



# Anticoagulation for Arrhythmia

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**Atrial Arrhythmia – Lightning the Burden**



Queenstown, New Zealand  
November 2017





SeaWorld  
**PHOTO SPOT**  
Presented by  
**FUJIFILM**

# ANTICOAGULATION FOR ARRHYTHMIA

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1. Introduction
2. Who to anticoagulate?
3. Which agents to use?



# INTRODUCTION

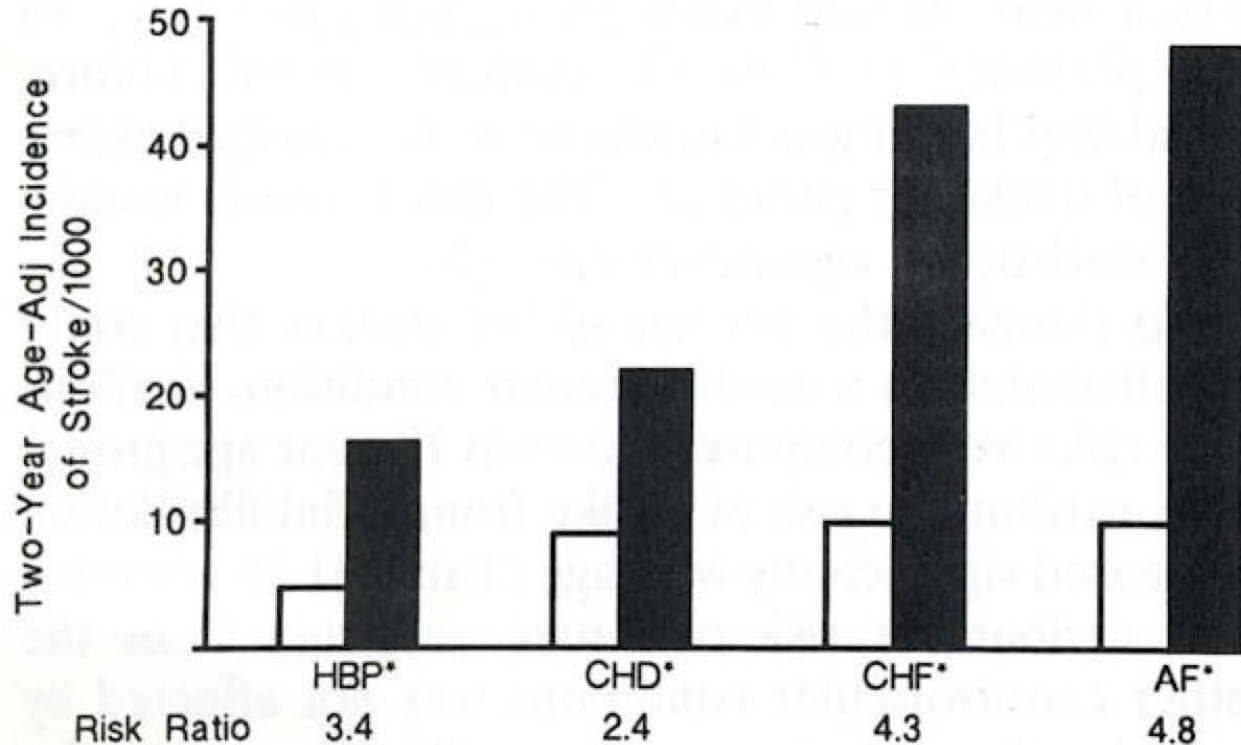
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The single most important issue in managing atrial arrhythmias is risk assessment and prevention of thromboembolic complications





