

# Detection and Treatment of Atrial Fibrillation: What's new in prevention and how to choose what's best for my patient.

Edmonton, AB

November 22, 2014



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University of Alberta  
WMC Health Sciences Centre

# Disclosures and Acknowledgements



Grant-in-Aid  
Salary Award



Grant-in-Aid  
Salary Award



Salary Award

## Speaker's /Adivosry Board Honoraria

Boeringher Ingelheim

Bayer

BMS/Pfizer



Grant-in-Aid  
Salary Award



Grant-in-Aid

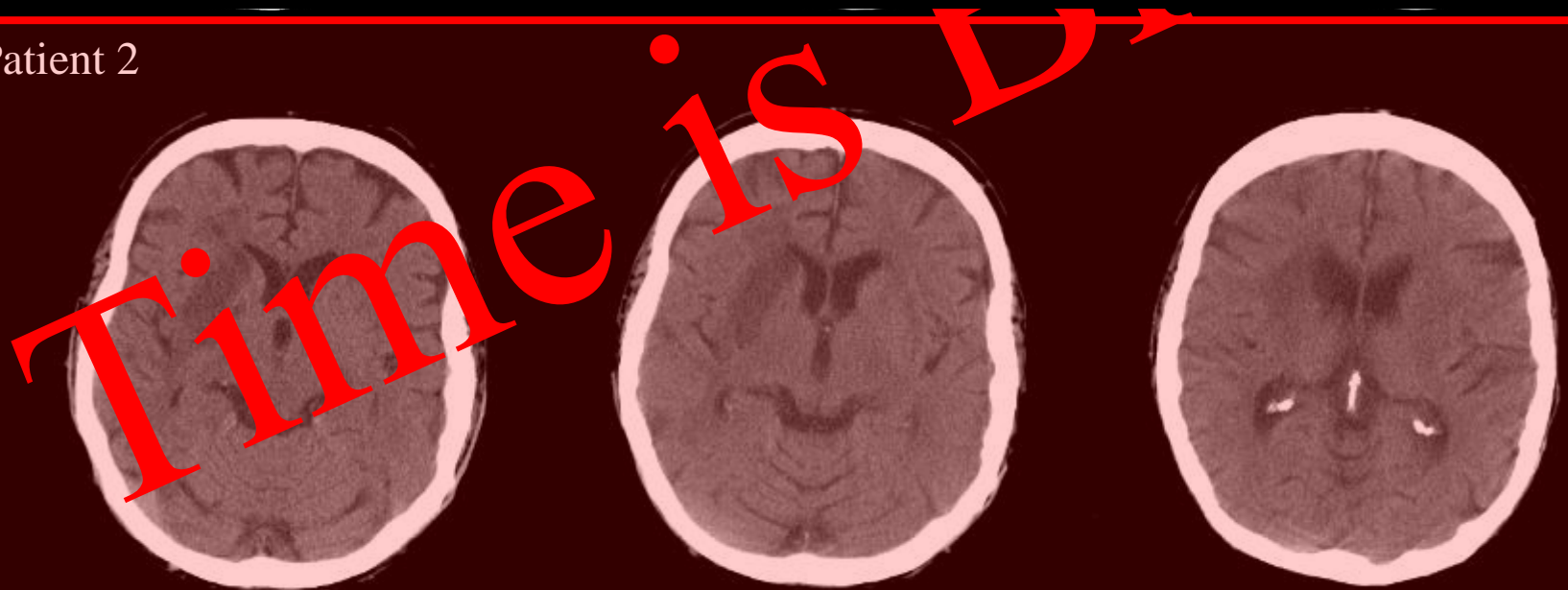
# Learning Objectives

- Stroke Diagnosis and Workup
- Cardioembolic Stroke Burden
- Detection of Atrial Fibrillation
- Prevention of Cardioembolic Stroke

# Stroke Diagnosis Requires Brain Scan

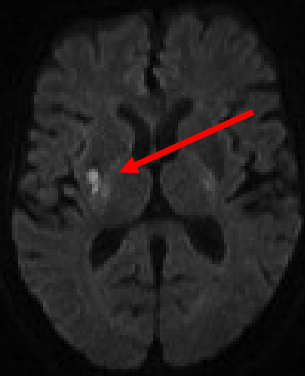
85% of stroke is ischemic

Patient 2



# Ischemic Stroke Mechanism (Inferred!)

**Lacunar  
Infarct  
(LACI)**



**Lipohyalinosis**

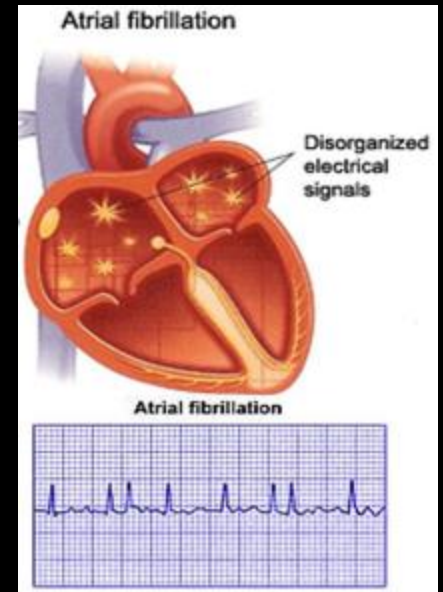
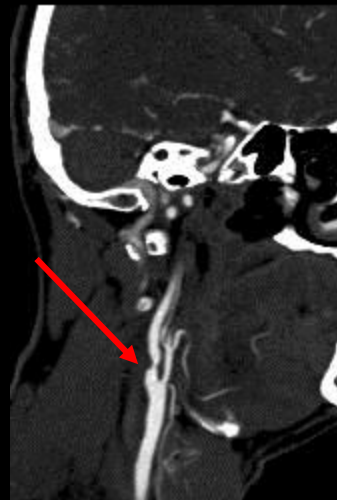
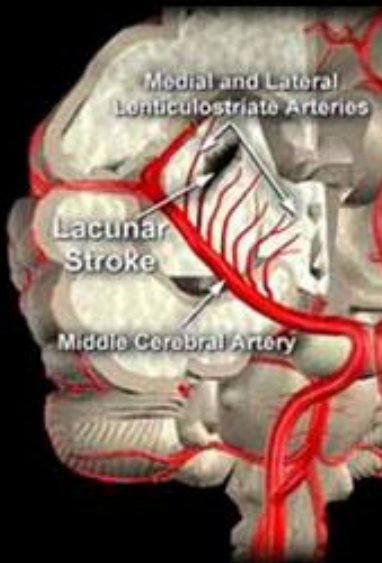
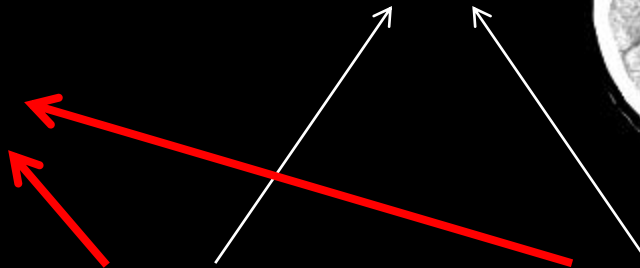


**Cortical  
Infarct  
(PACI)**

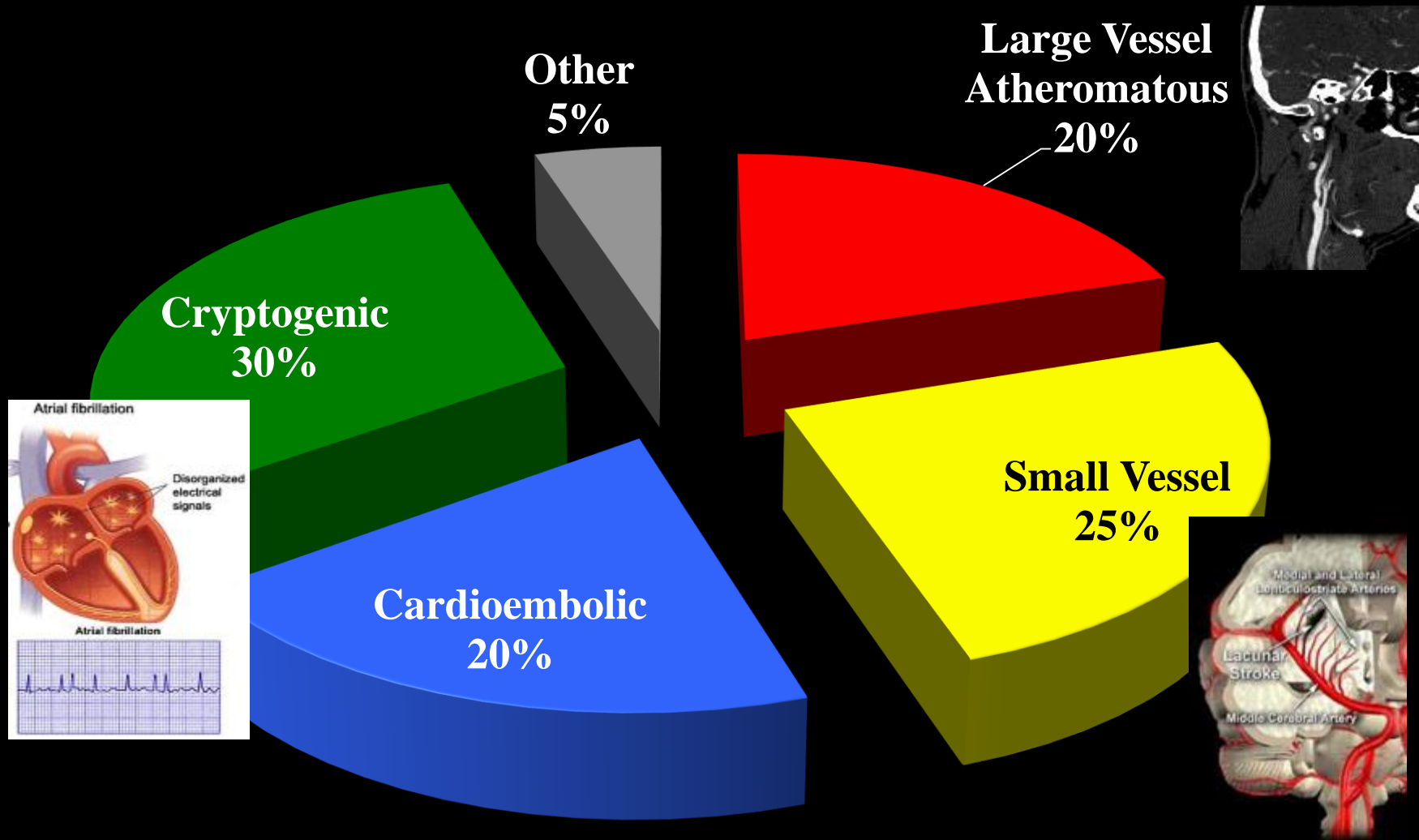


**Artery-artery Embolism**

**Cardioembolism**



# This Needs Revision!



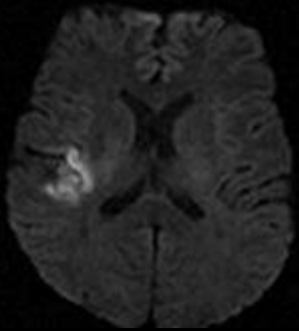
# Christmas Day 2013 at UAH

Patient	Presentation	Treatment
86 F	Stroke + known AF ( <b>on warfarin</b> ) INR =1.7	Dabigatran 110 BID
88 M	Stroke + known AF dabigatran (was not taking)	Dabigatran 110 BID
86 M	Stroke + known AF, <b>on ASA</b>	Rivaroxaban 15 mg (eGFR = 35)
75 F	TIA + <b>newly diagnosed AF</b>	Dabigatran 150 BID
<b>88 M</b>	<b>TIA (2<sup>nd</sup> event)</b>	<b>Dabigatran 110 BID x 30 days (DATAS)</b>
<b>84 F</b>	<b>‘TIA’ + 3 previous strokes; cryptogenic</b>	<b>Dabigatran 110 BID x 30 days (DATAS)</b>
84 F	‘Cryptogenic Stroke’ (Top of Basilar)	ASA+clopidogrel x 30 d
84 F	‘Cryptogenic Stroke’—Pacemaker!	ASA+clopidogrel x 30 d
<b>Remainder: ICH (2), Lacunar (3), Large Artery Atherosclerosis (2), Vasculitis (1)</b>		

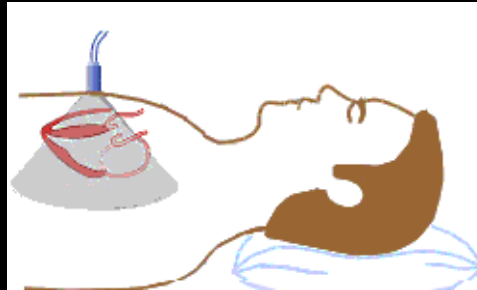


# Investigating Stroke Mechanism

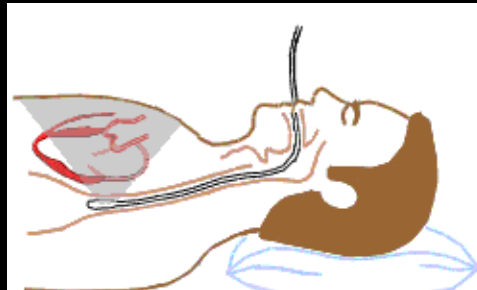
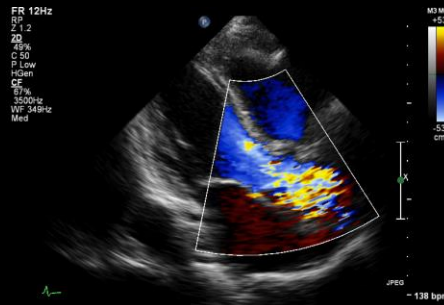
MRI



Echocardiogram

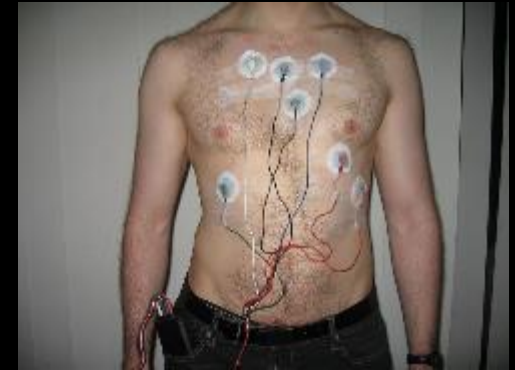


CTA



Holter Monitor

AF Detection Rate = 3%



External Loop Recorder

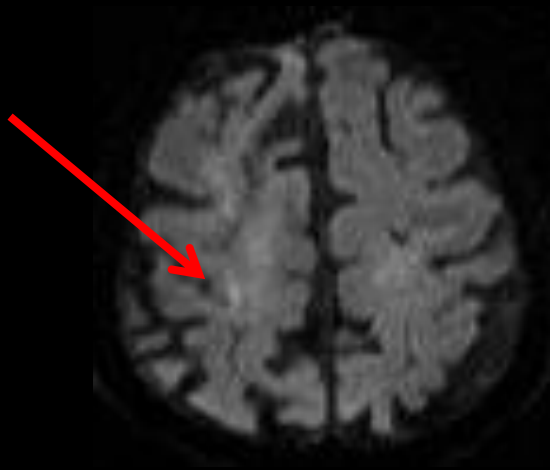
AF Detection Rate = 16%





# Cryptogenic Stroke??

Acute Stroke (MRI)



Previous Strokes (Three!)

