



# Therapeutic Challenges: Direct Oral Anticoagulants in Special Populations

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# Disclosures

- **Paul P. Dobesh:** BMS/Pfizer alliance: Consultant; Boehringer Ingelheim: Consultant; Daiichi Sankyo: Consultant; Janssen Pharmaceuticals: Consultant; Portola Pharmaceuticals: Consultant
- All other planners, presenters, reviewers, and ASHP staff of this session report no financial relationships relevant to this activity.

# Learning Objectives

- Discuss clinical trials evaluating direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) in obesity.
- Evaluate clinical trials of DOACs in patients with malignancy.
- Recommend DOAC dosing for end stage renal disease (ESRD).
- Select an appropriate DOAC therapy for patients with gastric bypass.



# Case 1

**A 72-year-old woman (64 kg) with chronic kidney disease is admitted for atrial fibrillation. Her heart rate is controlled on metoprolol and it is time to initiate oral anticoagulation therapy. Her CrCl is 23 mL/min (SCr 2.0 mg/dL).**

**Which of the following is appropriate oral therapy?**

- a. Apixaban 5 mg twice daily
- b. Dose-adjusted warfarin (INR goal = 2-3)
- c. Edoxaban 60 mg once daily
- d. Dabigatran 150 mg twice daily
- e. Rivaroxaban 15 mg once daily

# Renal Exclusion Criteria in Clinical Trials

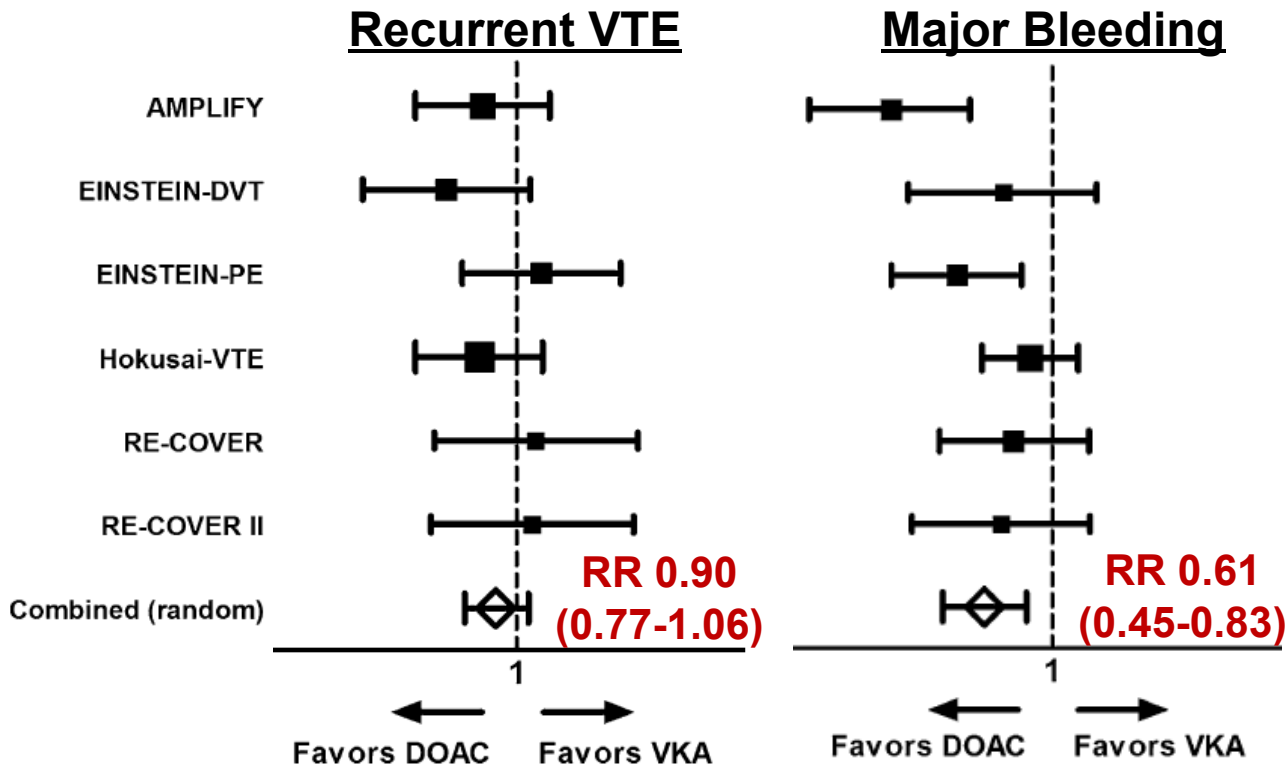
| DOAC        | Renal Clearance | Pivotal Trial(s)            | Renal Exclusion Criterion              |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Dabigatran  | 80%             | RE-COVER<br>RE-COVER II     | CrCl < 30 mL/min                       |
| Rivaroxaban | 36%             | EINSTEIN DVT<br>EINSTEIN PE | CrCl < 30 mL/min                       |
| Apixaban    | 25%             | AMPLIFY                     | CrCl < 25 mL/min or<br>SCr > 2.5 mg/dL |
| Edoxaban    | 35%             | HOKUSAI-VTE                 | CrCl < 30 mL/min                       |

# Dosing Guidelines

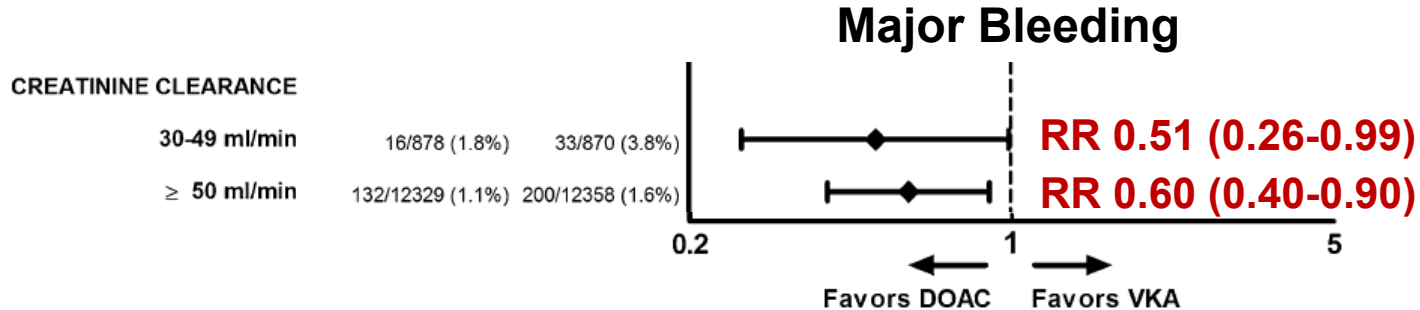
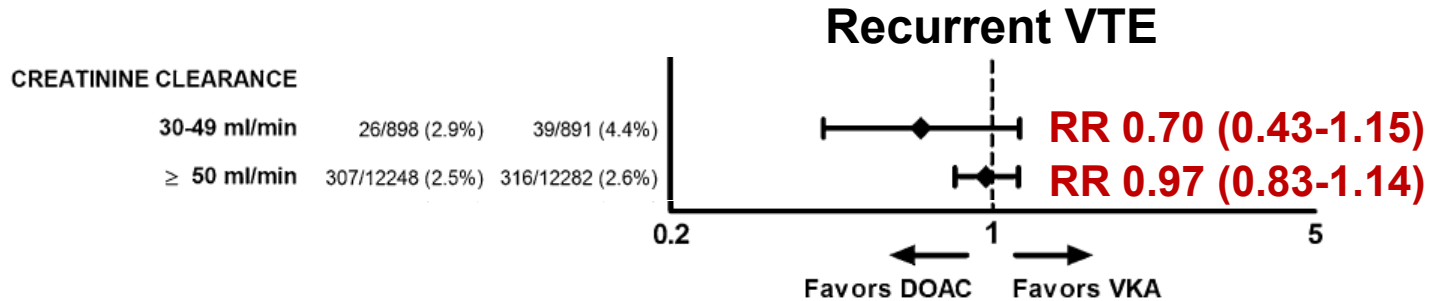
| Dabigatran <sup>a</sup> |            | Rivaroxaban <sup>b</sup> |                       | Edoxaban       |           | Apixaban <sup>c</sup>  |                       |
|-------------------------|------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| CrCl<br>mL/min          | Dose       | CrCl<br>mL/min           | Dose                  | CrCl<br>mL/min | Dose      | Metric   | Dose                  |
| >30                     | 150 mg BID | >50                      | 20 mg QD              | >95            | Avoid Use |  | 5 mg BID              |
| 30–15                   | 75 mg BID  | 50–15                    | 15 mg QD              | >50–≤95        | 60 mg QD  | 2 of 3:<br>≥80 y<br>SCr<br>>1.5<br>mg/dL<br>Weight<br>≤60 kg | 2.5 mg BID            |
| <15                     | Avoid Use  | <15                      | Avoid Use             | 50–15          | 30 mg QD  |  |                       |
|                         |            | Hemodialysis             | 15 mg QD <sup>d</sup> | <15            | Avoid Use | Hemodialysis   | 5 mg BID <sup>e</sup> |

Fanikos J, et al.  
*Am J Med*  
 2017;130;1015-23.

# Overall Results of VTE Trials



# Results Stratified by Renal Function





# Phase III Non-Valvular Atrial Fibrillation DOAC Trials

| <b>GFR</b>            | <b>Stroke/Systemic Embolism<br/>RR (95% CI)</b> | <b>Major Bleeding<br/>RR (95% CI)</b> |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>50-80 mL/min</b>   | <b>0.71 (0.62-0.81)</b>                         | <b>0.88 (0.80-0.97)</b>               |
| <b>&lt; 50 mL/min</b> | <b>0.79 (0.66-0.94)</b>                         | <b>0.80 (0.70-0.91)</b>               |

# Real-world studies: More data to come

| Study                 | Population (n)                                   | n               |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| XALIA                 | Patients with VTE treated with rivaroxaban       | 5723            |
| GARFIELD-VTE          | Patients with VTE treated with DOACs or VKA      | 10,000 (target) |
| Dresden NOAC registry | Patients with VTE or NVAF treated with DOACs     | 2941            |
| RE-COVERY DVT/PE      | Patients with VTE treated with dabigatran or VKA | 14,000 (target) |

Beyer-Westendorf J et al. *Thromb Haemost.* 2016; 116(suppl 2):S13-S23.

Agno W et al. *Thromb Haemost.* 2017; 117:415-21.

**Evidence in Severe Renal Dysfunction  
(CrCl < 30 mL/min) or  
End-Stage Renal Disease**

# Warfarin in Severe CKD and Hemodialysis

## • Hemodialysis

- Observational studies have shown a reduced risk of all cause death, CV events, stroke, and thromboembolism without increased bleeding in patients on dialysis of renal replacement therapy
- Three large meta-analyses failed to show benefit of warfarin in ESRD or dialysis patients
  - Did not reduce mortality or thromboembolism rates
  - Did increase risk of all-cause or major bleeding
- One meta-analysis (9,000 patients) and one study demonstrated increased risk in strokes

Fanikos J, et al. *Am J Med* 2017;130:1015-1023.

Lee M, et a. *Medicine* 2016;95:e2741.

