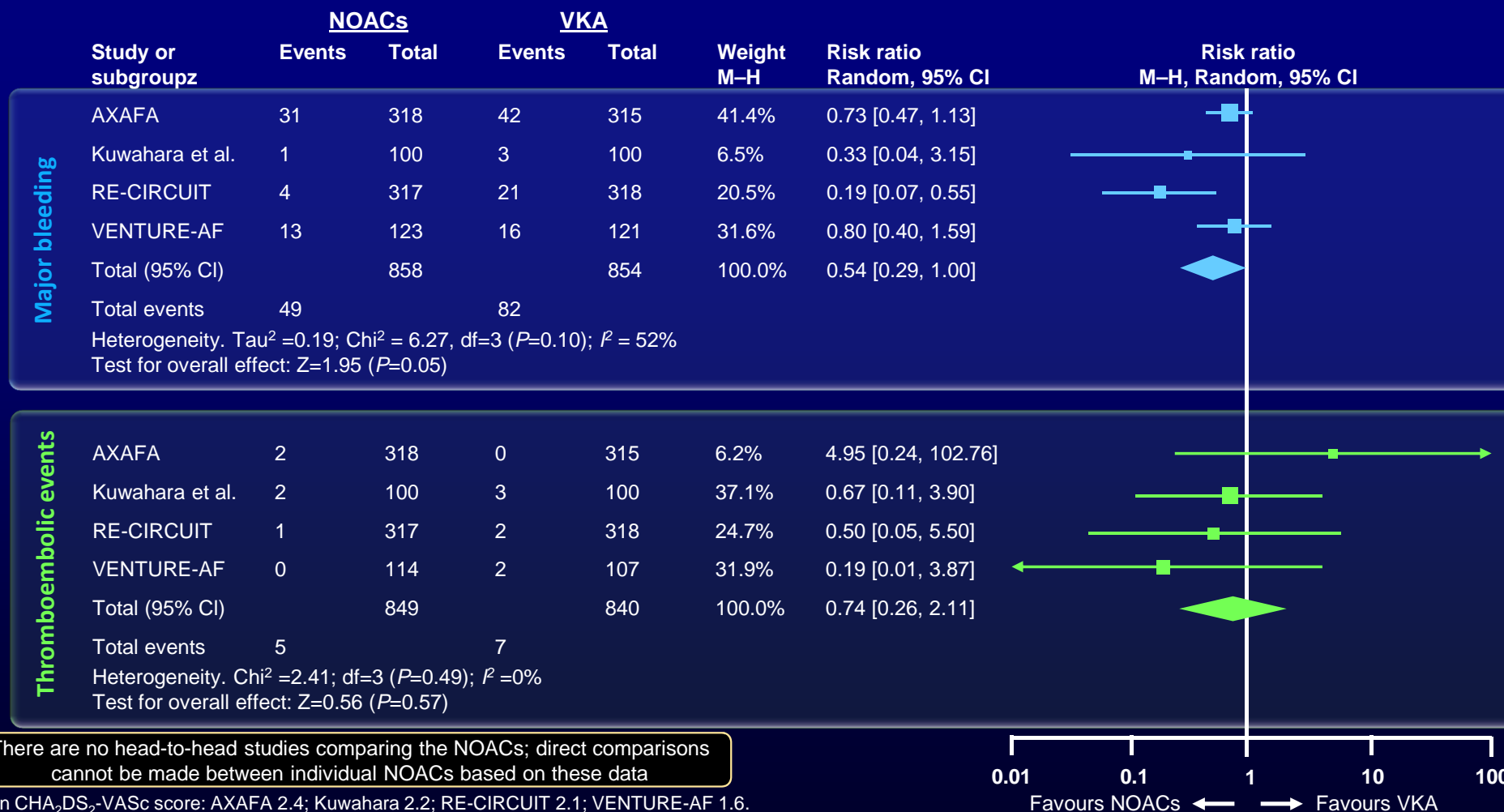


	Apixaban	VKA
<b>Patients with primary endpoint n (%)</b>	22/318 (6.9%), non-inferiority $p=0.0002$	23/315 (7.3%)
<b>Death</b>	1 (0.3%)	1 (0.3%)
<b>Stroke or TIA</b>	2 (0.6%)	0
<b>Intracranial haemorrhage</b>	0	1 (0.3%, fatal)
<b>TIMI major bleeding</b>	1 (0.3%)	3 (1%)
<b>ISTH major bleeding</b>	10 (3.1%)	14 (4.4%)
<b>Tamponade</b>	2 (0.6%)	5 (1.6%)

TIMI, thrombolysis in myocardial infarction.  
Please refer to the SmPC for further information.<sup>2</sup>

1. Kirchhof P, et al. Eur Heart J 2018; 39:2942–55;  
2. Apixaban SmPC. Available at: <http://www.ema.europa.eu>.

# Meta-analysis: Uninterrupted NOAC vs uninterrupted VKA<sup>1</sup>



There are no head-to-head studies comparing the NOACs; direct comparisons cannot be made between individual NOACs based on these data

Mean CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc score: AXAFA 2.4; Kuwahara 2.2; RE-CIRCUIT 2.1; VENTURE-AF 1.6.

M-H, Mantel-Haenszel.

Please refer to the SmPC for further information.<sup>2-4</sup>

1. Romero J, et al. Europace 2018; 20:1612-20; 2. Dabigatran SmPC;

3. Rivaroxaban SmPC; 4. Apixaban SmPC.

All SmPCs available at: <http://www.ema.europa.eu>.

# Recommendations for anticoagulation post ablation: 2017 HRS/EHRA/ECAS/APHRS/SOLAECE expert consensus<sup>1</sup>

Postablation	In patients who are not therapeutically anticoagulated prior to catheter ablation of AF and in whom warfarin will be used for anticoagulation postablation, low molecular weight heparin or intravenous heparin should be used as a bridge for initiation of systemic anticoagulation with warfarin following AF ablation.*	I	C-E0	
	Systemic anticoagulation with warfarin* or a NOAC is recommended for at least 2 months postcatheter ablation of AF.	I	C-E0	1,2
	Adherence to AF anticoagulation guidelines is recommended for patients who have undergone an AF ablation procedure, regardless of the apparent success or failure of the procedure.	I	C-E0	5,6
	Decisions regarding continuation of systemic anticoagulation more than 2 months post ablation should be based on the patient's stroke risk profile and not on the perceived success or failure of the ablation procedure.	I	C-E0	5,6
	In patients who have not been anticoagulated prior to catheter ablation of AF or in whom anticoagulation with a NOAC or warfarin has been interrupted prior to ablation, administration of a NOAC 3 to 5 hours after achievement of hemostasis is reasonable postablation.	IIa	C-E0	5,6,8,9
	Patients in whom discontinuation of anticoagulation is being considered based on patient values and preferences should consider undergoing continuous or frequent ECG monitoring to screen for AF recurrence.	IIb	C-E0	

\*Time in therapeutic range (TTR) should be >65–70% on warfarin.

