

# Basic Concepts About NOACs

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شماری از شهدای راه خدمت  
و سلامت مردم ایران

# جان‌های شیفته

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**ESC**

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**POSITION PAPER**

*EHRA PRACTICAL GUIDE*

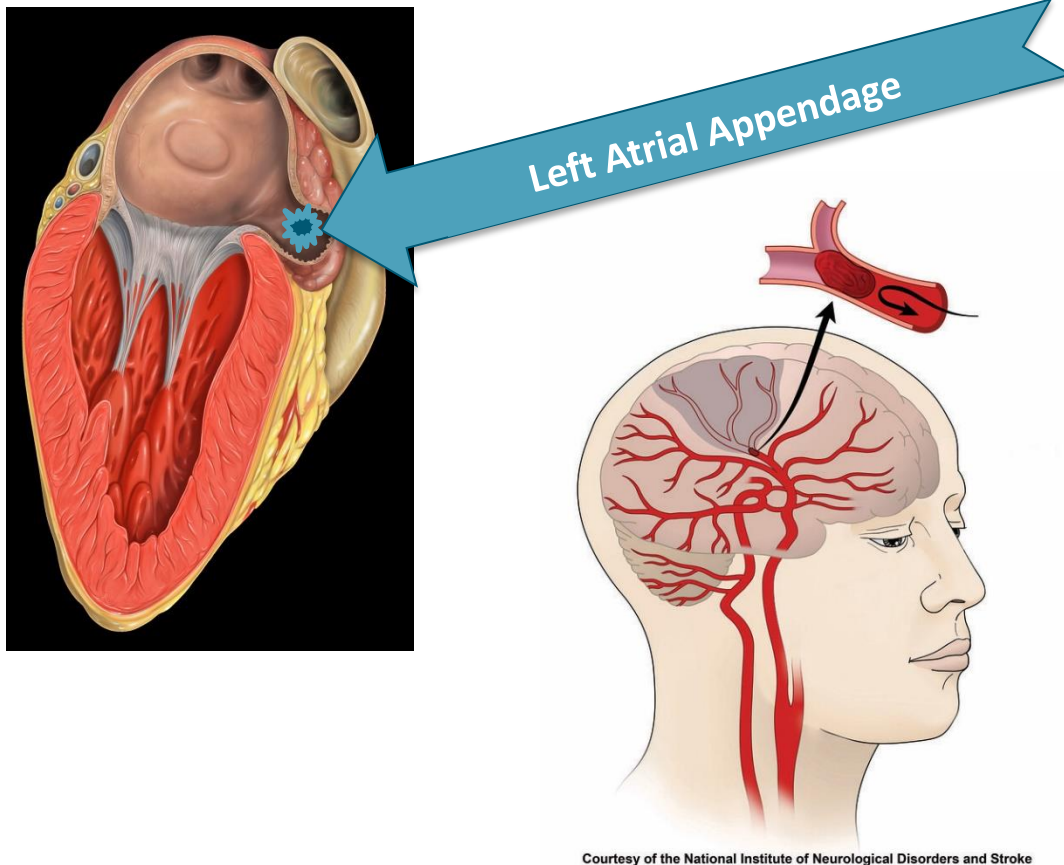
# **2021 European Heart Rhythm Association Practical Guide on the Use of Non-Vitamin K Antagonist Oral Anticoagulants in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation**

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Oana Maria Cole<sup>15,16</sup>, and Mark Field<sup>15,16</sup>**

# Atrial Fibrillation: Prevention of Stroke and Systemic Arterial Thromboembolism

- Risk of stroke increase with AF



Courtesy of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

- Most common arrhythmia in older adults; prevalence increases with age
  - 2% of people <65 yr of age have AF
  - 9% of people ≥65 yr of age have AF
  - AF prevalence in US in 2010: 2.7-6.1 million; estimated increase to 12.1 million by 2030<sup>1,2</sup>
- Associated with a 4- to 5-fold increased risk of stroke<sup>1</sup>
- 2- to 3-fold increased risk of heart failure
- 2-fold increased risk of mortality

1. CDC. [https://www.cdc.gov/dhdsdp/data\\_statistics/fact\\_sheets/fs\\_atrial\\_fibrillation.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/dhdsdp/data_statistics/fact_sheets/fs_atrial_fibrillation.htm).

2. Benjamin. Circulation. 2018;137:e67.

# Assessing Stroke and Bleeding Risk in NVAF

## CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc Score<sup>1</sup>: Quantifies Annual Stroke Risk

| CHA <sub>2</sub> DS <sub>2</sub> -VASc Condition           | Points |
|--|--------|
| CHF or LV dysfunction                                      | 1      |
| Hypertension ( <b>diagnosis regardless of BP</b> )         | 1      |
| Age ≥75 yr   | 2      |
| Diabetes mellitus  | 1      |
| Stroke, TIA, or thromboembolism                            | 2      |
| Vascular disease (defined as prior MI, PAD, aortic plaque) | 1      |
| Age 65-74 yr   | 1      |
| Sex category (female gender)                               | 1      |
| <b>Max score = 8-9 (based on age)</b>                      |        |

## HAS-BLED Score<sup>2</sup>: Predicts Annual Risk of Major Bleeding on OAC

| HAS-BLED Condition                                  | Points           |
|---|------------------|
| Hypertension <b>with SBP &gt;160 mm Hg</b>          | 1                |
| Abnormal renal or <b>liver function*</b>            | 1 point for each |
| Stroke (history of hemorrhagic/ischemic CVA or TIA) | 1                |
| Bleeding history or predisposition <sup>†</sup>     | 1                |
| Labile INR on warfarin with TTR < 60%               | 1                |
| Drugs/alcohol concomitantly <sup>‡</sup>            | 1 point for each |
| <b>Max Score =9</b>                                 |                  |

**↑ Score = ↑ Thrombotic/Bleeding Risk**

\*Abnormal renal or liver function indicated by: dialysis, renal transplant, sCr > 2.3 mg/dL; chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis, bilirubin >2 x ULN, LFTs >3 x ULN). <sup>†</sup>History of major bleed or predisposition such as anemia. Concomitant use of antiplatelets, NSAIDs; “alcohol excess” defined as >8 units/wk.

# DOAC in Renal Dysfunction

- Patients with atrial fibrillation and renal dysfunction are at an increased risk of systemic embolic events and bleeding compared with those without chronic kidney disease
  - Stroke risk **increases 7%** with every **10 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> decrease** in eGFR
- Cockcroft-Gault was used to estimate creatinine clearance in all phase III clinical trials of DOAC
  - Utilized ACTUAL body weight

# DOAC in End-Stage Renal Disease on Hemodialysis

- Apixaban and rivaroxaban can be used in patients on HD
  - Apixaban is most commonly used
- Retrospective cohort study concluded that for patients with end-stage renal disease and atrial fibrillation
  - Apixaban 5 mg twice daily vs warfarin associated with lower risk of incidence of stroke/SE (HR: 0.64;  $P = .04$ ), major bleeding (HR: 0.71;  $P = .02$ ), and death (HR: 0.63;  $P = .003$ )
  - Apixaban 2.5 mg twice daily vs warfarin associated with lower incidence of major bleeding (HR: 0.71; 95% CI: 0.56-0.91;  $P = .007$ ) but no difference in the rates of stroke/SE or death

**Bottom line:** Apixaban 2.5 mg twice daily should only be used in patients on HD with atrial fibrillation if they are  $\geq 80$  yr of age or weigh  $\leq 60$  kg

# Risk Reduction Strategies and Checklist

| Item  | Interval     | Comments   |
|---|--------------|--|
| Adherence                                   | Each visit   | Bring medications/list, counsel/educate about importance of adherence, recommend adherence aids; if necessary, consider insurance coverage |
| Thromboembolism                             | Each visit   | Has the patient had any changes to their condition (eg, TIA, stroke)?  |
| Bleeding                                    | Each visit   | Any evidence of bleeding? Does the patient know what to look for? Reinforce education and make adjustments as necessary                    |
| Adverse events                              | Each visit   | In relation to the anticoagulant, do changes need to be made?  |
| Drug interactions                           | Each visit   | Include prescription and over-the-counter medications  |
| Blood sampling                              | 6-mos/yearly | Renal and hepatic function, hemoglobin/hematocrit, platelets (if $\geq 75$ yr of age, every 6 mo)  |
|   | X-monthly    | If $\text{CrCl} \leq 60 \text{ mL/min}$ ,* recheck at interval = $\text{CrCl}/10$  |
| Manage modifiable risk factors for bleeding | Each visit   | Based on current guidelines <sup>2</sup> , control hypertension, reduce medications that can increase risk, alcohol                        |
| Reassess if anticoagulant is appropriate    | Each visit   | Is this best choice for the patient?<br>Is dose correct?   |