# Apixaban Renal Data

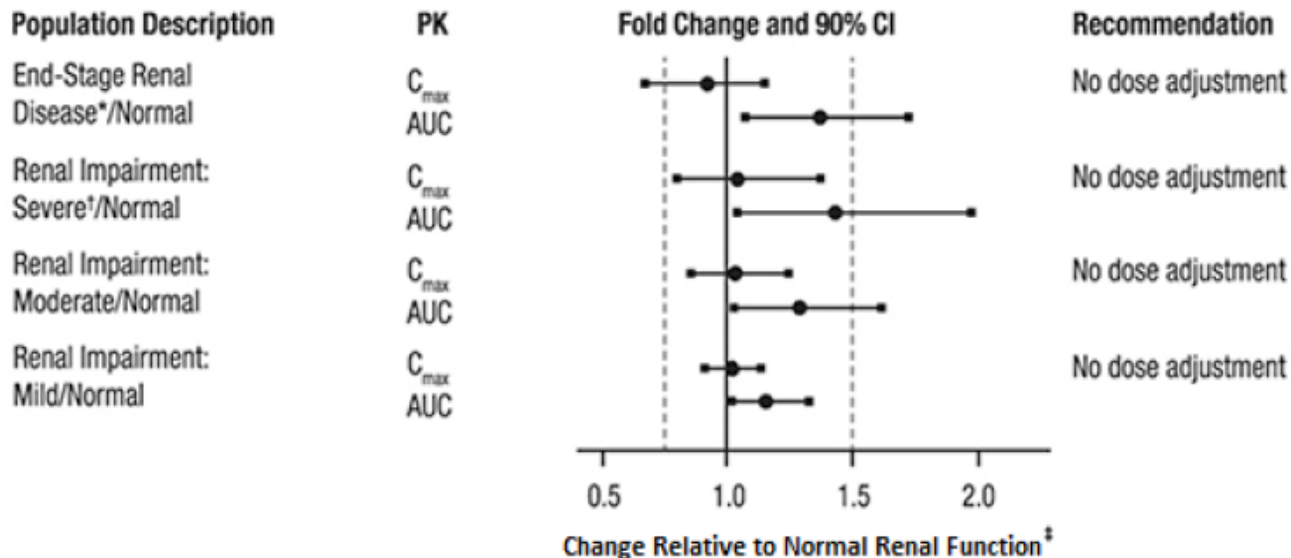
## 2.7 Renal Impairment

The dosing adjustment for moderate renal impairment is described above [*see Dosage and Administration (2.2)*]. The recommended dose for patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) maintained on hemodialysis is 5 mg twice daily. Reduce dose to 2.5 mg twice daily if one of the following patient characteristics (age  $\geq 80$  years or body weight  $\leq 60$  kg) is present [*see Use in Specific Populations (8.6) and Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)*].

### 8.6 End-Stage Renal Disease Patients Maintained with Hemodialysis

Patients with ESRD with or without hemodialysis were not studied in clinical efficacy and safety studies with ELIQUIS; therefore, the dosing recommendation is based on pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic (anti-Factor Xa activity) data in subjects with ESRD maintained on dialysis. The recommended dose for ESRD patients maintained with hemodialysis is 5 mg orally twice daily. For ESRD patients maintained with hemodialysis with one of the following patient characteristics, age  $\geq 80$  years or body weight  $\leq 60$  kg, reduce dose to 2.5 mg twice daily [*see Dosage and Administration (2.7) and Clinical Pharmacology (12.2, 12.3)*].

# Apixaban Renal Data



Abbreviations: ESRD, end-stage renal disease; PK, pharmacokinetic.

\* ESRD subjects maintained with chronic and stable hemodialysis; reported PK findings are following single dose of apixaban post hemodialysis.

† Creatinine clearance 15 to 29 mL/min.

‡ Dashed vertical lines illustrate PK changes that were used to inform dosing recommendations.

Adapted from Eliquis Full Prescribing Information

# Apixaban in Hemodialysis

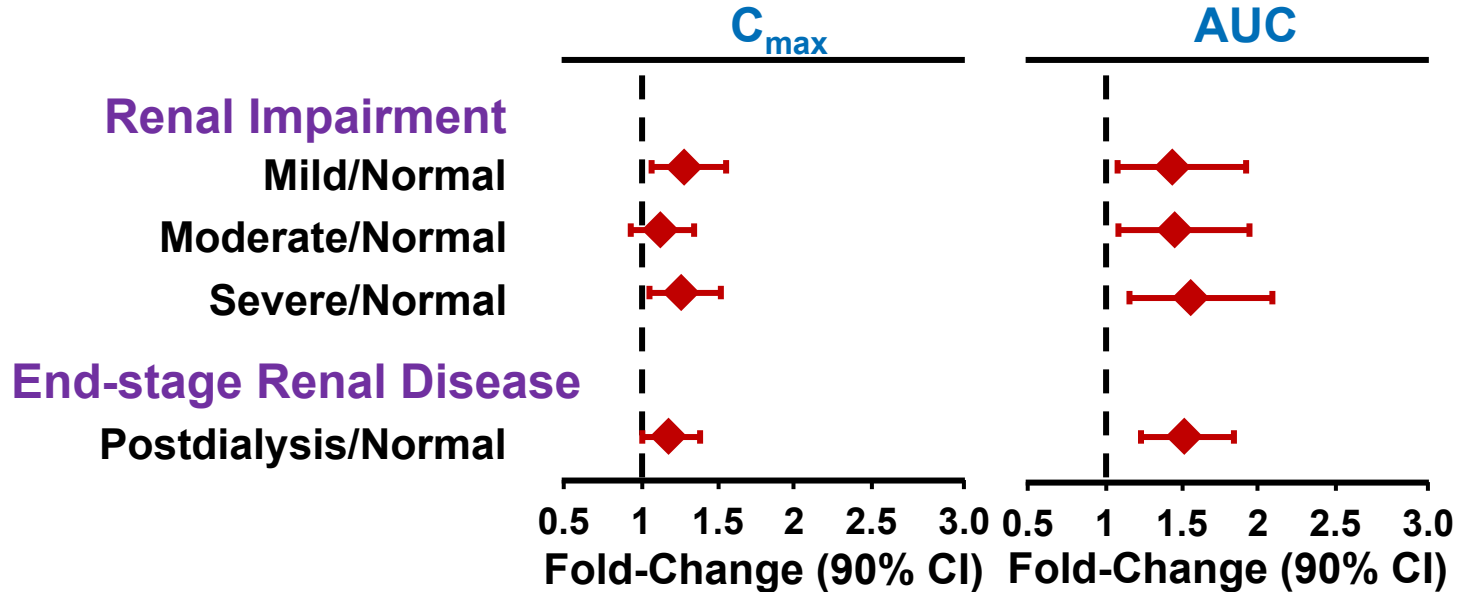
5 mg twice daily for several days

| Apixaban 5 mg Twice Daily     | Day 22                       | P Value | Reference Levels<br>(for the 5 mg<br>twice daily dose) |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------|--|
| AUC <sub>0-12</sub> , ng h/ml | 3026.6±46.6% [2770.4]        | 0.03    | [1474–1717] <sup>18</sup>                              |
| AUC <sub>0-24</sub> , ng h/ml | 6053.2±46.6% (3505.5–9469.7) | 0.03    | 3370 (2070–5250) <sup>19</sup>                         |
| C <sub>max</sub> , ng/ml      | 307.0±39.4% (189.0–455.0)    | 0.02    | 171 (91–321) <sup>a20</sup>                            |
| t <sub>max</sub> , h          | 3.8±35.6% (2.5–6.0)          | 0.89    | —  |
| C <sub>min</sub> , ng/ml      | 217.5±51.9% (91.0–337.4)     | 0.03    | 107 (56–203) <sup>19</sup>                             |
| t <sub>1/2</sub> , h          | 17.4±51.3% (7.1–29.8)        | 0.13    | —  |

**Significant accumulation with approximately a 2-fold increase in C<sub>max</sub> and AUC**

**“Apixaban 5mg twice daily led to suprathereapeutic levels in patients on hemodialysis and should be avoided.”**

# Rivaroxaban in Patients on Chronic Hemodialysis



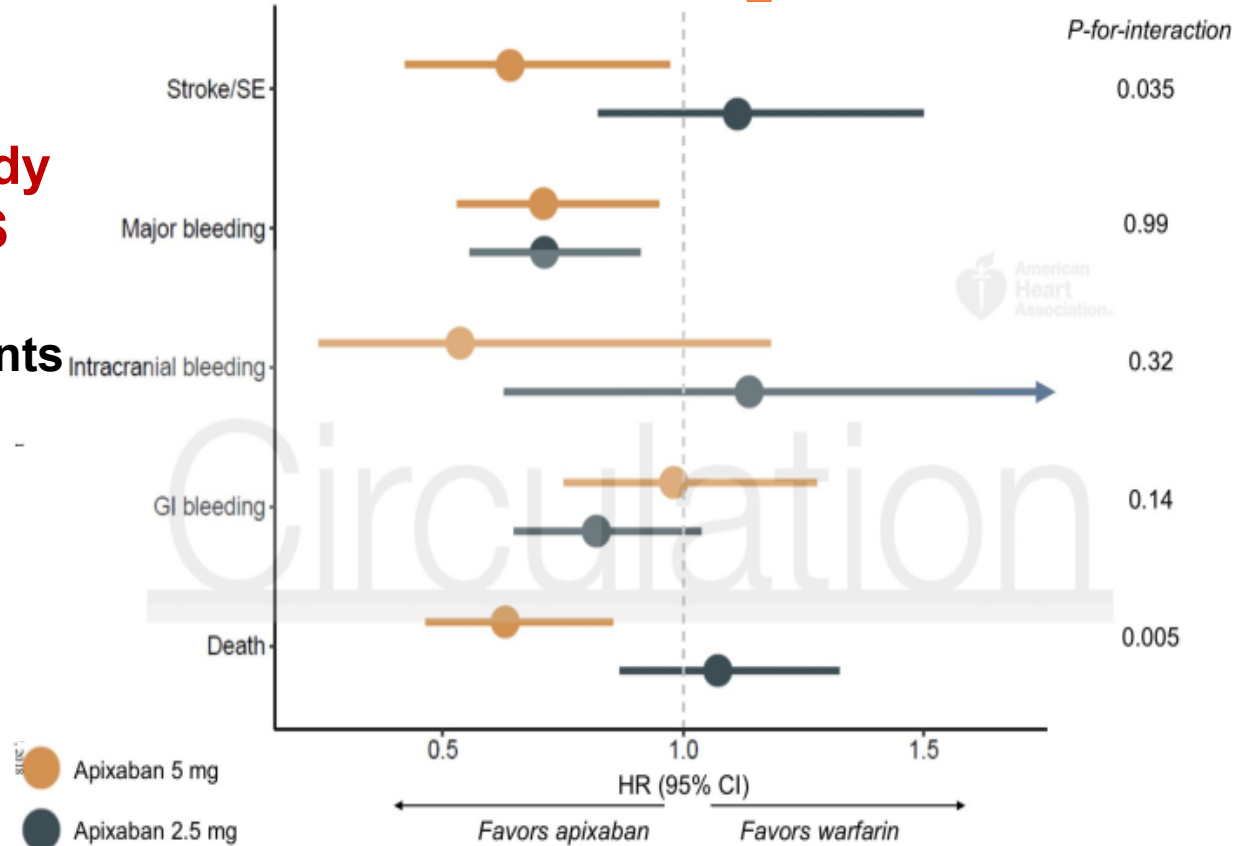
8 Patient Single-Dose Study  
Reduced dose (15 mg once daily)



# Apixaban and Hemodialysis

- **2018 retrospective study from patients in the US Renal Data System**

- Mostly evaluate patients on apixaban and dialysis
- Apixaban (n=2351)
  - 5 mg BID (n=1035)
  - 2.5 mg BID (n=1317)
- Warfarin (n=23,172)



# Rivaroxaban in Patients with CKD 3b-4

| <b>Outcomes</b>       | <b>Warfarin<br/>(TTR 67.6%)<br/>(n=100)</b>      | <b>Rivaroxaban<br/>15 mg Once Daily<br/>(n=247)</b> |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| <b>Stroke</b>         | <b>25<br/>(15 hemorrhagic)<br/>(10 ischemic)</b> | <b>0</b>  |
| <b>VTE</b>            | <b>5</b>   | <b>0</b>  |
| <b>GI bleeding</b>    | <b>8</b>   | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Minor bleeding</b> | <b>4</b>   | <b>6</b>  |

DiLullo L, et al. *J Neph* 2018;  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40620-018-0501-7>

**Mean follow up 16 ± 0.3 months**



# Case 1

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# Case

**HW is a 60-year-old man who was diagnosed with stomach cancer about 6 months ago. Today he presents with a proximal DVT in his left leg. He has normal hepatic and renal function. He would like to avoid injectable therapy.**

**Which of the following is the best treatment for HW's DVT?**

- a. Warfarin for 6 months**
- b. Apixaban 10 mg twice daily x 21 days, then 5 mg twice daily**
- c. Edoxaban 30 mg once daily**
- d. Rivaroxaban 15 mg twice daily x 21 days, then 20 mg daily**
- e. Dabigatran 150 mg twice daily**

# ACCP Antithrombotic Guideline, 10<sup>th</sup> edition (AT 10)

## AT 10 Choice of anticoagulant for long-term treatment of DVT and PE:

In patients with DVT of the leg or PE and **no cancer**, as long-term (first 3 months) anticoagulant therapy, we suggest dabigatran, rivaroxaban, apixaban, or edoxaban over VKA therapy (Grade 2B)

Remarks: Acute therapy with parenteral anticoagulation is given before dabigatran and edoxaban

In patients with DVT of the leg or PE who receive extended therapy, we suggest that there is no need to change the choice of anticoagulant after the first 3 months (Grade 2C).