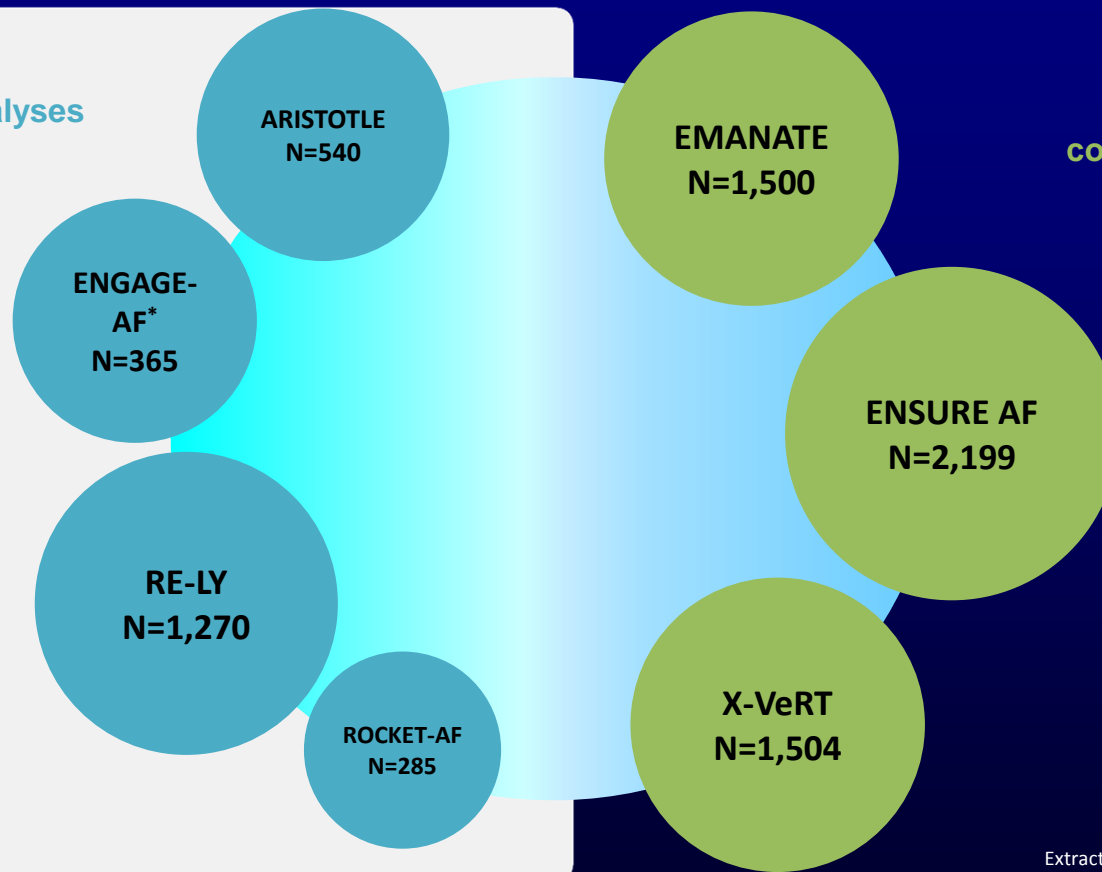
APHRS, Asia Pacific Heart Rhythm Society; ECAS, European Cardiac Arrhythmia Society; ECG, echocardiogram; EHRA, European Heart Rhythm Association; HRS, Heart Rhythm Society; SOLAECE, Latin American Society of Cardiac Stimulation and Electrophysiology.

1. Calkins H, et al. Heart Rhythm 2017;14:e275–e444.

# **NOACs and cardioversion**

# Evidence of use of different NOACs in cardioversion

**Subgroup analyses**  
**N=2,460**



**Randomised  
controlled trials**  
**N=5,203**

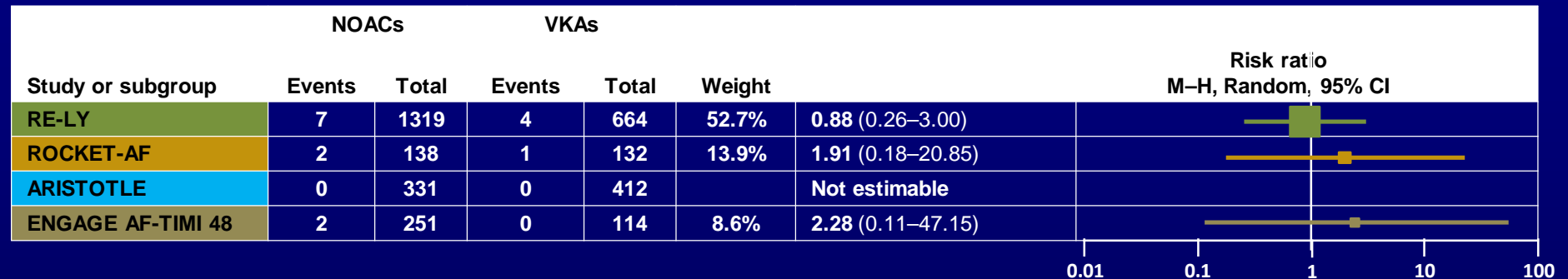
Extracted from Mahaffey K, et al. 2018.<sup>1</sup>

\*Electrical cardioversion only.

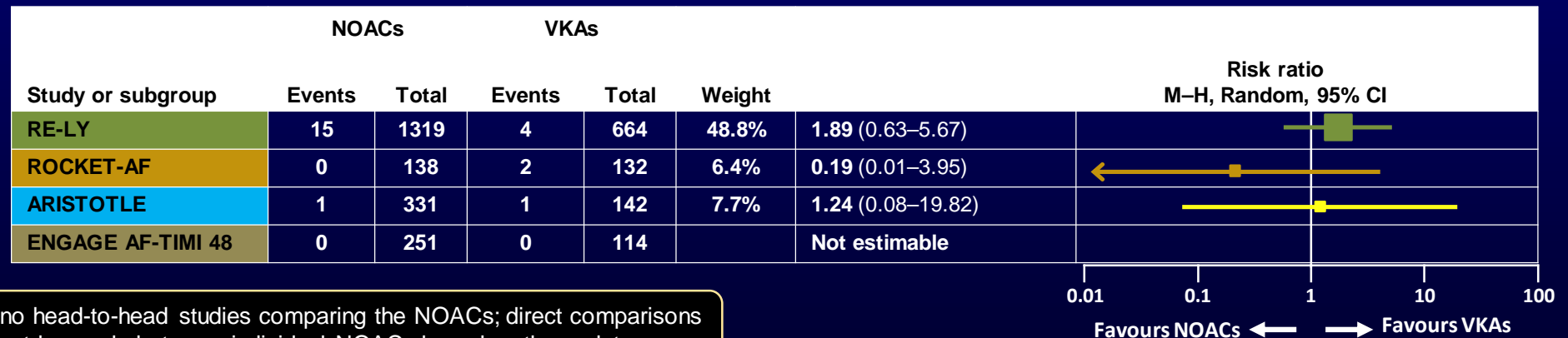
1. Mahaffey K, et al. Eur Heart J 2018;39:2972–4.