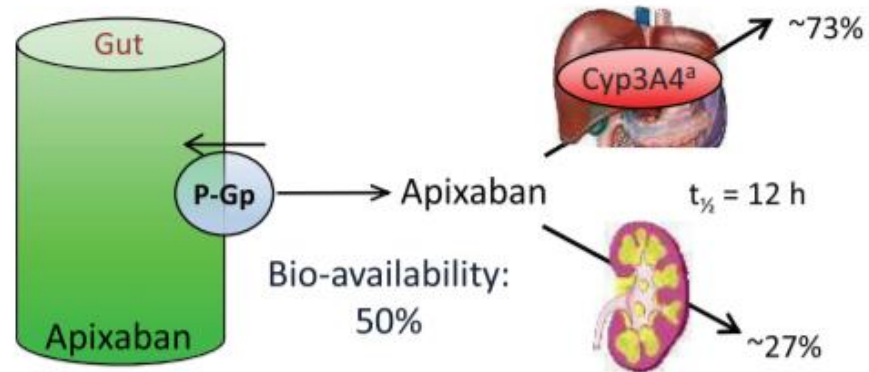
\*Cockcroft-Gault method preferred.

# DOAC Counseling Points

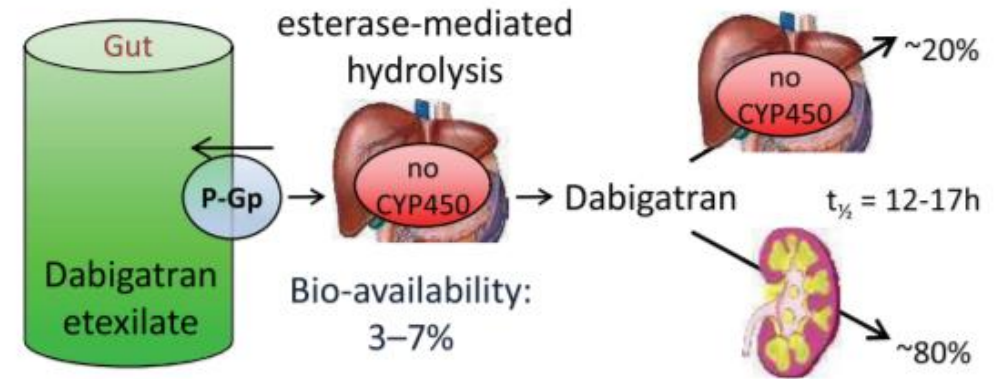
- Dabigatran is a prodrug given in an acidic core<sup>1</sup>
  - Increased risk of GI upset
- Must store in original container—NOT in pill boxes<sup>2</sup>
  - Swallow whole; do not crush
- Rivaroxaban should be given with the largest meal of the day<sup>3</sup>
  - This may NOT be the evening meal for all of our patients
  - Real-world data suggest rivaroxaban is associated with higher rate of GI bleeding
- Apixaban and rivaroxaban may be crushed for administration<sup>3</sup>

1. Ellis. Vasc Health Risk Manag. 2013;9:341 2. <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-drug-safety-communication-special-storage-and-handling-requirements-must-be-followed-pradaxa#:~:text=Tell%20patients%20that%20Pradaxa%20must,pill%20boxes%20or%20pill%20organizers>. 3. Steffel. Eur Heart J. 2018;39:1330.

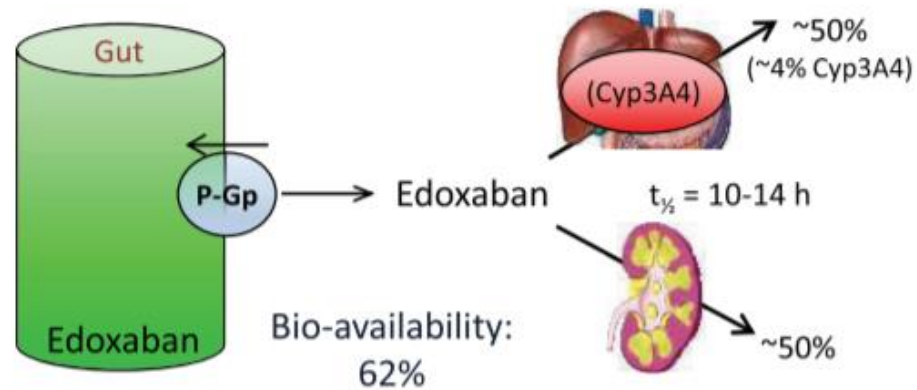
## Apixaban



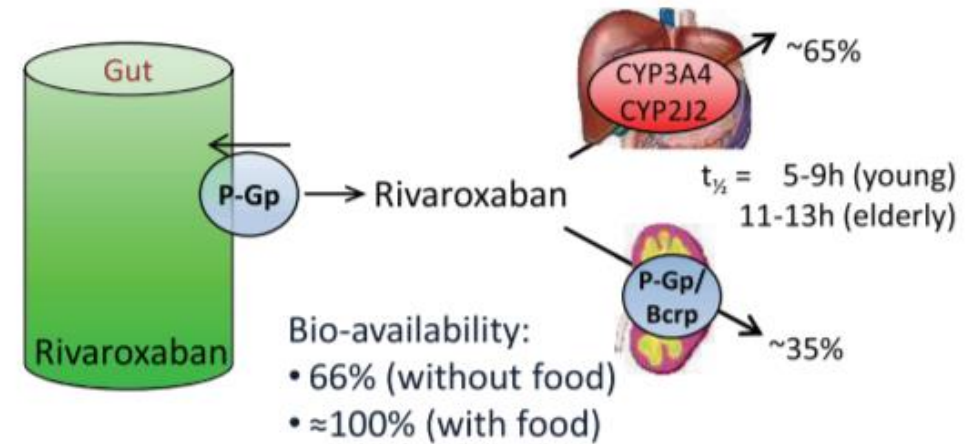
## Dabigatran



## Edoxaban



## Rivaroxaban



# Clinical Implications

Dabigatran = low oral bioavailability

- ⑩ Potential PPI drug–drug interaction (decreased average drug exposure by ~20%-25%)
- ⑩ Increases the risk of GI upset and dyspepsia

Rivaroxaban bioavailability ↑ with food

- ⑩ Take with the largest meal of the day

Edoxaban efficacy decreases with high renal function

- ⑩ For atrial fibrillation, do not use with CrCl >95 mL/min

Apixaban and rivaroxaban have the lowest renal excretion

- ⑩ Safest for use in hemodialysis patients

# Drug–Drug Interactions

## ■ Pharmacokinetic

- All DOACs are P-gp substrates
- Apixaban and rivaroxaban are CYP3A4 substrates
- DOACs interact with strong inhibitors (↑ DOAC level) or inducers (↓ DOAC level) of CYP3A4 and/or P-gp
  - **Enzyme inhibitors: consider a reduced dose of the DOAC**
  - **Enzyme inducers: avoid use of DOACs**

## ■ Pharmacodynamic

- Medications that increase the risk for bleeding
- Antiplatelet drugs, NSAIDs, systemic steroid therapy, other anticoagulants

# Drug–Drug Interactions

| Strong P-gp and/or CYP3A4 Inhibitors  | Strong P-gp and/or CYP3A4 Inducers |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Amiodarone                            | Carbamazepine                      |
| Clarithromycin/erythromycin           | Levetiracetam                      |
| Diltiazem/verapamil                   | Phenytoin/phenobarbital            |
| Dronedarone                           | Rifampin                           |
| Cyclosporine/tacrolimus <sup>1</sup>  | St John's wort                     |
| Fluconazole/ketoconazole/itraconazole |                                    |
| HIV protease inhibitors*              |                                    |
| Anticancer agents*                    |                                    |

\*Several agents within these drug classes interact; see Steffel et al for details.

