



# DOACs: The practical side

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# Overview

- Focus on stroke prevention in AF
- Getting the dose right
- Case study: back to basics
- Case study: uncertainties



## Warm up

1. Mrs RD: 81 years old, AF. PMH: HF, smoker, HTN, COPD  
Creatinine 140, Wt 85kg, CrCl = 30-37ml/min;  
Treating with apixaban:
  - a) 5mg BD or
  - b) 2.5mg BD
  
2. Mr GF: 73 years old, new PE. PMH: CKD4, T2DM, HTN  
Cr 190, Wt 65kg, CrCl=28ml/min; Rx rivaroxaban  
15mg BD for 3 weeks then:
  - a) 20mg OD or
  - b) 15mg OD



## Warm up

3. Miss AD, 76yo, PAF treated with amiodarone.

PMH: HTN, T2DM, diverticulosis. Cr 97, Wt 66kg, CrCl=48ml/min. Treating with dabigatran:

- a) 150mg BD or
- b) 110mg BD or
- c) 75mg BD

4. Mr JB: 68yo, DVT 1992 and 2001, lifelong warfarin (2-3).

Cr 83, Wt 93kg, CrCl=85-99ml/min, switch to apixaban:

- a) 5mg BD or
- b) 2.5mg BD



# DOAC dosing

- More drugs
- More indications
- More criteria for dose reduction
- More errors?!
- In our quest for more accessible, convenient oral anticoagulation, “**we are now faced with [...] a tyranny of choice**” <sup>1</sup>

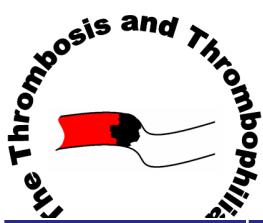
1 Czuprynska J et al. *Br J Haematol* 2017;178:838-851



# Dosing in NVAF

	Dabigatran <sup>1</sup>	Apixaban <sup>2</sup>	Edoxaban <sup>3</sup>	Rivaroxaban <sup>4</sup>
Standard dose	150mg BD	5mg BD	60mg OD	20mg OD
Reduced dose	110mg BD	2.5mg BD	30mg OD	15mg OD
Criteria for dose reduction	1. Age $\geq$ 80 2. On verapamil 3. Consider ↓dose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reflux/gastritis</li><li>• Age75-80</li><li>• CrCl 30-50ml/min</li><li>• “Bleed risk”</li></ul>	<b>≥2 of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Age <math>\geq</math>80</li><li>• Body wt <math>\leq</math>60kg</li><li>• Cr <math>\geq</math>133<math>\mu</math>mol/L</li></ul> <b>Or</b> CrCl 15-29ml/min	<b>≥1 of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CrCl 15-50ml/min</li><li>• Body wt<math>\leq</math>60kg</li><li>• On ciclosporin, dronedarone, erythromycin, ketoconazole</li></ul>	CrCl 15-49ml/min
CI / NR	CrCl <30ml/min	----- CrCl <15ml/min -----		

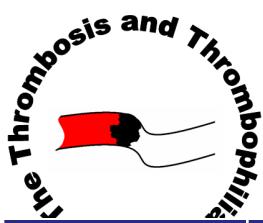
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4. Rivaroxaban SmPC. Available at [www.medicines.org.uk](http://www.medicines.org.uk).



# Dosing in VTE

Dose	Dabigatran <sup>1</sup>	Apixaban <sup>2</sup>	Edoxaban <sup>3</sup>	Rivaroxaban <sup>4</sup>
Acute	LMWH ≥ 5/7	10mg BD 7/7	LMWH ≥ 5/7	15mg BD 21/7
Standard	150mg BD	5mg BD	60mg OD	20mg OD
Reduced	110mg BD	---n/a---	30mg OD	15mg OD
Criteria for dose reduction	1. Age≥80 2. On verapamil 3. Consider ↓dose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reflux/gastritis</li><li>• Age75-80</li><li>• CrCl 30-50ml/min</li><li>• “Bleed risk”</li></ul>		<b>≥1 of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CrCl 15-50ml/min</li><li>• Body wt≤60kg</li><li>• On ciclosporin, dronedarone, erythromycin, ketoconazole</li></ul>	CrCl 15–49 mL/min if bleeding risk is assessed to outweigh risk for recurrent VTE
> 6 months	No change	2.5mg BD	No change	10mg OD or 20mg OD
Caution		CrCl 15-29ml/min		CrCl 15-29ml/min
CI / NR	CrCl <30ml/min	----- CrCl <15ml/min -----		

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# Is the licensed dose the right dose?