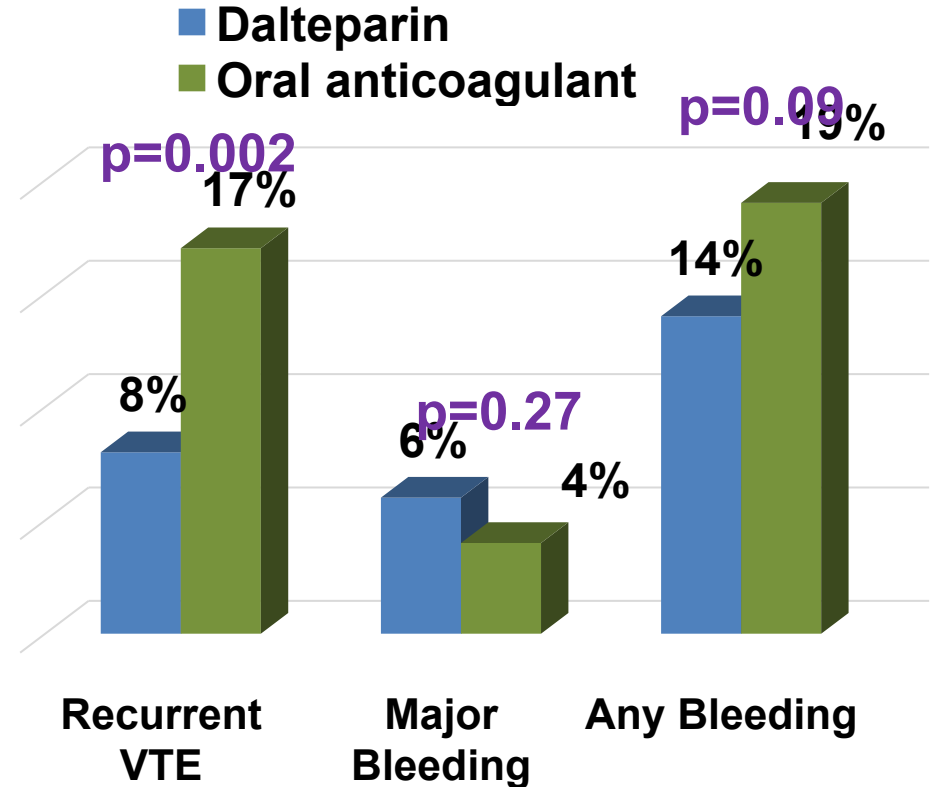
# ACCP AT 10 Guideline Statement

## AT 10 Choice of anticoagulant for long-term treatment of DVT and PE:

In patients with DVT of the leg or PE and cancer (“cancer-associated thrombosis”), as long-term (first 3 months) anticoagulant therapy, we suggest LMWH over VKA therapy (Grade 2C), dabigatran (Grade 2C), rivaroxaban (Grade 2C), apixaban (Grade 2C), or edoxaban (Grade 2C).  
Remarks: Acute therapy with parenteral anticoagulation is given before dabigatran and edoxaban. See text for factors that influence choice of therapy.

# VTE Treatment in Cancer Patients: LMWH vs. Warfarin

- Initial dalteparin dose 200 units/kg/day
- Randomized to dalteparin 150 units/kg/day or warfarin (INR 2-3)
- n = 676
- Significant reduction in VTE at 6 months with dalteparin
- Mortality: dalteparin 39% vs. dalt/warfarin 41% (p = 0.53)



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Remarks: Acute therapy with parenteral anticoagulation is given before dabigatran and edoxaban. See text for factors that influence choice of therapy.

Pages 324-325. “In patients with VTE and cancer who are not treated with LMWH, we do not have a preference for either a NOAC or VKA.” There is no preference of one NOAC over another NOAC



# DOAC VTE Trials and Dosing

- **RECOVER I and II**
  - At least 5 days of injectable anticoagulation followed by dabigatran 150 mg twice daily
- **EINSTEIN DVT and PE**
  - Rivaroxaban 15 mg twice daily for 21 days, then 20 mg daily
- **AMPLIFY**
  - Apixaban 10 mg twice daily for 7 days, then 5 mg twice daily
- **Hokusai – VTE**
  - At least 5 days of injectable anticoagulation followed by edoxaban 60 mg once daily

# Acute VTE Treatment: Clinical Trial Comparisons

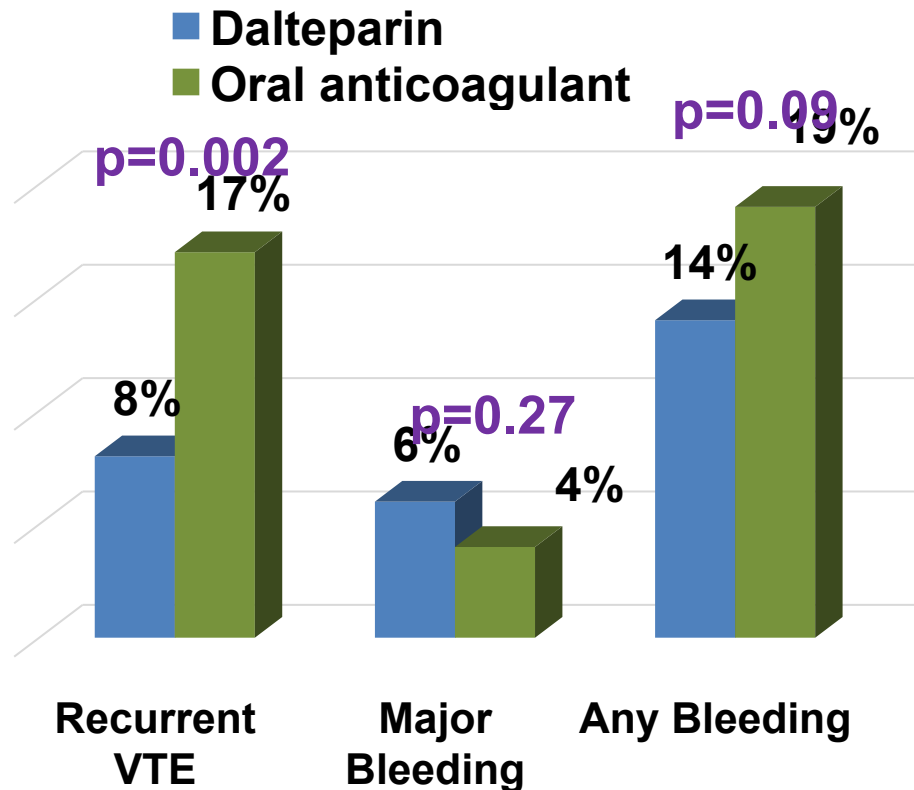
| Characteristic        | RE-COVER I | RE-COVER II | EINSTEIN – DVT | EINSTEIN – PE | AMPLIFY | Hokusai - VTE |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| Mean age (yr)         | 55         | 57          | 56             | 58            | 57      | 56            |
| Male sex (%)          | 58         | 61          | 57             | 53            | 59      | 57            |
| Weight (kg)           | 85         | 81          | 82             | 83            | 84      | 82            |
| CrCl 30-50 mL/min (%) | NR         | NR          | 6.8            | 8.2           | 5.7     | 6.6           |
| Active cancer (%)     | 4.8        | 3.9         | 6.0            | 4.6           | 2.7     | 2.5           |
| VTE history (%)       | 26         | 18          | 19             | 20            | 16      | 18            |
| DVT only (%)          | 69         | 68          | 99             | 0             | 66      | 60            |
| PE only (%)           | 21         | 23          | 0              | 75            | 25      | 30            |
| DVT + PE (%)          | 10         | 9           | 1              | 25            | 9       | 10            |

Dobesh PP et al. *Drugs*. 2014; 74:2015-32.

NR = not reported

# VTE Treatment in Cancer Patients: LMWH vs. Warfarin

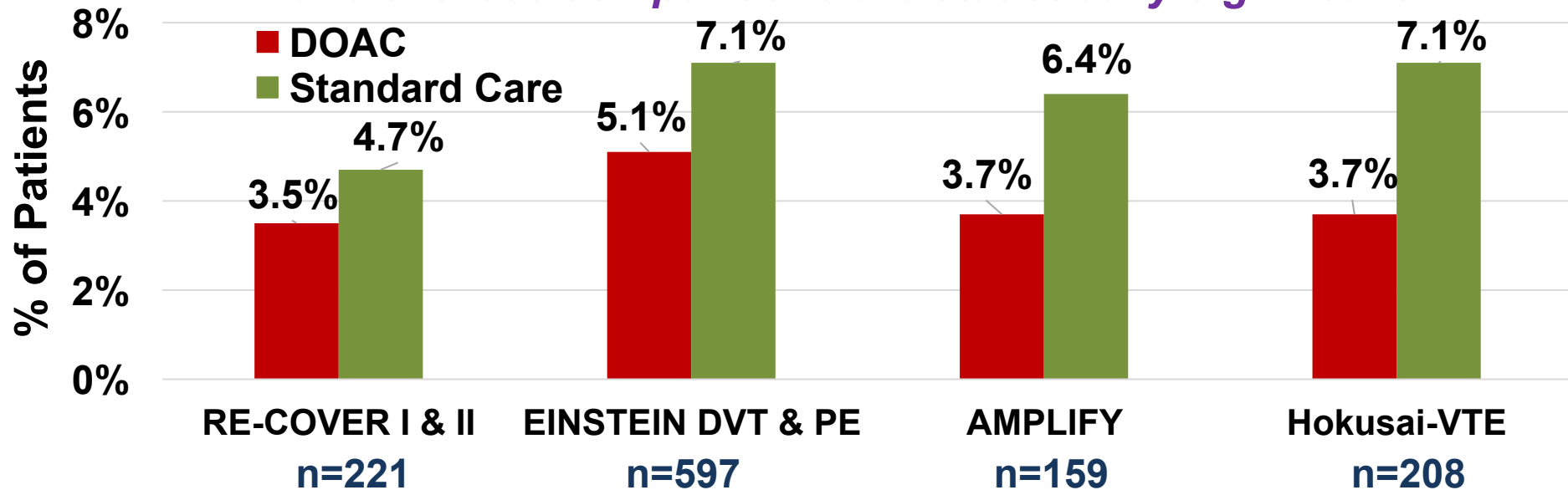
- Initial dalteparin dose 200 units/kg/day
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- **n = 676**
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# Patients with Active Cancer

## Primary Efficacy Endpoint

*None of these comparisons are statistically significant*

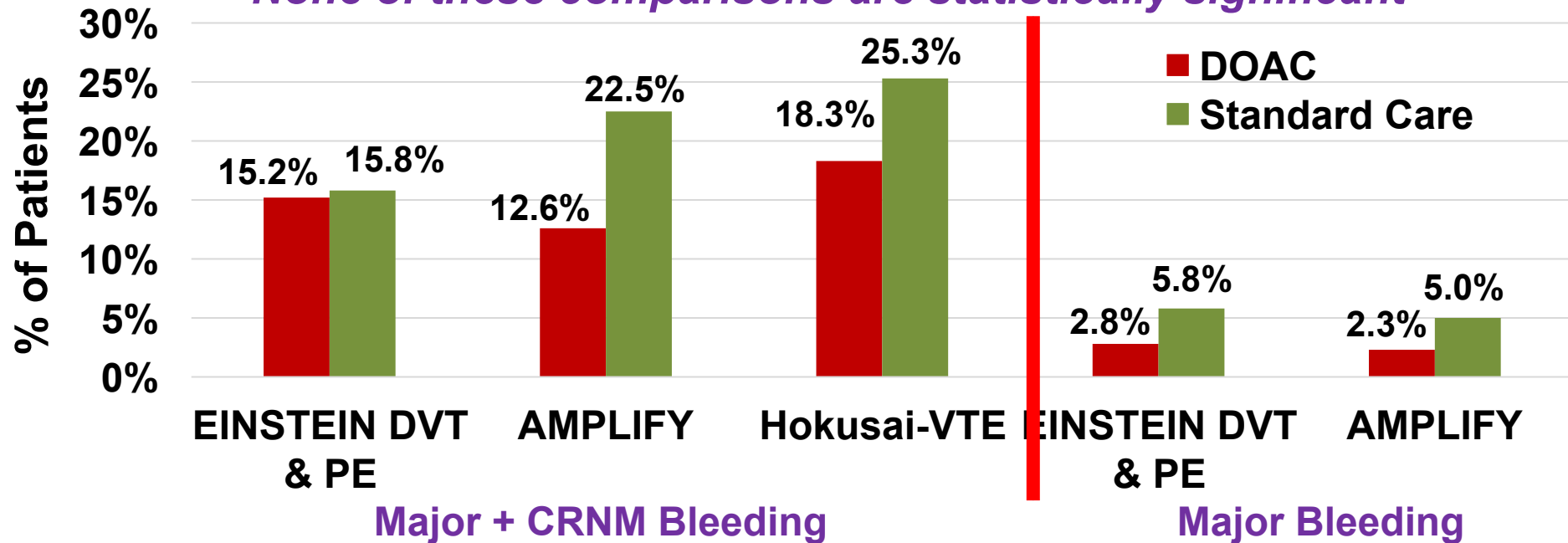


Schulman S, et al. *Circulation* 2014;129:764-772.; Prins MH, et al. *Thrombosis Journal* 2013;11.21.; Agnelli G, et al. *J Thromb Haemost* 2015;13:2187-2191.; The Hokusai-VTE Investigators. *N Engl J Med* 2013;369:1406-1415.