# POWERFUL RISK FACTOR FOR STROKE

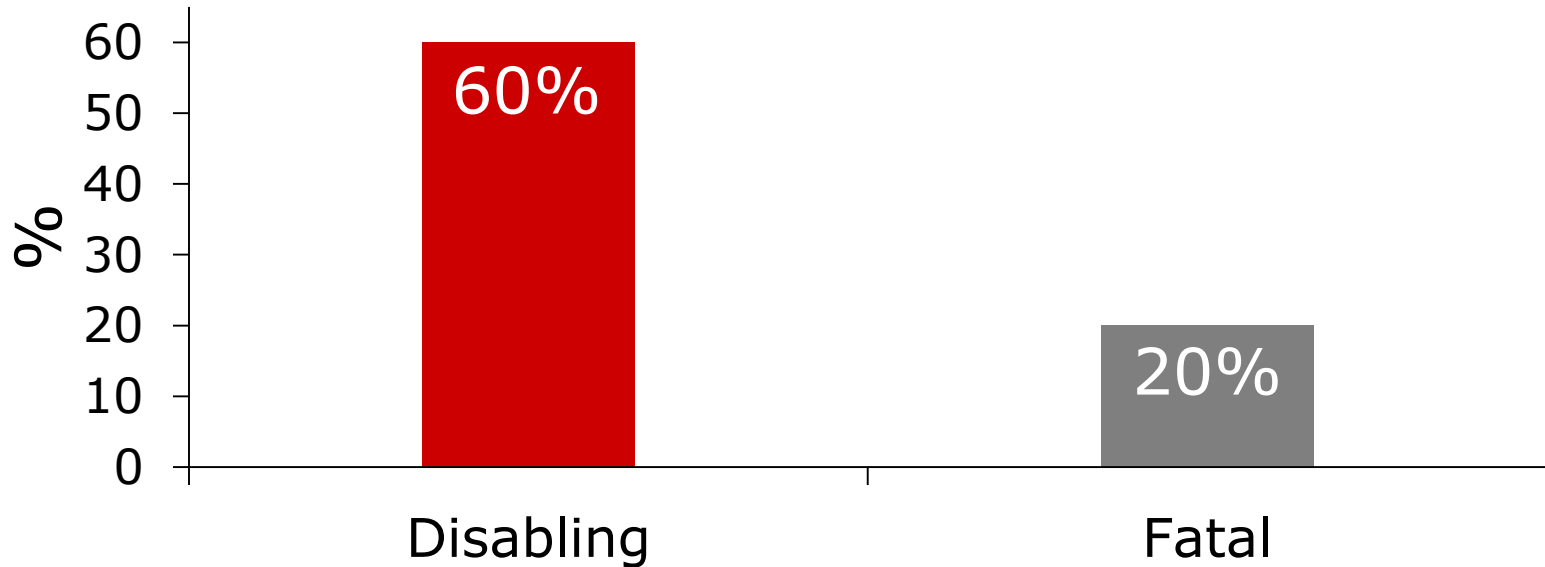


Wolf PA et al. *Stroke* 1991;22:983-8

# NOT ALL ISCHEMIC STROKES ARE THE SAME

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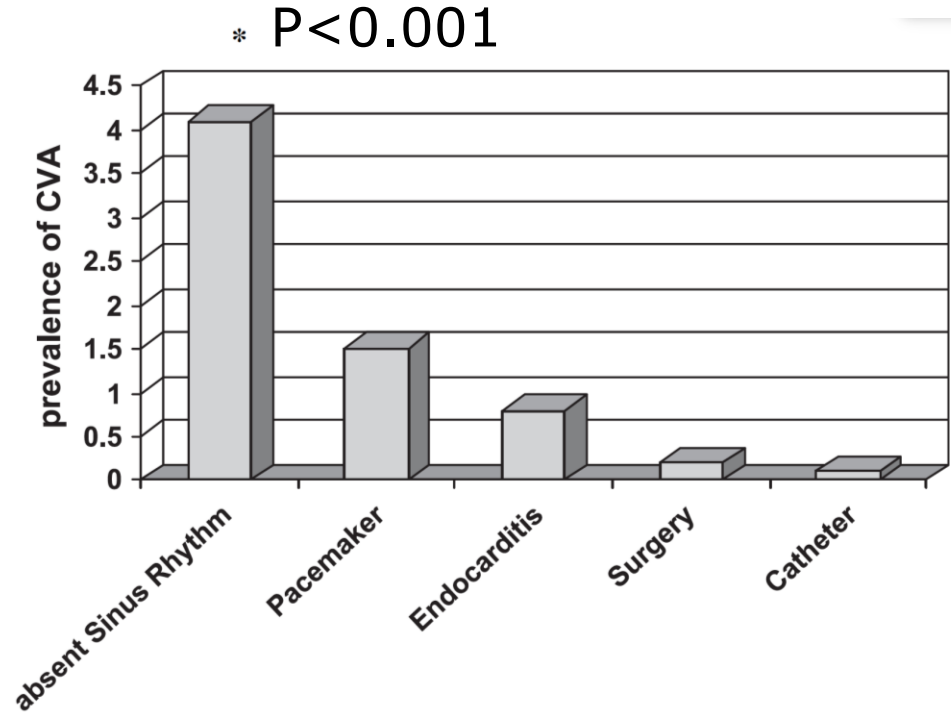
- 597 consecutive patients with a first stroke and AF
- Stroke outcomes are worse with AF vs no AF



Gladstone DJ et al. *Stroke* 2009;40:235-40  
Dulli D et al. *Neuroepidemiology* 1998;17:80-9

# CVA IN ACHD

- N=23,153
- Retrospective
- Europe and Canada
- Age last follow-up:
  - 36.4 (16-91) years
- F-up: 842,769 pt-yrs
- Incidence of CVA:
  - Overall: 0.05%/year



# ATRIAL ARRHYTHMIAS AND STROKE

- Quebec CHD administrative database
- N=38,428
- ICD-9 codes
- Atrial arrhythmias: 15%

## ANY ADVERSE EVENT

2.50 (2.38, 2.62)

## MORTALITY

1.47 (1.37, 1.58)

## MORBIDITY

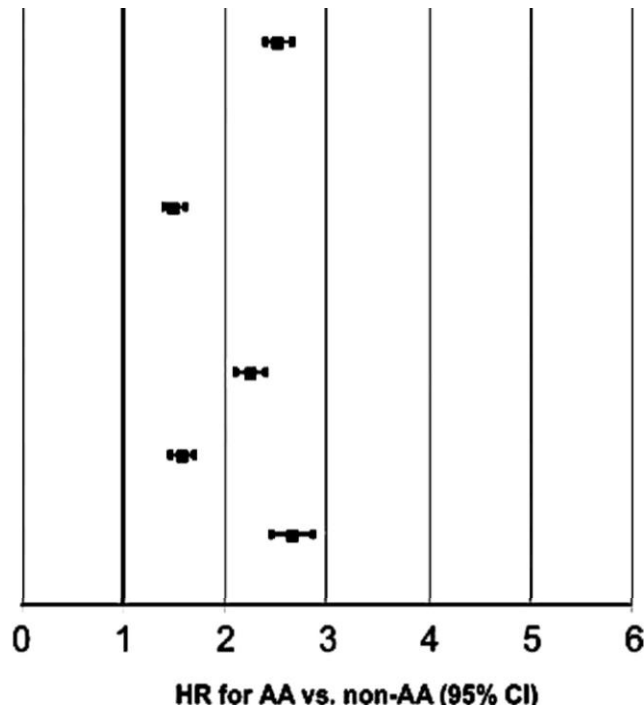
2.21 (2.07, 2.36)

### Stroke

1.55 (1.42, 1.68)

### Heart failure

2.64 (2.44, 2.85)



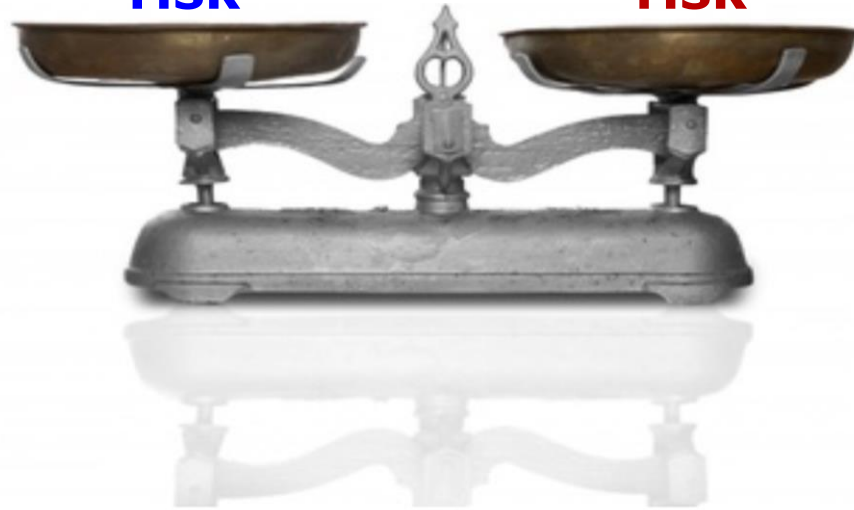


# WHO TO ANTICOAGULATE?

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**Thromboembolic  
risk**

**Bleeding  
risk**



# TACTIC

## The Anti-Coagulation Therapy Study In Congenital Heart Disease



University of Colorado Hospital  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO HEALTH