- Danish registry – reduced dose DOAC vs standard VKA<sup>1</sup>
- Stroke & systemic embolism
  - NS increase with apixaban (HR 1.19: 95%CI 0.95–1.49)
  - NS decrease with rivaroxaban/dabigatran (HR 0.92 / 0.93)
- Unable to confirm off/on-label dose reduction
- Significant selection bias
  - E.g. overall mean age=73: lowest mean age = warfarin (71), highest mean age = apixaban (83)
  - Higher CHADS-VASc & HAS-BLED scores and renal disease codes predicted apixaban use



# Is the licensed dose the right dose?

- ORBIT II AF prospective registry (US)
  - ❖ 5,738 patients: 1 in 8 on wrong dose
  - ❖ **3.4% overdosed** = ↑ risk all-cause mortality: HR 1.91 (95%CI 1.02–3.60)
  - ❖ **9.4% underdosed** = ↑ risk of CV hospitalisation: HR 1.26 (95% CI 1.07–1.50) with no benefits seen in major bleeding (rates similar)
- Predictors of “off-label” dosing
  - High stroke (CHA2DS2-VASc) & bleed (ORBIT) risk
  - Moderate renal impairment (CrCl = 30-50ml/min)



# Is the licensed dose the right dose?

- Yao et al (US insurance database):
  - 14,865 patients: ?renal indication for DOAC dose reduction
  - **Overdose** (4%) = ↑ risk of major bleeding (HR 2.19; 95% CI 1.07–4.46) + similar stroke risk
  - **Underdose** (12%) = ↑ stroke risk with apixaban (HR 4.87; 95% CI 1.3–18.26) + similar bleeding rate
    - No statistical difference for dabigatran/rivaroxaban
  - 50% of apixaban underdosing in age > 80 years old



## A potential problem...

Single centre study in the US<sup>1</sup>:

- ❖ 13.3% patients on reduced dose DOAC
- ❖ Overall, only 43.3% met criteria for dose reduction
  - ❖ 54.7% on rivaroxaban
  - ❖ 32.2% on dabigatran
  - ❖ **10.7% on apixaban** ...met criteria for dose reduction

1. Barra M et al. Am J Med 2016;129:1198-1204



# A potential problem...

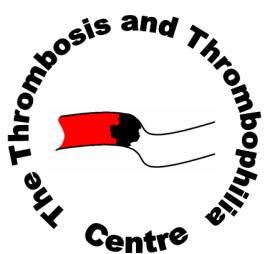
- Apixaban 2.5mg bd
  - 4.7% of all apixaban patients in ARISTOTLE<sup>1</sup>
  - 24% to 55% of all apixaban prescriptions in England<sup>2</sup>
    - (includes all indications!)

1 Granger CB et al. NEJM 2011;365:981-992

2 Data from Openprescribing.net Feb-18 (consistent from Jan-17 to Feb-18) accessed 08MAY2018

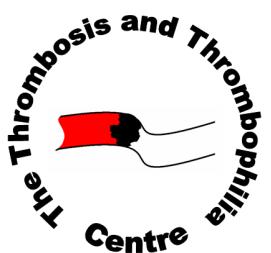


## Case One – Back to Basics



## Case 1 - Opportunity calls

- Mrs EE – 93yo
- Warfarin for stroke prevention in AF
- PMH: T2DM, stroke, hyperthyroidism
- DH:
  - AM: metformin, carbimazole
  - PM: citalopram, warfarin
- CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc = ....
  - a) 4
  - b) 5
  - c) 6
- HAS-BLED = ....
  - a) 1
  - b) 2
  - c) 3



# Stroke risk

CHA <sub>2</sub> DS <sub>2</sub> -VASc components	Score	Total score	Adj. stroke rate (%/year)
Heart failure / LVSD	1	0	0
Hypertension	1	1	1.3
Aged ≥75 years	2	2	2.2
Diabetes mellitus	1	3	3.2
Stroke/TIA/TE	2	4	4.0
Vascular disease (prior ACS, PAD, IHD)	1	5	6.7
Aged 65–74 years	1	6	9.8
Sex category (i.e. female)	1	7	9.6
Maximum score	9	8	6.7
		9	15.2



# Bleeding risk on OAC

Letter	Clinical characteristic <sup>1</sup>	Score
H	Hypertension	1
A	Abnormal renal / liver function (1 each)	1 or 2
S	Stroke	1
B	Bleeding	1
L	Labile INRs	1
E	Elderly (e.g. age >65 years)	1
D	Drugs or alcohol (1 point each)	1 or 2
<b>Maximum score</b>		<b>9</b>

Total score	Major bleeds /100 PY <sup>2</sup>
0	1.13
1	1.02
2	1.88
3	3.74
4	8.70
5	12.50
6	ND
7	ND
8	ND
9	ND

Validated in DOACs with similar intervention threshold of 2%/yr<sup>3</sup>

1 Pisters R et al. *Chest* 2010;138(5):1093-1100

2 Lip GY et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2011;57(2):173-180

3 Lip GY et al. *Am J Med* 2018; 131(5): 574.e13 – 574.e27



## Case 1 – But she's fine on warfarin...

- Requires DN for INR phlebotomy (wheelchair bound)
  - Poor veins
- Unstable INRs – over last 6 months:
  - 3 failed samples (poor veins)
  - Six INRs >3 (four >5), nine INRs <2
  - Admission for INR >10 (Sept 2015)
  - retest every 7-14 days
  - **TTR = 37%**
- Daughter refills dosette box weekly to include warfarin