# Patients with Active Cancer

## Safety Endpoints

*None of these comparisons are statistically significant*



Schulman S, et al. *Circulation* 2014;129:764-772.; Prins MH, et al. *Thrombosis Journal* 2013;11:21.; Agnelli G, et al. *J Thromb Haemost* 2015;13:2187-2191.; The Hokusai-VTE Investigators. *N Engl J Med* 2013;369:1406-1415.

# Hokusia VTE Cancer Trial

Patients with active cancer presenting with symptomatic VTE or incidentally detected proximal DVT

n=1046

Dalteparin 200 IU/kg daily  
(18,000 IU max) x 30days  
Dalteparin 150 IU/kg daily  
for 6-12 months

Therapeutic dose  
LMWH x 5 days  
Edoxaban 60 mg\* daily  
for 6-12 months

Primary outcome: Recurrent symptomatic VTE + incidental proximal VTE + major bleeding at 12 months

\* 30 mg daily was use in patients with CrCl 30-50,  
weight ≤ 60kg, or with us of potent P-gp inhibitors

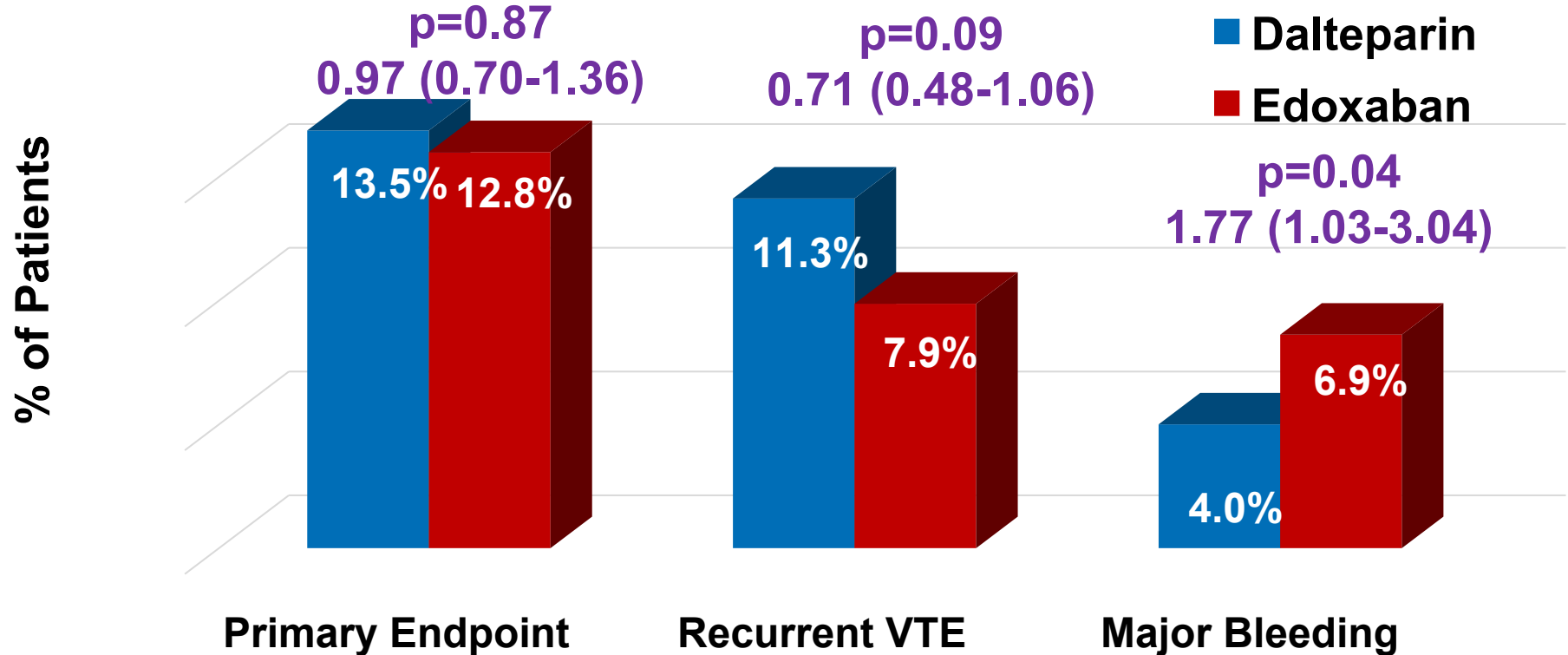
Roskob GE, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2018;378:615-624.

# Hokusai VTE Cancer Trial

| <b>Characteristic</b>                    | <b>Dalteparin<br/>(n=524)</b> | <b>Edoxaban<br/>(n=522)</b> |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Age (years)</b>                       | <b>63.7 ± 11.7</b>            | <b>64.3 ± 11.0</b>          |
| <b>Male (%)</b>                          | <b>50.2</b>                   | <b>53.1</b>                 |
| <b>Reduced dose edoxaban (%)</b>         | <b>22.3</b>                   | <b>23.4</b>                 |
| <b>CrCl 30-50 mL/min (%)</b>             | <b>6.5</b>                    | <b>7.3</b>                  |
| <b>Symptomatic VTE (%)</b>               | <b>67.0</b>                   | <b>68.0</b>                 |
| <b>Incidental VTE (%)</b>                | <b>33.0</b>                   | <b>32.0</b>                 |
| <b>Previous VTE (%)</b>                  | <b>12.0</b>                   | <b>9.4</b>                  |
| <b>Active cancer (%)</b>                 | <b>97.5</b>                   | <b>98.3</b>                 |
| <b>Metastatic cancer (%)</b>             | <b>53.4</b>                   | <b>52.5</b>                 |
| <b>Cancer treatment within 4 wks (%)</b> | <b>73.1</b>                   | <b>71.6</b>                 |

Roskob GE, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2018;378:615-624.

# Hokusai VTE Cancer Trial



Roskob GE, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2018;378:615-624.



# SELECT – D Trial

Patients with active cancer presenting with symptomatic proximal DVT or PE or incidentally detected PE

n=406

Dalteparin 200 IU/kg daily  
(18,000 IU max) x 30 days  
Dalteparin 150 IU/kg daily  
for months 2 to 6

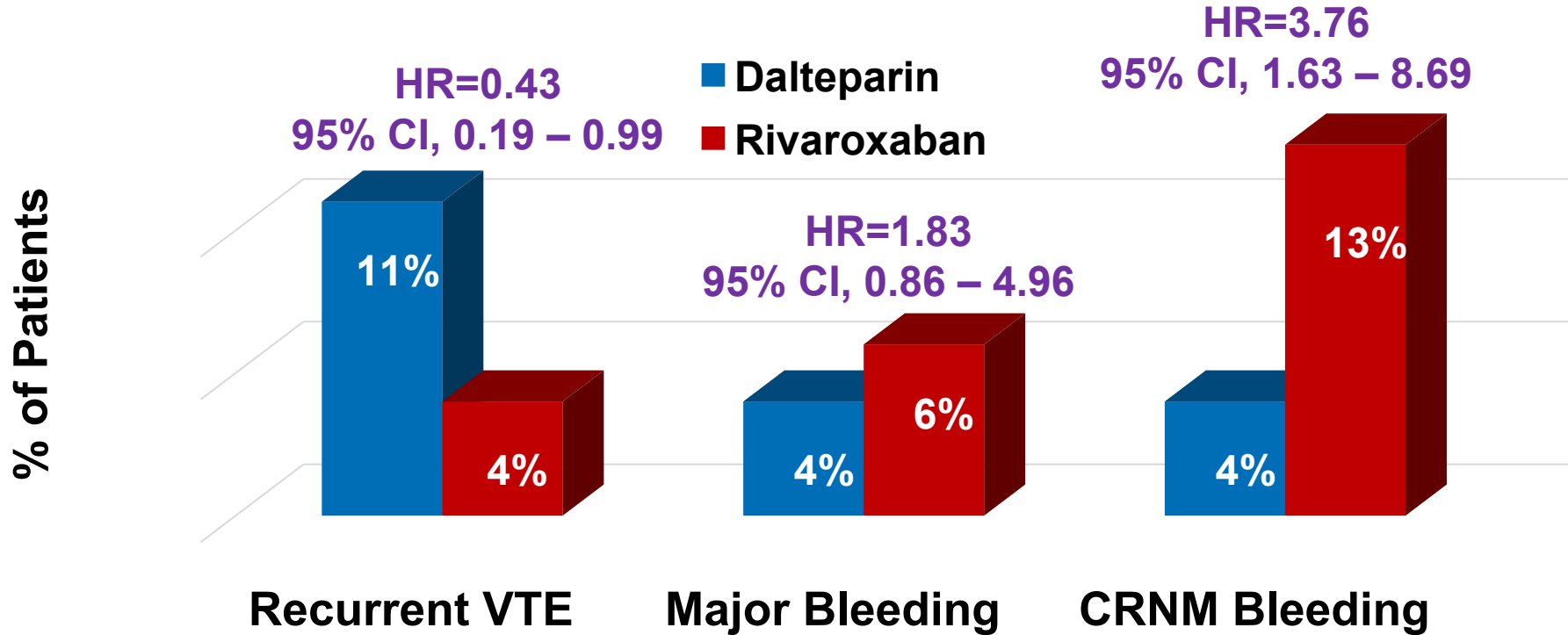
Rivaroxaban 15 mg twice  
daily x 21 days, then  
rivaroxaban 20 mg daily for  
total of 6 months

**Primary outcome:** Recurrent VTE at 6 months  
**Safety:** Major bleeding and CRNM bleeding

# SELECT – D Trial

| <b>Characteristic</b>               | <b>Dalteparin<br/>(n=203)</b> | <b>Rivaroxaban<br/>(n=203)</b> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Age (years)</b>                  | <b>67 [34-87]</b>             | <b>67 [22-87]</b>              |
| <b>Male (%)</b>                     | <b>48</b>                     | <b>57</b>                      |
| <b>Symptomatic VTE (%)</b>          | <b>48</b>                     | <b>47</b>                      |
| <b>Incidental VTE (%)</b>           | <b>52</b>                     | <b>53</b>                      |
| <b>Active cancer (%)</b>            | <b>100</b>                    | <b>100</b>                     |
| <b>Metastatic cancer (%)</b>        | <b>58</b>                     | <b>58</b>                      |
| <b>Current cancer treatment</b>     | <b>70</b>                     | <b>69</b>                      |
| <b>VTE high-risk tumor type (%)</b> | <b>84</b>                     | <b>83</b>                      |

# SELECT – D Trial



**Major bleeding inpatients with esophageal or gastroesophageal cancer:  
36% of major bleeding with rivaroxaban and 11% of dalteparin**

# DOACs in Cancer

- **DOACs vs. VKA (warfarin)**
  - Post hoc data (not randomized by presence of cancer)
  - Efficacy and safety seem to be similar
- **DOACS vs. LMWH (dalteparin)**
  - Two trials completed to date
    - **Hokusai VTE Cancer (edoxaban)**
      - Trend to better efficacy
      - significantly more major bleeding
    - **SELECT-D (rivaroxaban)**
      - Significantly better efficacy
      - Trend to more major bleeding
  - Combined data?
    - **Recurrent VTE:** 6.8% DOAC vs. 10.6% dalteparin (p=0.012) NNT=27
    - **Major bleeding:** 6.5% DOAC vs. 3.7% dalteparin (p=0.023) NNH=38
  - Role of GI cancer in bleeding?