# Cardioversion in prior $\phi$ III NOAC trials: Meta analysis<sup>1</sup>

## Stroke/SE



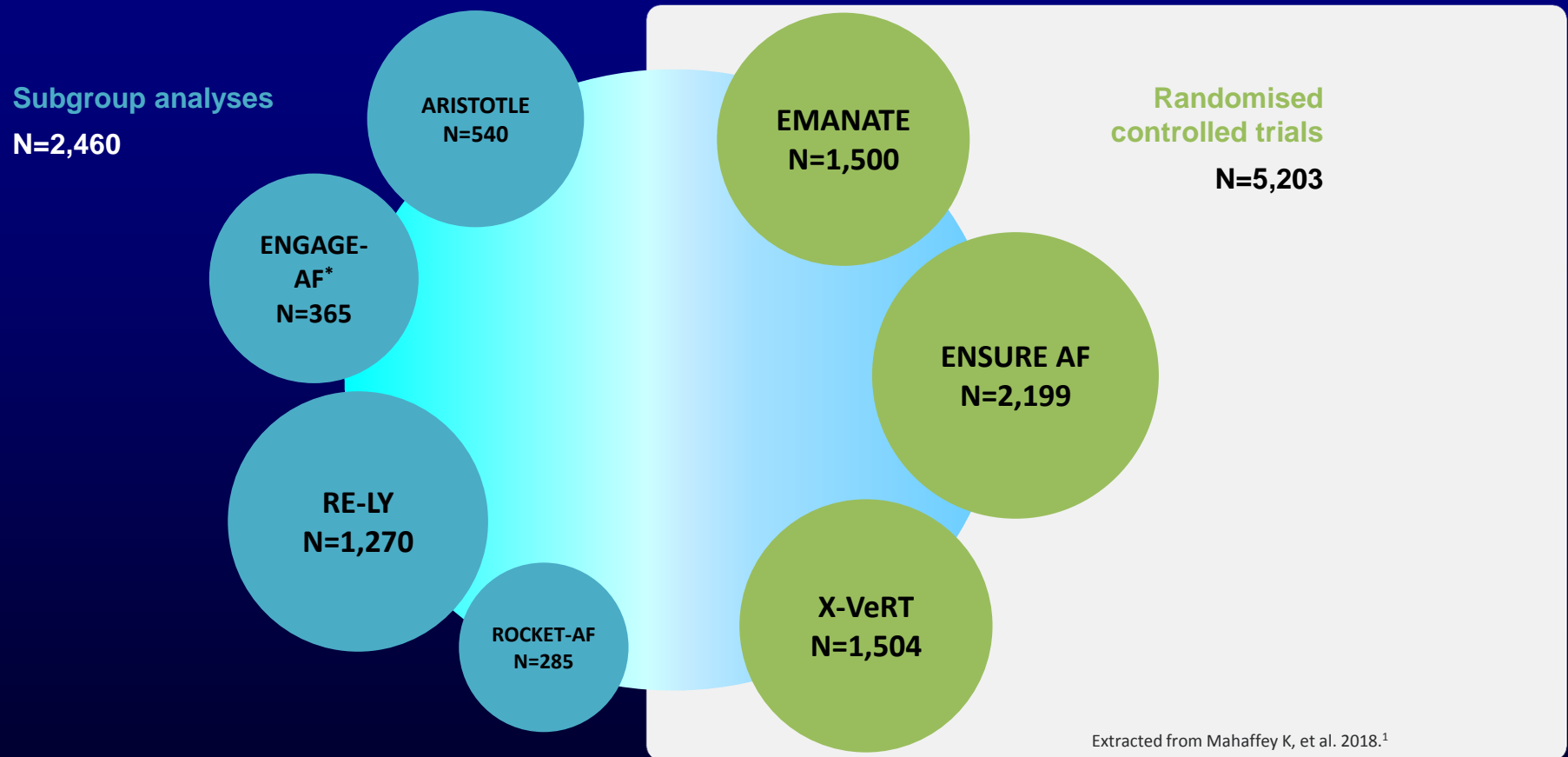
## Major bleeding



There are no head-to-head studies comparing the NOACs; direct comparisons cannot be made between individual NOACs based on these data

Extracted from Renda G, et al. Am J Med 2016;129:1117–23.e2.

# Evidence of use of different NOACs in cardioversion



\*Electrical cardioversion only.

1. Mahaffey K, et al. Eur Heart J 2018;39:2972–4.

# NOAC trials in patients undergoing cardioversion

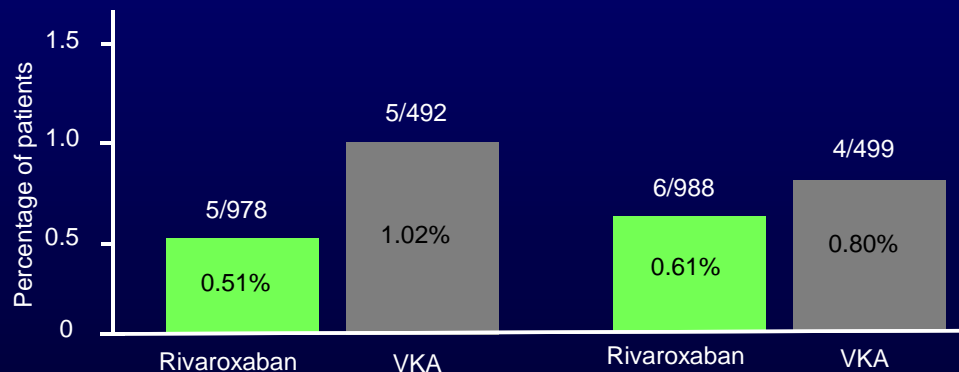
## X-VERT<sup>1\*</sup>

Stroke, TIA, peripheral embolism,  
MI and CV death

RR: 0.50 (95% CI 0.15–1.73)

Major bleeding

RR: 0.76 (95% CI: 0.21–2.67)



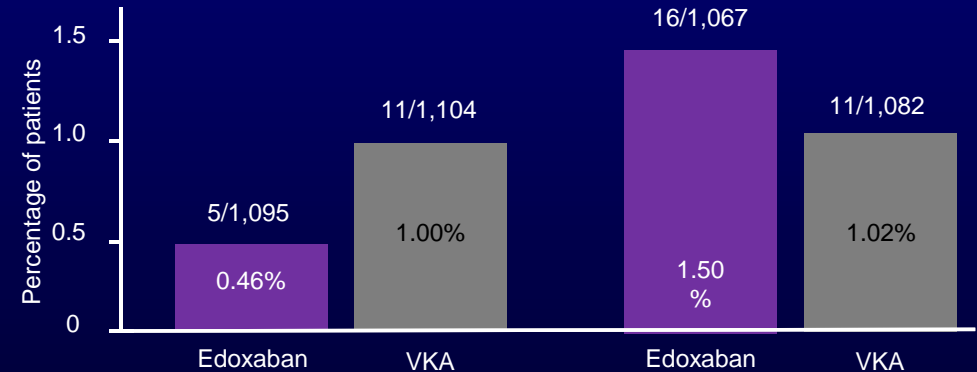
## ENSURE-AF<sup>2,3†</sup>

Stroke, TIA, SE, MI  
and CV mortality

OR: 0.46 (95% CI 0.12–1.43)

Major and CRNM bleeding

OR: 1.48 (95% CI: 0.64–3.55)



CRNM, clinically relevant non-major; CV, cardiovascular; MI, myocardial infarction; RR, risk ratio.

\*Rivaroxaban (n=978) vs VKA (n=492); cardioversion within 5 days or after 3–8 weeks of anticoagulation; 43% anticoagulant-experienced at baseline;

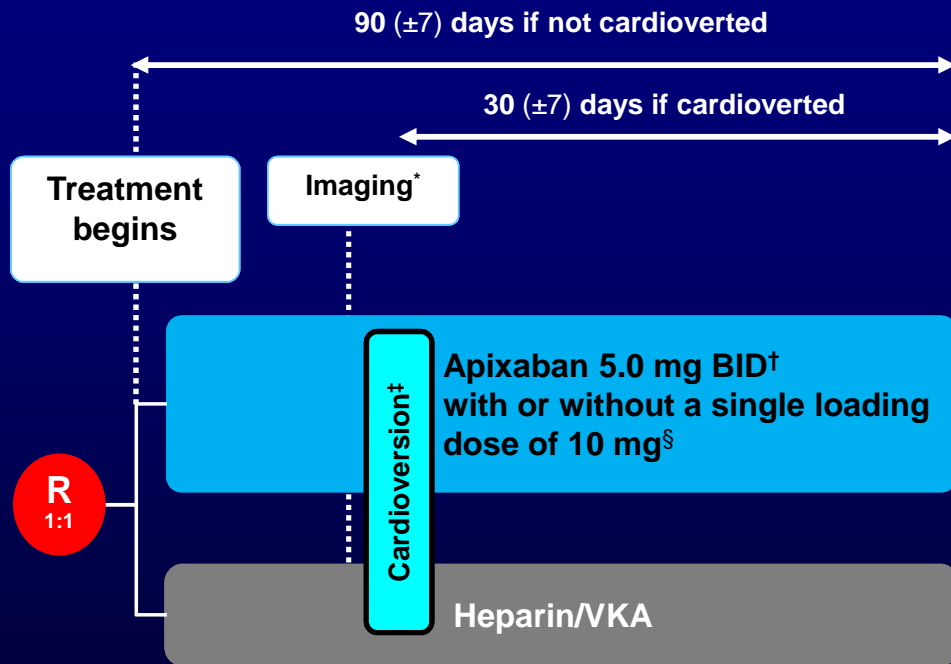
†Edoxaban (n=1,095) vs enoxaparin/VKA (n=1,104); cardioversion within 3 days or after 21–24 days of anticoagulation; 73% anticoagulant-experienced at baseline.

Please refer to the SmPC for further information.<sup>4,5</sup>

1. Cappato R, et al. Eur Heart J 2014;35:3346–55;
2. Goette A, et al. Lancet 2016;388:1995–2003;
3. Lip GHY, et al. Am Heart J 2015;169:597–604;
4. Rivaroxaban SmPC;
5. Edoxaban SmPC. All SmPCs available at: <http://www.ema.europa.eu>.



# EMANATE: Apixaban in patients with AF undergoing cardioversion<sup>1</sup>



- 78% of subjects with new-onset AF<sup>¶</sup>
  - Duration of AF was <48 hours in 34%<sup>#</sup>
- Patients had minimal exposure to anticoagulation prior to cardioversion
  - 62% not anticoagulated prior to randomisation
  - 38% received ≤48 hours' anticoagulation

CT, computerised tomography; TOE, transoesophageal echocardiogram.