- MRA:  
No atherosclerotic plaque

- TTE:  
Left Atrial Enlargement

- Holter:  
Frequent PACs/atrial ectopy



ELR: 30 seconds of PAF: Dabigatran 110 mg BID

# EMBRACE Study

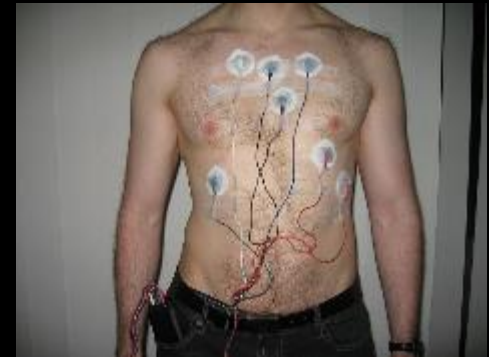
Stroke/TIA and 1 negative Holter  
n=572

Accuheart Electrode Belt  
(30 days) n=287

Repeat Holter Monitor  
n=285



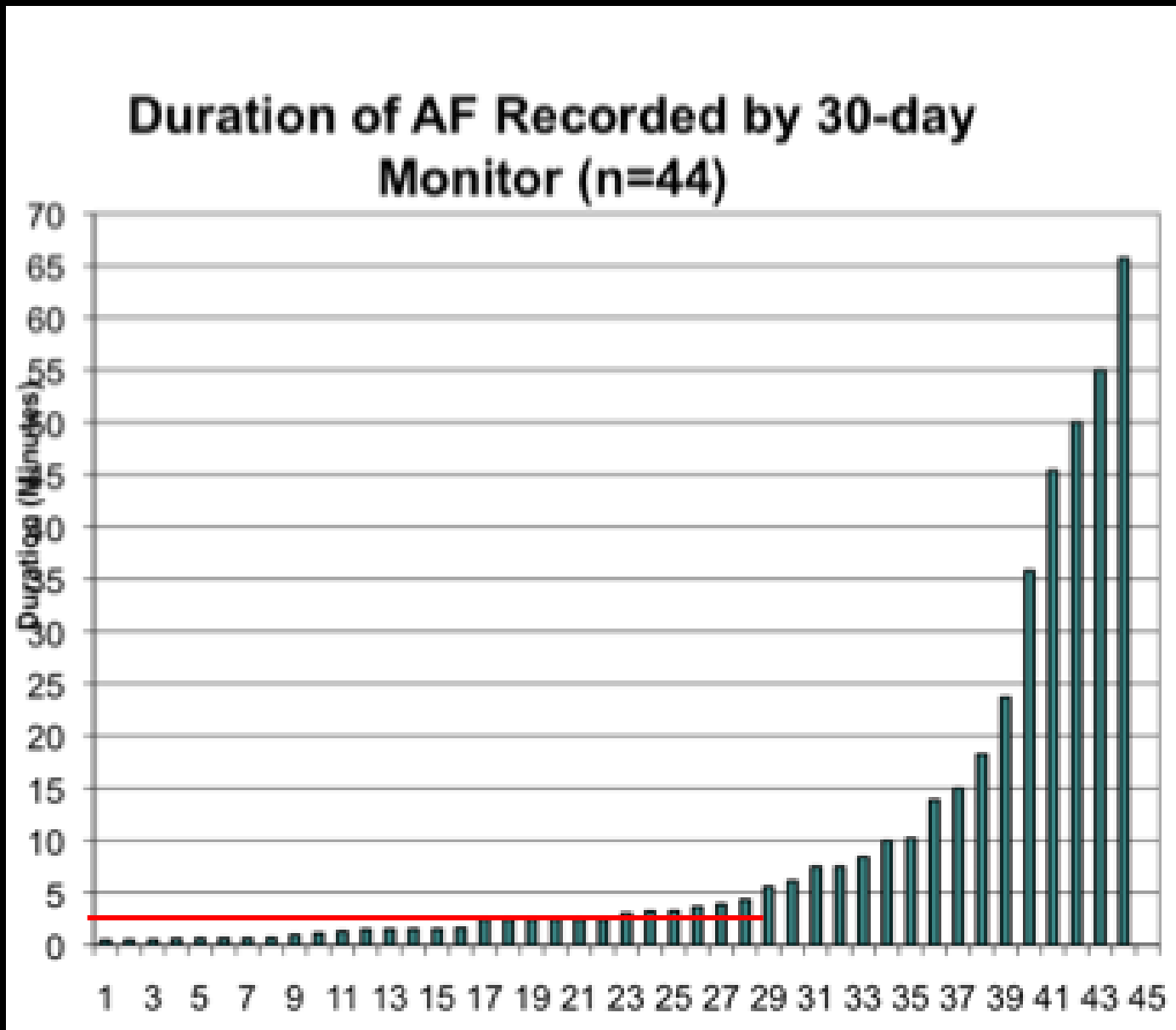
AF Detection: 16%



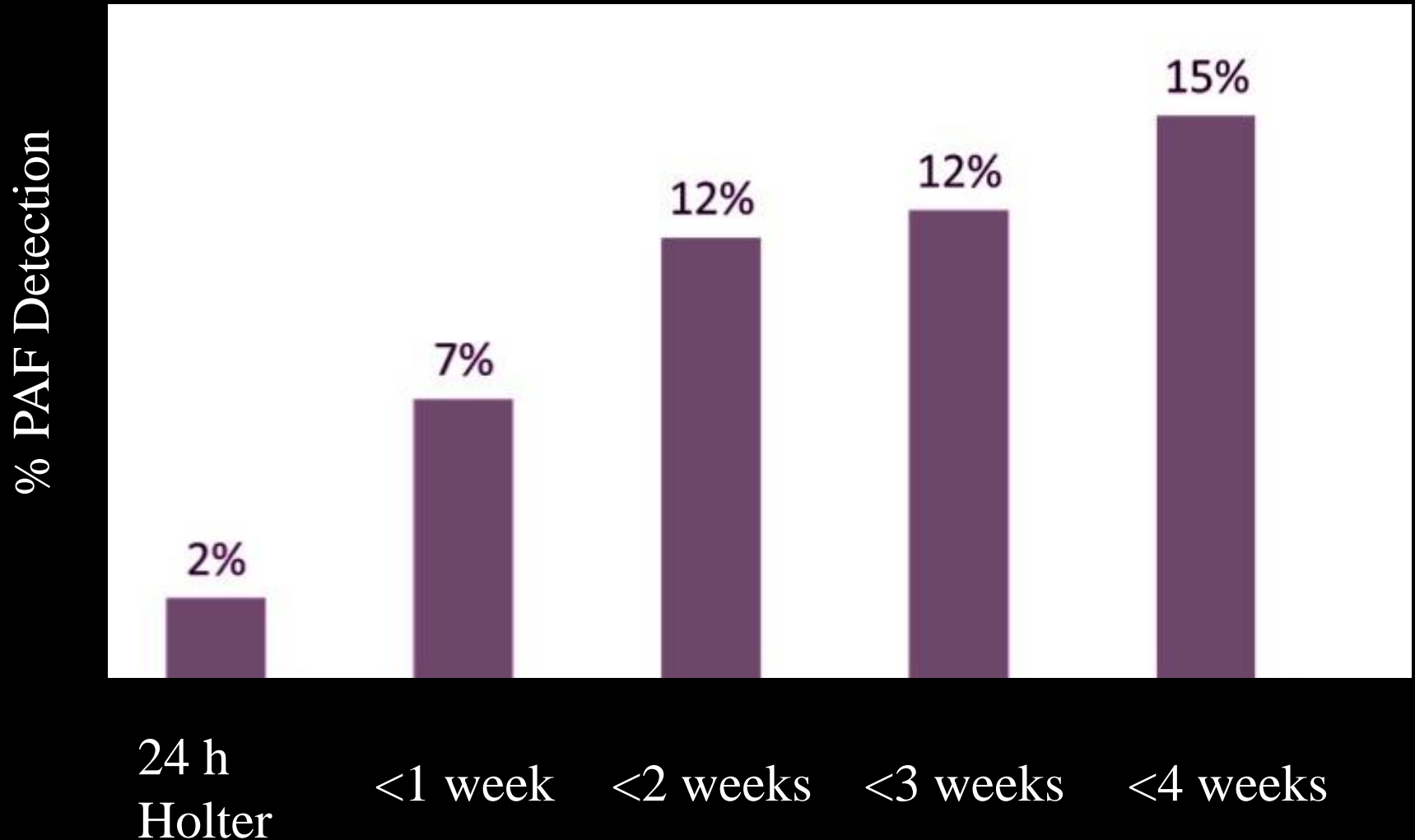
AF Detection: 3%

# Stroke Patients: Brief Paroxysmal AF

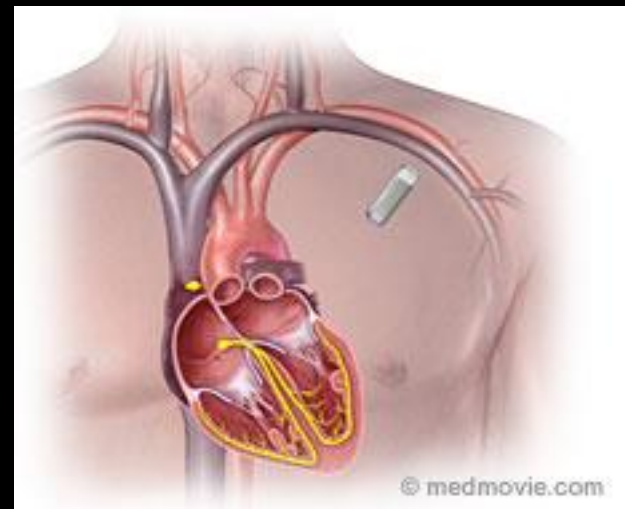
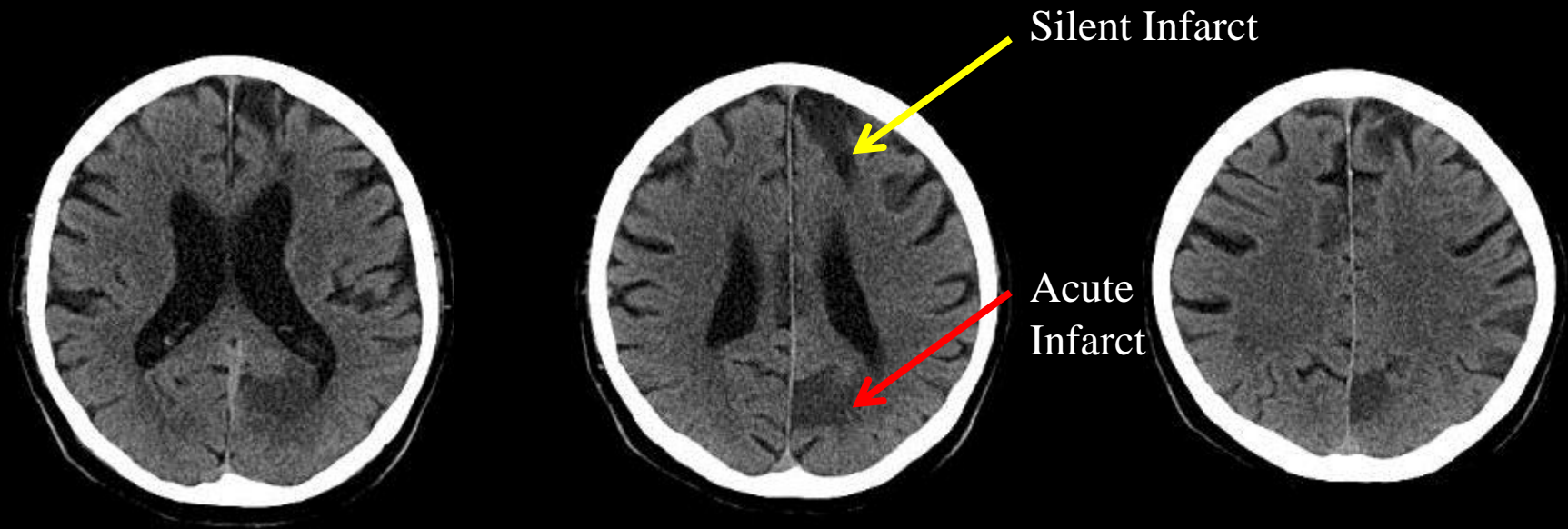
Number of Patients