CHU Sainte-Justine



Children's  
Hospital of Pittsburgh

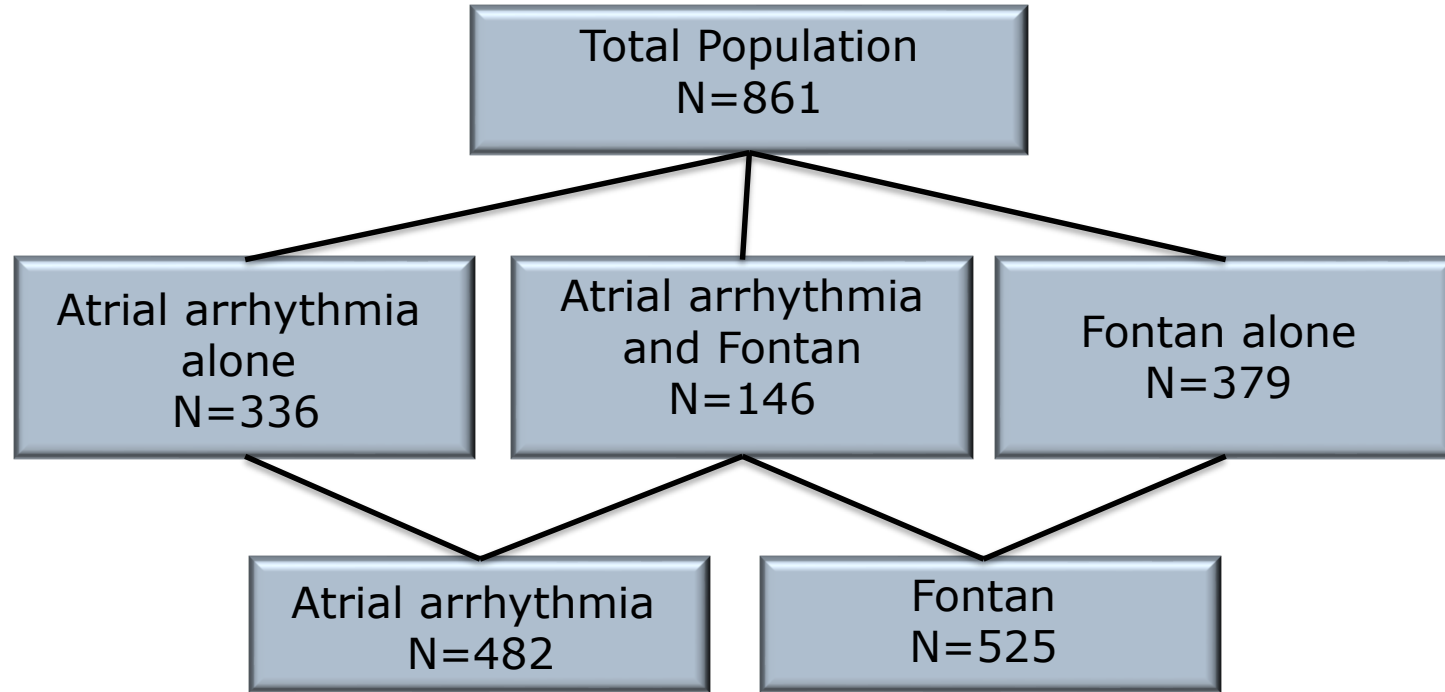


Khairy P et al. *Int J Cardiol* 2016;120:1679-86



# PATIENT POPULATION

TACTIC



## *Atrial arrhythmias*

- IART
- Focal atrial tachycardia
- Atrial fibrillation

## *Thromboembolic event*

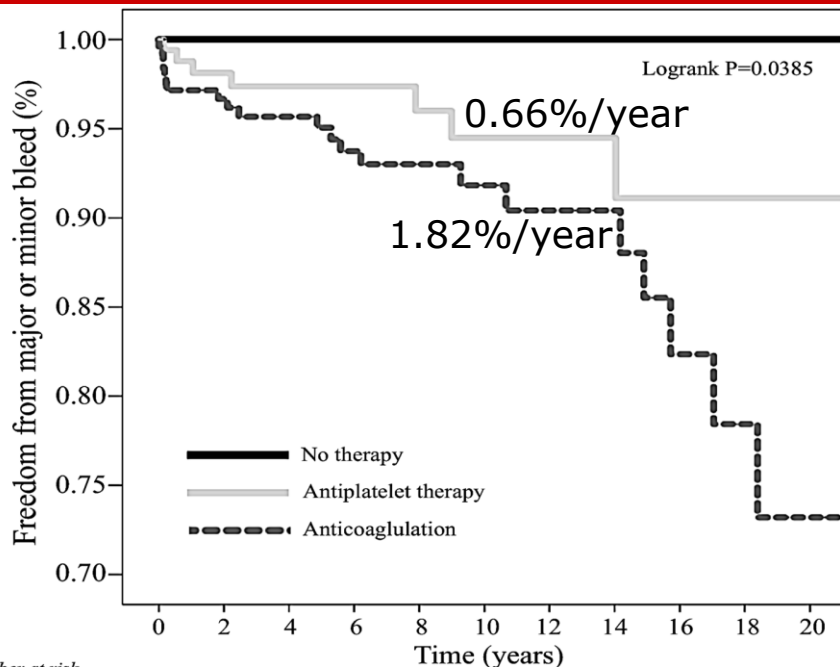
- Systemic
- Pulmonary
- Intracardiac thrombus
- Other

## *Bleeding complications*

- *Major bleed:* at least 1
  - $\geq 20$  g reduction in Hgb
  - Transfusion of  $\geq 2$  units of blood
  - Symptomatic bleeding in a critical area or organ
- *Minor: other*



# BLEEDING EVENTS



Number at risk

	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
No therapy	38	23	14	11	7	3					
Antiplatelet therapy	182	111	70	33	22	7					
Anticoagulation	262	171	94	54	25	10					

- 44 bleeding events in 40 (8.3%) patients
- Multivariable analysis:
  - *Anticoagulation:*
    - HR 4.8, 95% CI (1.1, 21.6), P=0.043
  - *HAS-BLED score:*
    - HR 3.2, 95% CI (1.02, 9.78), P=0.047



# THROMBOEMBOLIC EVENTS

- Rate: 1.14%/year
- Event-free survival
  - $89.3 \pm 1.8\%$  at 10 years
  - $84.7 \pm 2.7\%$  at 15 years
- Multivariable analysis
  - Complexity of CHD: HR 3.5, 95% CI (1.8, 6.9),  $P < 0.001$
- No association: arrhythmia type, CHADS<sub>2</sub>, CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc

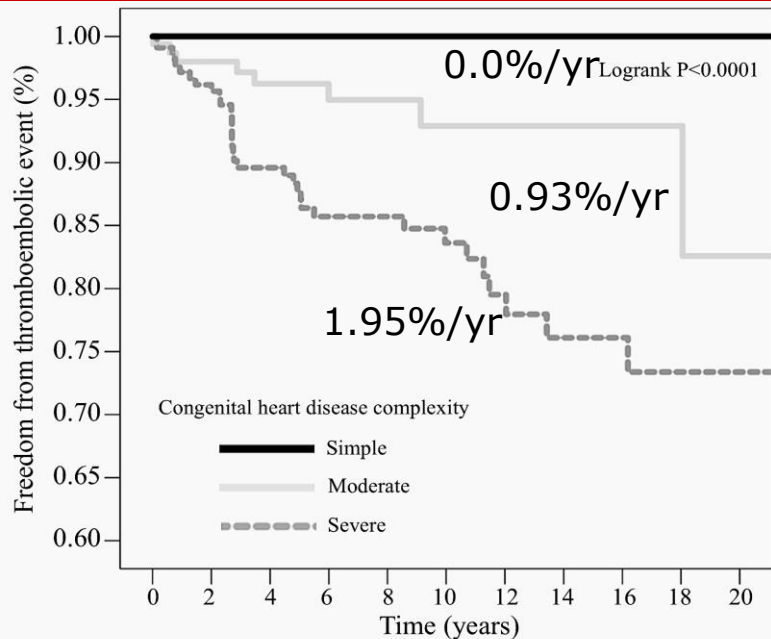
## Thromboembolic events, N (%)

Number of patients with events	42 (8.7)
Stroke or transient ischemic attack	14 (2.9)
Renal emboli	1 (0.2)
Peripheral arterial	2 (0.4)
Intracardiac thrombosis	20 (4.1)
Pulmonary	5 (1.0)





# COMPLEXITY OF CHD



Number at risk

Simple	89	47	31	14	10	4
Moderate	166	103	52	27	14	7
Severe	227	154	94	51	28	8

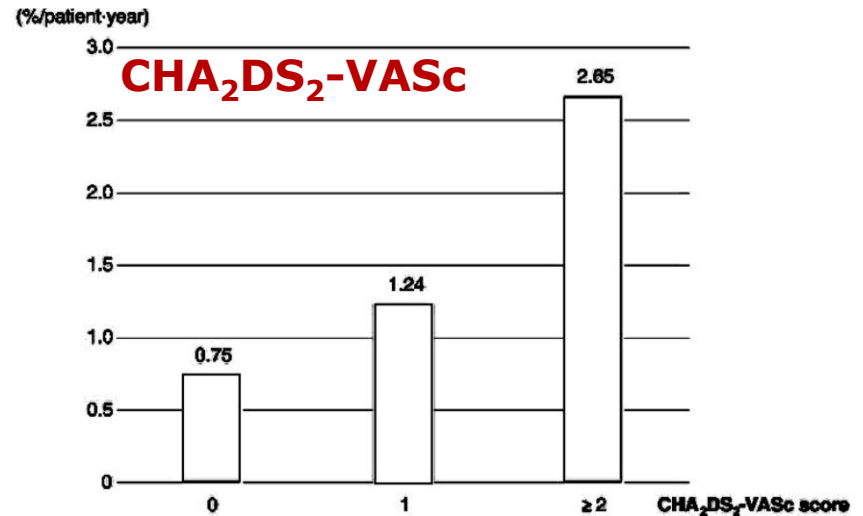
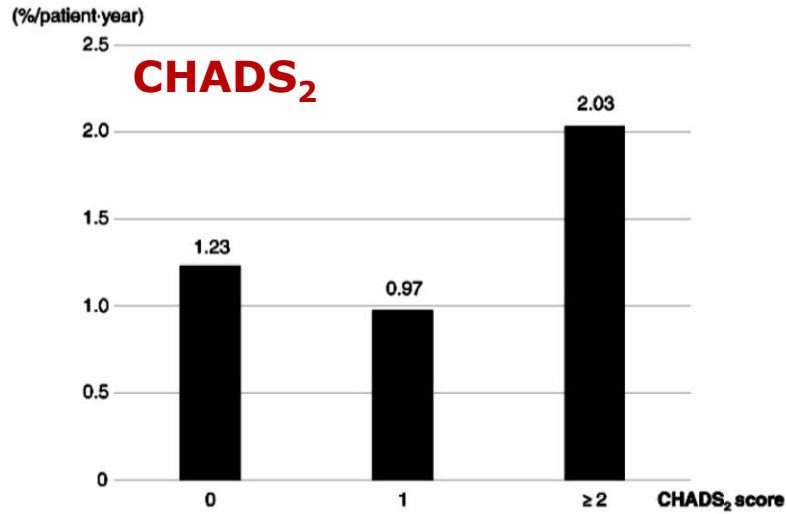
COMPLEXITY	TYPE OF CHD
SIMPLE	Isolated aortic, mitral valve disease
	Small ASD
	Isolated small VSD
	Mild pulmonary stenosis
MODERATE	Repaired PDA, ASD, VSD no residua
	Aortic coarctation
	Ebstein anomaly
	AVSD
	Anomalous pulmonary venous return
	Sinus venous ASD
SEVERE	Tetralogy of Fallot
	Conduits
	Cyanotic congenital heart disease
	Single ventricle, Fontan
	Transposition of the great arteries
	Eisenmenger syndrome



Khairy P et al. *Int J Cardiol* 2016;120:1679-86  
 Warnes CA et al. *Circulation* 2008;118:e714-833

# NON-ANTICOAGULATED ACHD POPULATION

- 157 adults with CHD, atrial arrhythmia, no anticoagulant
- 14 (8.9%) thromboembolic events
  - Associated factors: age, vascular disease, persistent AF





## 2014 PACES/HRS Expert Consensus Statement

# Recognition and Management of Arrhythmias in Adults with Congenital Heart Disease

Paul Khairy, George Van Hare, Seshadri Balaji, Charles I Berul, Frank Cecchin, Mitchell I Cohen, Curt J Daniels, Barbara J Deal, Joseph A Dearani, Natasja de Groot, Anne M Dubin, Louise Harris, Jan Janousek, Ronald K Kanter, Peter P Karpawich, James C Perry, Stephen P Seslar, Maully J Shah, Michael J Silka, John K Triedman, Edward P Walsh, Carole A Warnes

**Ideas | People | Technology**

[www.HRSonline.org](http://www.HRSonline.org)