\*TOE or CT imaging, at the discretion of the investigator; <sup>†</sup>Dose reduction to 2.5 mg BID in appropriate patients;

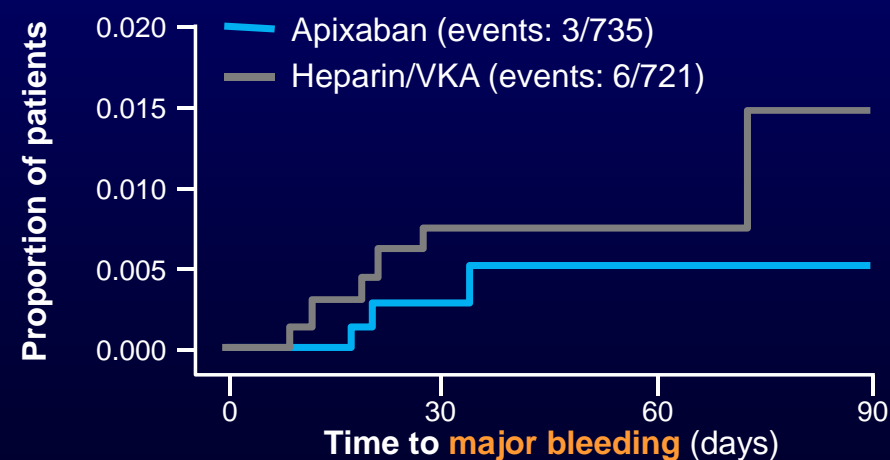
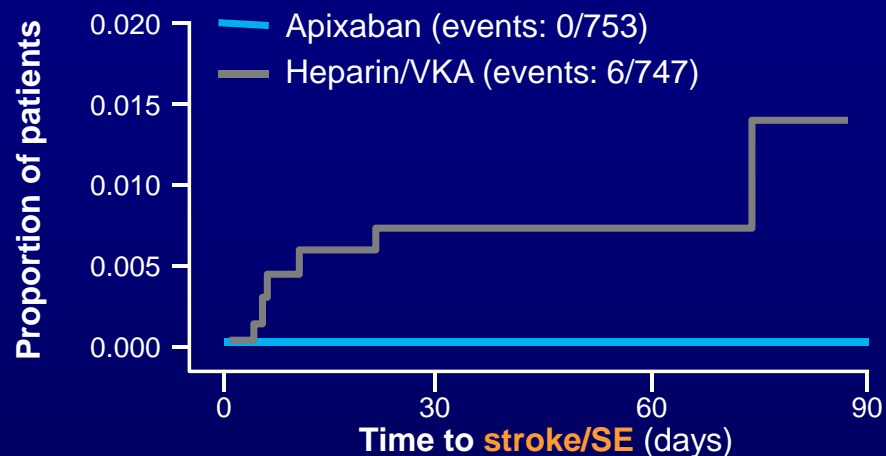
<sup>‡</sup>Local investigators determined the timing and type of cardioversion, within 90 days of randomization;

<sup>§</sup>5 mg if down-titrated in appropriate patients; <sup>¶</sup>Diagnosed within 3 months prior to randomisation; <sup>#</sup>Data on file.

Please refer to the SmPC for further information.<sup>2</sup>

1. Ezekowitz MD, et al. Eur Heart J 2018;39(32):2959–71;  
2. Apixaban SmPC. Available at: <http://www.ema.europa.eu>.

# EMANATE: Key efficacy and safety outcomes<sup>1</sup>



## Efficacy outcomes

	Apixaban total (n=753)	Apixaban loading dose (n=342)	Heparin/VKA (n=747)
Stroke	0	0	6
Death	2	1	1

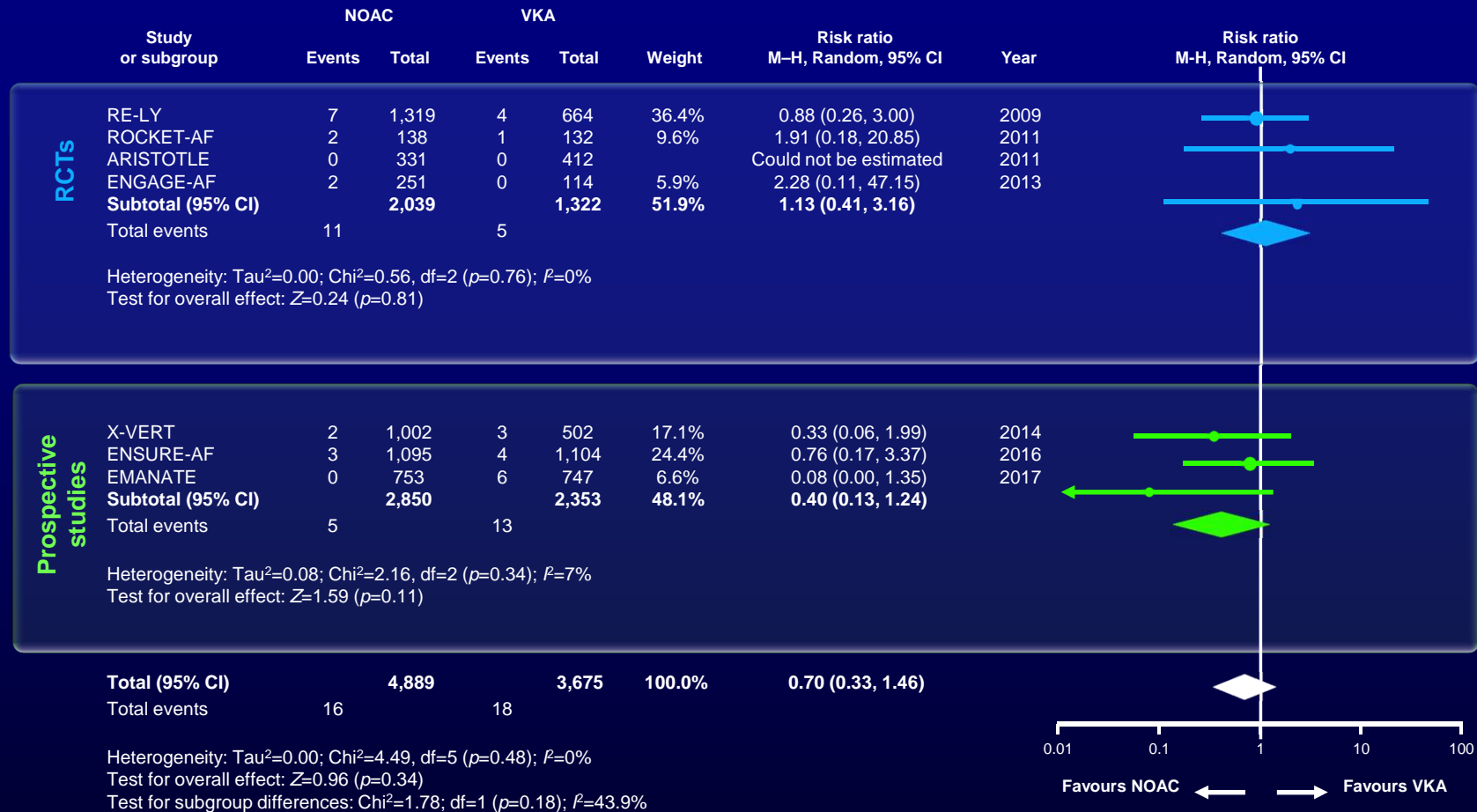
## Safety outcomes

	Apixaban total (n=735)	Apixaban loading dose (n=342)	Heparin/VKA (n=721)
Major bleeds	3	1	6
CRNM bleeds	11	4	13