# Case

**HW is a 60-year-old man who was diagnosed with stomach cancer about 6 months ago. Today he presents with a proximal DVT in his left leg. He has normal hepatic and renal function. He would like to avoid injectable therapy.**

**Which of the following is the best treatment for HW's DVT?**

- a. Warfarin for 6 months**
- b. Apixaban 10 mg twice daily x 21 days, then 5 mg twice daily**
- c. Edoxaban 30 mg once daily**
- d. Rivaroxaban 15 mg twice daily x 21 days, then 20 mg daily**
- e. Dabigatran 150 mg twice daily**



# Case

NT is a 45 year old female patient recovering from a hysterectomy surgery that was complicated by a post-operative infection. She is hospital day 5 and has been doing well on levofloxacin and thought she would go home today. She now demonstrates pain and swelling in her left leg. CUS confirms a proximal DVT, despite receiving UFH 5000 until three times daily. She is also receiving ranitidine and oxycodone. Her platelet count was  $130 \times 10^9/L$  upon admission and is now  $70 \times 10^9/L$ . UFH is discontinued and a SRA is sent for analysis

**Which of the following is the best treatment for NT's DVT?**

- a. Enoxaparin bridged to warfarin
- b. Argatroban bridged to warfarin
- c. Fondaparinux bridged to warfarin
- d. Rivaroxaban 15 mg twice daily x 21 days, then 20 mg daily
- e. Argatroban followed by rivaroxaban

# 4T Score Calculation

| Category                          | 2 points   | 1 point  | 0 points   |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Thrombocytopenia                  | Platelet count fall > 50% AND platelet nadir $\geq 20 \times 10^9/L$   | Platelet count fall 30%-50% OR platelet nadir $10-19 \times 10^9/L$  | Platelet count fall < 30% OR platelet nadir < $10 \times 10^9/L$ |
| Timing of platelet count fall     | Clear onset between days 5 and 10 OR platelet fall $\leq 1$ day (prior heparin exposure within 30 days)                  | Consistent with days 5-10 fall, but not clear (e.g. missing platelet counts) OR onset after day 10 or fall $\leq 1$ day (prior heparin exposure 30-100 days ago) | Platelet count fall < 4 days without recent heparin exposure     |
| Thrombosis or other sequelae      | New thrombosis (confirmed) OR skin necrosis at heparin injection sites OR acute systemic reaction after IV heparin bolus | Progressive or recurrent thrombosis OR non-necrotizing (erythematous) skin lesions OR suspected thrombosis (not proven)  | None   |
| Other causes for thrombocytopenia | None apparent  | Possible   | Definite   |

$\leq 3$  points: low probability for HIT ( $\leq 5\%$  in study,  $< 1\%$  in meta-analysis)

4-5 points: intermediate probability ( $\sim 14\%$  probability of HIT)

6-8 points: high probability ( $\sim 64\%$  probability of HIT)

# DOACs in HIT

- **Case series (n=9) in Singapore**
  - 4Ts score  $\geq 4$
  - All patients had HIT thrombosis
  - Positive IgG specific PF4/heparin complex assay or ELISA
  - Rivaroxaban as initial treatment (no fondaparinux or argatroban)
    - 15 mg twice daily x 21 days, then 20 mg daily (n=4)
    - If CrCl < 15 mL/min – initial dose was 10 mg daily (n=5)
  - All patients had platelet recovery without progression or new thrombosis
    - Mean 14 days; median 8 days
    - No bleeding or amputations
    - 6 of 9 eventually switched to warfarin



# DOACs in HIT

- **Case series (n=22) in Arizona**
  - Reduction in platelet count  $< 100 \times 10^9/L$  + recent heparin + PF4 ELISA or SRA
  - Short course argatroban (mean 32 hours), 2 hours off, then DOAC 3-6 months
    - Rivaroxaban 20 mg daily (n=11)
    - Dabigatran 150 mg twice daily (n=6)
    - Apixaban 5 mg twice daily (n=5)
  - 20/22 had lab confirmed HIT; 2/22 were solely clinical diagnosis
  - **Results**
    - Platelet recovery in all patients ( $169 \times 10^9/L \rightarrow 82 \times 10^9/L \rightarrow 188 \times 10^9/L$ )
    - 5/22 (23%) had new DVT
    - No arterial thrombosis
    - No in-hospital death
    - No bleeding or limb loss

# The Hamilton Experience

First non-heparin anticoagulant used to treat acute HIT?

## DOAC

(rivaroxaban [Hamilton study] or rivaroxaban, apixaban, edoxaban, or dabigatran [literature review])

## Non-DOAC

(at least 1 dose of fondaparinux, danapranoid, argatroban, or bivalirudin)

### Group A<sub>1</sub>

DOAC started when platelet count < 150 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L

### Group A<sub>2</sub>

Platelet count never < 150 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L

### Group B

DOAC started *before* platelet count rose to > 150 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L

### Group C

DOAC started *after* platelet count rose to > 150 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L

“Acute HIT”

“Subacute HIT”

# The Hamilton Experience

| Study author                                    | Reference | No. of patients | Group          |                |    | Median platelet count at rivaroxaban start | HIT-associated thrombosis* |      | Outcome    |     |       |   |
|---|-----------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----|--|----------------------------|------|------------|-----|-------|---|
|   |           |                 | A <sub>1</sub> | A <sub>2</sub> | B  |  | No.                        | %    | Thrombosis |     | Bleed |   |
|   |           |                 |                |                |    |  |                            |      | No.        | %   | No.   | % |
| <b>Rivaroxaban-Hamilton experience</b>          |           |                 |                |                |    |  |                            |      |            |     |       |   |
| Linkins et al                                   | 17        | 12              | 3              | 2              | 7  | 56   | 6                          |      | 1          |     | 0†    |   |
| This study                                      |           | 10              | 7              | 1              | 2  | 64   | 5                          |      | 0          |     | 0     |   |
| <b>Rivaroxaban-other (non-Hamilton) centers</b> |           |                 |                |                |    |  |                            |      |            |     |       |   |
| Kopolovic and Warkentin                         | 28        | 1               | 0              | 0              | 1  | 30   | 0                          |      | 0          |     | 0     |   |
| Ng et al, Ong et al‡                            | 29, 36    | 9               | 9              | 0              | 0  | 64   | 9                          |      | 0          |     | 0     |   |
| Sharifi et al§                                  | 30        | 9‡              | 0              | 0              | 9  | 90‡  | 4                          |      | 0          |     | 0     |   |
| Hantson et al                                   | 31        | 1               | 0              | 0              | 1  | 30   | 1                          |      | 0          |     | 0     |   |
| Abouchakra et al                                | 32        | 1               | 1              | 0              | 0  | 25   | 1                          |      | 0          |     | 0     |   |
| Sartori et al                                   | 33        | 1               | 0              | 1              | 0  | 150  | 1                          |      | 0          |     | 0     |   |
| Casan et al                                     | 34        | 1               | 0              | 0              | 1  | 48   | 1                          |      | 0          |     | 0     |   |
| Samoš et al                                     | 35        | 1               | 1              | 0              | 0  | 65   | 1                          |      | 0          |     | 0     |   |
| Summary   |           | 46              | 21             | 4              | 21 | 73   | 29/46                      | 63.0 | 1/46       | 2.2 | 0/46  | 0 |

Warkentin TE, et al. *Blood* 2017;130:1104-1113.

# The Hamilton Experience

| Study author          | Reference | No. of patients | Group          |                |           | Median platelet count at DOAC start | HIT-associated thrombosis* |             | Outcome     |            |             |          |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|----------|
|                       |           |                 | A <sub>1</sub> | A <sub>2</sub> | B         |                                     | No.                        | %           | Thrombosis  |            | Bleed       |          |
|                       |           |                 |                |                |           |                                     |                            |             | No.         | %          | No.         | %        |
| <b>Apixaban</b>       |           |                 |                |                |           |                                     |                            |             |             |            |             |          |
| Sharifi et al†        | 30        | 5               | 0              | 0              | 5         | 90‡                                 | 1                          |             | 0           |            | 0           |          |
| Larsen et al          | 37        | 1               | 1              | 0              | 0         | 112                                 | 0                          |             | 0           |            | 0           |          |
| Delgado-García et al§ | 38, 39    | 1               | 1              | 0              | 0         | 25                                  | 1                          |             | 0           |            | 0           |          |
| Kunk et al            | 40        | 5               | 0              | 0              | 5         | 111                                 | 3                          |             | 0           |            | 0           |          |
| <b>Total</b>          |           | <b>12</b>       | <b>2</b>       | <b>0</b>       | <b>10</b> | <b>90‡</b>                          | <b>5/12  </b>              | <b>41.7</b> | <b>0/12</b> | <b>0</b>   | <b>0/12</b> | <b>0</b> |
| <b>Dabigatran</b>     |           |                 |                |                |           |                                     |                            |             |             |            |             |          |
| Sharifi et al†        | 30        | 6               | 0              | 0              | 6         | 90‡                                 | 2                          |             | 0           |            | 0           |          |
| Anniccherico et al    | 41, 42    | 1               | 0              | 0              | 1         | 120                                 | 1                          |             | 0           |            | 0           |          |
| Mirdamadi§            | 43        | 1               | 1              | 0              | 0         | 32                                  | 1                          |             | 0           |            | 0           |          |
| Tardy-Poncet et al    | 44        | 1               | 0              | 0              | 1         | 56                                  | 0                          |             | 0           |            | 0           |          |
| Noel et al            | 45        | 1               | 0              | 1              | 0         | 216                                 | 1                          |             | 1¶          |            | 0           |          |
| Bircan and Alanoglu§  | 46        | 1               | 1              | 0              | 0         | 52                                  | 1                          |             | 0           |            | 0           |          |
| <b>Total</b>          |           | <b>11</b>       | <b>2</b>       | <b>1</b>       | <b>8</b>  | <b>58</b>                           | <b>6/11  </b>              | <b>54.5</b> | <b>1/11</b> | <b>9.1</b> | <b>0/11</b> | <b>0</b> |

Warkentin TE, et al. *Blood* 2017;130:1104-1113.



# Case

NT is a 45 year old female patient recovering from a hysterectomy surgery that was complicated by a post-operative infection. She is hospital day 5 and has been doing well on levofloxacin and thought she would go home today. She now demonstrates pain and swelling in her left leg. CUS confirms a proximal DVT, despite receiving UFH 5000 until three times daily. She is also receiving ranitidine and oxycodone. Her platelet count was  $130 \times 10^9/L$  upon admission and is now  $70 \times 10^9/L$ . UFH is discontinued and a SRA is sent for analysis

**Which of the following is the best treatment for NT's DVT?**

- a. Enoxaparin bridged to warfarin
- b. Argatroban bridged to warfarin
- c. Fondaparinux bridged to warfarin
- d. Rivaroxaban 15 mg twice daily x 21 days, then 20 mg daily
- e. Argatroban followed by rivaroxaban

# Case

A 54 year-old obese man (160 kg, BMI 54 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) is admitted to the hospital with a DVT, possible PE. He is initially managed with heparin. He is reluctant to take warfarin since his mother died of a hemorrhage while on warfarin. Which would you do?