# WHO TO TREAT?

COR	LOE	Recommendation
I	B	Adults with <b>complex CHD</b> and sustained or recurrent IART or AF should receive <b>long-term oral anticoagulation</b> for the prevention of thromboembolic complications
IIa	C	<b>Long-term oral anticoagulation</b> therapy is reasonable in adults with <b>CHD of moderate complexity</b> and sustained or recurrent IART or AF
IIb	B	It may be reasonable for adults with IART or AF and <b>simple non-valvular forms of CHD</b> to receive either an oral anticoagulant, aspirin, or no therapy for the prevention of thromboembolic complications on the basis of established scores for stroke risk (e.g., CHA <sub>2</sub> DS <sub>2</sub> -VASc) and bleeding risk (e.g., HAS-BLED)



# FIRST ANTICOAGULANT

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- *Heparin*: serendipitously discovered in 1916
- Originally isolated from canine liver cells

McLean J. The thromboplastic action of cephalin. *Am J Physiol* 1916;41:250–257

“The heparphosphatid...when purified by many precipitations in alcohol at 60°...shows a marked power to inhibit the coagulation.”

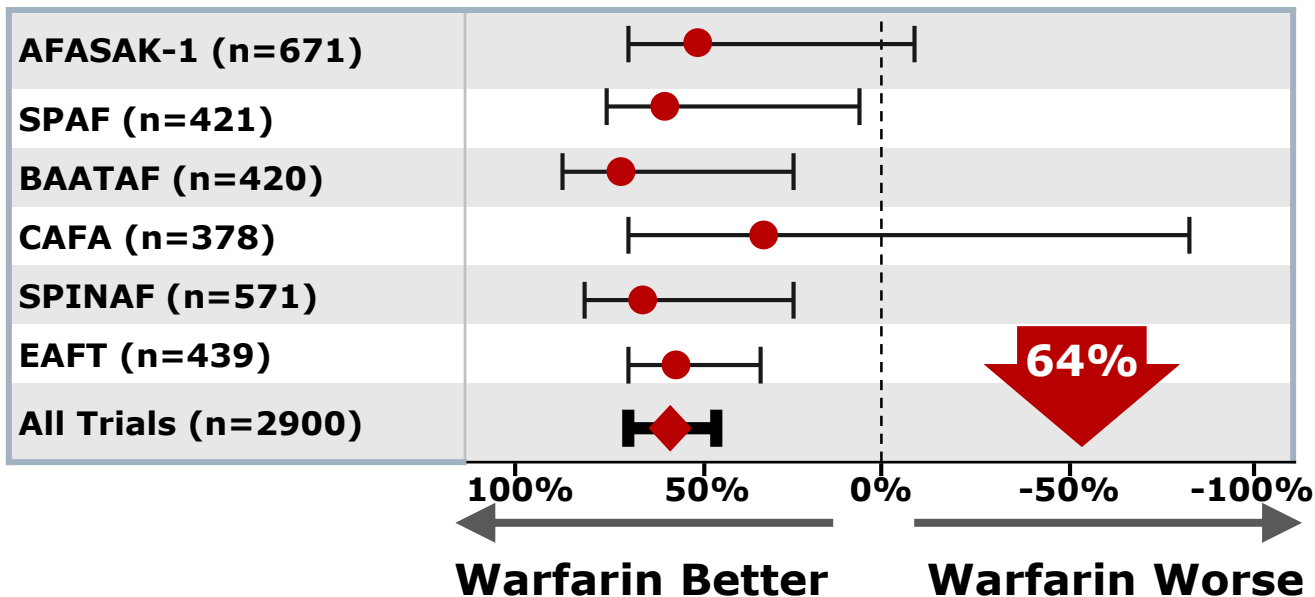


Jay Maclean, MD  
1890-1957



# WARFARIN AND STROKE RISK

- Meta-analysis of 6 RCTs, N=2900
- Warfarin reduced stroke risk by 64% in patients with AF