## Interactions of drugs used in the treatment of COVID-19

|                           | Via   | Dabigatran<br>etexilate         | Apixaban                        | Edoxaban                        | Rivaroxaban                     |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Azithromycin              | P-gp inhibition   | No PK data                      | No PK data                      | No PK data                      | No PK data                      |
| Atazanavir                | CYP3A4 inhibition   | No PK data                      | No PK data<br>Consider avoiding | No PK data                      | No PK data<br>Consider avoiding |
| Lopinavir / Ritonavir     | P-gp and BCRP inhibition or<br>induction; CYP3A4 inhibition | No PK data<br>Consider avoiding | No PK data                      | No PK data<br>Consider avoiding | +153%<br>(ritonavir)            |
| Darunavir /<br>Cobicistat | CYP3A4 inhibition, P-gp and<br>BCRP inhibition              |                                 |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| Ribavirin                 | --  | No information retrievable      |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| Remdesivir                | --  | No information retrievable      |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| Favipiravir               | --  | No information retrievable      |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| Bevacizumab               | --  |                                 |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| Eculizumab                | --  |                                 |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| Tocilizumab               | --  | No information retrievable      |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| Fingolimod                | --  |                                 |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| Interferon                | --  |                                 |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| Pirfenidone               | --  |                                 |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| Methylprednisolone        | --  |                                 |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| Nitazoxanide              | --  | No information retrievable      |                                 |                                 |                                 |

## Measurements of **NOAC** plasma levels

NOACs are designed to provide reliable PK/PD

Unmonitored use of NOAC is as effective / safer than well-monitored VKA

Measurement of NOAC plasma levels has *not* been shown to further improve risk/benefit of OAC

measurement of plasma levels is *not recommended* for the routine management of NOACs

## Expected plasma levels of NOACs in patients treated for AF

|                      | Dabigatran | Apixaban | Edoxaban | Rivaroxaban |
|----------------------|------------|----------|----------|-------------|
| <b>Peak</b> levels   | 52-383     | 69-321   | 101-288  | 178-343     |
| <b>Trough</b> levels | 28-215     | 34-230   | 12-43    | 12 - 137    |

[ng/ml] ; Dabigatran: 10-90% percentiles, FXa inhibitors: 5-95% percentiles

Consider plasma level measurements in case of:

- Severe or life-threatening bleeding
- Emergency operation (or high-risk elective operation)
- Ischemic stroke on NOAC
- Special situations, e.g.
  - Multiple drug-drug interactions
  - Extremes of bodyweight
  - CKD stage 4 / 5

**Only in centers with experience in determination and interpretation of NOAC plasma levels**

**Vast majority of patients: NO necessity for plasma level measurements**

## Prevention and management of bleeding

anticoagulation saves lives and prevents disability

anticoagulation increases risk of bleeding

NOACs < well-controlled VKA < poorly controlled VKA

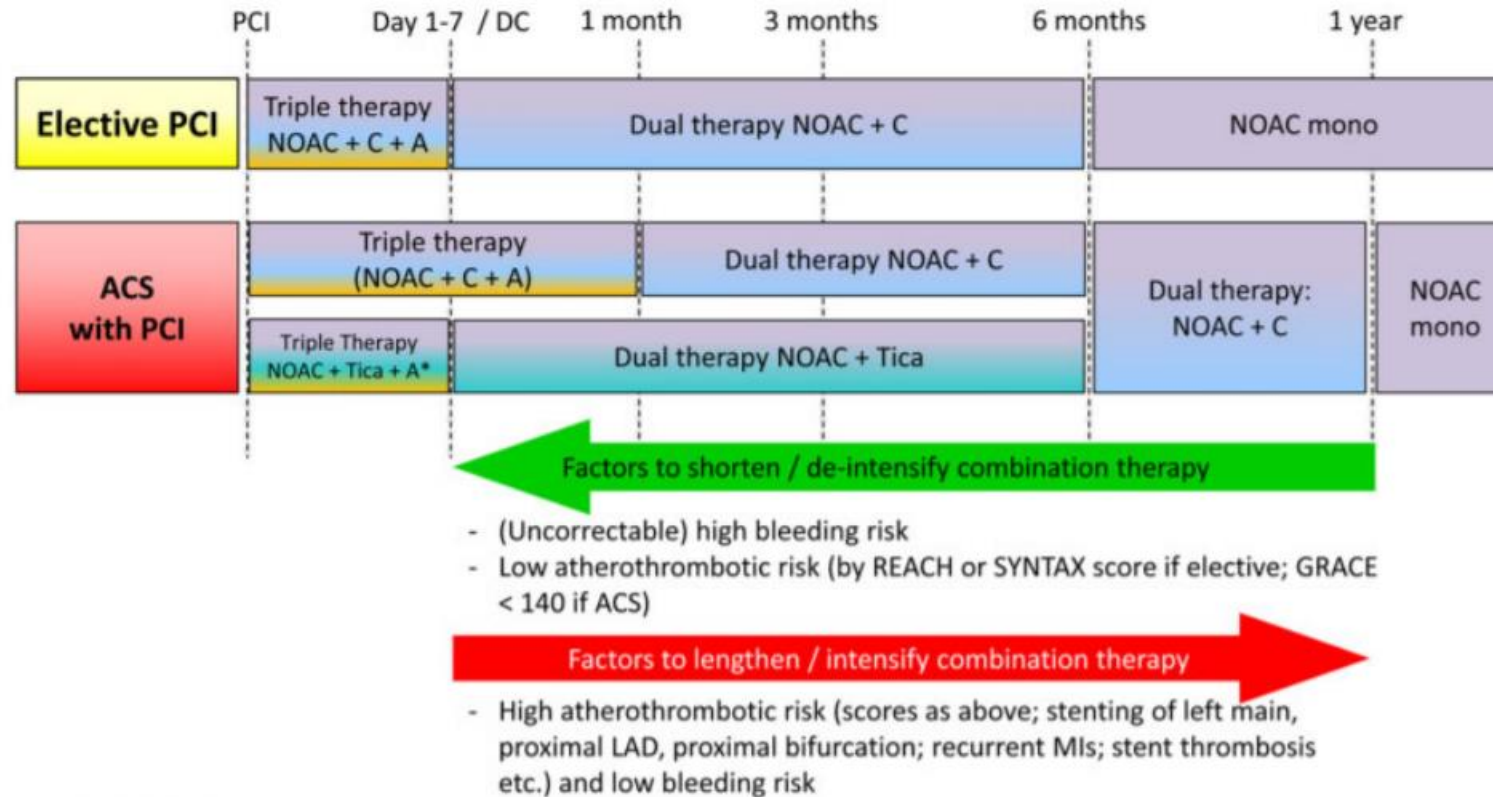
prevention and treatment of bleeding are **crucial to optimize the benefit of anticoagulation**

**Table I** Selected indications and contraindications for NOAC therapy in AF patients

| Condition  | Eligibility for NOAC                      | Comment  |
|--|---|--|
| Mechanical prosthetic valve  | Contraindicated                           | Excluded from pivotal RCTs<br>Data indicating worse outcome <sup>15,16</sup>   |
| Moderate to severe mitral stenosis (usually rheumatic)   | Contraindicated                           | Excluded from pivotal RCTs<br>Little rationale for less efficacy and safety vs. VKA  |
| Other mild to moderate valvular disease<br>(e.g. degenerative aortic stenosis, mitral regurgitation etc.)<br>Bioprosthetic valve/valve repair<br>(after >3 months postoperative) | Included in NOAC trials<br><br>Acceptable | Data regarding efficacy and safety overall consistent with patients without valvular heart disease <sup>12,17–22</sup><br>Some data from NOAC RCTs<br>Single RCT indicating non-inferiority to VKA <sup>24</sup><br>Patients without AF usually on ASA after 3–6 months post-surgery, hence NOAC therapy acceptable for stroke prevention if diagnosed with AF |
| Severe aortic stenosis   | Limited data<br>(excluded in RE-LY)       | No pathophysiological rationale for less efficacy and safety Most will undergo intervention  |
| Transcatheter aortic valve implantation  | Acceptable                                | Single RCT + observational data<br>May require combination with APT <sup>25,26</sup>   |
| Percutaneous transluminal aortic valvuloplasty   | With caution                              | No prospective data<br>May require combination with APT  |
| Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy  | Acceptable                                | No rationale for less efficacy and safety vs. VKA<br>Observational data positive for NOACs <sup>33–36</sup>  |

Hatched, limited data; See text for details.

AF, atrial fibrillation; NOAC, non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulant; RCT, randomized clinical trial; VKA, vitamin K antagonist.