# EMBRACE: Time To PAF Detection



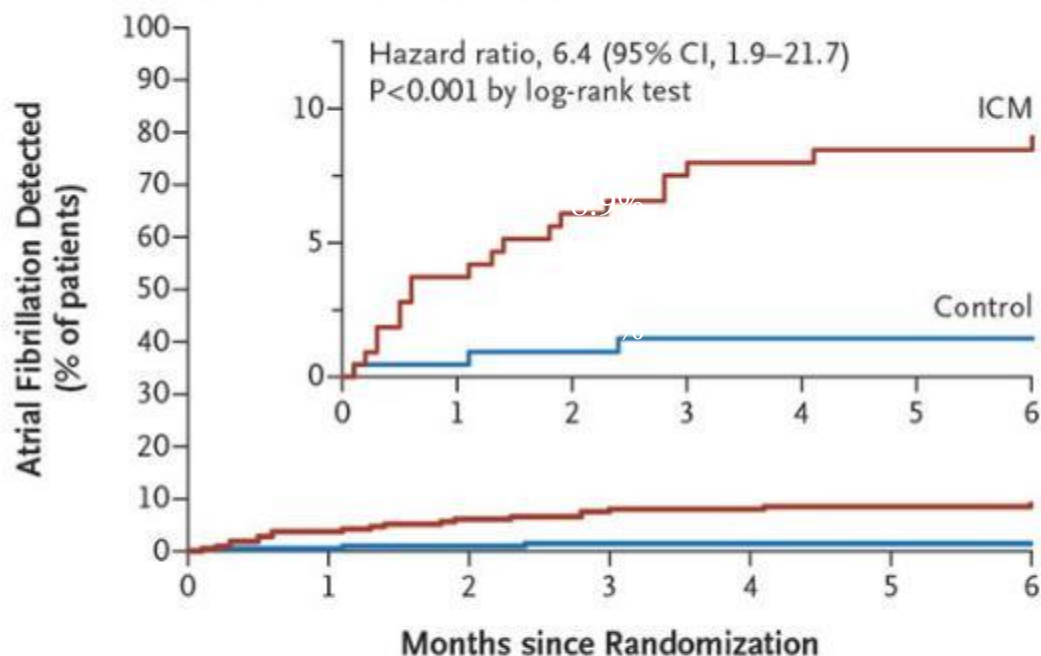
# AF: Killing Us Softly



1 min PAF: Dabigatran 150 mg BID

# Crystal AF Study

## A Detection of Atrial Fibrillation by 6 Months



### No. at Risk

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

- 12.4% PAF at 1 year
- median time from randomization to AF detection 84 days



# Investigational Approaches to Cryptogenic Stroke

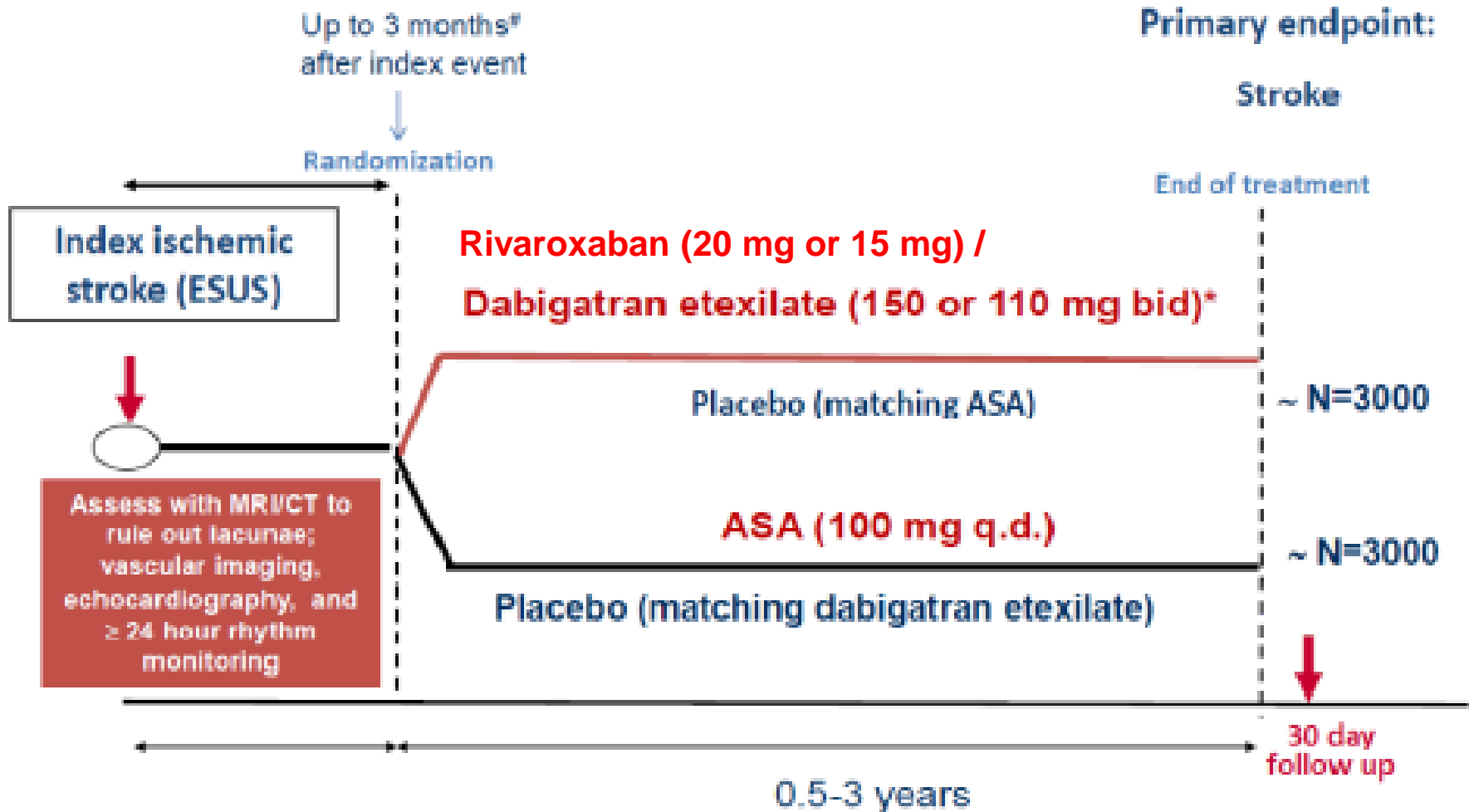
- PER DIEM: Randomized trial, 1:1
  - 30 days monitoring with ELR (Cardiophone)
  - 12 months with ILR (Reveal Linq) with centralized wireless monitoring



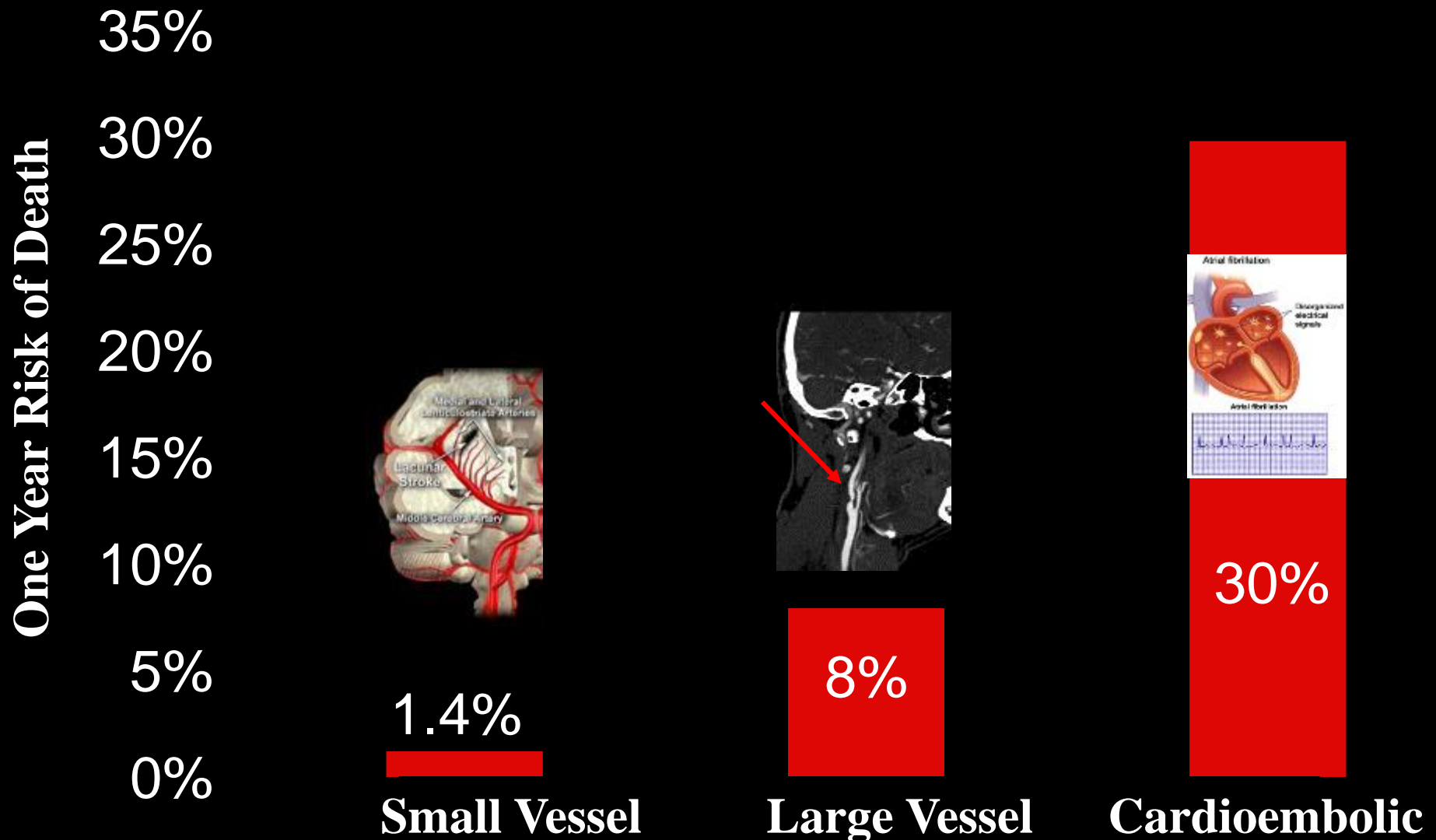
- Primary outcome: rate of PAF detection
- Secondary outcomes: Cost, compliance, time to detection



# Investigational Approaches to Cryptogenic Stroke

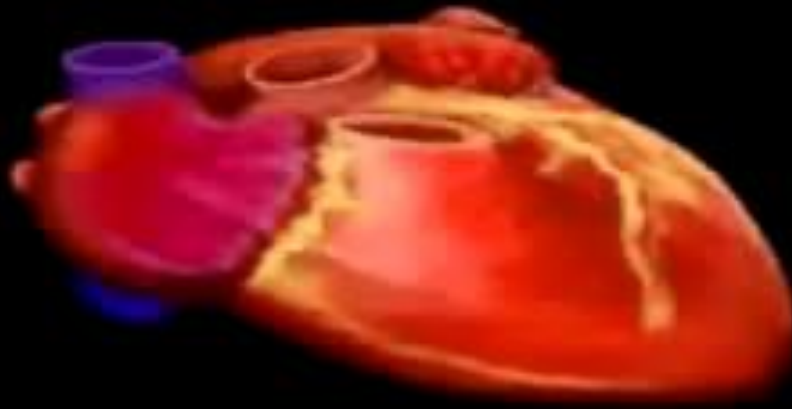


# Worse Prognosis Following Cardioembolic Stroke



# Cardioembolic Stroke

## Mechanism and Outcome

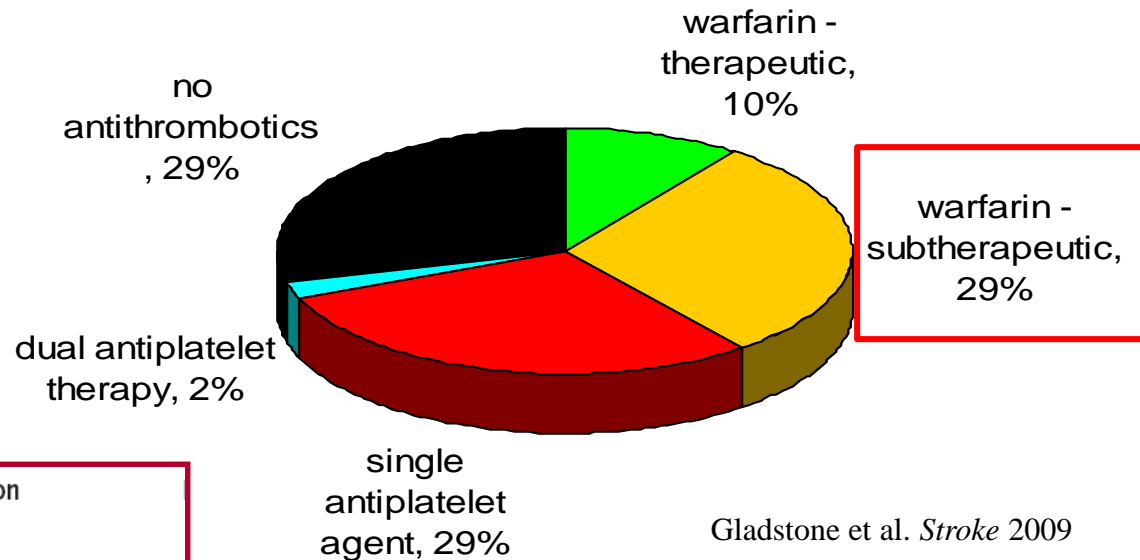
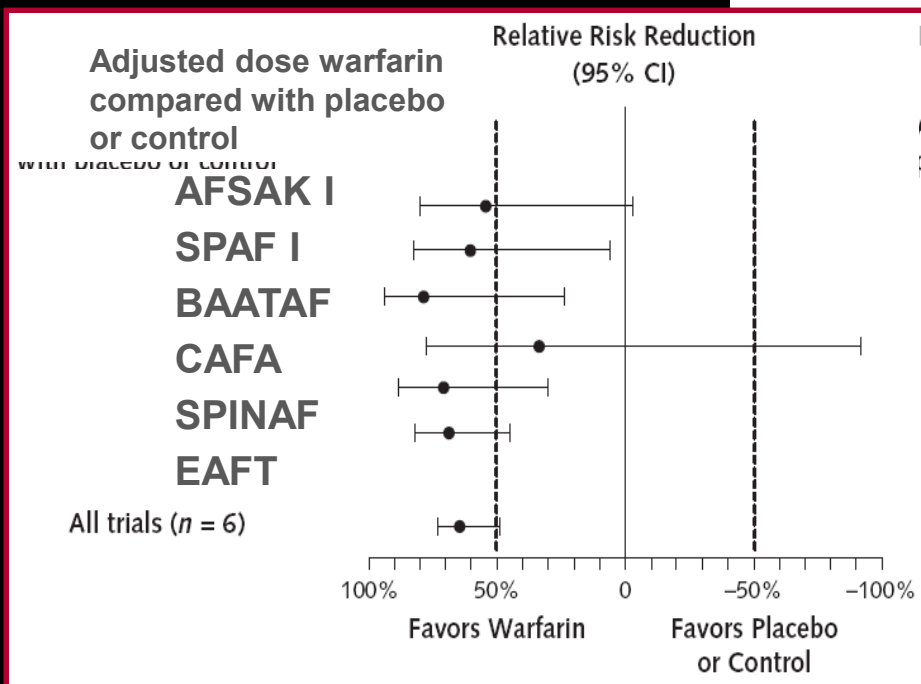