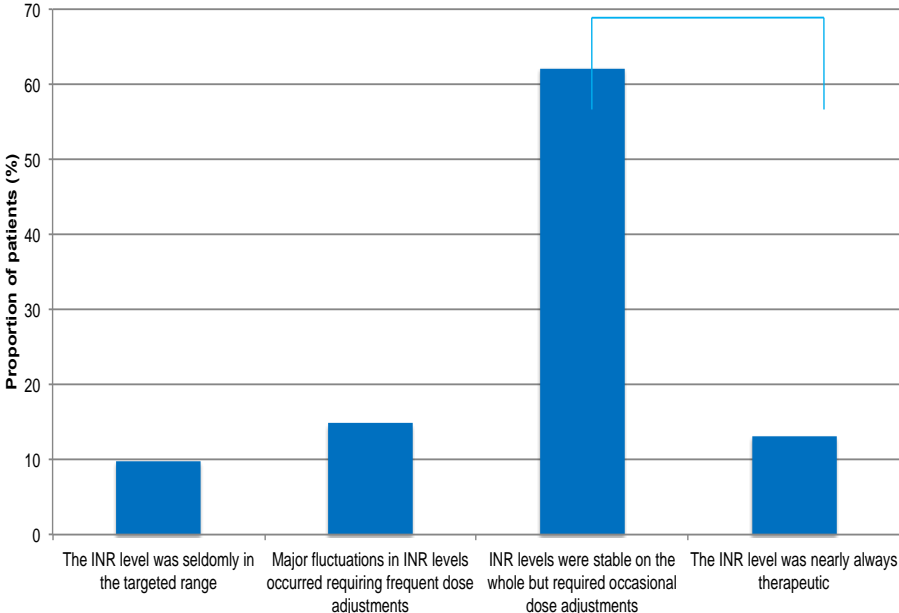




# PHYSICIAN ASSESSMENT

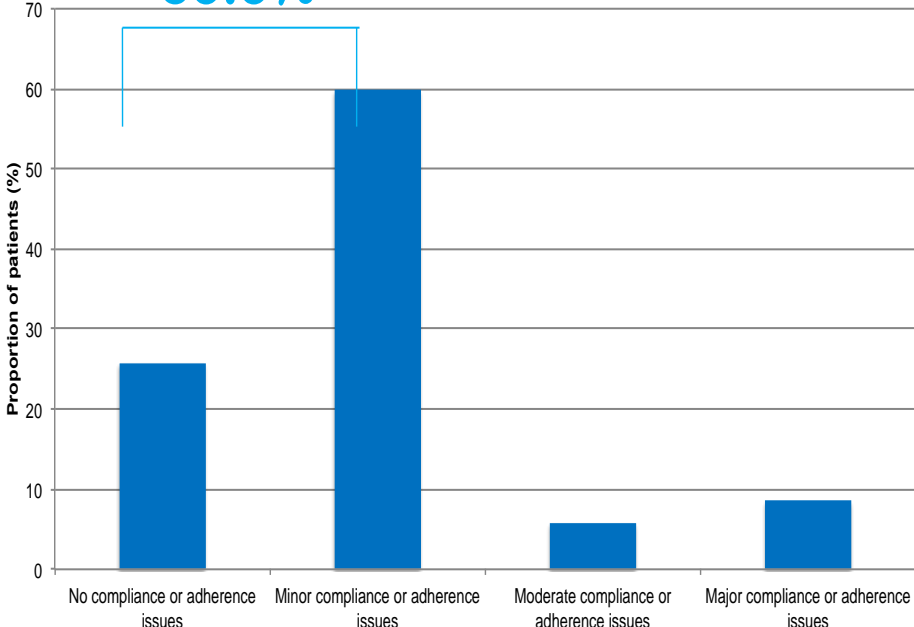
## TARGETED INR

75.3%



## COMPLIANCE/ADHERENCE

85.5%



Basmaji S et al. *Unpublished*

# TTR

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- *What would you guess is the proportion of TTR?*
  - A. >85%
  - B. 70-85%
  - C. 50-70%
  - D. <50%



# TTR

# TACTIC

**N=567**

	Mean (%)	95% CI
Time in therapeutic range	41.9	39.0, 44.8
Time below therapeutic range	37.3	34.0, 40.5
Time above therapeutic range	20.8	18.0, 23.7

	Event	No Event	P-value
<i>Proportion of time above therapeutic range (%)</i>			
Bleeding event (N=34)	32.5 (19.6, 45.4)	19.5 (16.7, 22.3)	0.0060
<i>Proportion of time below therapeutic range (%)</i>			
Thromboembolic event (N=47)	31.3 (21.4, 41.1)	19.1 (16.2, 22.0)	0.0032