Please refer to the SmPC for further information.<sup>2</sup>

1. Ezekowitz MD, et al. Eur Heart J 2018;39(32):2959–71;  
2. Apixaban SmPC. Available at: <http://www.ema.europa.eu>.

# NOACs vs. VKA for stroke prevention with cardioversion<sup>1</sup>



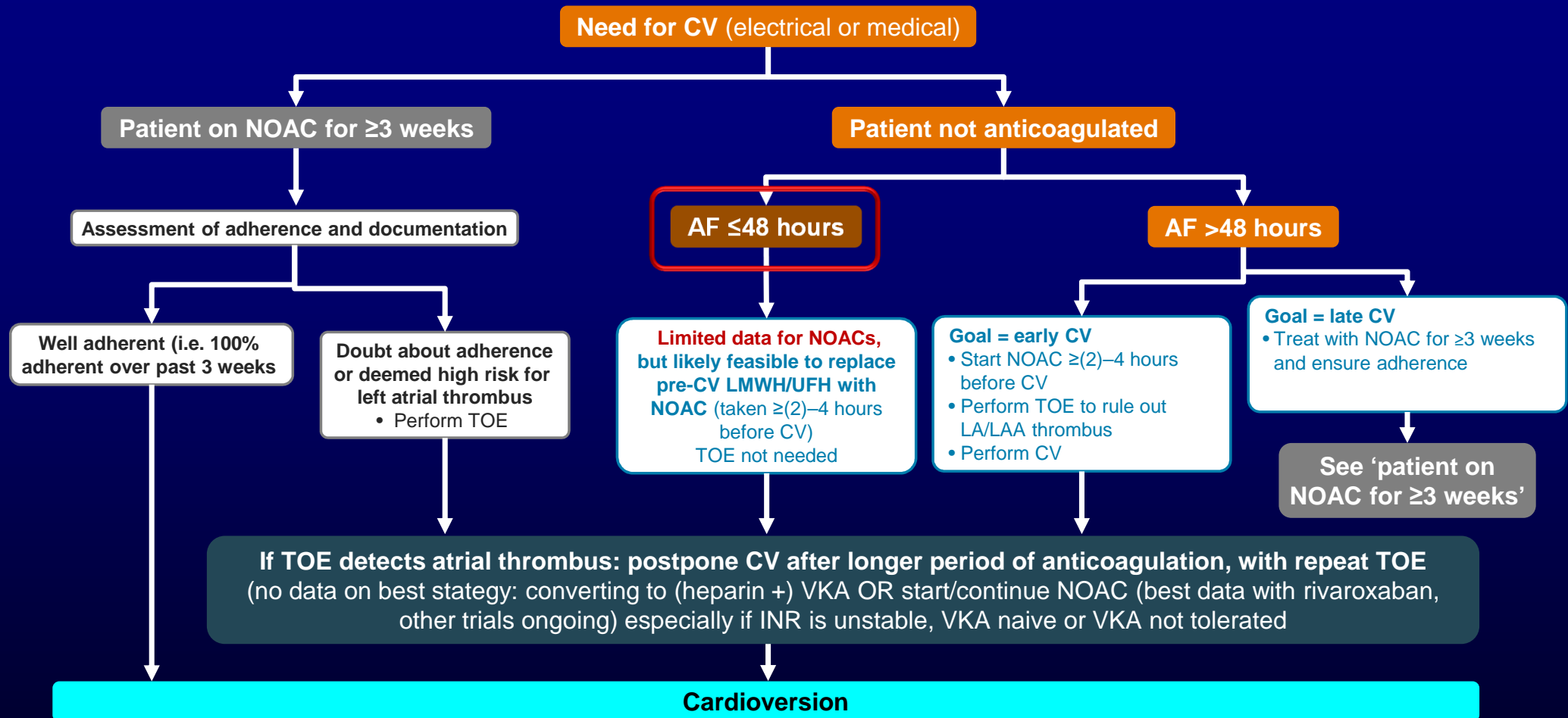
Forest plot describing the risk ratio and 95% CI of stroke/SE with use of NOACs vs VKA.

Head-to-head trials do not exist and direct comparisons between agents cannot be made.  
This analysis compared NOACs with warfarin in observational and randomised studies

Please refer to the SmPC for further information.<sup>2-5</sup>

1. Brunetti ND, et al. J Thromb Thrombolysis 2018;45:550–6;  
 2. Dabigatran SmPC; 3. Rivaroxaban SmPC; 4. Apixaban SmPC;  
 5. Edoxaban SmPC. All SmPCs available at: <http://www.ema.europa.eu>.

# EHRA Practical NOAC Guide 2018 for cardioversion<sup>1</sup>



CV, cardioversion; LA, left atrium; LAA, left atrial appendage; LMWH, low-molecular-weight heparin; UFH, unfractionated heparin.

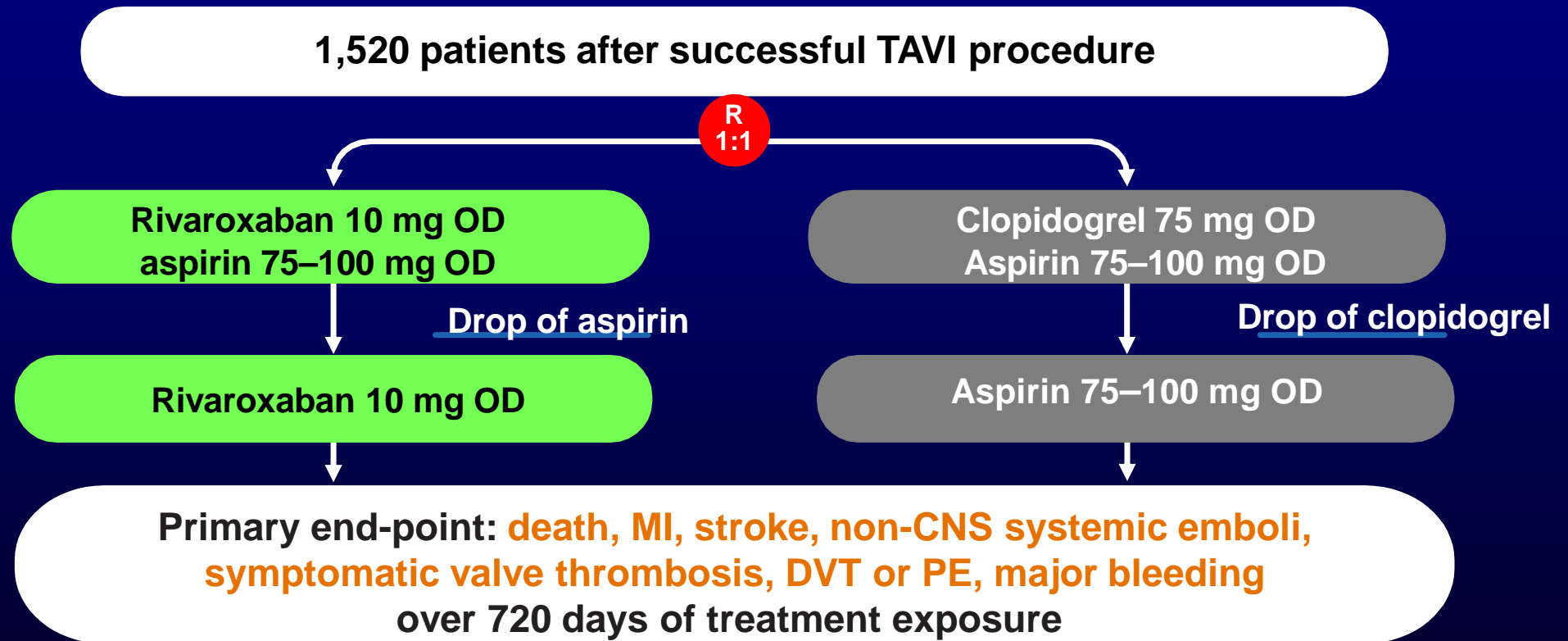
1. Steffel J, et al. Eur Heart J 2018;39:1330–93.

# NOACs and TAVI

TAVI, trans-aortic valve implantation.

# GALILEO

**G**lobal multicenter, open-label, randomized, event-driven, active-controlled study comparing a rivaroxaban-based antithrombotic strategy to an antiplatelet-based strategy after transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) to **O**ptimize clinical outcomes will compare rivaroxaban-based<sup>1</sup>



Please refer to the SmPC for further information.<sup>2</sup>

CNS, central nervous system; DVT, deep vein thrombosis;  
PE, pulmonary embolism.