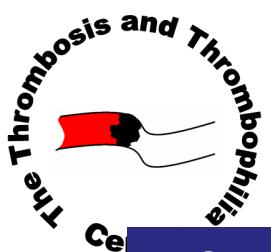


# Time in Therapeutic Range (TTR)

**Q:** What is a good TTR, who should be switched?

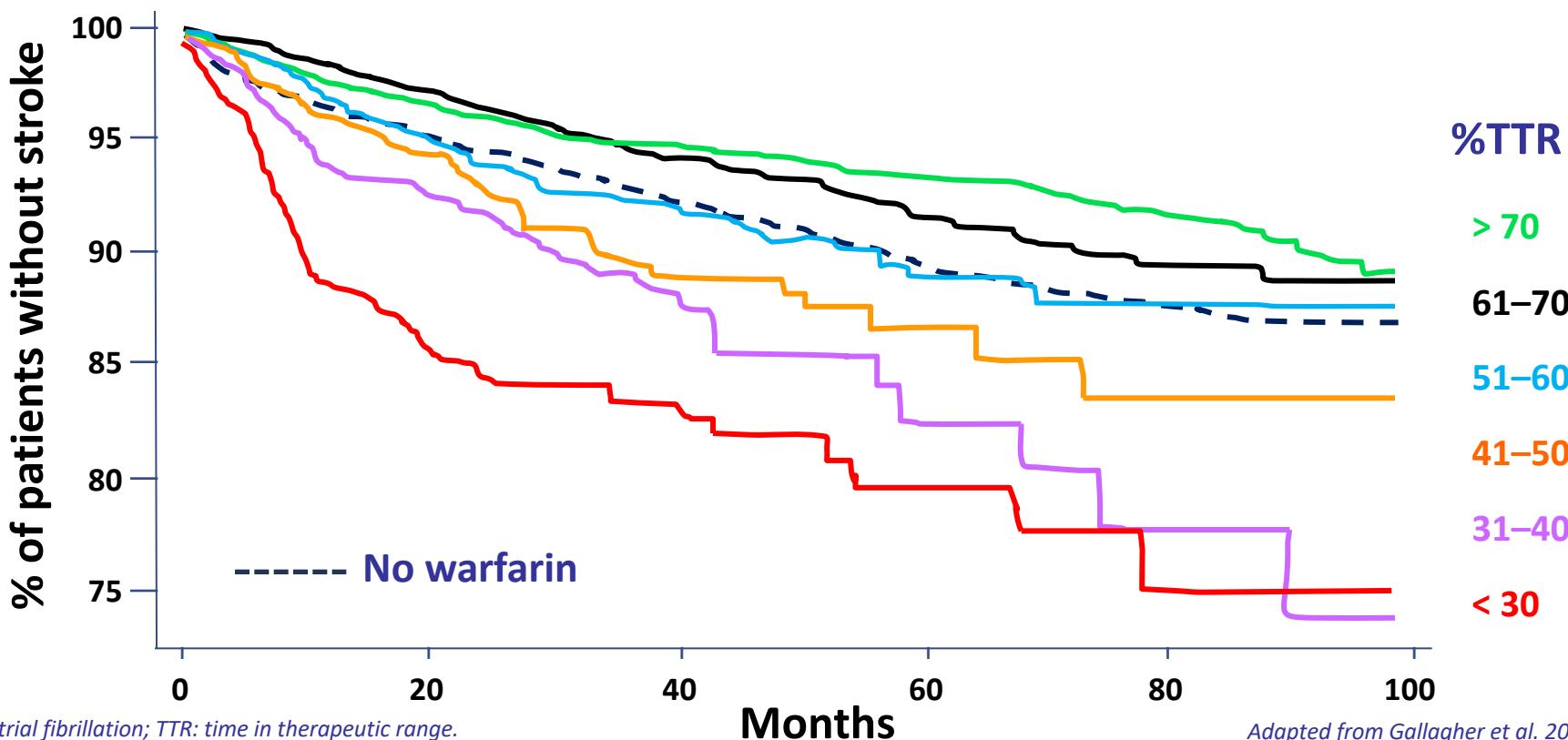
- Reduction in major bleeding significantly higher for DOACs vs VKA when TTR<66% (vs TTR>66%)
- Efficacy benefits heterogeneous: unable to compare
- Not identified TTR where warfarin > DOAC (efficacy or safety)

Ruff C et al. *Lancet* 2014;383:955-62



# TTR Correlates with Stroke

Stroke survival in 37,907 AF patients – UK General Practice Research Database  
(27,458 warfarin users and 10,449 not treated with an antithrombotic)<sup>1</sup>



AF: atrial fibrillation; TTR: time in therapeutic range.

Adapted from Gallagher et al. 2011<sup>1</sup>.