Atrial Fibrillation



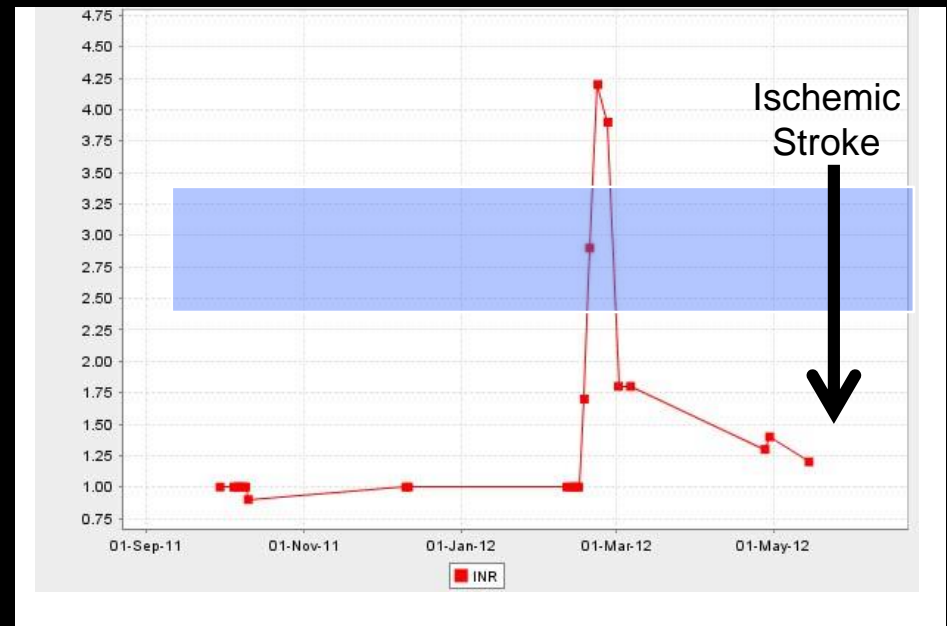
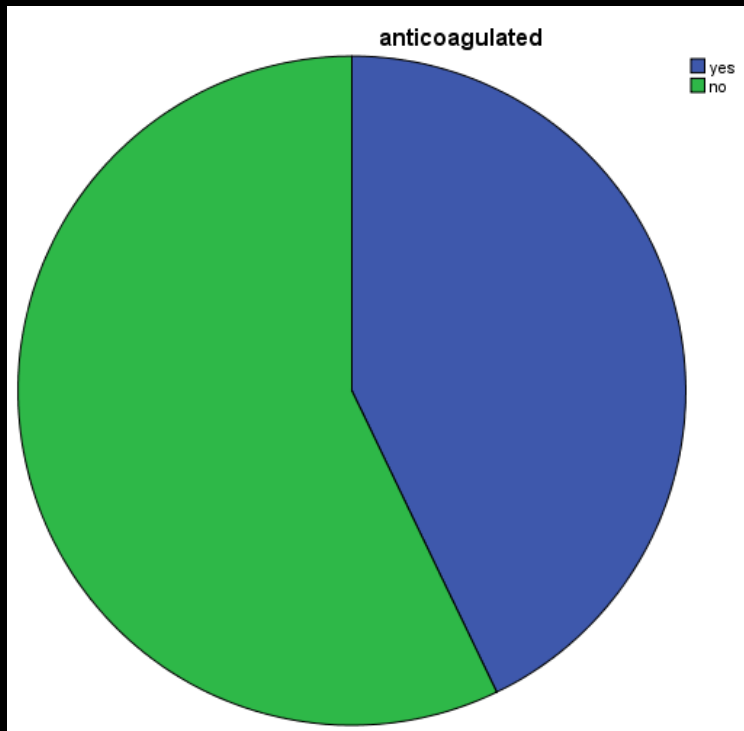
# Why the Evidence-Practice Disconnect?

Warfarin Data: 28 044 patients:  
68% RRR stroke

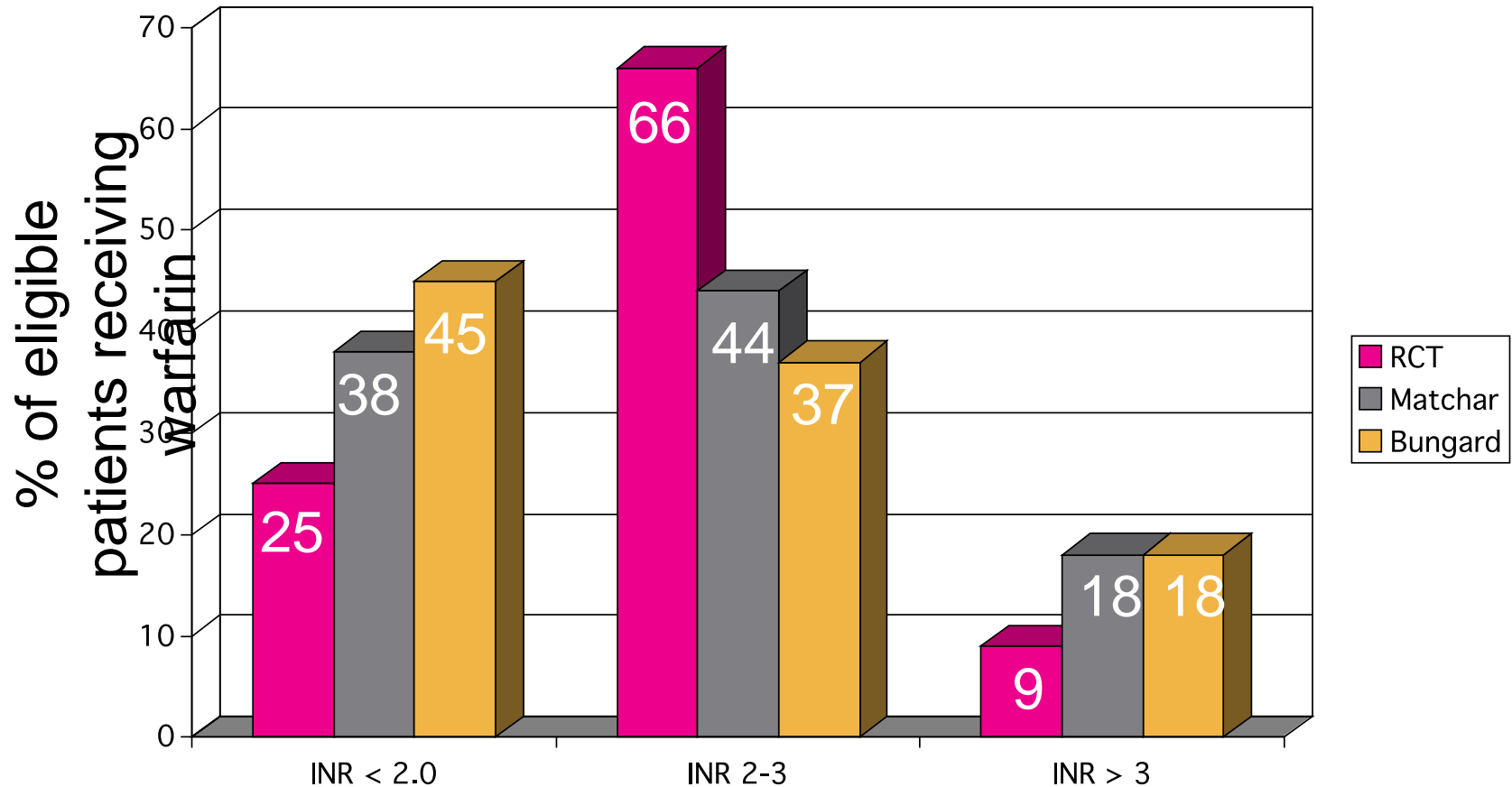


# Under-use of OAC in Edmonton

Patients with a known history of AF presenting with stroke/TIA to UAH 2012-13 (n=402)



# INR Control: Clinical Trials vs. Clinical Practice



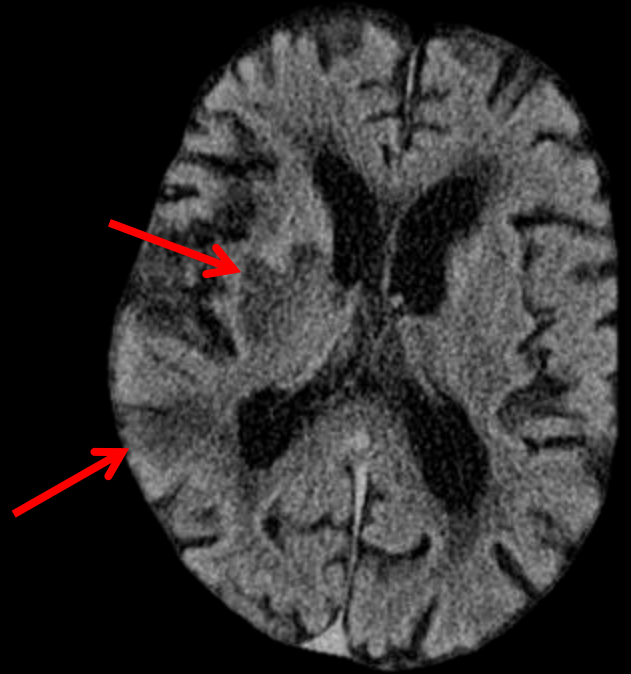
**INR control is an ongoing challenge in routine clinical practice**

RCT: Kalra *et al. BMJ* 2000

Matchar *et al. Am J Med* 2002

**Bungard *et al. Pharmacotherapy* 2000**

# Christmas '13: 86 Male, Known AF, Rx: ASA (*'Protecting'* The Elderly From OAC Risks)



Christmas Dinner

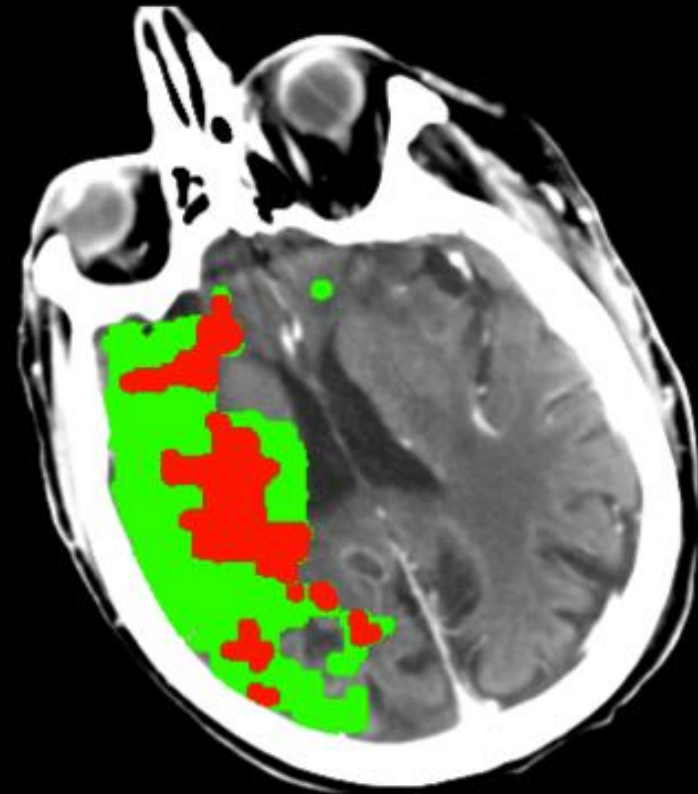
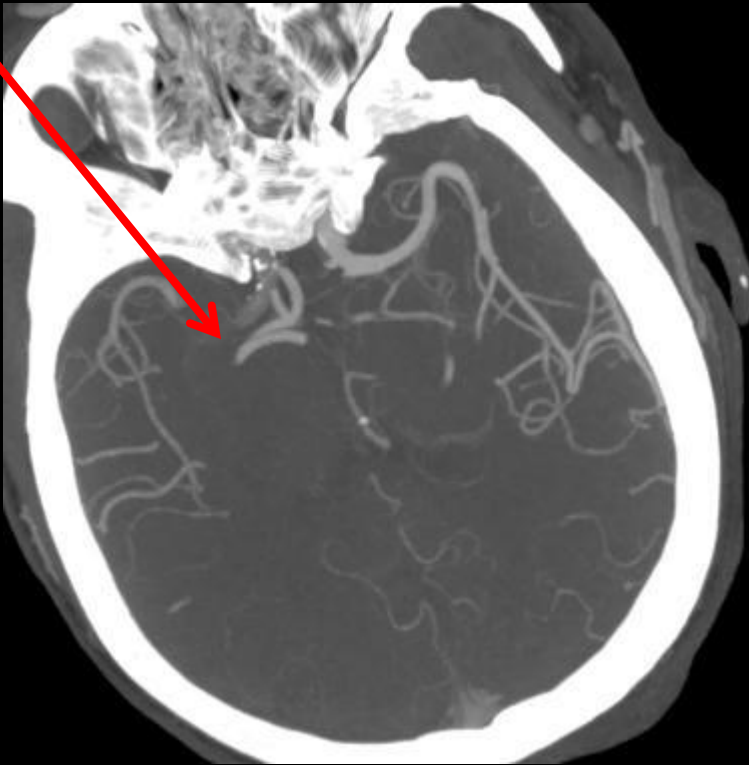