# PIVOTAL WARFARIN-CONTROLLED TRIALS

Warfarin vs placebo  
N=2,900

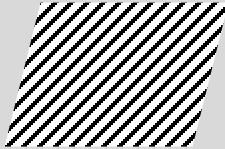
DOACs vs warfarin  
N=71,683

6 trials of warfarin vs placebo

**ROCKET AF**  
(Rivaroxaban)

**ENGAGE AF-TIMI 48**  
(Edoxaban)

1989-  
1993



2009

2010

2011

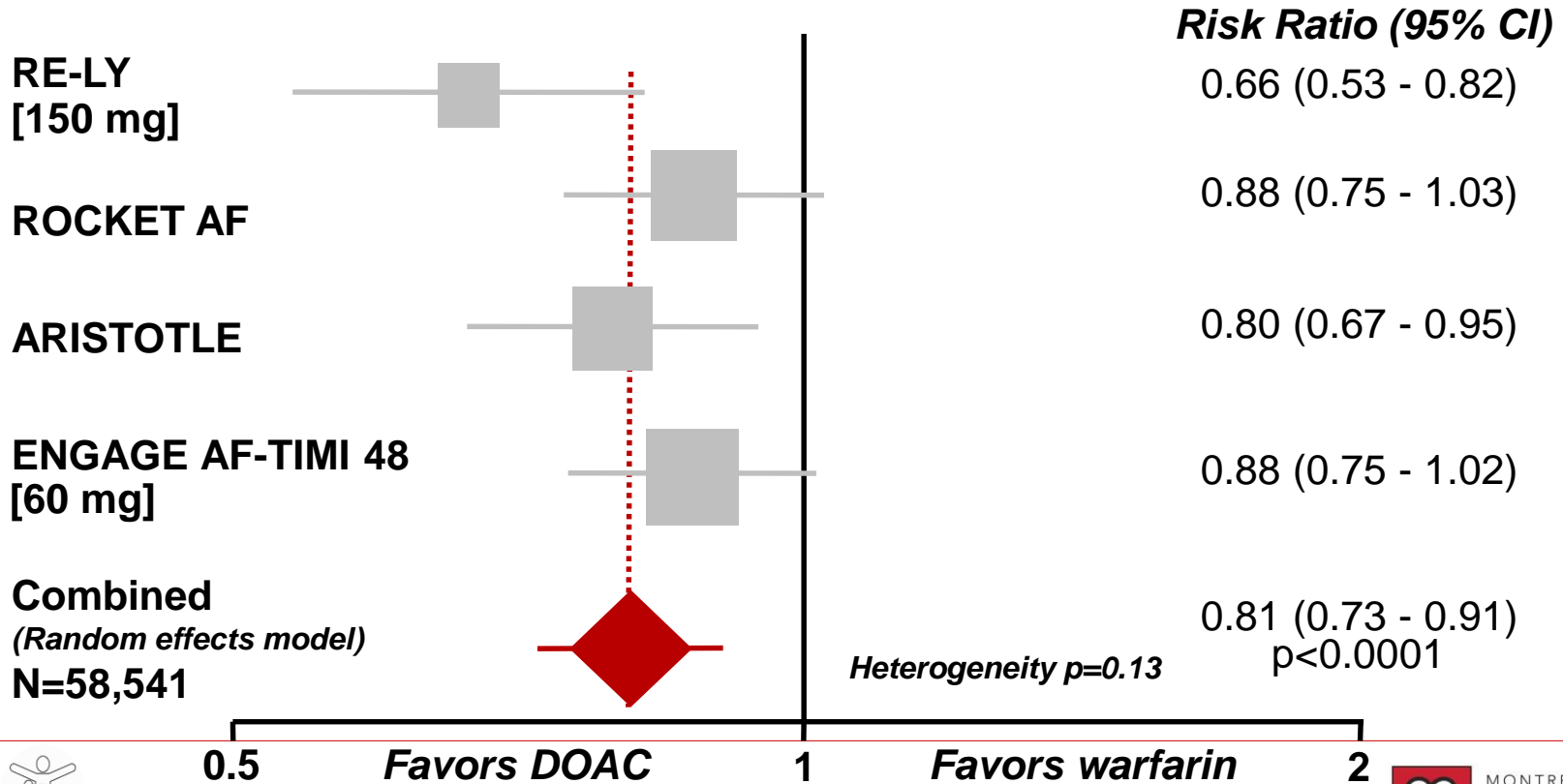
2013

**RE-LY**  
(Dabigatran)

**ARISTOTLE**  
(Apixaban)



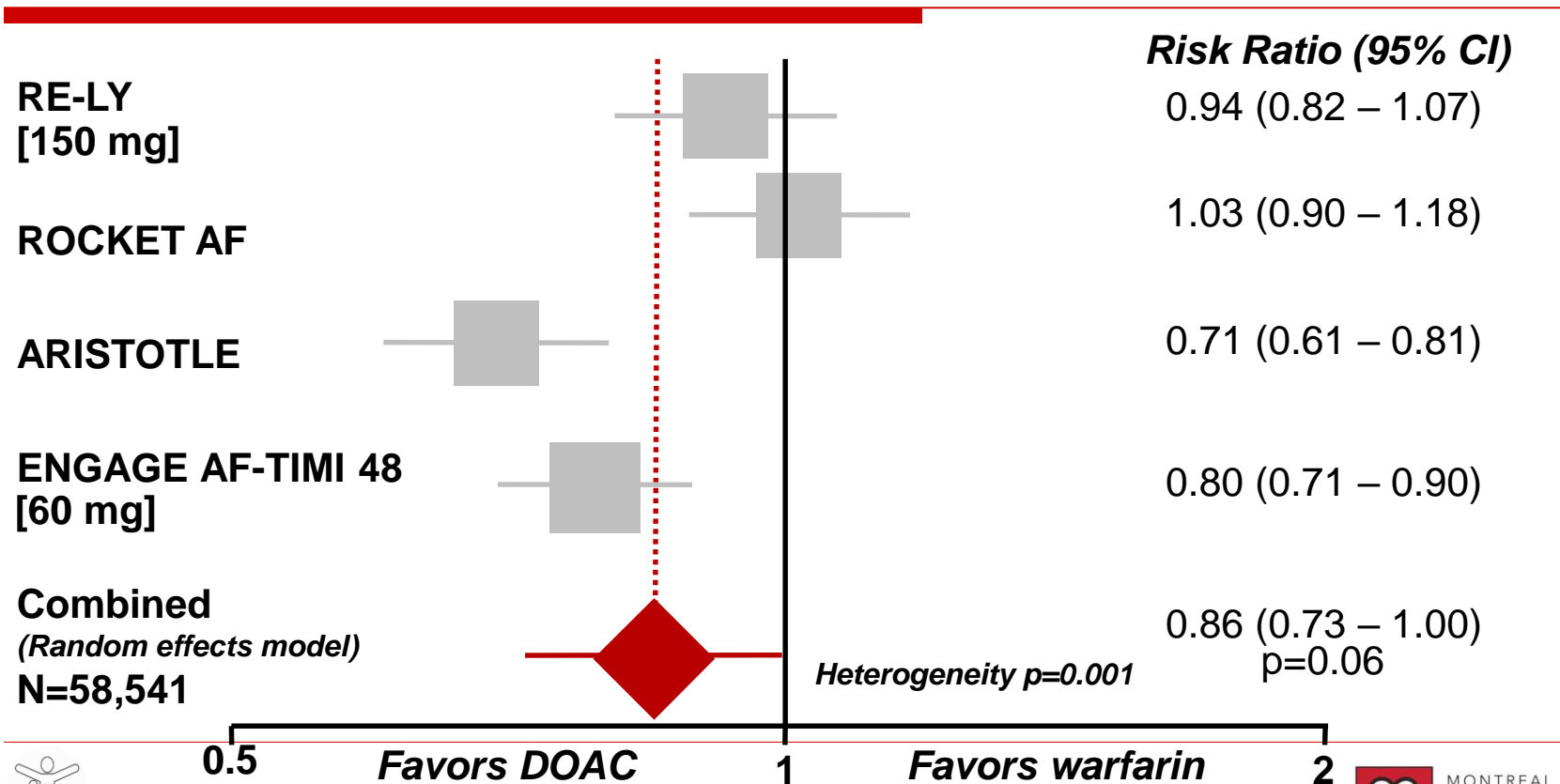
# SYSTEMIC THROMBOEMBOLIC EVENTS



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



# MAJOR BLEEDING



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