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# Case 1 – Making the change

- Cr 71, CrCl = 47.3ml/min
- 68.5kg

1. Which drug?
2. Which dose?
3. Does it matter?
4. How to decide?



# So how do I decide?

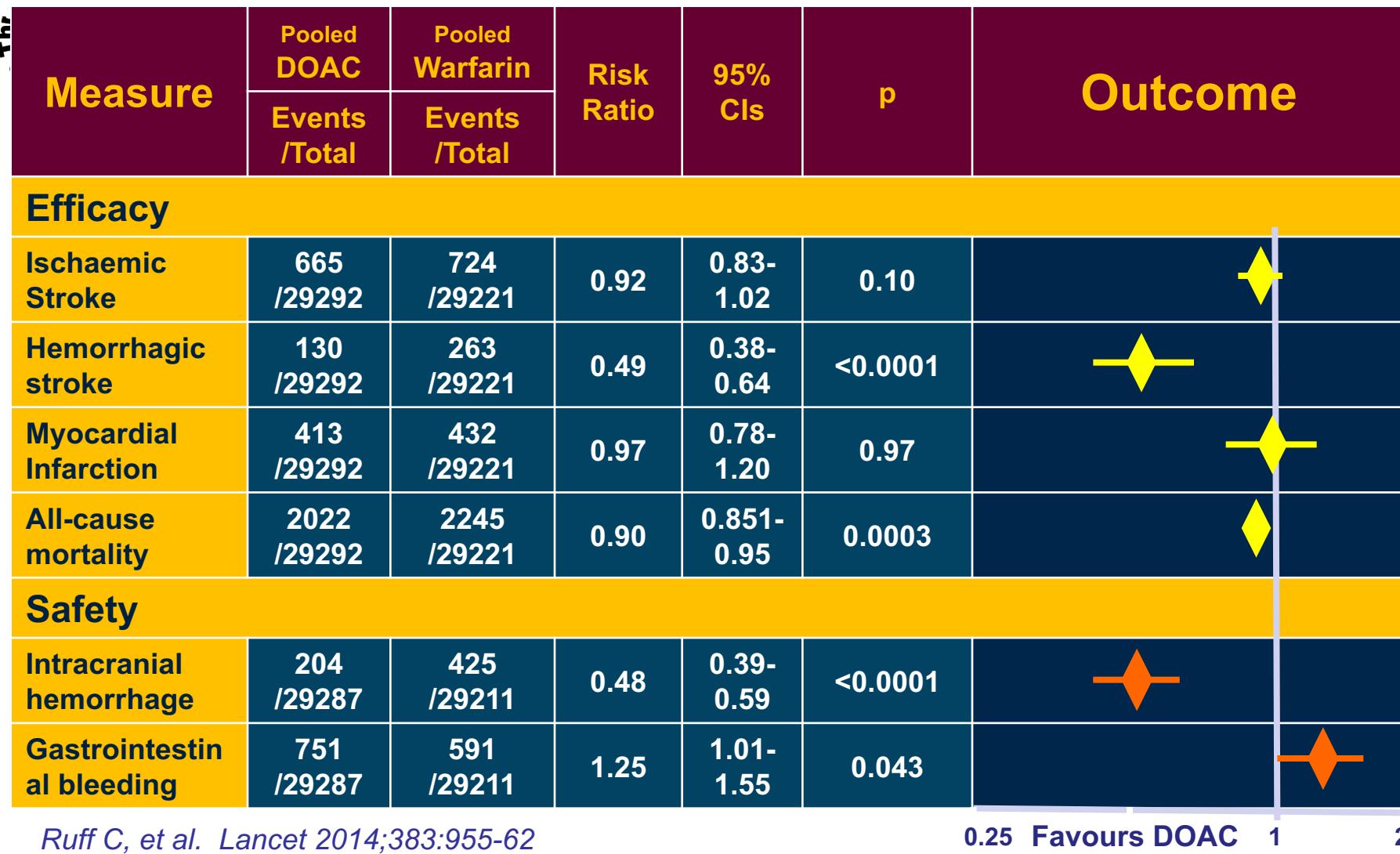
Recurrent stroke, systemic embolic event, or transient ischaemic attack despite good anticoagulation control (TTR >70%)	Dabigatran 150 mg BID
Moderate-to-severe renal impairment (CrCl 15–49 mL/min)	Apixaban 5 mg BID*, rivaroxaban 15 mg once daily, dabigatran (if CrCl 30–49 mL/min)†, or edoxaban 30 mg once daily‡
High risk of gastrointestinal bleeding	Apixaban 5 mg BID* or dabigatran 110 mg BIDS
Gastrointestinal symptoms or dyspepsia	Apixaban 5 mg BID*, rivaroxaban 20 mg once daily¶, or edoxaban 60 mg once daily
High risk of bleeding (HAS-BLED ≥3)	Dabigatran 110 mg BIDS, apixaban 5 mg BID*, or edoxaban 60 mg once daily
Once daily dosing or preference to have a lower pill burden	VKA, rivaroxaban 20 mg once daily¶, or edoxaban 60 mg once daily
Asian patients (consider drugs with reduced risk of intracranial haemorrhage and major bleeding in Asian subgroups)	Apixaban 5 mg BID*, dabigatran†, or edoxaban 60 mg once daily
Less likely to do well on VKA with good TTR (SAMe-TT <sub>2</sub> R score >2)	VKA with additional education and more regular follow-up, dabigatran, rivaroxaban 20 mg once daily¶, apixaban 5 mg BID*, or edoxaban 60 mg once daily