- A. Advise him to take long-term LMWH
- B. Switch him to a DOAC
- C. Calculate a subcutaneous heparin dose
- D. Encourage warfarin therapy

# FDA-approved Labeling for Obesity

| Agent       | Dosing for Obesity       |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| Dabigatran  | No dosage recommendation |
| Rivaroxaban | No dosage recommendation |
| Apixaban    | No dosage recommendation |
| Edoxaban    | No dosage recommendation |

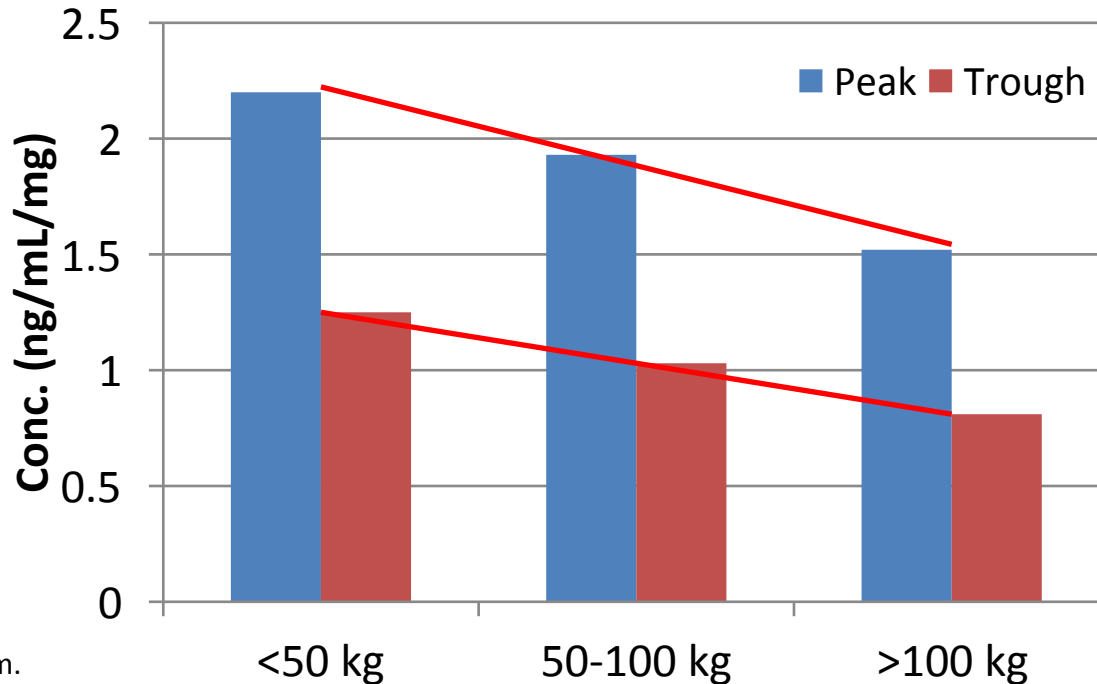
# Weights in phase III trials

| Medication  | Clinical Trial | Weight breakout      | Number (%)                          |
|-------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Dabigatran  | RE-COVER 1     | ≥ 100 kg<br>BMI ≥ 35 | 502/2539 (20)<br>306/2539 (12)      |
|             | RE-COVER 2     | > 100 kg<br>BMI > 35 | 438/1280 (34.2)<br>302/1280 (23.6)  |
|             | RE-LY          | ≥ 100 kg             | 3099/18,113 (17.1)                  |
| Rivaroxaban | EINSTEIN DVT   | > 100 kg             | 245/1731 (14.2)                     |
|             | EINSTEIN PE    | > 100 kg             | 345/2419 (14.3)                     |
|             | ROCKET-AF      | > 90 kg<br>BMI > 35  | 2035/7131 (28.5)<br>972/7131 (13.6) |
| Apixaban    | AMPLIFY        | ≥ 100 kg<br>BMI > 35 | 522/2691 (19.4)<br>349/2691 (13.0)  |
|             | ARISTOTLE      | BMI ≥ 40             | 1006/17,913 (5.6)                   |
| Edoxaban    | HOKUSAI VTE    | > 100 kg             | 611/4118 (14.8)                     |



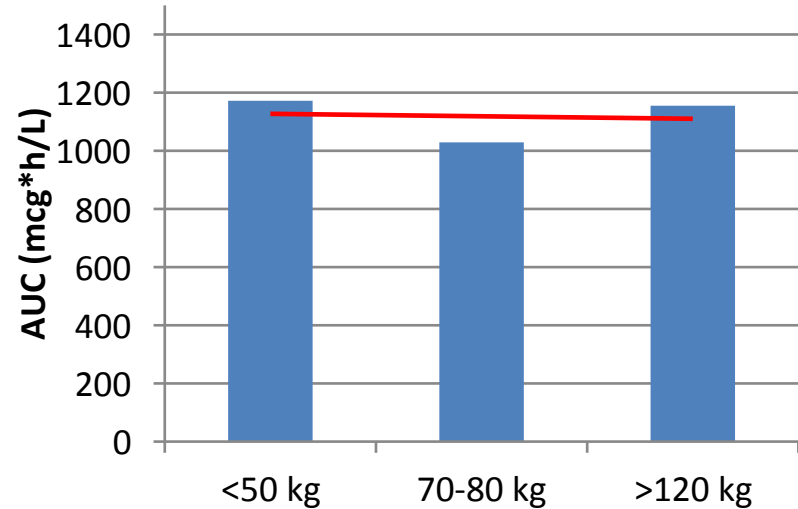
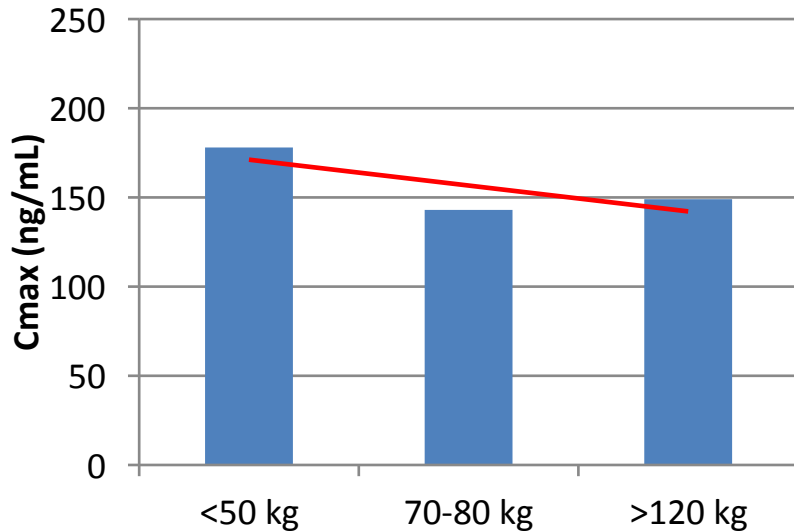
# Dabigatran

- Dose normalized plasma concentration (ng/mL/mg) of total dabigatran by body weight (kg)



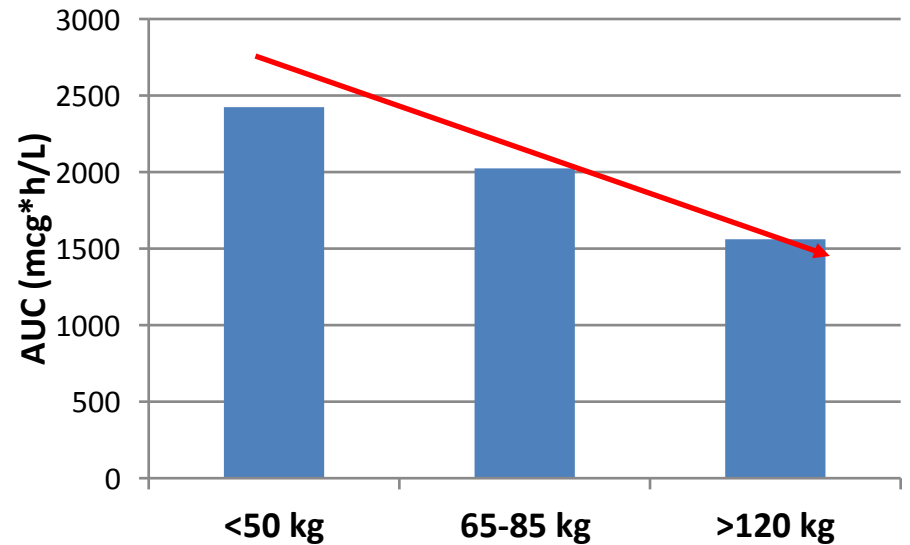
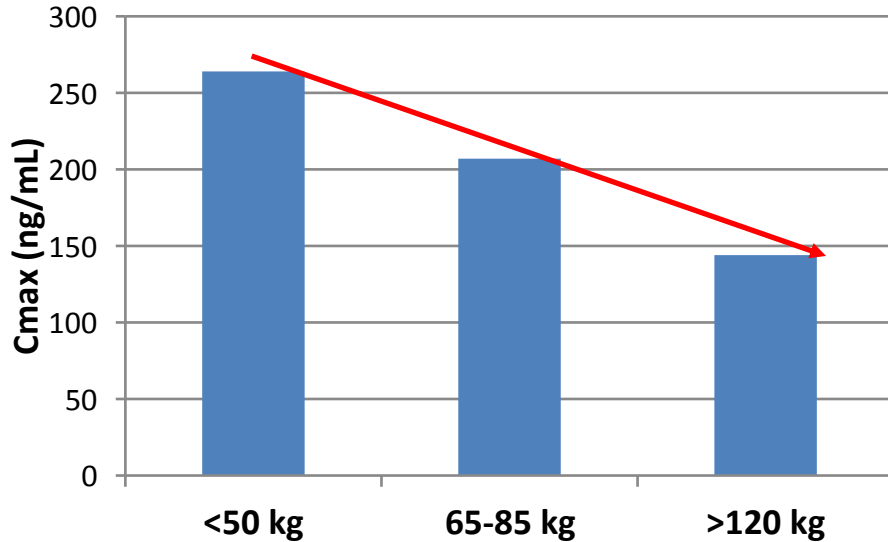
# Rivaroxaban

| <b>Rivaroxaban</b>       | <u>&lt;50 kg</u> | <u>70-80 kg</u> | <u>&gt;120 kg</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| C <sub>max</sub> (ng/mL) | 178              | 143             | 149               |
| AUC (mcg*h/L)            | 1172             | 1029            | 1155              |
| T <sub>½</sub> (hr)      | 9.6              | 7.2             | 7.3               |



# Apixaban

| Apixaban                 | <50 kg | 65-85 kg | >120 kg |
|--------------------------|--------|----------|---------|
| C <sub>max</sub> (ng/mL) | 264    | 207      | 144     |
| AUC (mcg*h/L)            | 2424   | 2024     | 1561    |
| T <sub>½</sub> (hr)      | 15.7   | 12.0     | 8.8     |



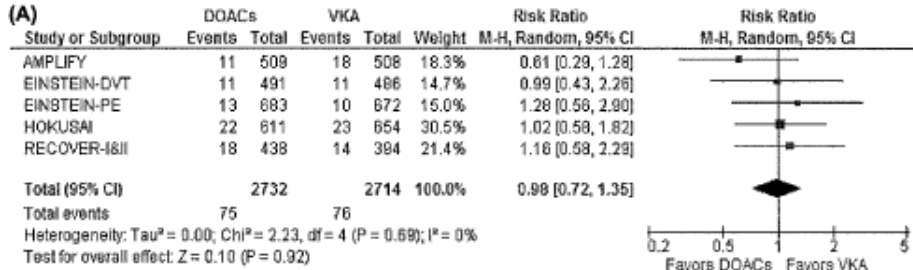
# Kinetics of DOACs in Obesity

- Dabigatran
  - Kinetics show a decrease in concentration
- Rivaroxaban
  - No significant difference in kinetic profile
- Apixaban
  - Kinetics show a decrease in concentration
- Edoxaban
  - No formal kinetic studies

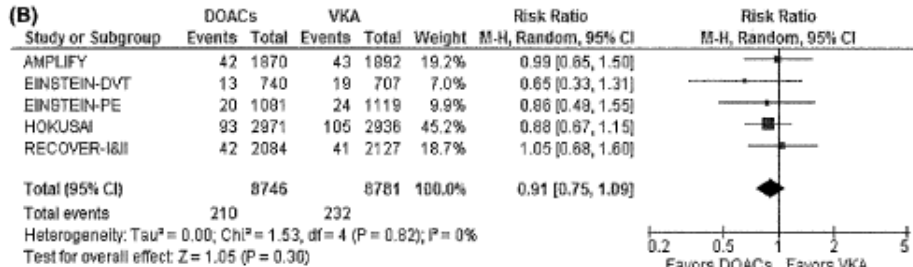
# ISTH Statement on Obesity

- We recommend appropriate standard dosing on DOACs in patients with BMI  $\leq 40$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> and  $< 120$  kg.
- We suggest that DOACs should NOT be used in patients with a BMI  $> 40$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> or a weight of  $> 120$ kg
  - Secondary to limited clinical data available for patients at the extreme of weight and the available PK/PD evidence suggests that decreased drug exposures, reduced peak concentrations and shorter half-lives occur in increasing weight, which raises concerns about underdosing
- If DOACs are used in patients with a BMI  $> 40$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> or a weight of  $> 120$ kg, we suggest checking a drug-specific peak/trough level.
  - Continue the DOAC if it falls within the expected range but change to a VKA if the drug-specific level is found to be below the expected range