# 93 Independent Male: Warfarin Discontinued 6 Days Earlier

CT Angiogram

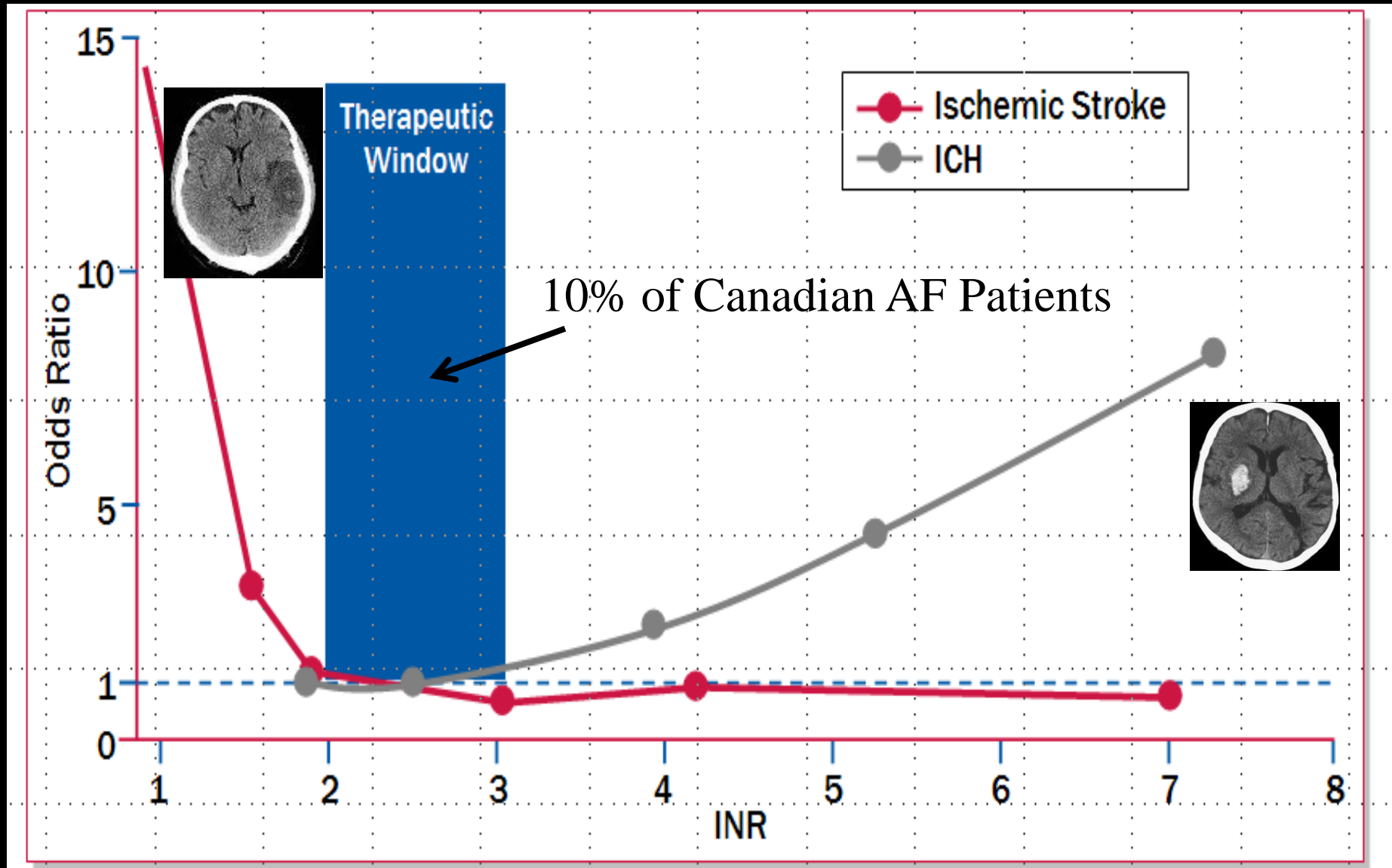
Penumbra Map

M1 Occlusion

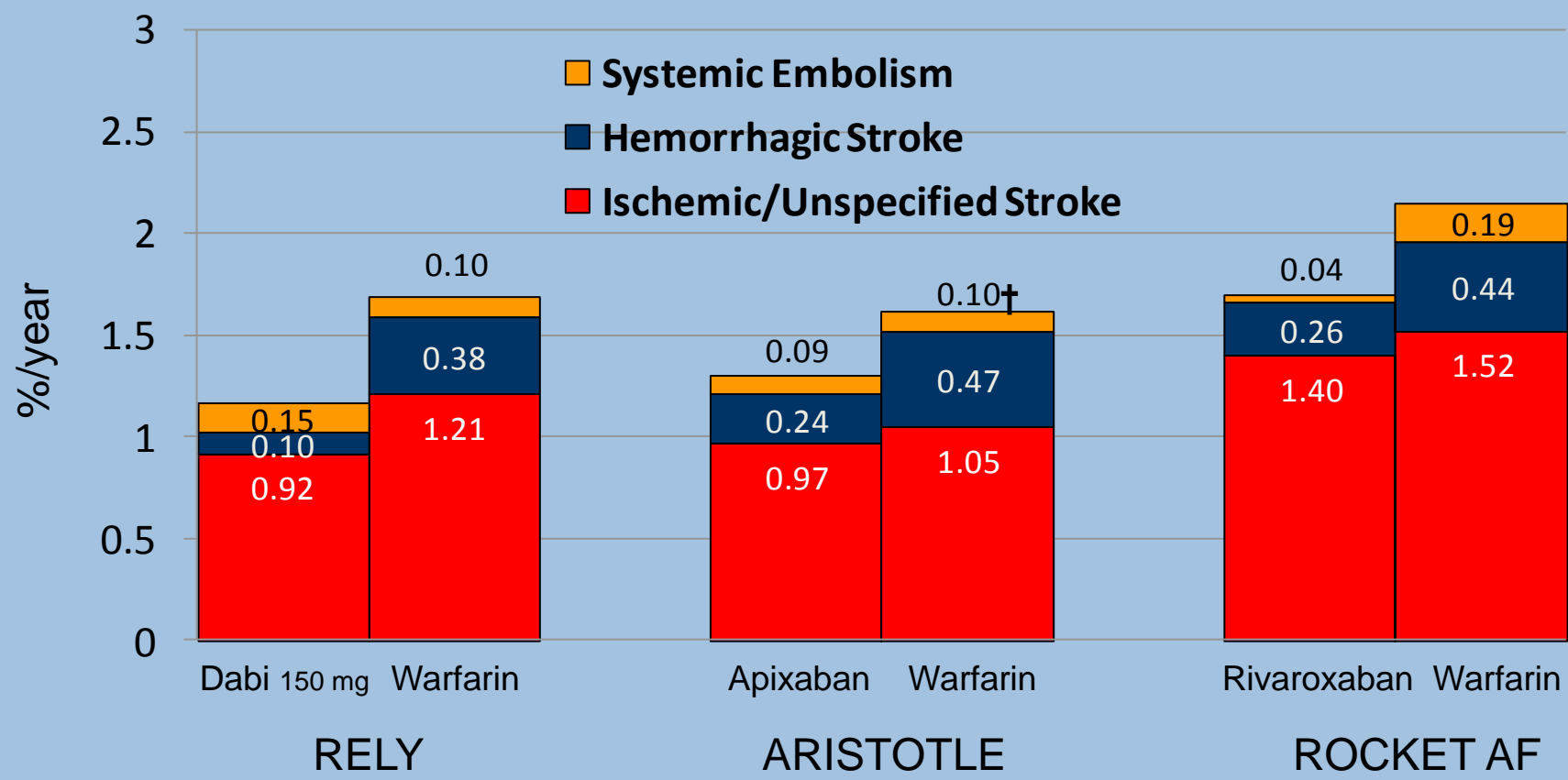


Patient Died 5 Days Later

# Anticoagulation and Physician Psychology



# AF Trials: Elements of Primary Endpoint: Ischemic Stroke is No. 1!



\*Patients experiencing multiple endpoints are included in multiple categories.  
†Systemic embolism result reported for RELY refers to pulmonary embolism.

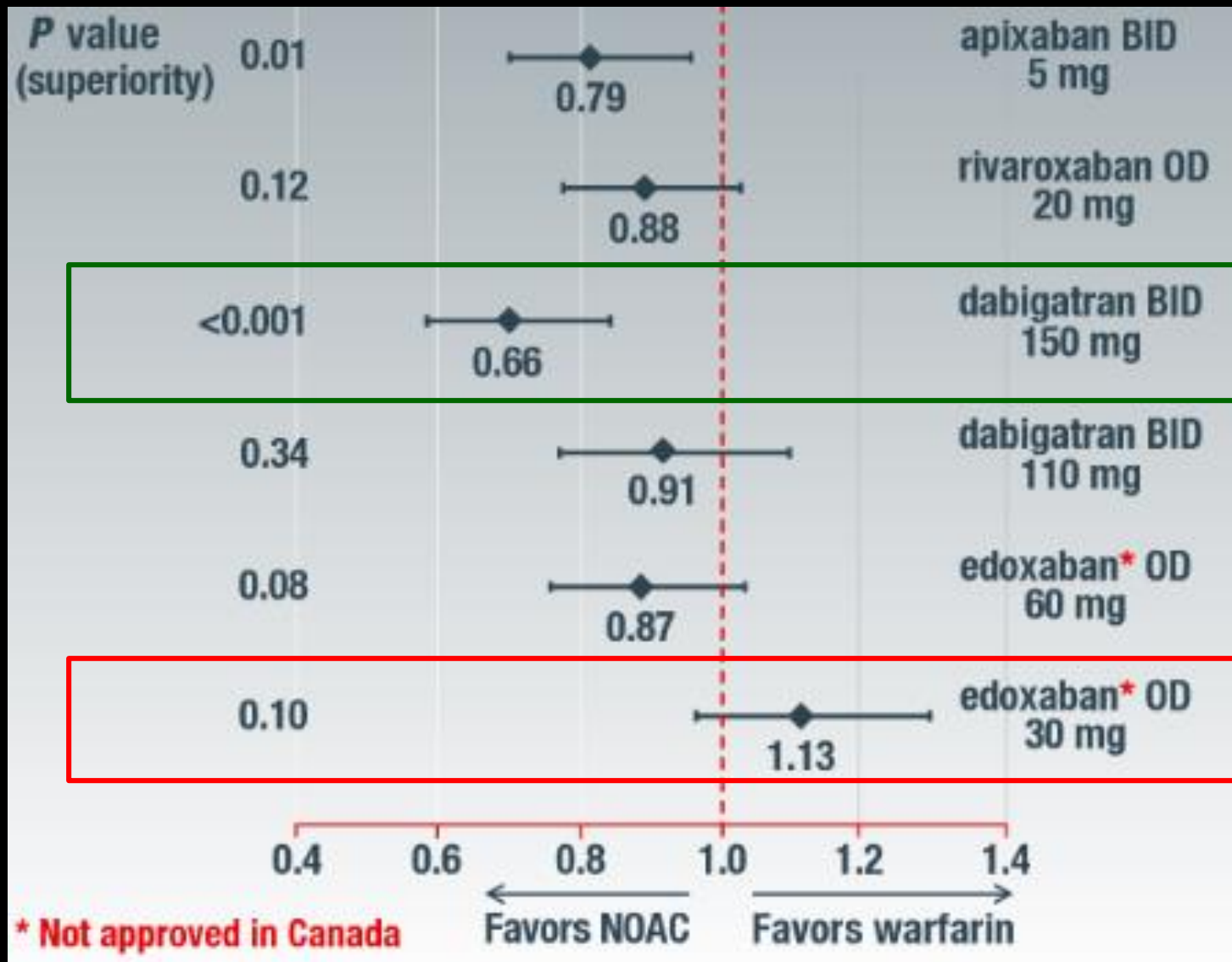
In recent trials, the majority of AF strokes were ischemic

Connolly *N Engl J Med* 2010;363:1876; Patel *N Engl J Med* 2011;365:883; Granger *N Engl J Med* 2011;365:981

# Higher NOAC Dose = Less Emboli



1. RELY
  2. ROCKET AF
  3. ARISTOTLE
  4. ENGAGE
- AF

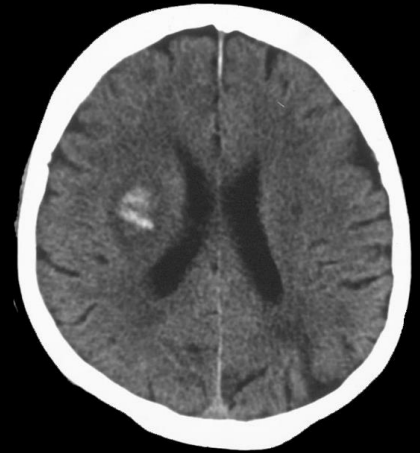
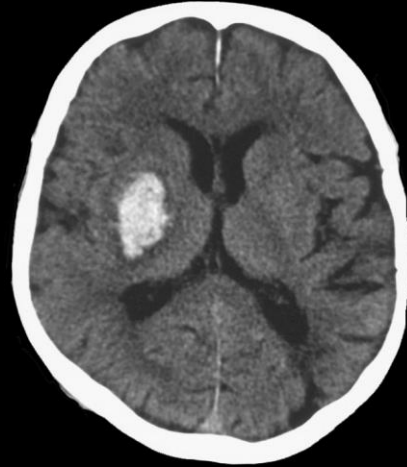
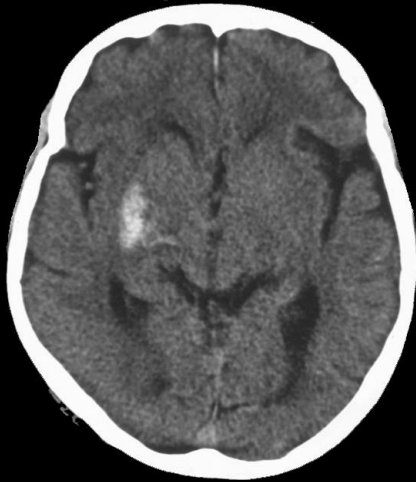