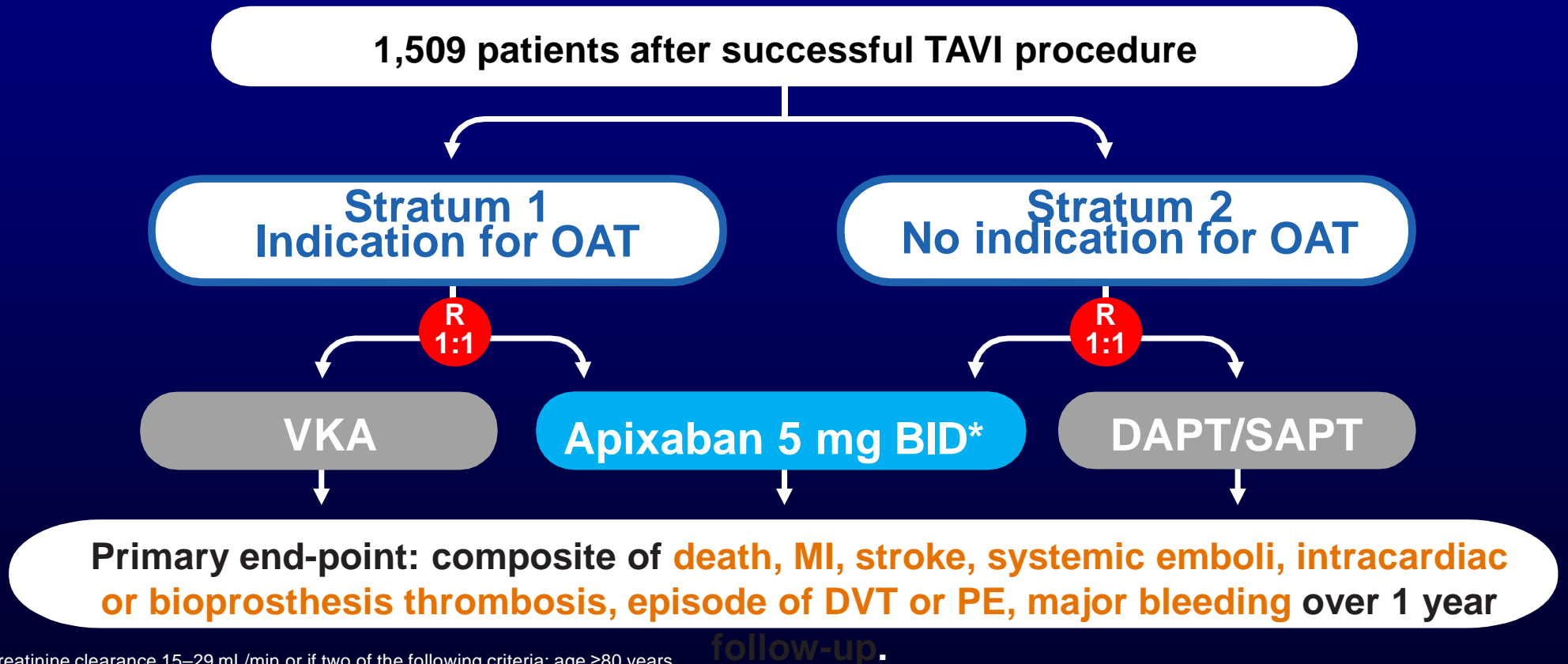
1. NCT02556203. Available at:

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02556203>. Accessed July 2019;

2. Rivaroxaban SmPC. Available at: <http://www.ema.europa.eu>.

# ATLANTIS

**Anti-Thrombotic Strategy to Lower All cardiovascular and Neurologic Ischemic and Hemorrhagic Events after Trans-Aortic Valve Implantation for Aortic Stenosis)<sup>1</sup>**



\*2.5mg bid if creatinine clearance 15–29 mL/min or if two of the following criteria: age ≥80 years, weight ≤60k or creatinine ≥1.5 mg/dL (133 μMol).

DAPT, dual-antiplatelet therapy; OAT, oral anticoagulant therapy; SAPT, single antiplatelet therapy.

Please refer to the SmPC for further information.<sup>2</sup>

1. Collet JP, et al. Am Heart J. 2018;200:44-50;

2. Apixaban SmPC. Available at: <http://www.ema.europa.eu>.

# NOACs and LAAC

LAAC, left atrial appendage closure.



# Left Atrial Appendage Closure

Only a Question of Bleeding!\*

Gilles Montalescot, MD, PhD, Paul Guedeney, MD

JACC: CARDIOVASCULAR INTERVENTIONS

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Trials	Estimated sample size	Interventions	Estimated completion date
ADRIFT NCT03273322	105	DAPT vs. Low-dose Rivaroxaban after LAAC	Completed
A3ICH NCT03243175	300	LAAC + SAPT/DAPT vs. Full-dose Apixaban vs. Optimal care	2020
STROKE-CLOSE NCT02830152	750	LAAC (Amulet™) + SAPT/DAPT vs. AOC/DAPT/SAPT	2022
CLOSURE-AF NCT03463317	1512	LAAC + DAPT vs. OAC (VKA/NOAC)	2023
ASAP-TOO NCT02928497	888	LAAC (Watchman™) + DAPT vs. SAPT/no therapy	2023

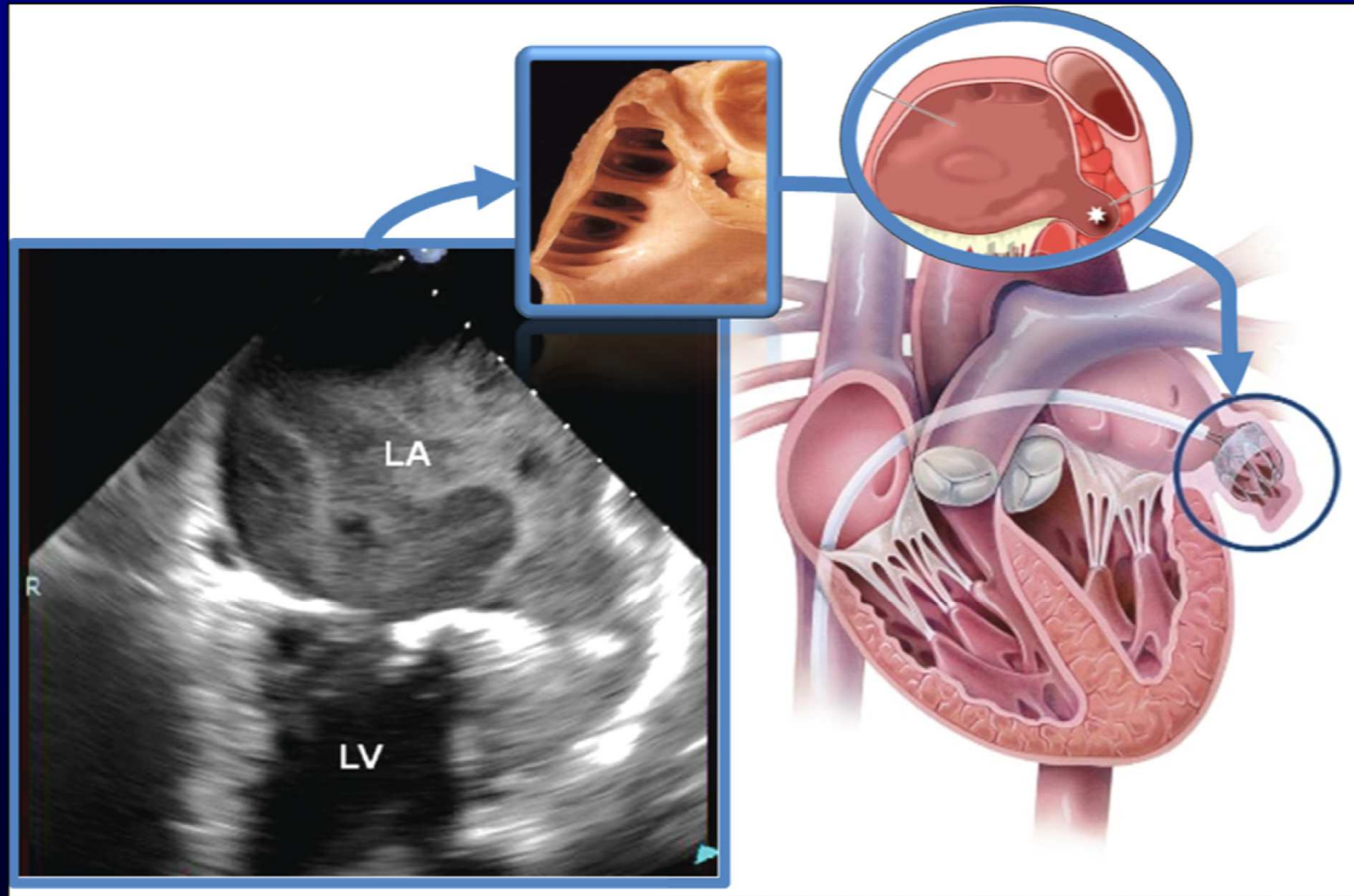
Please refer to the SmPC for further information.<sup>2-5</sup>