#### In all patients:

- Avoid use of BMS / first generation DES
- Use PPI if on triple / dual therapy
- Minimize bleeding risk by assessing and treating modifiable bleeding risk factors (e.g., hypertension, etc.)
- Close follow-up; check for signs of (occult) bleeding

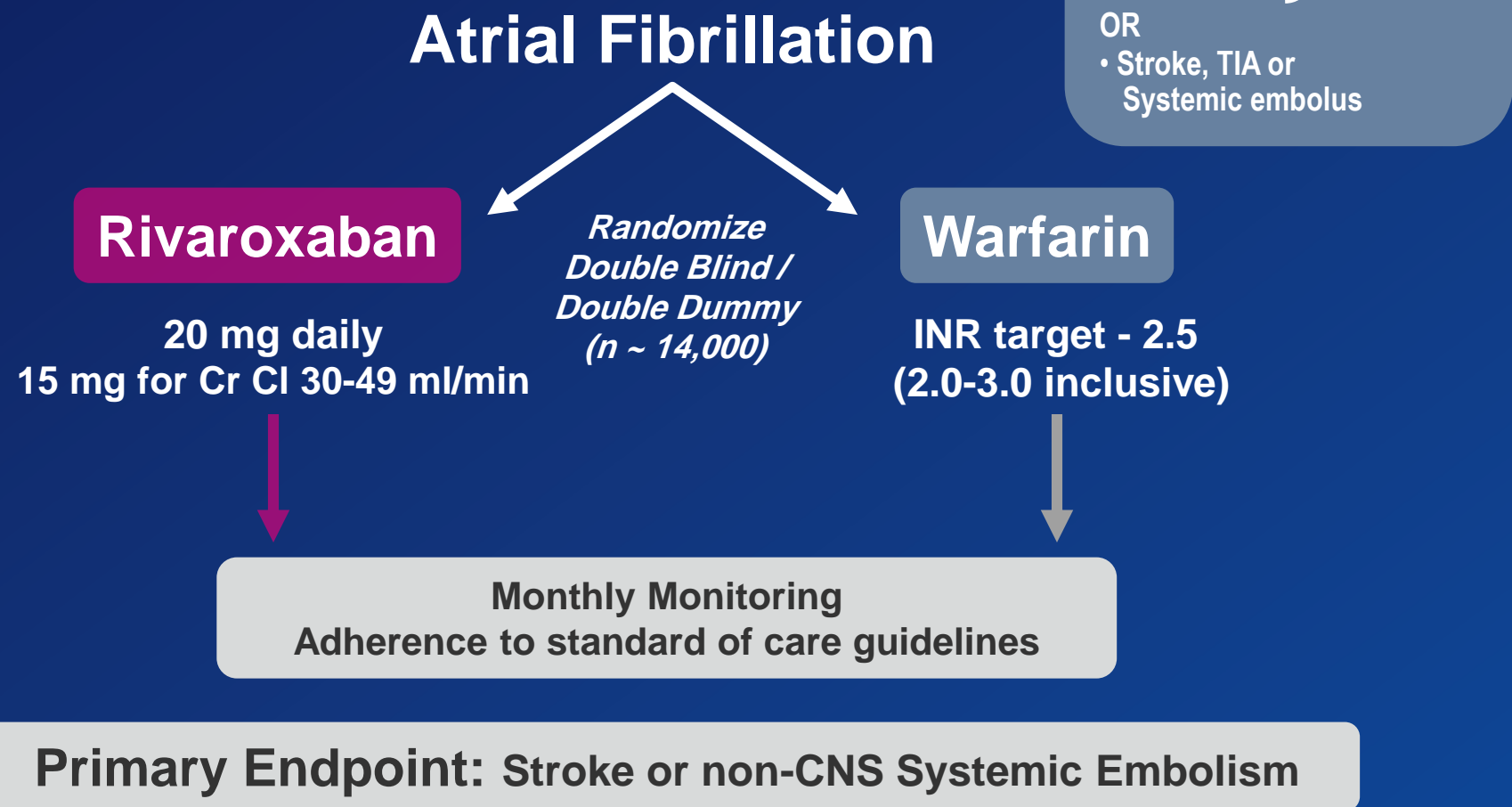
**Rivaroxaban** Once-daily oral direct factor Xa inhibition  
Compared with vitamin K antagonism for prevention  
of stroke and Embolism Trial in Atrial Fibrillation



**Kenneth W. Mahaffey, MD and Keith AA Fox, MB ChB**

**on behalf of the ROCKET AF Investigators**

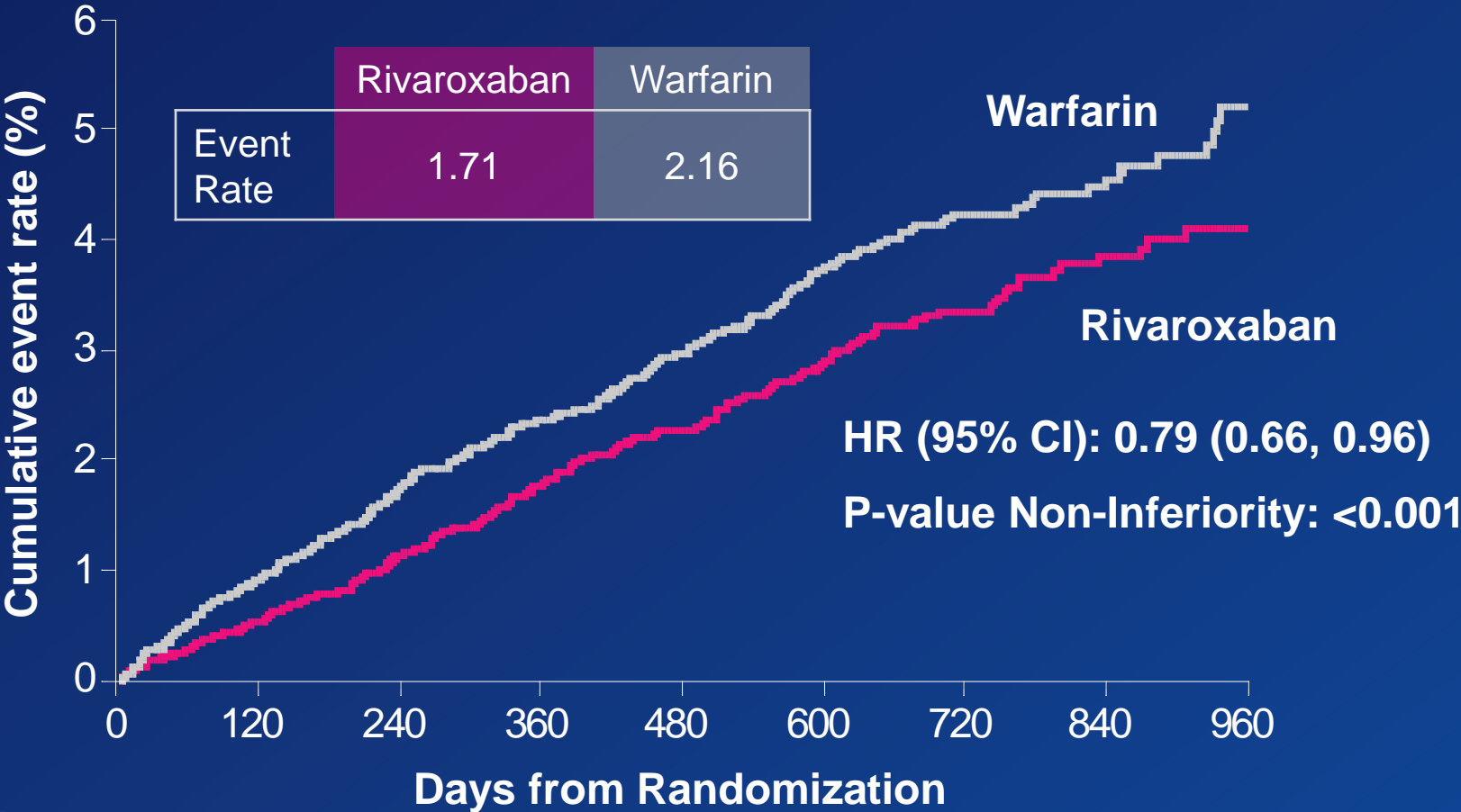
# Study Design



\* Enrollment of patients without prior Stroke, TIA or systemic embolism and only 2 factors capped at 10%

# Primary Efficacy Outcome

## Stroke and non-CNS Embolism



No. at risk:

|             |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| Rivaroxaban | 6958 | 6211 | 5786 | 5468 | 4406 | 3407 | 2472 | 1496 | 634 |
| Warfarin    | 7004 | 6327 | 5911 | 5542 | 4461 | 3478 | 2539 | 1538 | 655 |

Event Rates are per 100 patient-years  
Based on Protocol Compliant on Treatment Population

# Summary

## ► Efficacy:

- Rivaroxaban was non-inferior to warfarin for prevention of stroke and non-CNS embolism.
- Rivaroxaban was superior to warfarin while patients were taking study drug.
- By intention-to-treat, rivaroxaban was non-inferior to warfarin but did not achieve superiority.