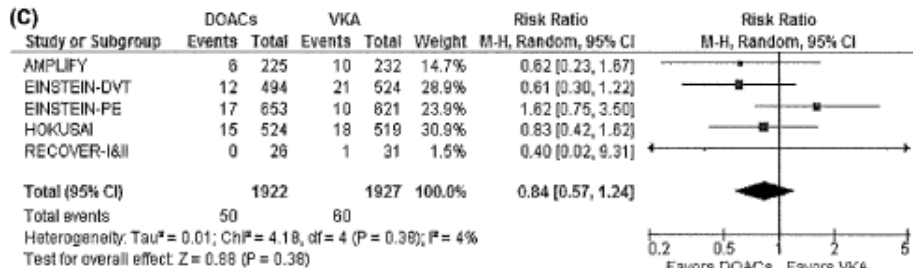
# Clinical Reviews of DOACs in Obesity



High Body Weight



Normal Body Weight



Low Body Weight

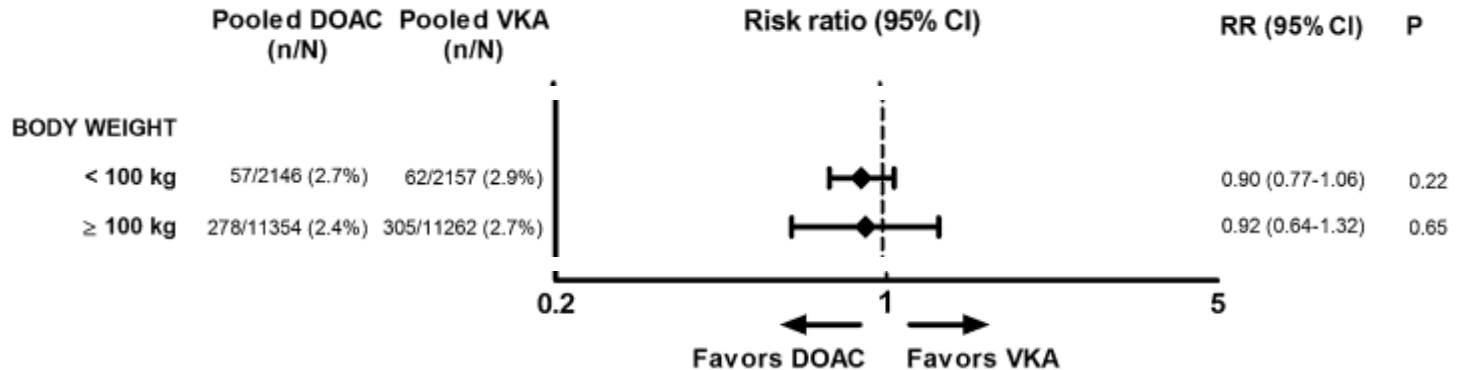
# Clinical Reviews of DOACs in Obesity

- Registry data from Germany

|                        | Events (n) | Events/100 pt. yrs (95%CI) |
|------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| BMI 30-35 (n= 731)     |            |                            |
| Effectiveness endpoint | 30         | 1.84 (1.24-2.63)           |
| ISTH major bleeding    | 34         | 2.09 (1.44-2.91)           |
| BMI 35-40 (n= 248)     |            |                            |
| Effectiveness endpoint | 9          | 1.56 (0.71-2.96)           |
| ISTH major bleeding    | 13         | 2.23 (1.19-3.81)           |
| BMI >40 (n= 98)        |            |                            |
| Effectiveness endpoint | 1          | 0.49 (0.01-2.71)           |
| ISTH major bleeding    | 7          | 3.45 (1.39-7.12)           |

# Clinical Reviews of DOACs in Obesity

- Meta-analysis of DOACs vs. VKAs in phase III VTE trials





# Case

A 54 year-old obese man (160 kg, BMI 54 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) is admitted to the hospital with a DVT, possible PE. He is initially managed with heparin. He is reluctant to take warfarin since his mother died of a hemorrhage while on warfarin. Which would you do?

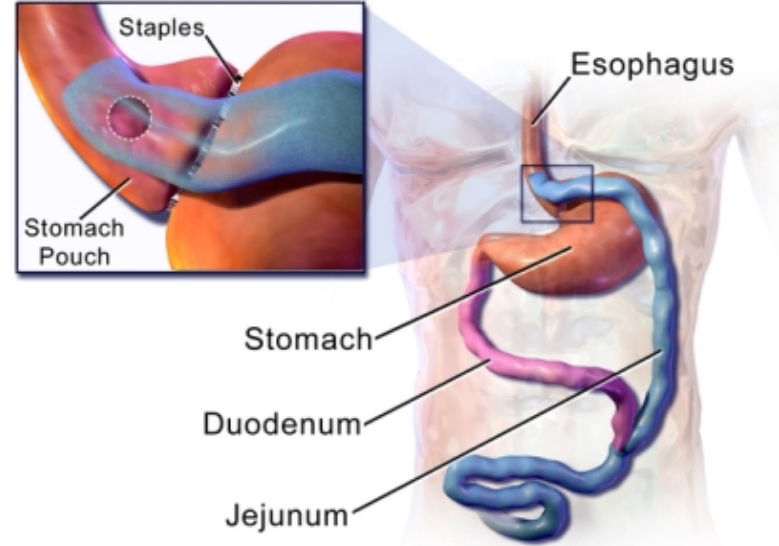
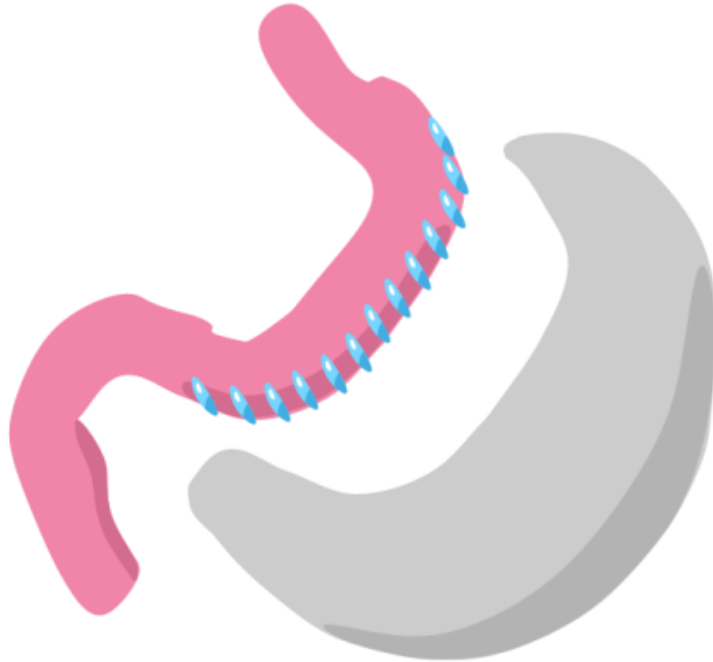
- A. Advise him to take long-term LMWH
- B. Switch him to a DOAC
- C. Calculate a subcutaneous heparin dose
- D. Encourage warfarin therapy

# Case

A 44 year-old morbidly obese woman (119 kg, BMI 41 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) is on indefinite anticoagulation with warfarin for a history of recurrent VTE. She has undergone a Roux-En-Y gastric bypass procedure 4 months ago. She lives in a rural setting and has missed numerous INR appointments and has very fluctuating INR measurements. She wants to switch to a DOAC agent. What would you advise her?

- A. Switch to apixaban
- B. Switch to dabigatran
- C. Switch to rivaroxaban
- D. Do not switch, continue warfarin
- E. Stop all anticoagulation since she has lost significant weight

# Types of gastric bypass procedures



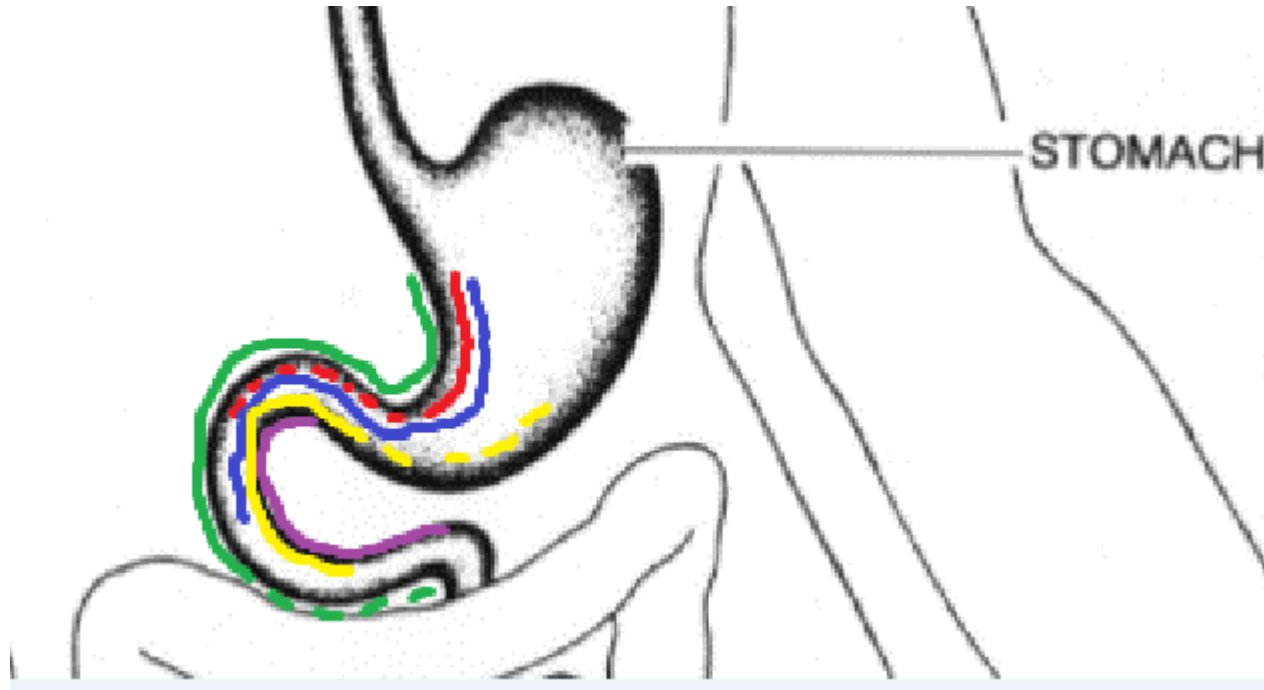
## Roux-En-Y

Blausen.com staff (2014). "[Medical gallery of Blausen Medical 2014](#)". *WikiJournal of Medicine* 1 (2). DOI:10.15347/wjm/2014.010.