# Reviews & Prescribing Decision Aids

- Freedman B, Potpara TS, Lip GY. *Lancet* 2016;388:806-817
- Savelieva I, Camm AJ. *Clin Cardiol* 2014;37(1):32-47
- Shields AM, Lip GY. *J Internal Medicine* 2015;278(1):1-18
- Millar CM, Laffan MA. *Clinical Medicine* 2017;17(3):233-244
- **EHRA Practical Guide 3ed:**  
**Steffel J et al. *Eur Heart J* 2018;39(16):1330-1393**
- Keele University decision support tool  
<https://www.anticoagulation-dst.co.uk/>

# AF – Efficacy & Safety: 4-Trial Meta-analysis



Ruff C, et al. Lancet 2014;383:955-62



# Dosing in NVAF

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Standard dose	150mg BD	<b>5mg BD</b>	60mg OD	20mg OD
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Criteria for dose reduction	<p><b>1. Age<math>\geq</math>80</b></p> <p>2. On verapamil</p> <p>3. Consider ↓dose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflux/gastritis</li> <li>• Age75-80</li> <li>• CrCl 30-50ml/min</li> <li>• “Bleed risk”</li> </ul>	<p><b>≥2 of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Age <math>\geq</math>80</u></li> <li>• <u>Body wt <math>\leq</math>60kg</u></li> <li>• <u>Cr <math>\geq</math>133<math>\mu</math>mol/L</u></li> </ul> <p><b>Or</b></p> <p>CrCl 15-29ml/min</p>	<p><b>≥1 of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CrCl 15-50ml/min</b></li> <li>• Body wt<math>\leq</math>60kg</li> <li>• On ciclosporin, dronedarone, erythromycin, ketoconazole</li> </ul>	<b>CrCl 15-49ml/min</b>
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# Estimating Renal Function<sup>1,2</sup>

- Use Cockcroft – Gault equation as per pivotal studies
  - Avoid MDRD / CKD-EPI based eGFR
- What weight?
  - Actual weight used in trials
  - Extremes of weight & age poorly represented
  - Avoid IBW –risk of underdose
  - Consider adjusted body weight in extreme of weight

1 <http://www.lambethccg.nhs.uk/news-and-publications/meeting-papers/south-east-london-area-prescribing-committee/Documents/Cardiovascular%20Disease%20Guidelines/Creatinine%20clearance%20guidance%20July%202017.pdf>

2 <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/what-factors-need-to-be-considered-when-dosing-patients-with-renal-impairment-2/>



# Switching – complicated?

- SmPCs: (AF) switch from VKA when...

	Apixaban	Dabigatran	Edoxaban	Rivaroxaban
INR threshold	< 2.0	< 2.0	≤ 2.5	≤ 3.0 (≤ 2.5 in VTE)

- Simplified approach in non-high risk maintenance VKA\* patients, e.g.

INR	Instruction
< 2.0	Start immediately
2.0 to 2.9	Start following day
3.0 to 3.5	Start in 2 days
> 3.5	Recheck INR 2-3 days



## Case 1 – Outcome

- No frequent venepuncture required
  - ↓ burden on district nurse service
  - ↓ pain from difficult phlebotomy
- Dosette from pharmacy
  - Remove daughter's commitment to weekly refill



## Case Two - Uncertainties



## Case 2 - Uncertainties

- Mr RG: 62yo male, truck driver, PAF, HTN, T2DM
- Switched from warfarin to rivaroxaban 20mg once daily

Assessments				
CHA <sub>2</sub> DS <sub>2</sub> -VASc		2		
HAS-BLED		0		
Wt	143kg	Height	180cm	
BMI	44.1kg/m <sup>2</sup>			
Cr	100µmol/L	CrCl (adj)	98ml/min	
Hb	146g/L	ALT	26	

### Medication

Atorvastatin  
Metoprolol  
Metformin  
Candesartan  
Omeprazole  
Amlodipine  
Humulin I  
Beconase nasal



# Can we use a DOAC?

## ISTH SSC<sup>1</sup>

- Avoid DOACs if BMI >40 or Wt >120kg
  - Available evidence suggests peaks may be reduced & clearance may be increased; risk of underdosing
- If using DOACs in above, check drug-specific plasma peak & trough
  - by anti-Xa (a/r/e) or dTT (d), or mass spec (any).
  - If out of range, change to VKA rather than dose adjust