## ► Safety:

- Similar rates of bleeding and adverse events.
- Less ICH and fatal bleeding with rivaroxaban.

## ► Conclusion:

- Rivaroxaban is a proven alternative to warfarin for moderate or high risk patients with AF.



ARISTOTLE™

# Apixaban versus Warfarin in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation

## Results of the ARISTOTLE Trial

Presented on behalf of the ARISTOTLE Investigators  
and Committees

*Sponsored by Bristol-Myers Squibb and Pfizer*



**Duke** Clinical Research Institute

UCR  
UPPSALA CLINICAL  
RESEARCH CENTER

# Atrial Fibrillation with at Least One Additional Risk Factor for Stroke



## Inclusion risk factors

- Age  $\geq 75$  years
- Prior stroke, TIA, or SE
- HF or LVEF  $\leq 40\%$
- Diabetes mellitus
- Hypertension

***Randomize***  
***double blind,***  
***double dummy***  
***(n = 18,201)***

## Major exclusion criteria

- Mechanical prosthetic valve
- Severe renal insufficiency
- Need for aspirin plus thienopyridine

**Apixaban 5 mg oral twice daily**  
**(2.5 mg BID in selected patients)**

**Warfarin**  
**(target INR 2-3)**

Warfarin/warfarin placebo adjusted by INR/sham INR  
based on encrypted point-of-care testing device

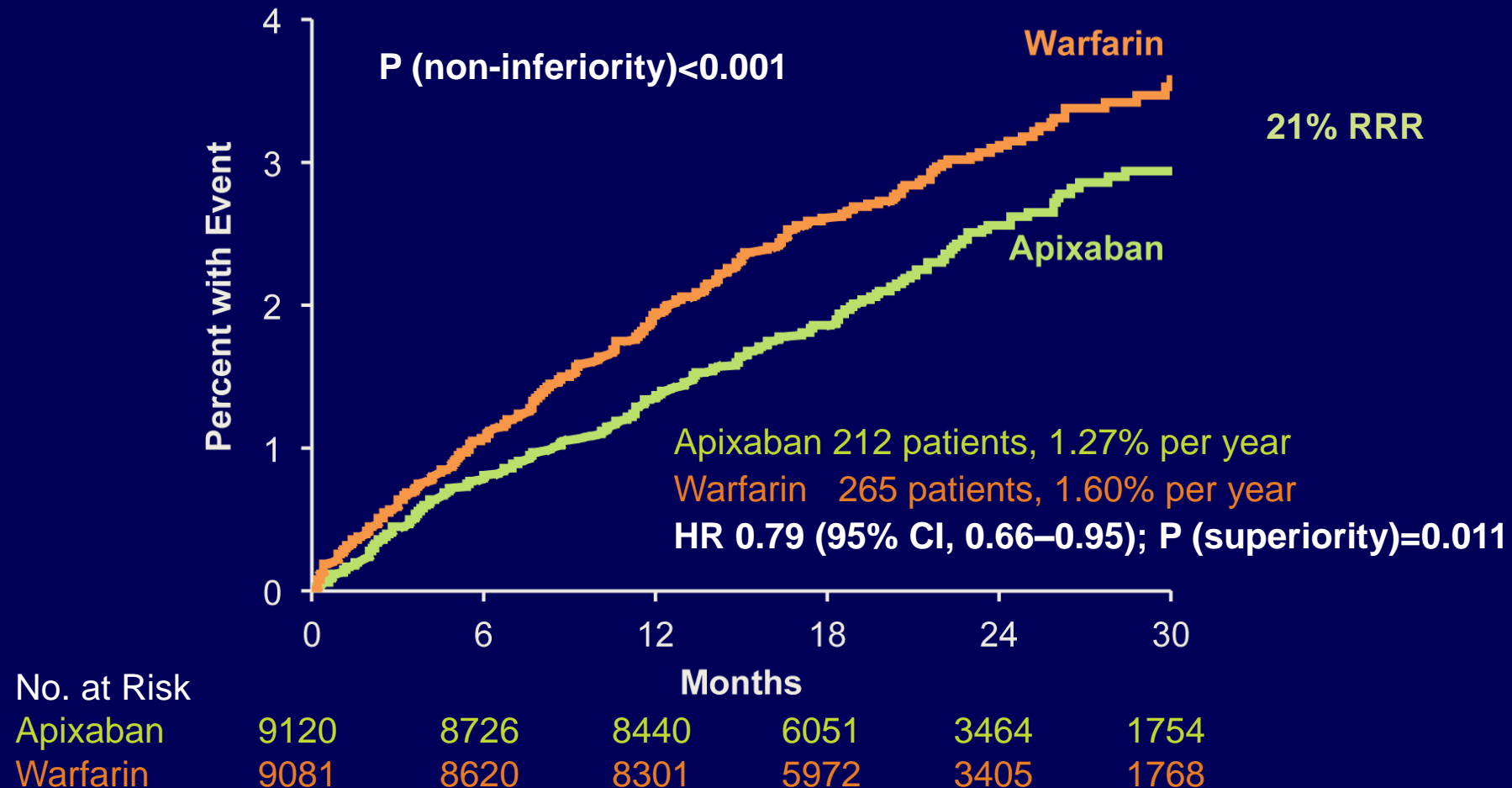
**Primary outcome: stroke or systemic embolism**

***Hierarchical testing: non-inferiority for primary outcome, superiority for primary outcome, major bleeding, death***



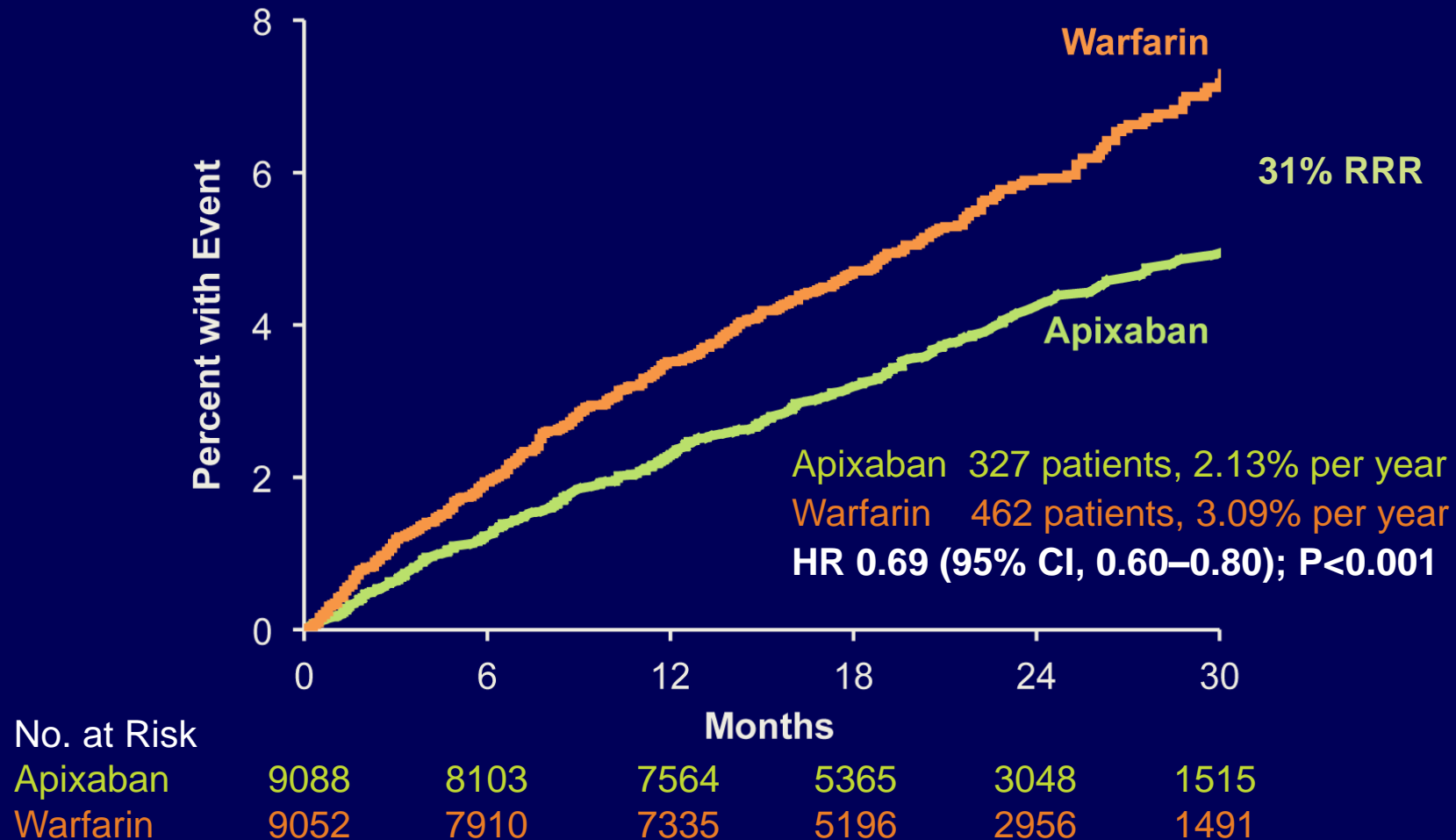
# Primary Outcome

Stroke (ischemic or hemorrhagic) or systemic embolism



# Major Bleeding

ISTH definition



Treatment with apixaban as compared to warfarin in patients with AF and at least one additional risk factor for stroke:

- Reduces stroke and systemic embolism by 21% ( $p=0.01$ )
- Reduces major bleeding by 31% ( $p<0.001$ )
- Reduces mortality by 11% ( $p=0.047$ )

with consistent effects across all major subgroups and with fewer study drug discontinuations on apixaban than on warfarin, consistent with good tolerability.