70 000 patients

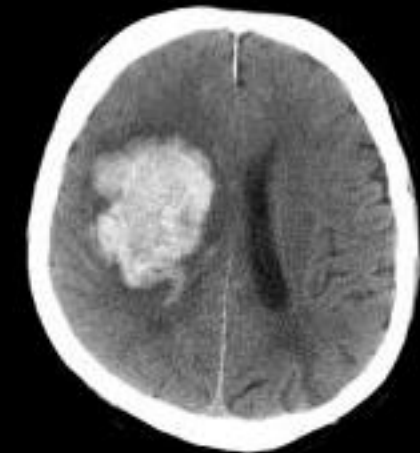
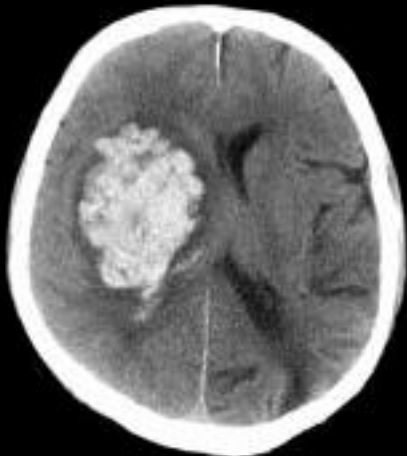
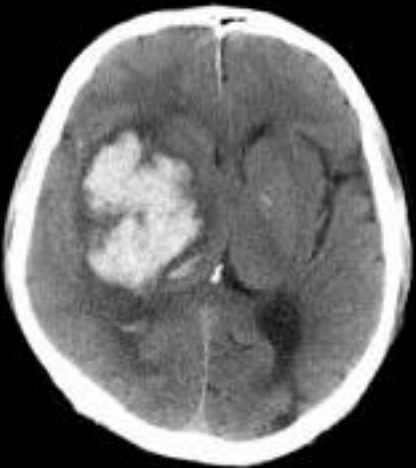
# Anticoagulant *Associated* ICH

3 h

INR  
=2.4



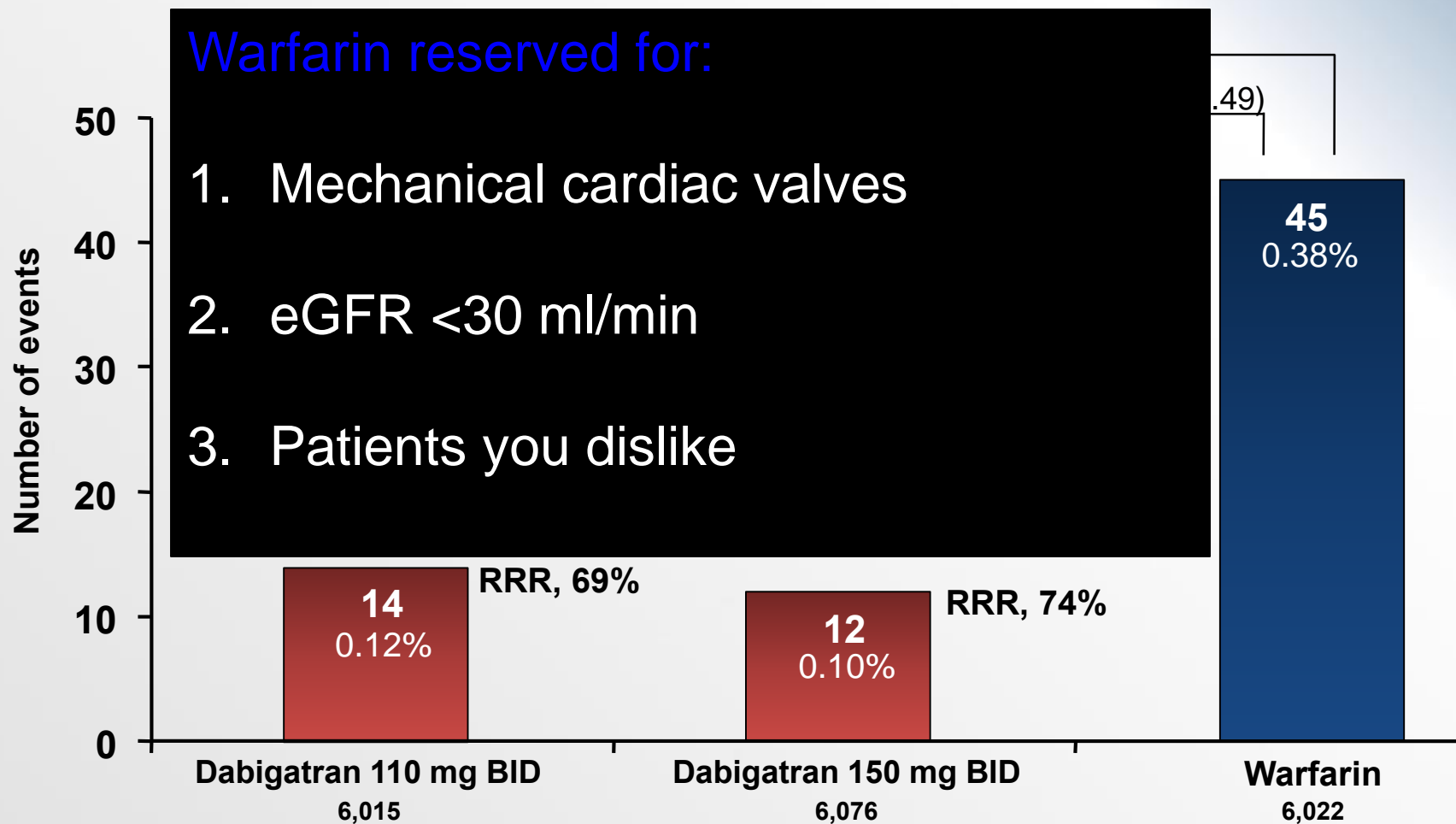
6 h



Hematoma growth is 8 x more likely in warfarin patients



# ICH Rates = Those of ASA!

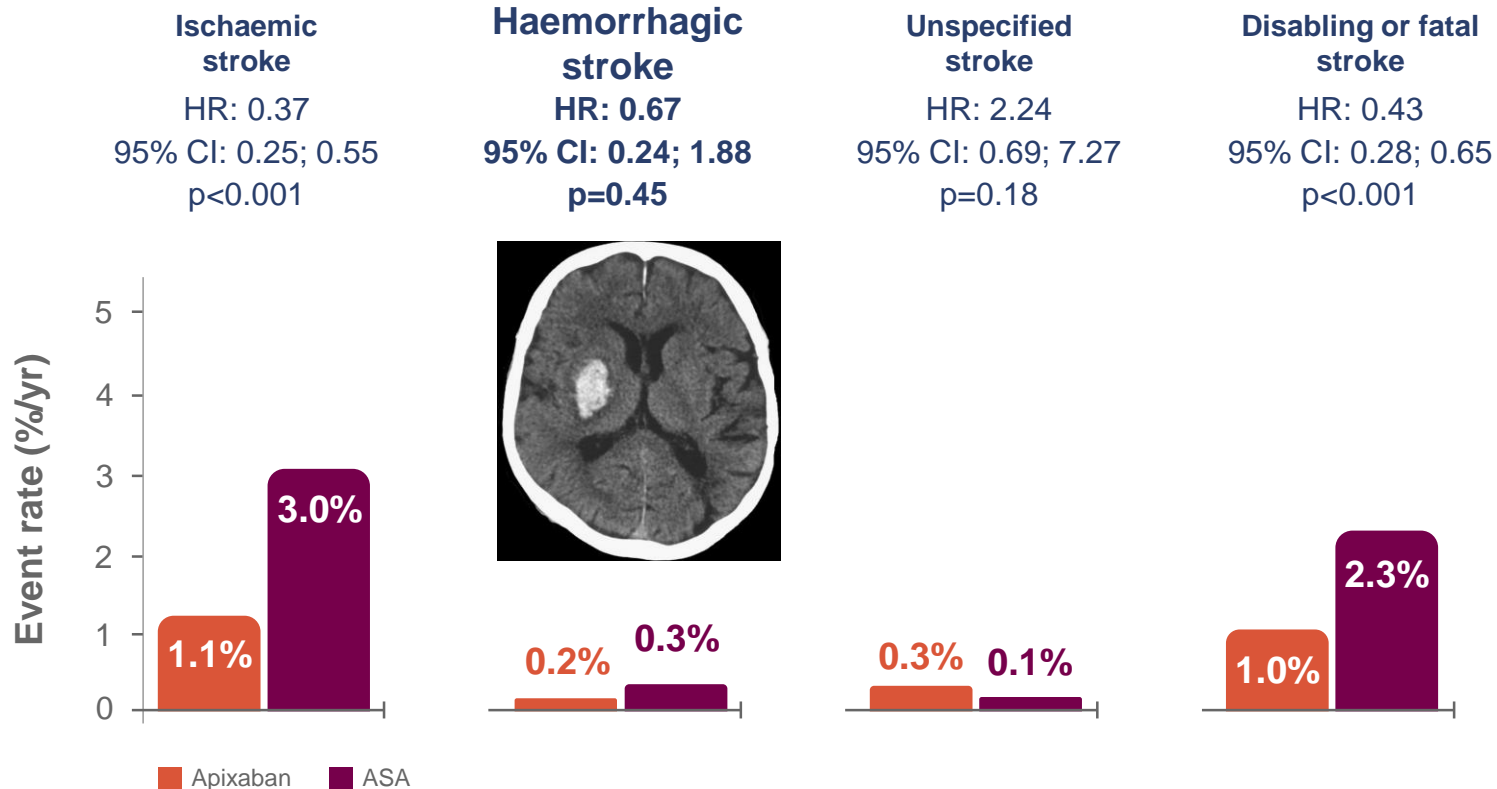


RR=relative risk; RRR=relative risk reduction

Dabigatran etexilate is in clinical development and not licensed for clinical use in stroke prevention for patients with atrial fibrillation

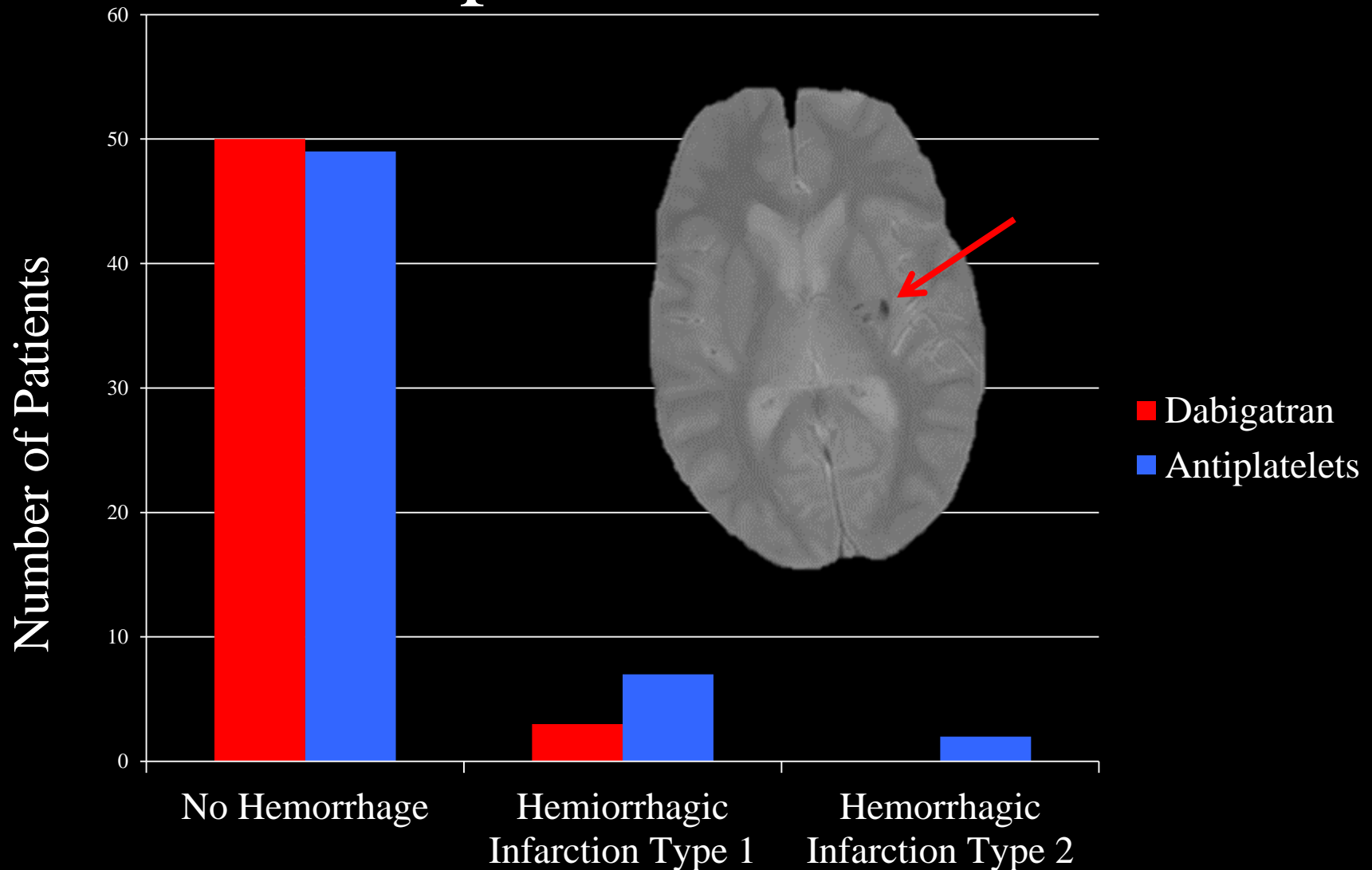
Connolly SJ, et al. N Engl J Med 2009;361:1139-1151