1. Martin K, Beyer-Westendorf J, Davidson BL et al. J Thromb Haemost 2016;14:1308-1313



## What do we know?

Phase II/III data:

- Clear association between weight/BSA & Vd
- Effect on plasma levels is modest
  - <25% reduction in plasma concentrations <sup>1</sup>
- SPCs: “No dose adjustment necessary”



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## Pivotal Studies

- No exclusions based on weight / BMI
- > 15% subjects >100kg
- Efficacy & safety endpoints consistent in patients >100kg
  - Also shown in meta-analysis<sup>1</sup>
- Limitations: sparsity of outcome data beyond:
  - Weight >120kg
  - BMI >40kg/m<sup>2</sup>



## Kinetic studies

Specifically recruiting >120kg:

- Apixaban: 30% and 20% reduction in Cmax & AUC <sup>1</sup>
  - Weight: mean 137kg SD +/- 18.3kg
- Rivaroxaban: No change in Cmax <sup>2</sup>
  - Weight: Mean 132kg SD +/- 10kg

Local data (2017) – No troughs below expected range <sup>3</sup>

- 30 patients (26 SPAF)
  - rivaroxaban (19) & apixaban (11)
  - Weight: mean 137kg SD +/- 22kg

1 Upreti VV et al. *Br J Clin Pharmacol* 2013;76:908-916

2 Kubitza D et al. *J Clin Pharmacol*. 2008;48(11):1366-1367

3 Mahir Z et al. unpublished data



## “Real World Data”

Dresden registry (prospective) – AF<sup>1</sup>

- 9.8% patients with BMI >35kg/m<sup>2</sup>
  - Highest BMI 57.2kg/m<sup>2</sup>
- No dose adjustments
- Cardiovascular outcomes, major bleeding and all-cause mortality consistent with general study population
- Beware the BMI paradox!



## Case 2 – more complications

Back to Mr RG...

- Continue rivaroxaban 20mg od (with main meal!)
- Assess trough plasma level

But 2 months later...

- Chest pain – calls 999
- ECG in ambulance: STEMI
- Transferred for PPCI



## What do we know?

- DAPT is indicated post ACS & PCI
  - Superior to aspirin alone<sup>1</sup>
  - Optimal duration varies
- DAPT is inferior to OAC for stroke prevention in AF<sup>2</sup>
- Triple therapy significantly increases bleeding risk
  - VKA + aspirin + clopidogrel = >3 fold ↑ in non-fatal+fatal bleeding<sup>3</sup>

1 Roffi M et al. *Eur Heart J* 2016;37:267-315

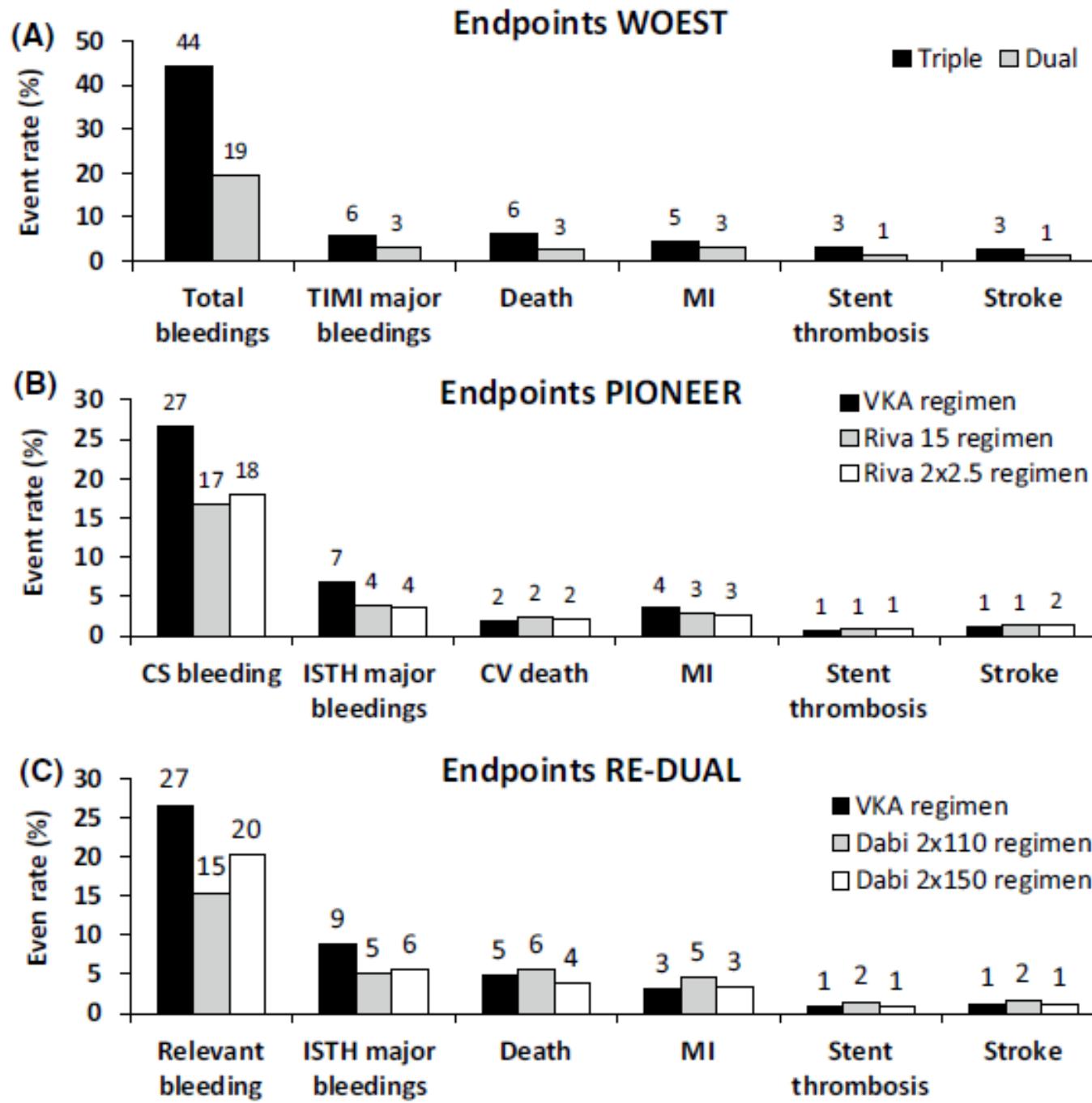
2 Conolly S et al. *Lancet* 2006;367:1903-1912