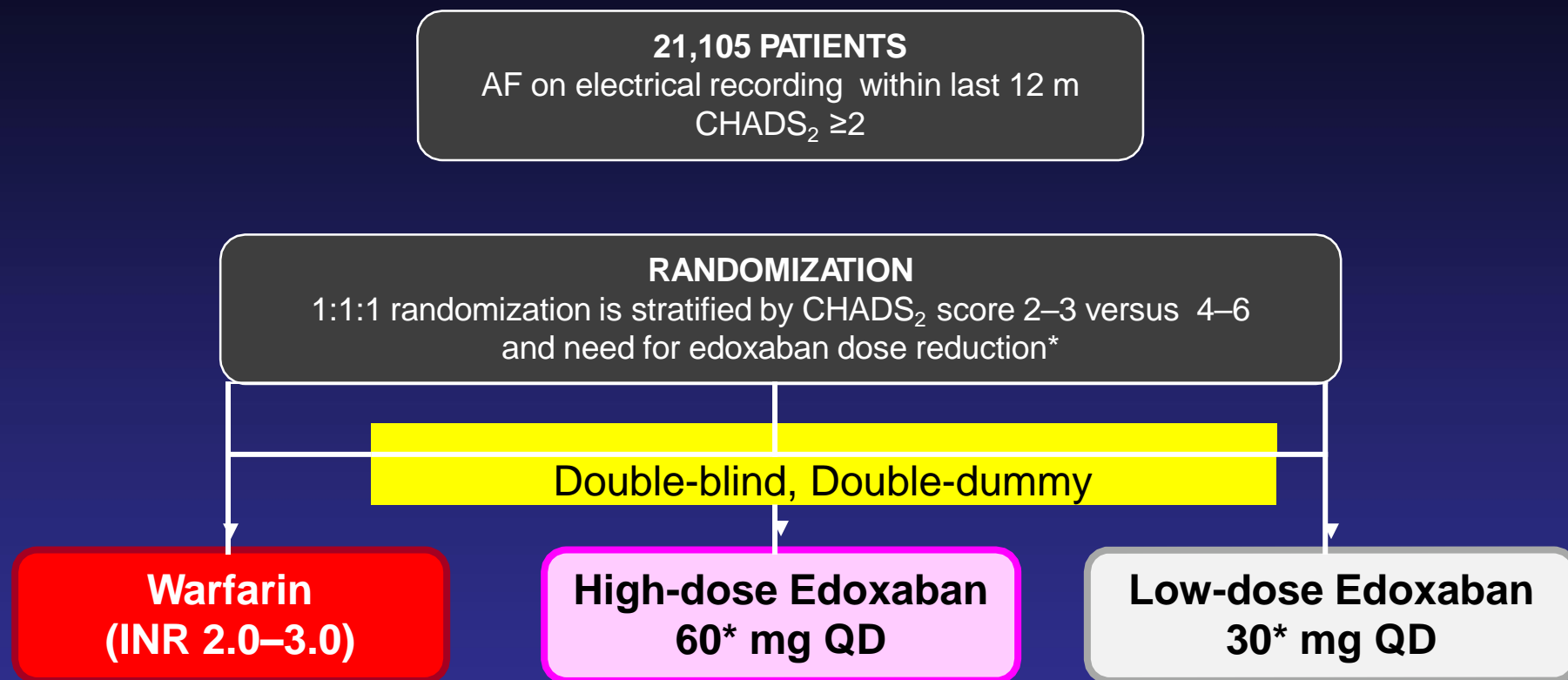
# Conclusion



In patients with atrial fibrillation, apixaban is superior to warfarin at preventing stroke or systemic embolism, causes less bleeding, and results in lower mortality.

# Effective aNticoaGulation with factor xA next GEneration in Atrial Fibrillation – TIMI 48

# Study Design



\*Dose reduced by 50% if:  
- CrCl 30–50 mL/min  
- weight ≤60 kg  
- strong P-gp inhibitor

**1° Efficacy EP = Stroke or SEE**  
2° Efficacy EP = Stroke or SEE or CV mortality  
1° Safety EP = Major Bleeding (ISTH criteria)

Non-inferiority  
Upper 97.5% CI <1.38

# Summary

**Compared to well-managed warfarin (TTR 68.4%) once-daily edoxaban:**

- **Non-inferior for stroke/SEE (both regimens)**
  - High dose ↓stroke/SEE on Rx (trend ITT)
- **Both regimens *significantly* reduced:**
  - Major bleeding (20%/53%) - ICH (53%/70%)
  - Hem. stroke (46%/67%)      - CV death (14%/15%)
- ***Superior* net clinical outcomes**