# Gastric Bypass

- No prospective trials of any DOACs in patients with gastric bypass therapy
- Site of absorption
  - Dabigatran
    - Likely absorbed in lower stomach and duodenum
  - Rivaroxaban
    - Likely absorbed primarily in the stomach, less absorption in the proximal small bowel
  - Apixaban
    - Likely absorbed in the proximal small bowel, little gastric and colonic absorption
  - Edoxaban
    - Likely absorbed in the proximal small bowel

# DOAC sites of absorption



# Theorized potential of bariatric surgery on DOACs

- Reduction of rivaroxaban absorption, requires food for optimal absorption
- Reduction in gastric acid production raising pH
- Motility may be increased leading to inadequate absorption
- Surgeries that bypass the small intestine may alter enteric metabolism and efflux/influx of drugs
- Changes in Vd of drugs
- Alterations in body weight for weeks to months after procedure

# Dabigatran following bariatric surgery

- 66 y.o. male with Roux-en-Y procedure and atrial fibrillation
  - Suffered ischemic stroke while on dabigatran
  - Coags: aPTT 26 secs, PT 13.7 secs, INR 1.1
- 67 y.o. female with Roux-en-Y procedure and atrial fibrillation
  - Serum dabigatran trough was measured and was 21 ng/ml (ref 31-225 ng/mL)
  - Was also receiving pantoprazole
  - No events but transitioned to warfarin

# Rivaroxaban following bariatric surgery

- 27 year old female patient, 181 kg (BMI = 61 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)

**Table 1** Rivaroxaban plasma concentrations, INR and aPTT values at baseline and throughout the day after intake of 20 mg od

|   | Baseline | 3 h    | 6 h   | 12 h  | 24 h  | Day 2 + 3 h |
|---|----------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Rivaroxaban plasma concentrations (ng/ml) | n.a.     | 224.22 | 86.89 | 86.32 | 35.54 | 262.46      |
| INR                                       | 1.51     | 3.86   | 2.93  | 2.78  | 2.42  | 5.84        |
| aPTT (s; ULN 36 s)                        | 30       | 39     | 36    | 36    | 34    | 44          |



# Bariatric Surgery on DOAC levels

- Cross-sectional, matched cohort study
- Identified patients receiving DOACs on the bariatric units of 2 hospitals
- Post-BS group patients were matched with patients
  - Age (+/- 5 years)
  - Sex
  - BMI (+/- 2 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
  - SCr
  - DOAC agent
- DOAC levels measured at predicted peak levels and had to be at steady state

# Bariatric surgery on DOAC levels

| Drug levels        | Post-BS (n=18)      | Control (n= 18)     | P-value |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------|
| Apixaban (n= 9)    | 207 [164-271] ng/mL | 212 [126-238] ng/mL | 0.92    |
| Rivaroxaban (n= 7) | 159 [123-193] ng/mL | 249 [231-311] ng/mL | 0.02    |
| Dabigatran (n= 2)  | 144 ng/mL           | 176 ng/mL           | -       |

- 5 post-BS patients had peak DOAC levels below expected range vs. 0 in the control group (p=0.05)
  - All apixaban and dabigatran patients had levels in the expected range
  - 2/7 (28.6%) rivaroxaban patients had levels in the expected range
- Duration of DOACs was 1.7 years
  - No bleeding events in either group
  - One thrombotic event reported in the post-BS group receiving rivaroxaban

# Clinical Guidance on DOACs in gastric bypass

- Recommend warfarin as first line agent
  - Can monitor INR
- Recommend patients on DOACs prior to gastric bypass be changed to warfarin
- If DOACs are used, check drug-specific levels (peaks/troughs)
  - Change to warfarin if the levels are not in the expected ranges instead of altering DOAC dose
- Remember, weight and absorption may continue to change in these patients for weeks to months after the procedure. You likely will need to check repeat levels.

# Case

- A 44 year-old morbidly obese woman (119 kg, BMI 41 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) is on indefinite anticoagulation with warfarin for a history of recurrent VTE. She has undergone a Roux-En-Y gastric bypass procedure 4 months ago. She lives in a rural setting and has missed numerous INR appointments and has very fluctuating INR measurements. She wants to switch to a DOAC agent. What would you advise her?
  - A. Switch to apixaban
  - B. Switch to dabigatran
  - C. Switch to rivaroxaban
  - D. Do not switch, continue warfarin
  - E. Stop all anticoagulation since she has lost significant weight

## Elderly patients in clinical trials (>75 years old)

| Indication | Dabigatran | Apixaban | Rivaroxaban | Edoxaban |
|------------|------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| NVAF       | 40%        | 31%      | 38%         | 41%      |
| VTE        | 9.9%       | 13%      | 16%         | 14%      |

# Dabigatran in NVAf

| Clinical Outcome            | <75 y.o.<br>HR (95% CI)<br>N=10,855 | 75-79 y.o.<br>HR (95% CI)<br>N=4231 | 80-84 y.o.<br>HR (95% CI)<br>N=2305 | ≥ 85 y.o.<br>HR (95% CI)<br>N=722 | P-value |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Stroke/Sys Emb              | 0.63 (0.46-0.86)                    | 0.65 (0.42-1.01)                    | 0.67 (0.41-1.10)                    | 0.70 (0.31-1.57)                  | 0.996   |
| Major bleeding              | 0.70 (0.57-0.86)                    | <b>1.04 (0.81-1.35)</b>             | <b>1.41 (1.02-1.94)</b>             | <b>1.22 (0.74-2.02)</b>           | 0.001   |
| Intracranial major bleeding | 0.43 (0.25-0.74)                    | 0.23 (0.09-0.60)                    | 0.55 (0.25-1.21)                    | 0.61 (0.20-1.87)                  | 0.481   |
| Extracranial major bleeding | 0.78 (0.62-0.97)                    | 1.22 (0.93-1.61)                    | <b>1.68 (1.18-2.41)</b>             | <b>1.41 (0.80-2.49)</b>           | 0.001   |
| All-cause mortality         | 0.77 (0.64-0.93)                    | 0.82 (0.63-1.07)                    | <b>1.16 (0.87-1.55)</b>             | <b>1.15 (0.74-1.79)</b>           | 0.068   |

# Rivaroxaban in NVAF

| Clinical Outcome            | <75<br>HR (95% CI)<br>N=8007 (efficacy) | ≥ 75<br>HR (95% CI)<br>N=6164 (efficacy) | P-value |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---------|
| Stroke/Sys Emb              | 0.95 (0.76-1.19)                        | 0.80 (0.63-1.02)                         | 0.3131  |
| Major bleeding              | 0.96 (0.78-1.19)                        | 1.11 (0.92-1.34)                         | 0.3357  |
| Intracranial major bleeding | 0.54 (0.33-0.89)                        | 0.80 (0.50-1.28)                         | 0.2654  |
| GI major bleeding           | 1.5 (p=0.0136)                          | 1.69 (p=0.0002)                          | NA      |

# Apixaban in NVAF

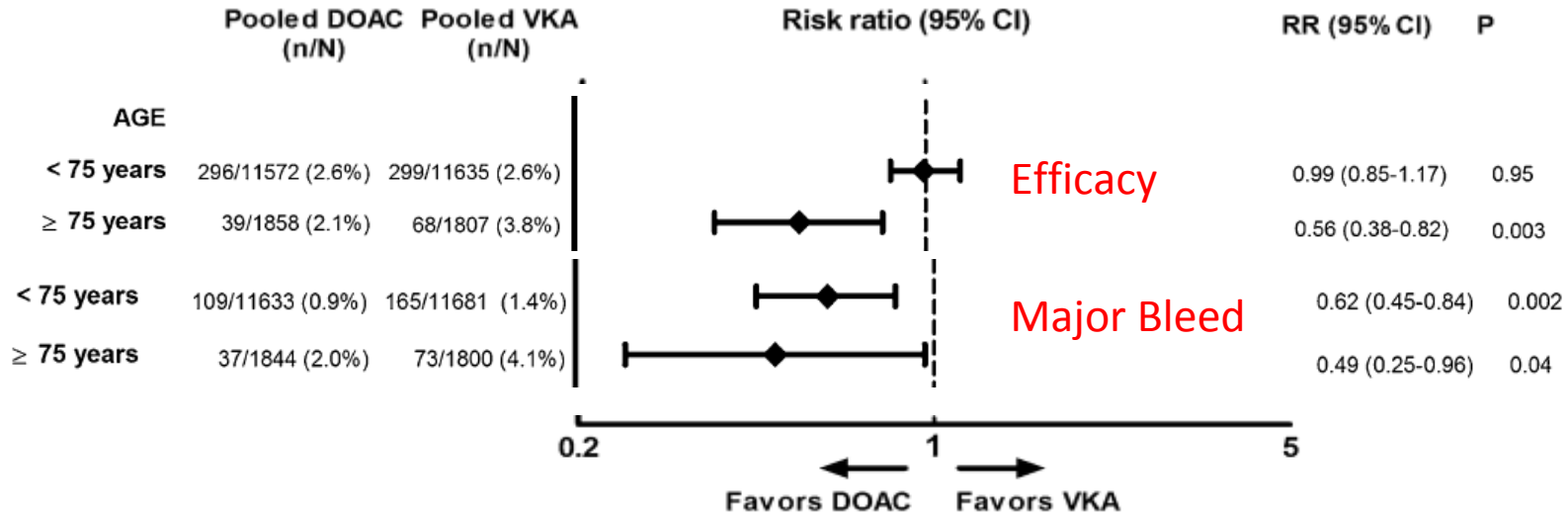
| Clinical Outcome            | <65 y.o.<br>HR (95% CI)<br>N=5417 | 65-74 y.o.<br>HR (95% CI)<br>N=7052 | ≥ 75 y.o.<br>HR (95% CI)<br>N=5678 | ≥ 80 y.o.<br>HR (95% CI)<br>N=2436 | P-value |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| Stroke/Sys Emb              | 1.16 (0.77-1.73)                  | 0.72 (0.54-0.96)                    | 0.71 (0.53-0.95)                   | 0.81 (0.51-1.29)                   | 0.11    |
| Major bleeding              | 0.78 (0.55-1.11)                  | 0.71 (0.56-0.89)                    | 0.64 (0.52-0.79)                   | 0.66 (0.48-0.9)                    | 0.63    |
| Intracranial major bleeding | 0.87 (0.43-1.74)                  | 0.35 (0.20-0.60)                    | 0.34 (0.20-0.57)                   | 0.36 (0.17-0.77)                   | 0.2     |
| Any bleeding                | 0.73 (0.65-0.81)                  | 0.70 (0.65-0.77)                    | 0.71 (0.65-0.78)                   | NA                                 | 0.94    |
| All-cause mortality         | 1.07 (0.84-1.35)                  | 0.77 (0.64-0.94)                    | 0.91 (0.77-1.07)                   | NA                                 | 0.43    |



# Edoxaban in NVAF

| Clinical Outcome            | <65 y.o.<br>HR (95% CI)<br>N=5497 | 65-74 y.o.<br>HR (95% CI)<br>N=7134 | ≥ 75 y.o.<br>HR (95% CI)<br>N=8474 | P-value |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| Stroke/Sys Emb              | 0.94 (0.65-1.37)                  | 0.89 (0.68-1.16)                    | 0.83 (0.66-1.04)                   | 0.84    |
| Major bleeding              | 0.81 (0.58-1.12)                  | 0.75 (0.60-0.94)                    | 0.83 (0.70-0.99)                   | 0.78    |
| Intracranial major bleeding | 1.03 (0.46-2.29)                  | 0.42 (0.25-0.70)                    | 0.40 (0.26-0.62)                   | 0.11    |
| GI bleeding                 | 1.03 (0.63-1.66)                  | 1.20 (0.86-1.69)                    | 1.32 (1.01-1.72)                   | 0.67    |

# Pooled analysis of DOACs vs VKA in VTE



# Assessment of bleeding risks on DOACs in octogenarians

Risk factors for bleeding in the patients treated with oral anticoagulants by a Cox proportional hazard model.

| Variable                       | HR (95%CI)       | p-value |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---------|
| BMI <18.5 (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) | 3.26 (1.65–6.50) | < 0.01  |
| BW ≤50 (kg)                    | 0.85 (0.42–1.71) | 0.64    |
| Age ≥85 (years)                | 1.14 (0.65–1.99) | 0.64    |
| HAS-BLED score ≥3              | 1.34 (0.70–2.55) | 0.38    |
| Chronic kidney disease         | 1.17 (0.66–2.08) | 0.59    |
| Hemoglobin <10.0 (ng/dl)       | 1.38 (0.78–2.45) | 0.27    |
| Use of warfarin (%)            | 0.80 (0.43–1.47) | 0.47    |
| Antiplatelet therapy (%)       | 1.32 (0.66–2.66) | 0.44    |

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ❖ Use of anticoagulants continues to be a struggle in patients with chronic renal disease, but data continues to demonstrate promising results with DOACs
- ❖ DOACs continue to demonstrate potential use in patients with malignancy and HIT
- ❖ Use of DOACs in morbidly obese patients continues to be a challenge
  - ❖ ISTH Statement preferring VKA
  - ❖ Watch total body weight >120 kg
- ❖ Use of DOACs in patients with a history of gastric bypass
  - ❖ Little evidence, check levels