3 Hansen ML et al. *Arch Int Med* 2010;170:1433-1441



# Prospective studies

- WOEST
- PIONEER AF-PCI
- RE-DUAL PCI
  
- Single versus double antiplatelet
  - In combination with OAC
- Primary endpoint is “safety” only (bleeding)
  - Underpowered for “efficacy” (MACE, stent thrombosis etc)





# WOEST

- OAC = VKA
- 65% RRR in all bleeding
  - 19.4% and 44.4% respectively
  - High rates driven by minor bleeds
  - TIMI major 3% and 6% respectively (n.s.)
- Composite efficacy endpoint
  - Death, MI, revascularisation, stroke, stent thrombosis
  - HR 0.6 (95%CI 0.38-0.94)
  - Underpowered
- Non-standard OAC: INR target 2.0



# PIONEER AF-PCI

- Triple therapy: VKA (2-3) + DAPT
  - 1, 3 or 12 months DAPT: 50% = 12mo
- Rivaroxaban
  - 15mg od (2/3 AF dose) + P2Y<sub>12</sub>
  - 2.5mg bd (ACS dose) + DAPT
- 40% RRR bleeding with rivaroxaban arms
  - Composite TIMI major + clinically significant bleeding
- 12% STEMI
  - Bleeding: Riva15 = 14.6%, Triple therapy = 36%
- P2Y<sub>12</sub> choice: 5% ticagrelor, <2% prasugrel



## RE-DUAL PCI

- Triple therapy: VKA (2-3) + DAPT
  - 1 month BMS, 3 months DES
- Dabigatran + P2Y<sub>12</sub>
  - 150mg bd – 30% RRR bleeding
  - 110mg bd – 50% RRR bleeding
- Bleeding: ISTH Major bleed + CRNM bleed
- P2Y<sub>12</sub> choice: 12% ticagrelor
- Non-inferiority for composite secondary endpoint
  - MI, Stroke, SSE, death, unplanned revascularisation
  - Combined analysis of both dabigatran arms vs warfarin



# Summary

- Non-guideline INR targets
  - WOEST INR target 2.0 (1.5 to 2.5)
  - PIONEER / RE-DUAL target 2.5 (2.0 to 3.0)
  - ECS: 2.25 (2-2.5) <sup>1</sup>
- Not powered for efficacy
  - But no signal for loss of efficacy
- Rivaroxaban doses not proven in SPAF
  - Both dabigatran doses effective for SPAF
- Clear reduction in clinically significant bleeding
- All the evidence is for clopidogrel as P2Y<sub>12</sub> inh of choice
  - Registry data: increased bleeding with ticagrelor / prasugrel – avoid<sup>1</sup>