**No excess in stroke or bleeding during transition → oral anticoagulant at end of trial**



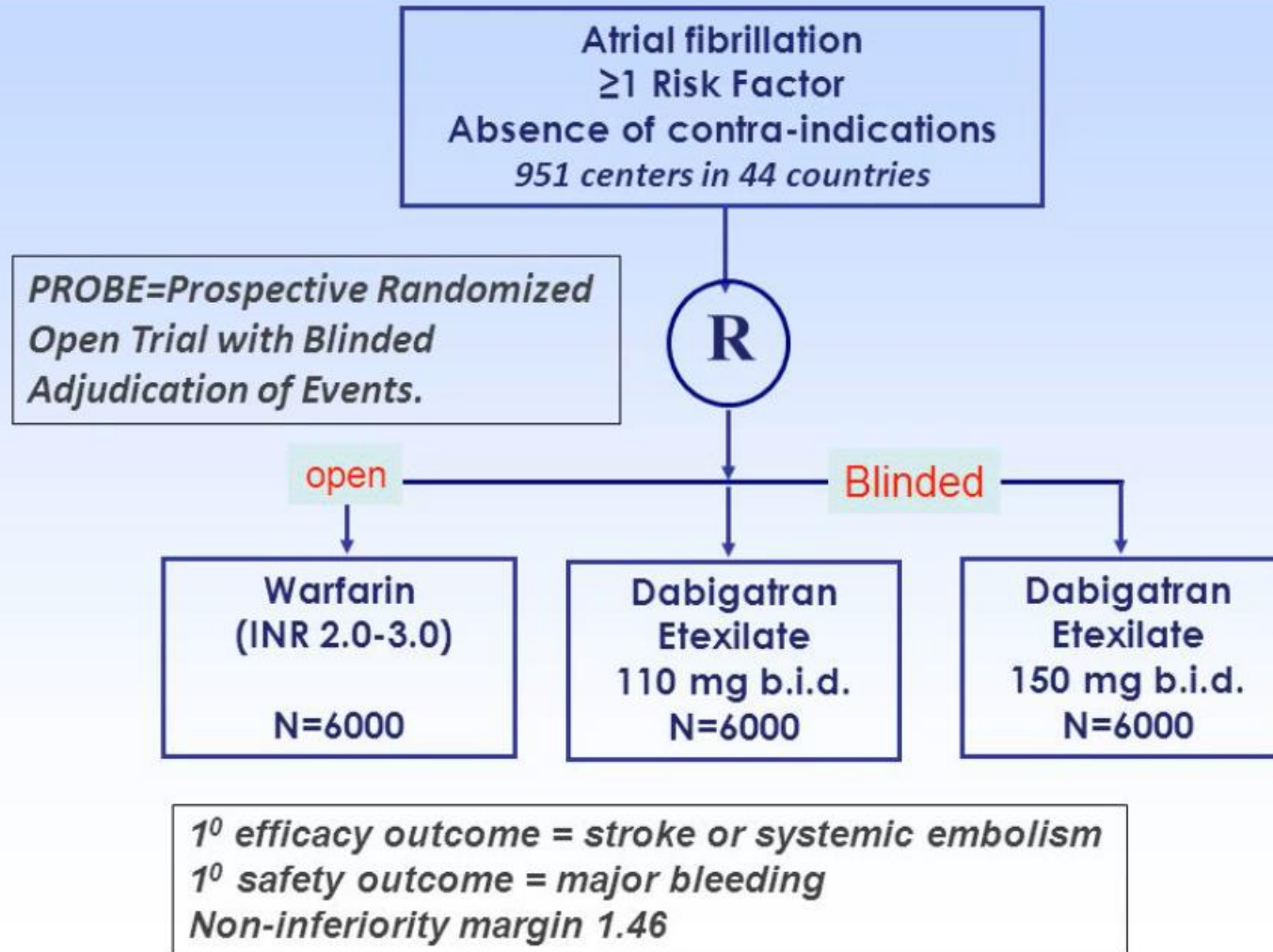
**RELY<sup>®</sup>**

Study of stroke prevention  
in atrial fibrillation

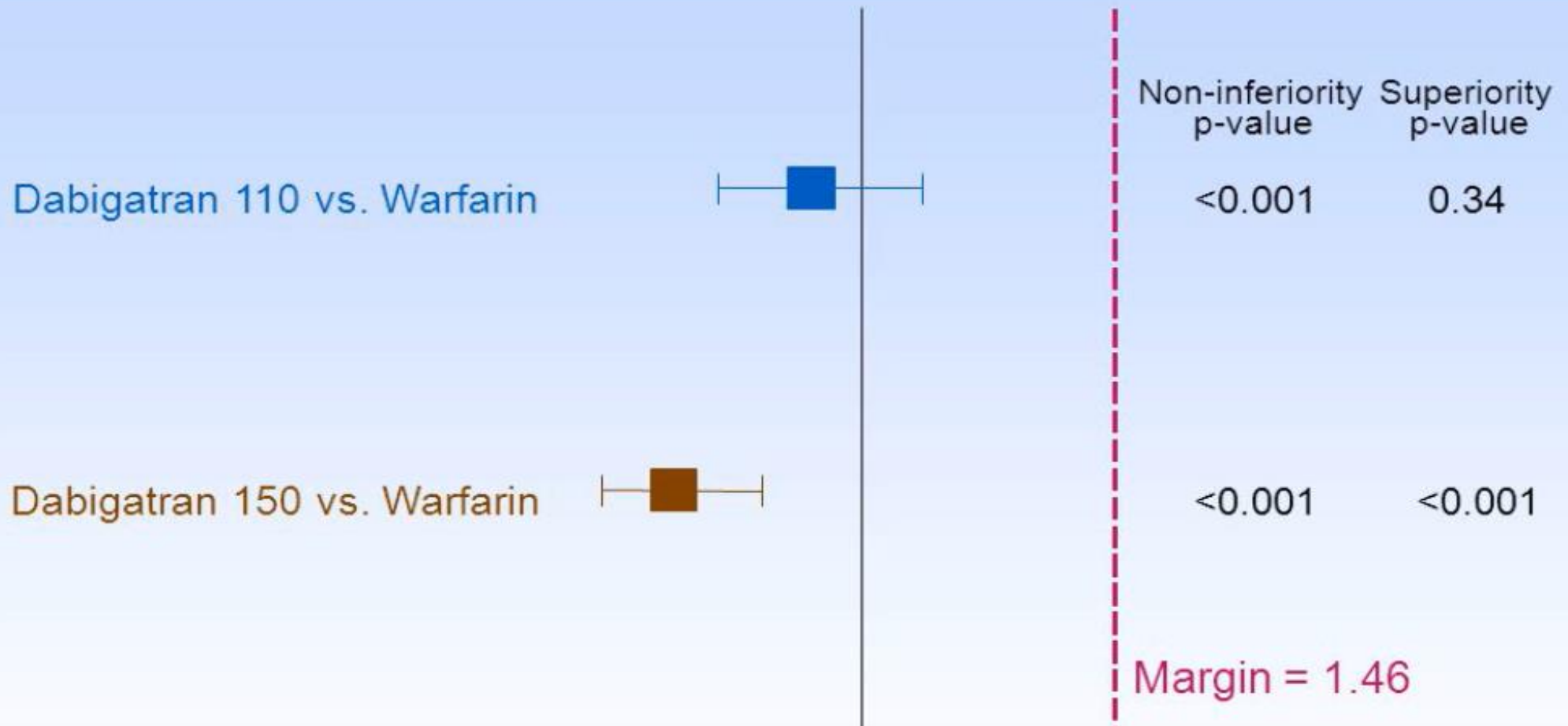
# **The RE-LY Study: Randomized Evaluation of Long- term anticoagulant therapy**

*Dabigatran Compared to Warfarin in 18,113 Patients  
with Atrial Fibrillation at Risk of Stroke*