# AVERROES: Type of stroke

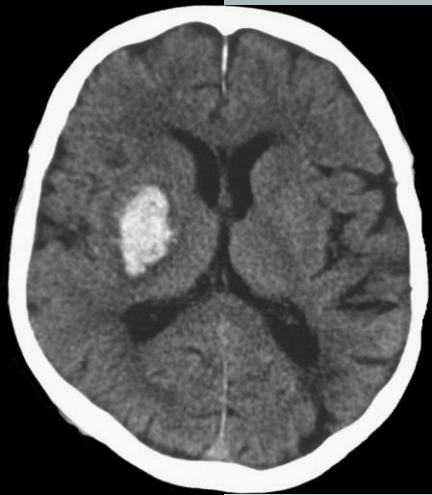




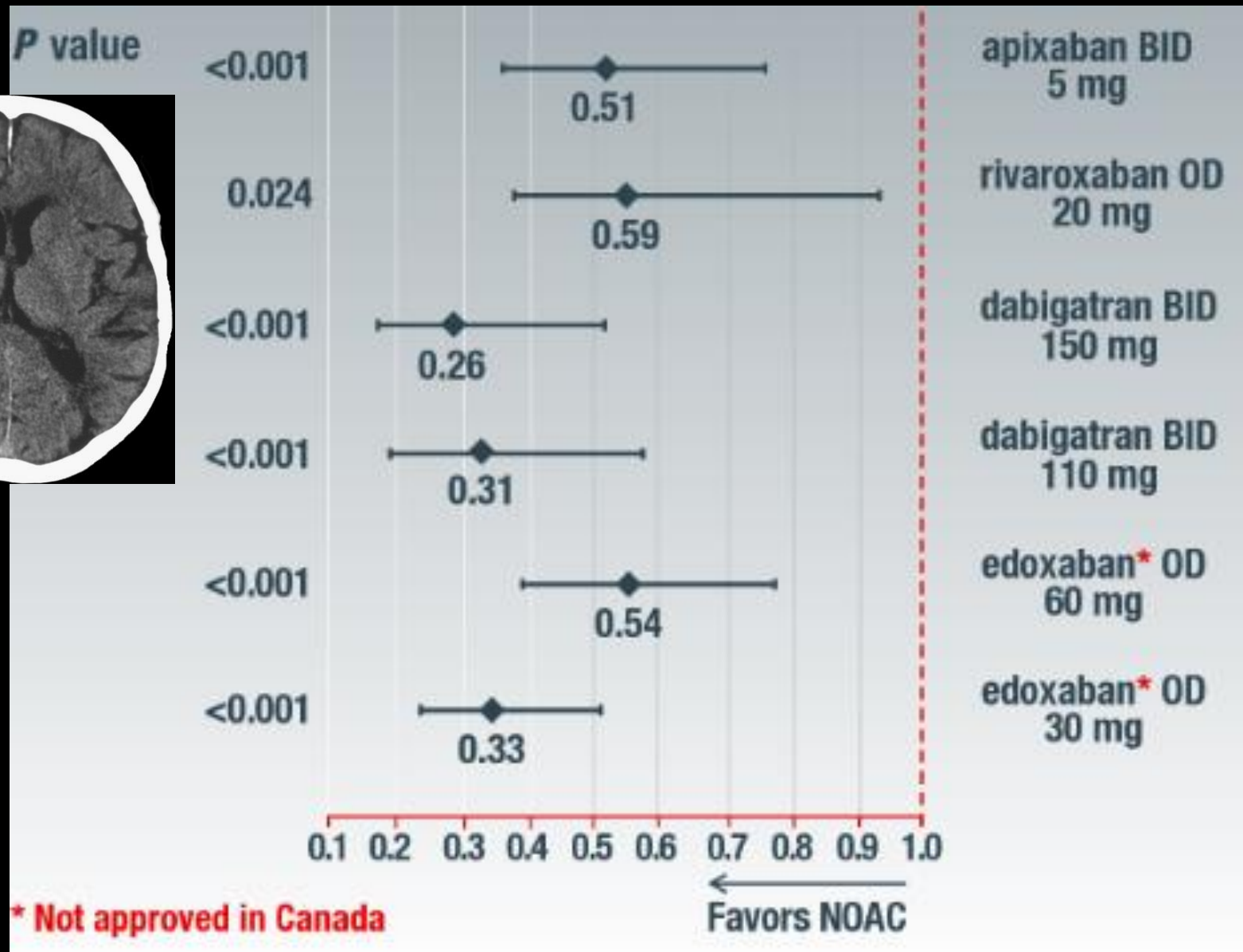
# Case Control Study: Dabigatran is as Safe as Antiplatelets in Acute Stroke



# ICH: Warfarin is Bad For the Brain



70 000  
patients



# Why are NOACs Better for the Brain?



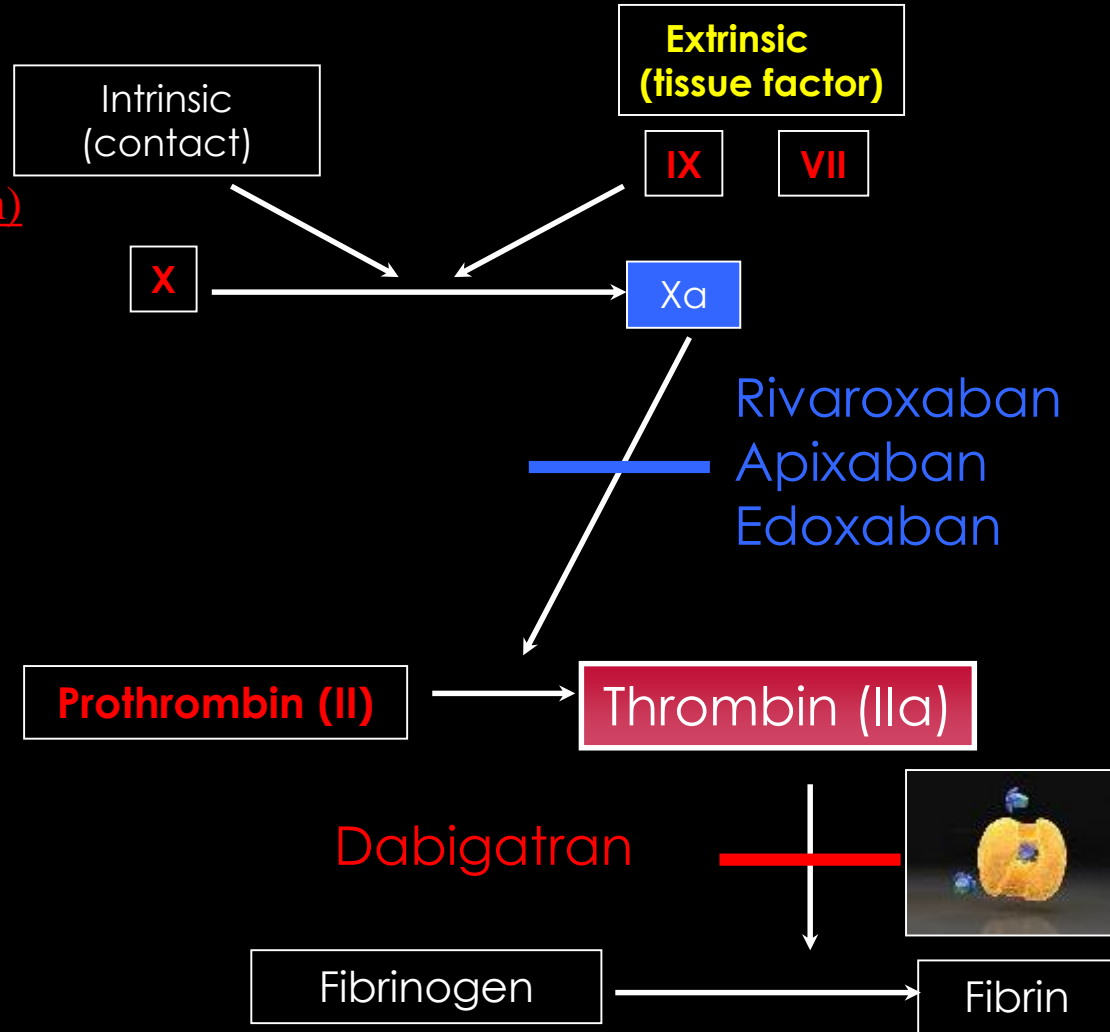
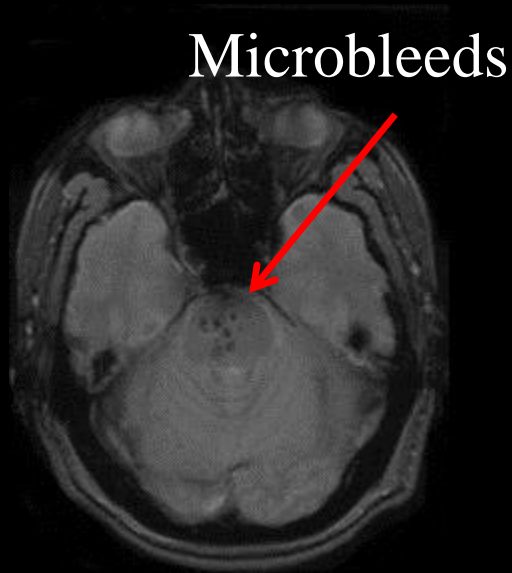
VKA (warfarin)