1. Montalescot G, Guedeney P. JACC Cardiovasc Interv 2019;12:1077–79;

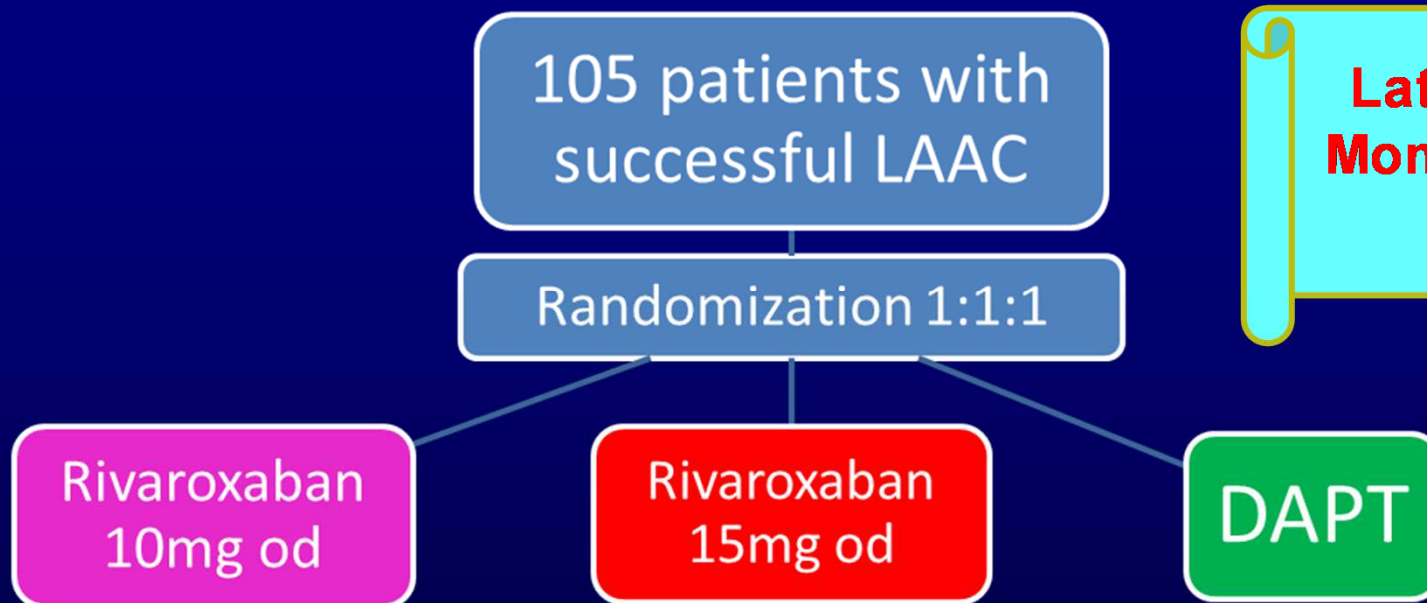
2. Rivaroxaban SmPC; 3. Apixaban SmPC; 4. Dabigatran SmPC;

5. Edoxaban SmPC. All SmPCs available at: <http://www.ema.europa.eu>.

## Left atrial appendage closure



# ADRIFT study design<sup>1</sup>



**Late Breaking  
Monday 8.30am  
Helsinki**

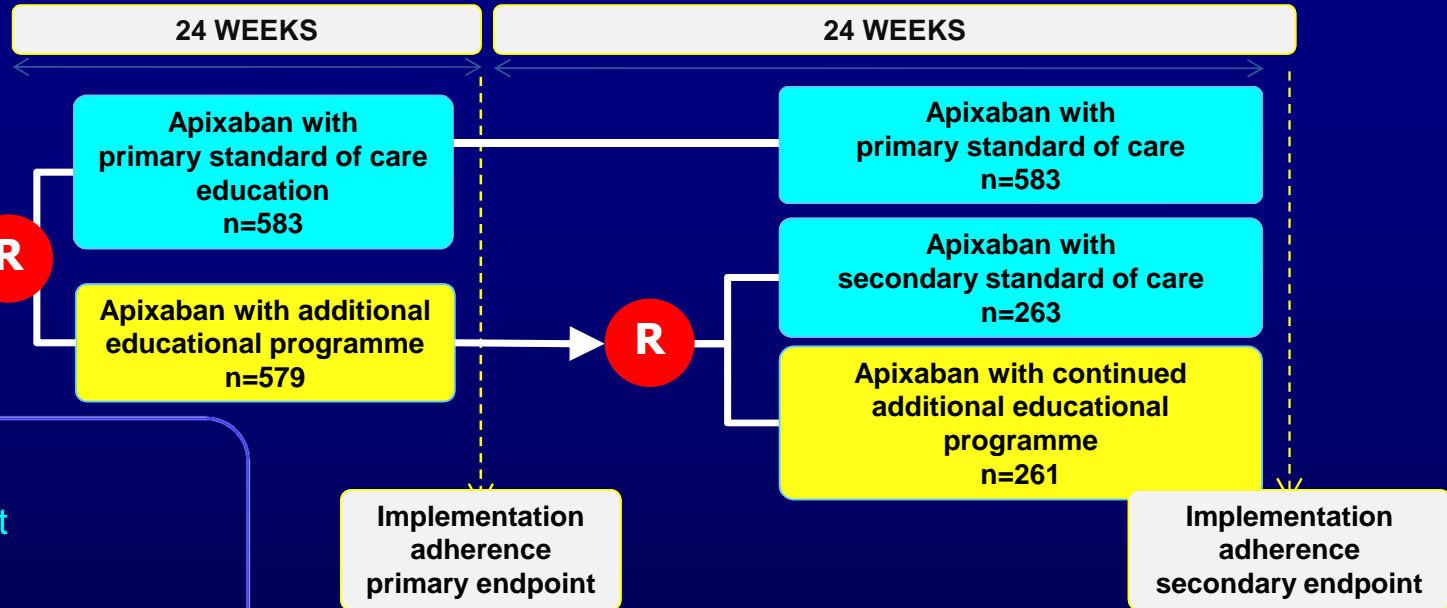
1° EP, D10: Thrombin generation (F1+2)

2° EP, D90: F1+2, TAT, D-Dimers and clinical events

**Once a patient is on a NOAC,  
adherence is key to reducing stroke risk**

# Study design<sup>1</sup>

- NVAf patients
- OAC indication
- VKA treated (1/3)
- VKA naïve (2/3)
- ASA treated allowed



## Standard of care education:

- Usual information about apixaban treatment

## Additional educational programme:

- An additional patient education booklet explaining NVAf and anticoagulant treatment for stroke prevention
- Reminder tools: key ring, SMS alert on mobile phone, or smartphone application
- Access to a virtual clinic organised at country level utilising staff from existing anticoagulant clinics

Adherence was measured via an Electronic Monitoring Device\* (adapted to the blister) allowing registration of number and timing of pills intake<sup>†</sup>



ASA, acetylsalicylic acid; OAC, oral anticoagulant.