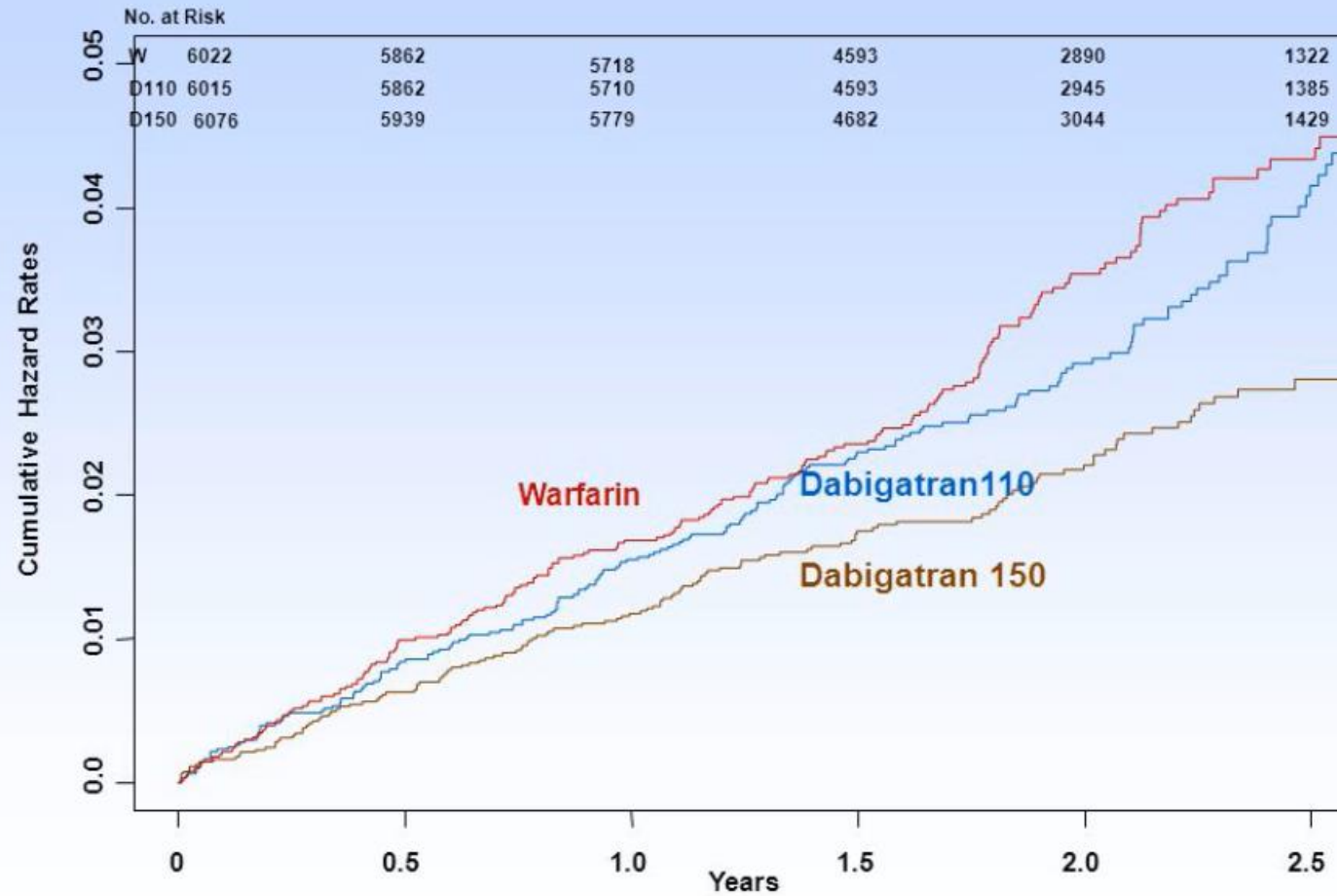
# RE-LY: A Non-inferiority Trial



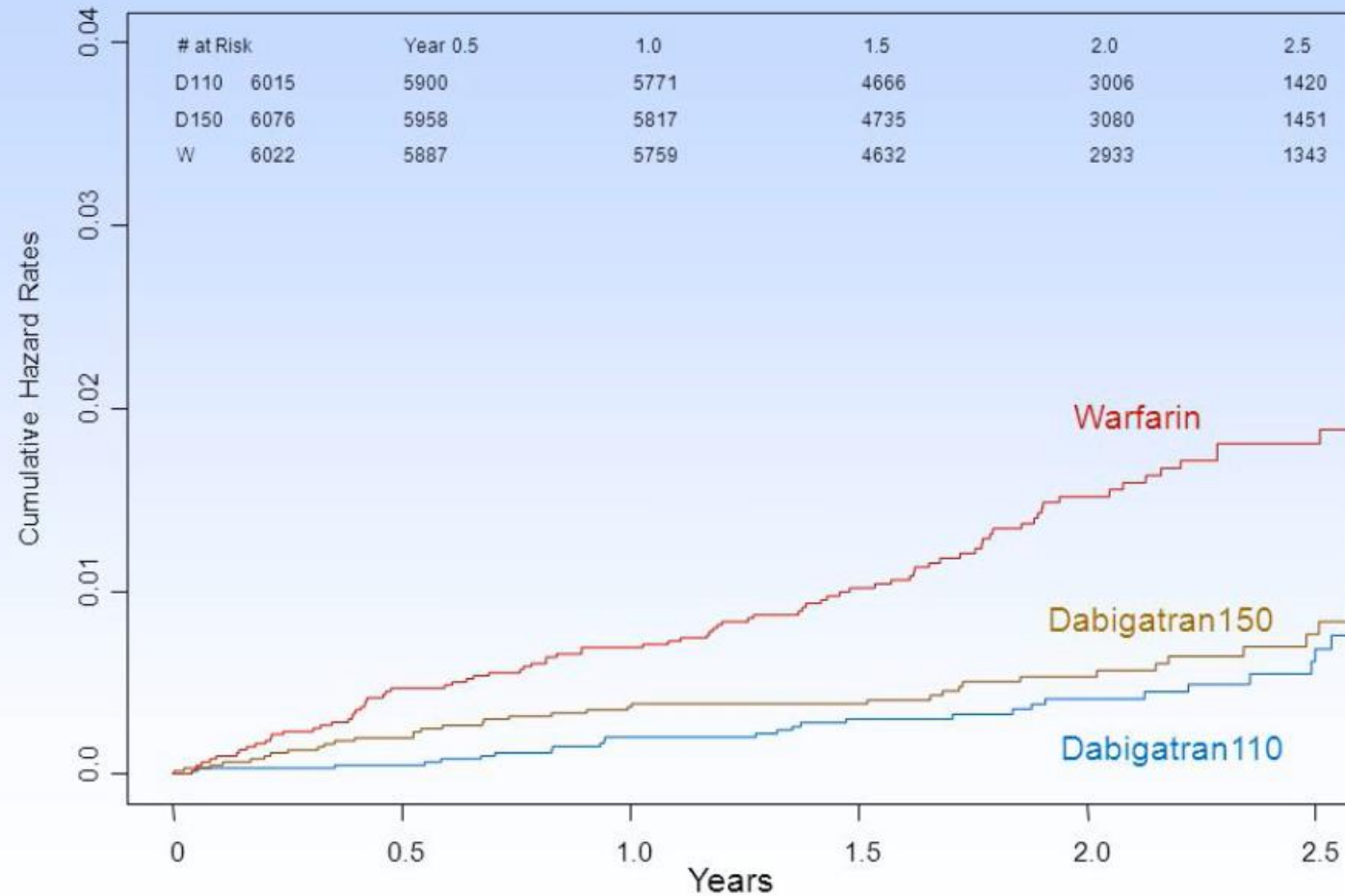
# Stroke or Systemic Embolism



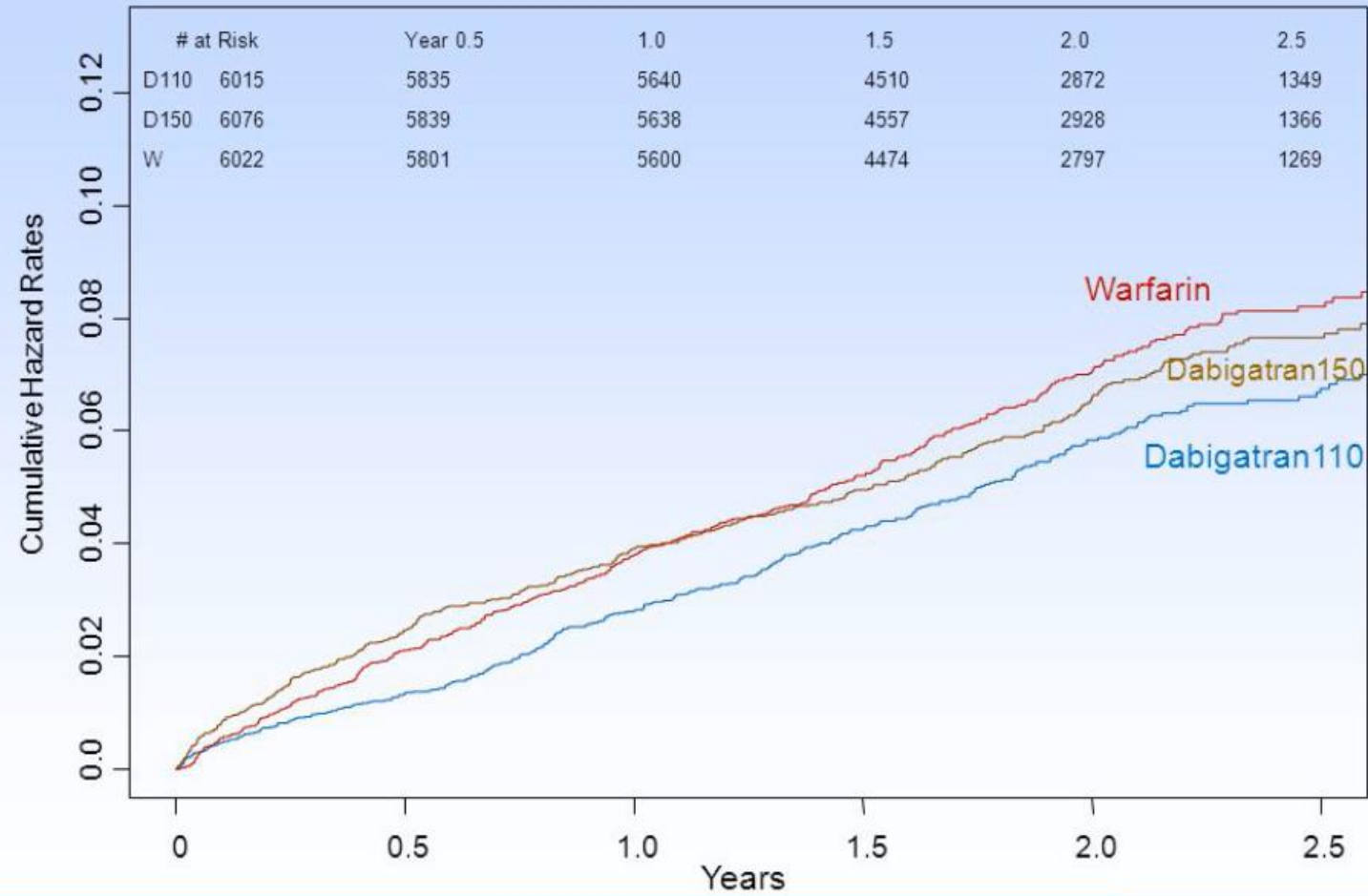
# Stroke or Systemic Embolism



# All Intracranial Bleeding



# Major Bleeding



# Conclusions



- Dabigatran 150 mg significantly reduced stroke compared to warfarin with similar risk of major bleeding
- Dabigatran 110 mg had a similar rate of stroke as warfarin with significantly reduced major bleeding
- Both doses markedly reduced intra-cranial and life-threatening hemorrhage
- Both doses are free of liver and other major toxicity, although they increase dyspepsia and GI bleeding