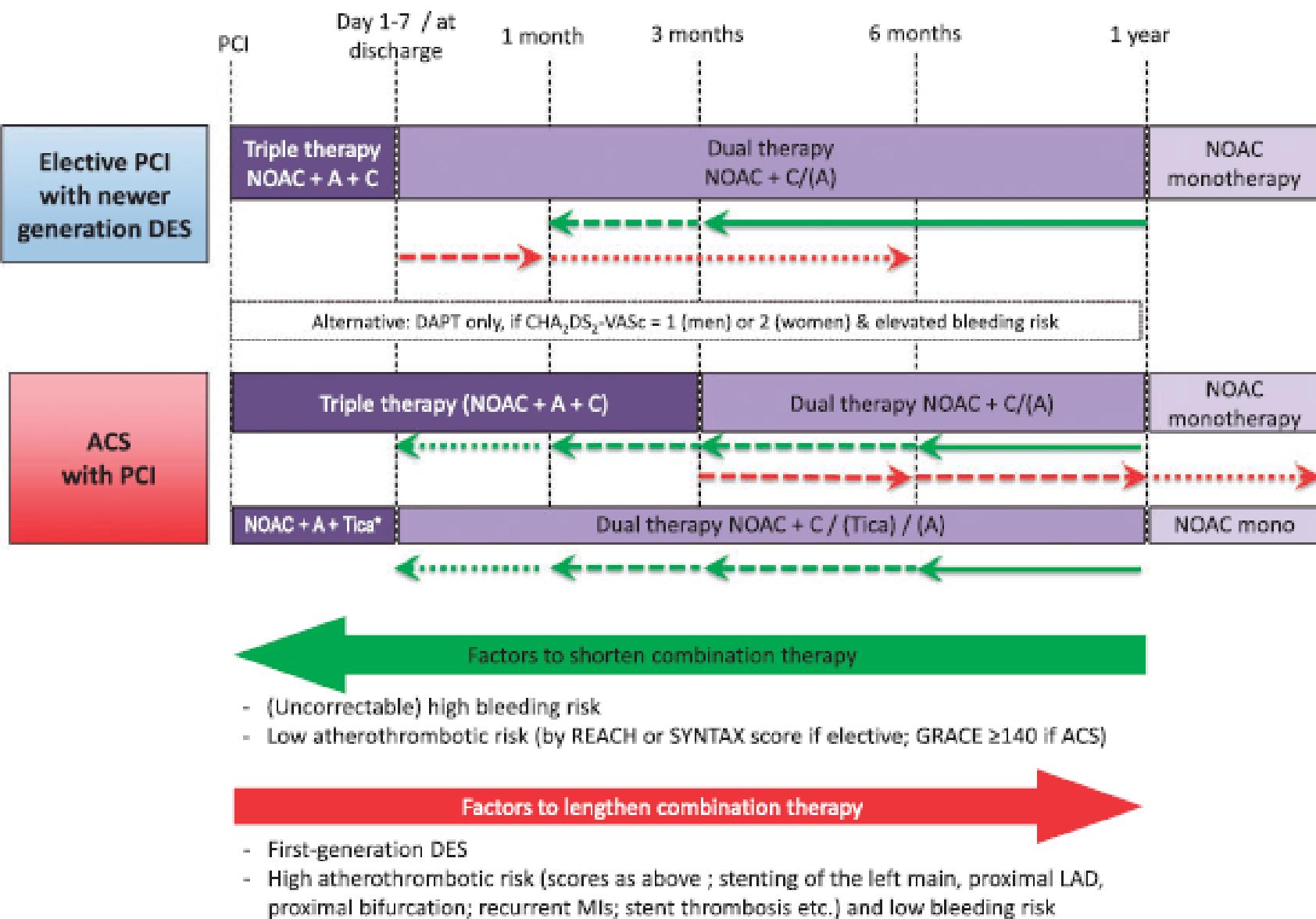


# Guidelines

- Constantly evolving
  - New antithrombotic strategies
  - New generation DES with shorter DAPT requirements
- Significantly reduced duration of triple therapy
- Practical advice
  - PPI throughout combined antithrombotic therapy (COGENT<sup>1</sup>)
  - **Specify plan & duration prior to discharge<sup>2</sup>**

1 Bhatt D et al. *NEJM* 2010;363:1909-1917

2 Steffel J et al. *Eur Heart J* 2018;39:1330-1393





# Coming soon...

	AUGUSTUS	ENTRUST-AF-PCI	RT-AF	WOEST 2
Design	RCT	RCT	RCT	Prospective cohort registry
Primary endpoint	Safety	Safety	Safety	Efficacy & safety



## Post 12 months

- Combination antithrombotics increased MB but no benefit on stroke or mortality
  - Post hoc analyses of pivotal DOAC studies in AF
- Retrospective cohort study<sup>1</sup>:
  - VKA + single antiplatelet in stable CAD (>12 months event free)
  - No reduction in MI or TE events
  - 50% increase in major bleeding
- Still a caveat in guidance for exceptionally high risk patients for recurrent MI / stent thrombosis



SO WHAT'S THE MESSAGE?

## What's the message?

- Right drug
- **Right Dose!!!**
  - Use Cockcroft-Gault CrCl calculation
- We are still exploring at the edge of the normal distribution (watch this space)
- Always have a plan for concomitant antiplatelets





# Thank you for listening

## London SCN AF Toolkit

<http://www.londonscn.nhs.uk/publication/atrial-fibrillation-toolkit-for-london/>

## London SCN Excellence in anticoagulant care

<http://www.londonscn.nhs.uk/publication/excellence-in-anticoagulant-care/>



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