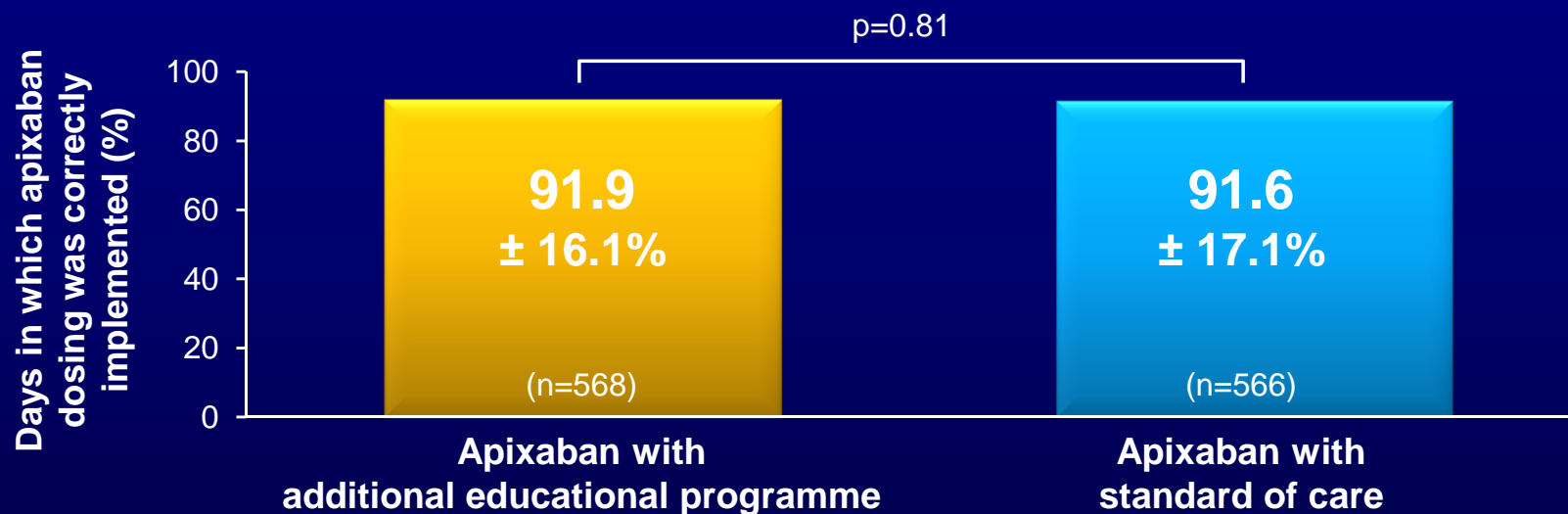
\*No reminder function on device to enhance implementation.

<sup>†</sup>The device was operated by inserting commercial blister packs. The device then electronically recorded every time the blister was removed (date and time). It was assumed that a single dose of study medication was administered every time the blister pack was removed.

**Implementation adherence** defined as treatment taken as prescribed with one or less dose missed within 24 h and no tablet missed on the previous 2 consecutive days.

1. Montalescot G, et al. Am J Cardiovasc Drugs 2019; doi: 10.1007/s40256-019-00356-2.

# Implementation adherence at 24 weeks<sup>1</sup> (primary endpoint)



## Implementation adherence

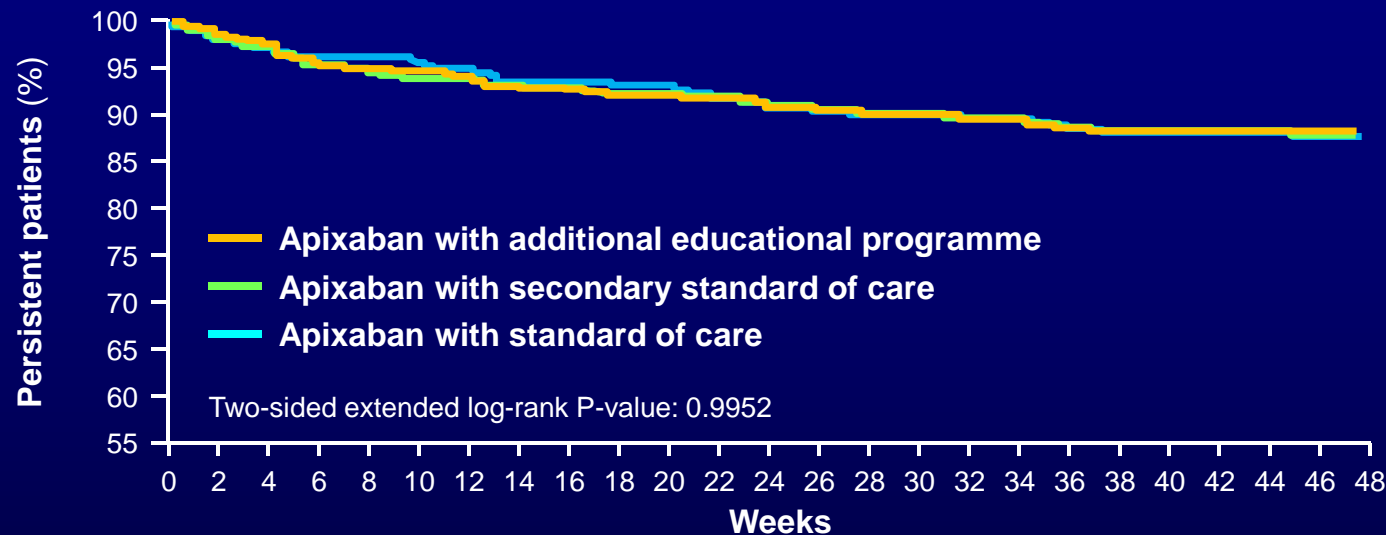
Defined as treatment taken as prescribed with one or less dose missed within 24h and no tablet missed on the previous two consecutive days

## Implementation adherence at 48 weeks (secondary endpoint; mean ± SD)

Continued additional educational programme	90.4 ± 18.0%
Primary standard of care	90.1 ± 18.6%
Secondary standard of care	89.3 ± 18.1%

No significant differences between groups at 24 or 48 weeks

## Persistence over 48 weeks<sup>1</sup> (secondary endpoint)



### Persistence

Defined as the length of time between initiation and discontinuation. Study treatment that was withheld for more than 30 consecutive days was considered a permanent discontinuation.

### Proportion of patients persistent at 48 weeks

Continued additional educational programme	86.1% (95% CI: 81.3–89.7)
Primary standard of care	85.2% (95% CI: 81.5–88.2)
Secondary standard of care	87.8% (95% CI: 83.4–91.1)

P>0.5 for all between-group comparisons

1. Montalescot G, et al. Am J Cardiovasc Drugs 2019. doi: 10.1007/s40256-019-00356-2 + supplement.



# Clinical endpoints at week 24<sup>1</sup> (adjudicated)

	Primary standard of care (n=583)		Additional educational programme (n=579)	
	# of Patients n (%)	# of Events	# of Patients n (%)	# of Events
<b>Death</b>	4 (0.7)	4	4 (0.7)	4
Cardiovascular death	4 (0.7)	4	2 (0.3)	2
<b>Stroke, TIA, SE</b>	1 (0.2)	1	5 (0.9)	6
Ischaemic stroke	1 (0.2)	1	0	0
Haemorrhagic stroke	0	0	2 (0.3)	3
TIA	0	0	0	0
SE	0	0	3 (0.5)	3
<b>Myocardial infarction</b>	2 (0.3)	2	4 (0.7)	4
<b>Venous thromboembolism</b>	0	0	1 (0.2)*	1
Pulmonary embolism	0	0	1 (0.2)	1
Deep vein thrombosis	0	0	1 (0.2)	1
<b>Major bleeding (non-fatal) or CRNMB</b>	7 (1.2)	7	9 (1.6) <sup>†</sup>	10
Major bleeding (non fatal)	2 (0.3)	2	4 (0.7)	4
Clinically relevant non-major bleed	5 (0.9)	5	5 (0.9)	5
Fatal bleeding	0	0	1 (0.2)	1

\*One patient who had one event of deep vein thrombosis + pulmonary embolism;

<sup>†</sup>One patient had a major and fatal bleeding.



# Conclusions

- Careful attention to anticoagulation before, during and after procedures is critical
- Uninterrupted NOAC anticoagulation is recommended for PV ablation
- Cardioversion can be performed on NOACs
- NOAC after successful TAVI?
- NOAC after successful LAAC?
- Adherence can improve outcomes; however, the role or type of education needs to be further studied.