II

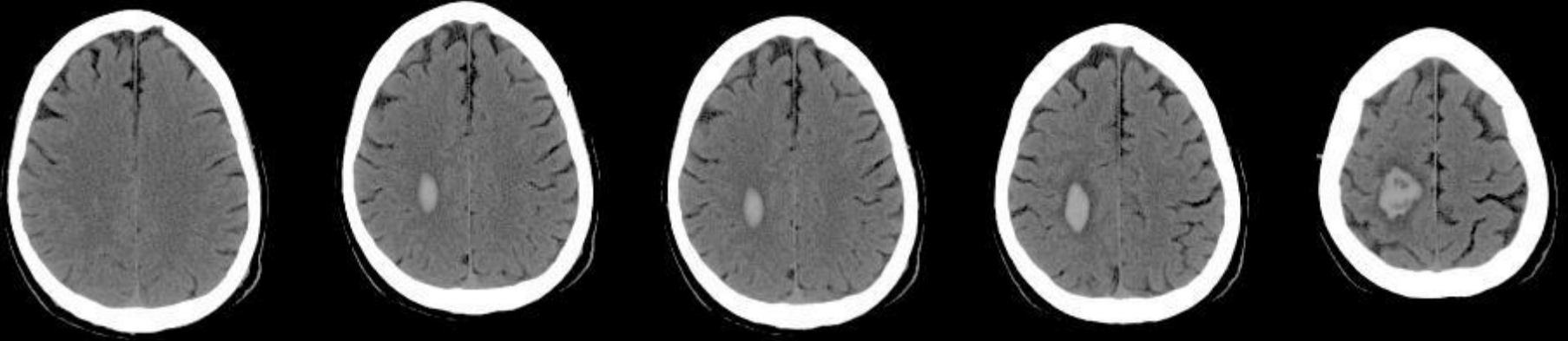
VII

IX

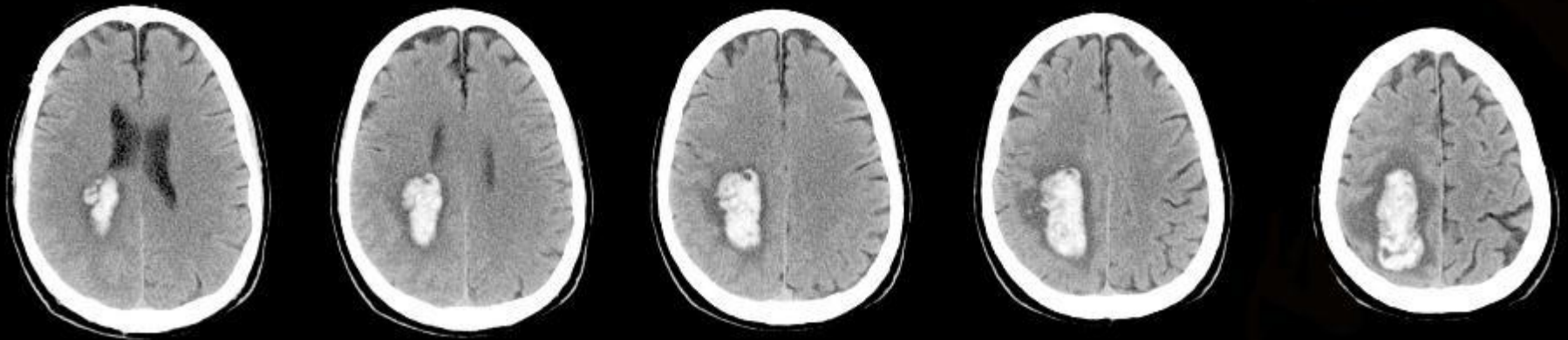
X



# INR 3.1: Management Options?

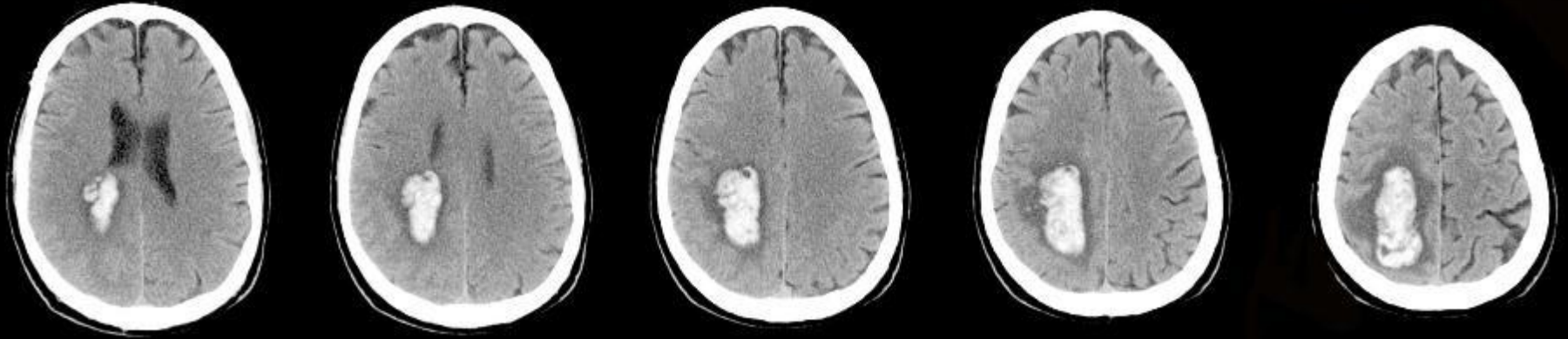


1. Vitamin K 5 mg PO
2. FFP 1 unit IV – INR not re-checked



3 hours later: patient now hemiplegic, GCS 15

# Management Continued



FFP 2 units IV -- INR 2.8



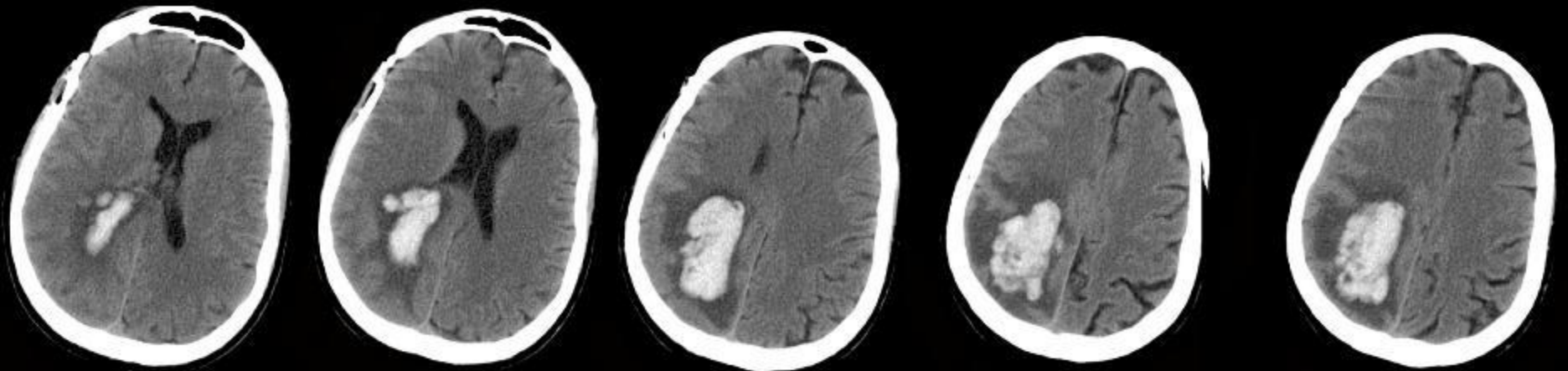
4 hours later



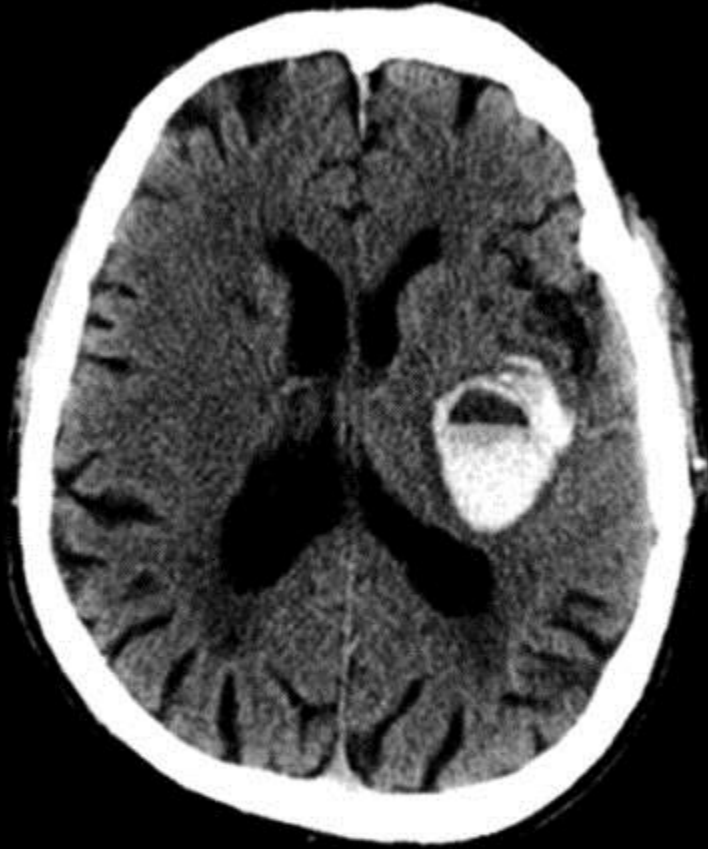
# Management Continued



Transfer to tertiary centre  
FFP 4 units IV -- INR 1.0



# Treating ICH with PCC (Octaplex)



**Baseline CT**

**INR 3.6**

**Total hematoma volume 15.3 mL**

**INR 1.2 (42 minutes later)**

**Total hematoma volume 67.6 mL**



# Poor Prognosis in Warfarin-Associated Intracranial Hemorrhage Despite Anticoagulation Reversal

Dar Dowlatshahi, MD, PhD; Kenneth S. Butcher, MD, PhD; Negar Asdaghi, MD, MSc; Susan Nahirniak, MD; Manya L. Bernbaum, BSc; Antonio Giulivi, MD; Jason K. Wasserman, PhD; Man-Chiu Poon, MD; Shelagh B. Coutts, MD; on behalf of the Canadian PCC Registry (CanPro) Investigators\*

**Background and Purpose**—Anticoagulant-associated intracranial hemorrhage (aaiCH) presents with larger hematoma volumes, higher risk of hematoma expansion, and worse outcome than spontaneous intracranial hemorrhage. Prothrombin complex concentrates (PCCs) are indicated for urgent reversal of anticoagulation after aaiCH. Given the lack of randomized controlled trial evidence of efficacy, and the potential for thrombotic complications, we aimed to determine outcomes in patients with aaiCH treated with PCC.

**Methods**—We conducted a prospective multicenter registry of patients treated with PCC for aaiCH in Canada. Patients were identified by local blood banks after the release of PCC. A chart review abstracted clinical, imaging, and laboratory data, including thrombotic events after therapy. Hematoma volumes were measured on brain CT scans and primary outcomes were modified Rankin Scale at discharge and in-hospital mortality.

**Results**—Between 2008 and 2010, 141 patients received PCC for aaiCH (71 intraparenchymal hemorrhages). The median age was 78 years (interquartile range, 14), 59.6% were male, and median Glasgow Coma Scale was 14. Median international normalized ratio was 2.6 (interquartile range, 2.0) and median parenchymal hematoma volume was 15.8 mL (interquartile range, 31.8). Median post-PCC therapy international normalized ratio was 1.4; 79.5% of patients had international normalized ratio correction ( $<1.5$ ) within 1 hour of PCC therapy. Patients with intraparenchymal hemorrhage had an in-hospital mortality rate of 42.3% with median modified Rankin Scale of 5. Significant hematoma expansion occurred in 45.5%. There were 3 confirmed thrombotic complications within 7 days of PCC therapy.

**Conclusions**—PCC therapy rapidly corrected international normalized ratio in the majority of patients, yet mortality and morbidity rates remained high. Rapid international normalized ratio correction alone may not be sufficient to alter prognosis after aaiCH. (*Stroke*. 2012;43:00-00.)

**Key Words:** acute care ■ acute Rx ■ anticoagulation ■ emergency medicine ■ hemorrhage ■ intrac. ■ intracerebral hemorrhage

# Dabigatran Associated ICH Treatment

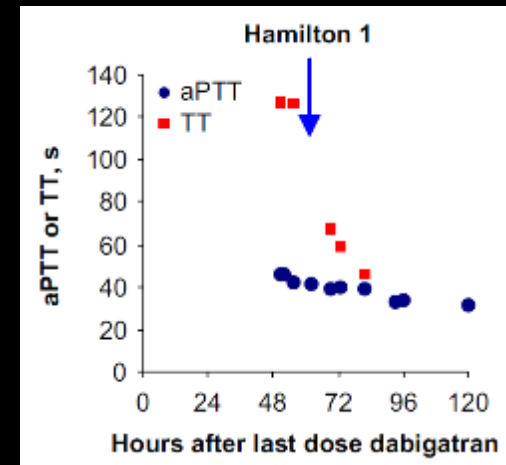
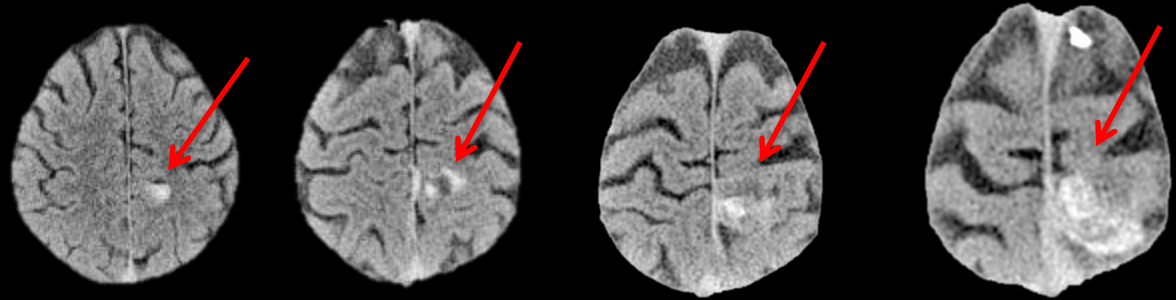
4 hours

Thrombin Time (TT)  
= 32.5 (prolonged)



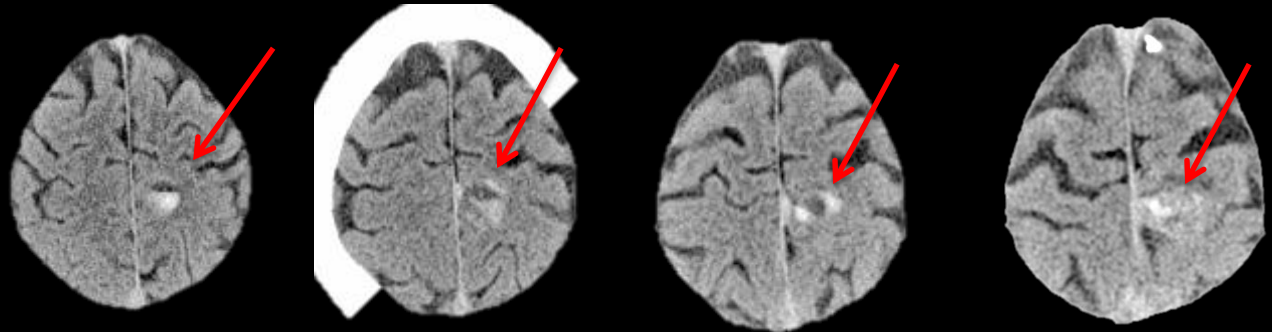
FEIBA

Dose = 100 IU/kg



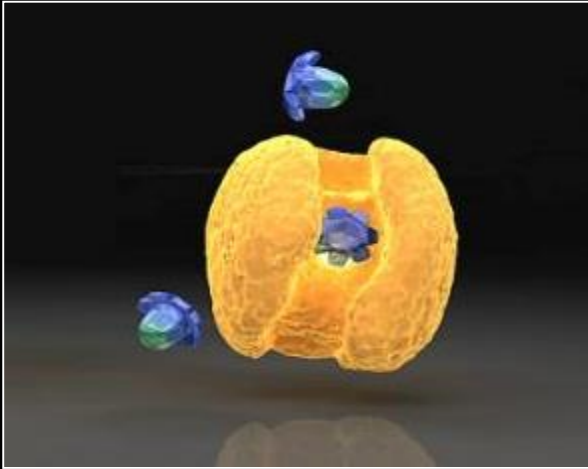
6 hours

TT = 21.9  
(normal)

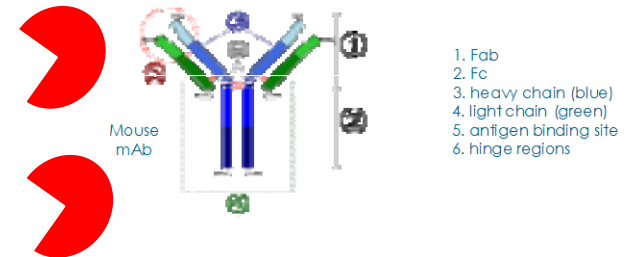


# NOAC Reversal: (Near) Future

## Dabigatran



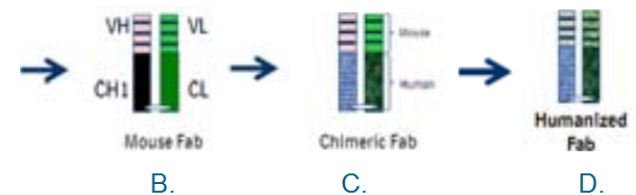
A. Monoclonal antibodies were raised in mice immunized with dabigatran hapten coupled to carrier proteins.



B. Fc portion is removed (Fab)

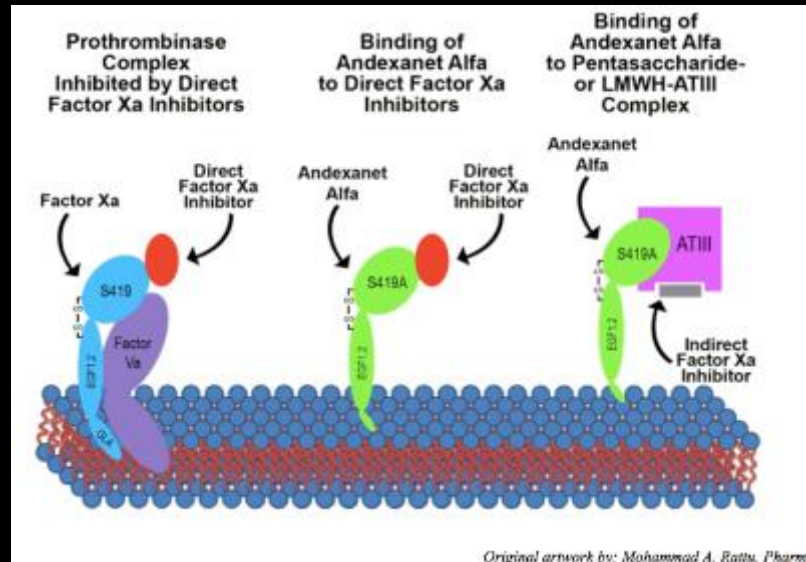
C. Constant regions are replaced with human amino acids (chimeric)

D. Variable regions of Fab humanized



Van Ryn et al, ACC, 2011

Rivaroxaban  
Apixaban  
Edoxaban



Original artwork by: Mohammad A. Rattis, PharmD

# Agent/Dose: Rational Pharmacology

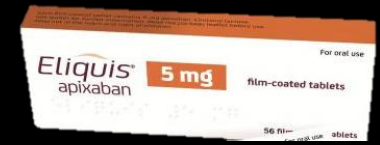
## Dabigatran 150 bid



- Patients < 80 y.o. with normal renal function



## Rivaroxaban / Apixaban /Dabigatran 110 bid



- GFR 30-50
- Age >80
- Previous bleeding

ASA 81 mg/day: Only for active CAD/stent patients

# The Right Tool for the Right Job

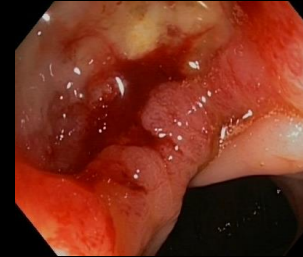
Patients with ↑ ICH Risk



Patients with ↑ Systemic Bleed Risk



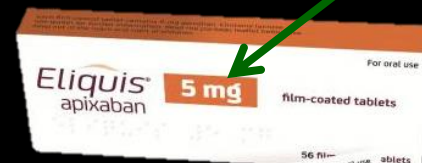
Retroperitoneal  
Bleed



Diverticulitis



Peptic Ulcer





# When Does the NOAC Early Adoption Phase End?