# RE-ALIGN: DABIGATRAN AND MECHANICAL VALVES

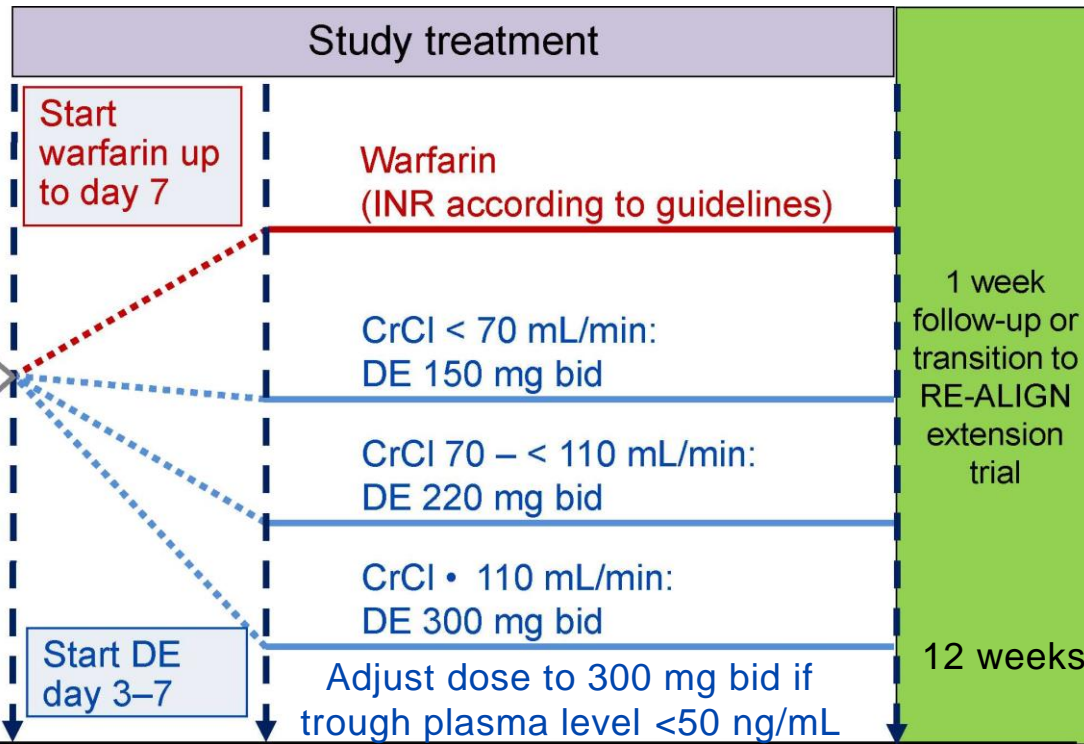
- Phase II: open-label
- N=252

A: New mechanical valve

Population A

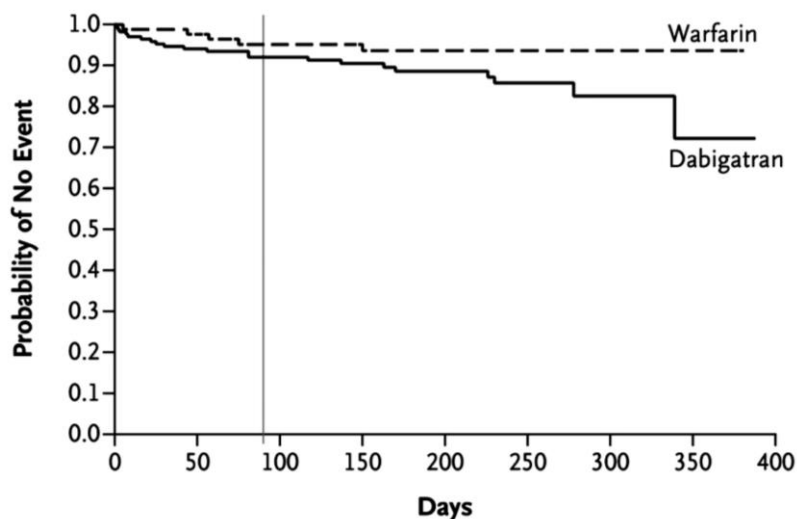
B: Mechanical valve >3 mo

Population B



# RE-ALIGN: DABIGATRAN AND MECHANICAL VALVES

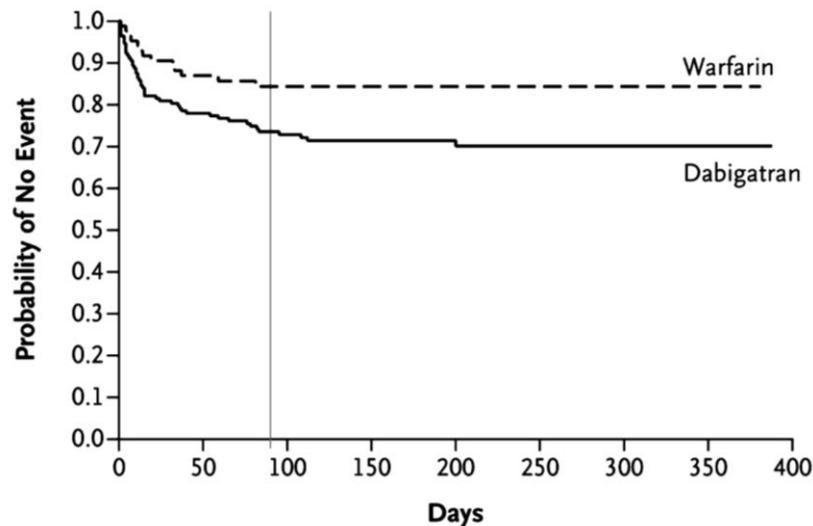
**A First Thromboembolic Event**



**No. at Risk**

Dabigatran	168	156	126	108	73	44	15	7
Warfarin	84	82	66	55	40	22	9	4

**B First Bleeding Event**

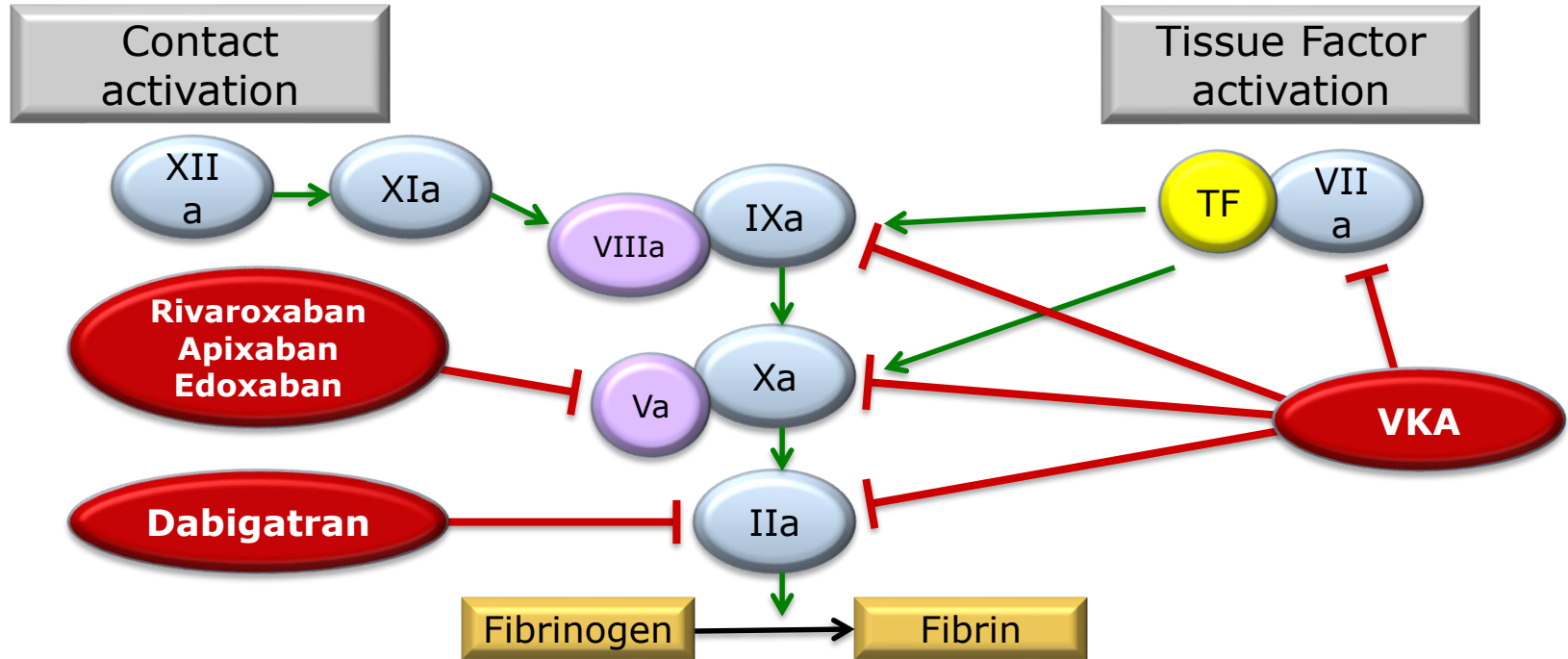


**No. at Risk**

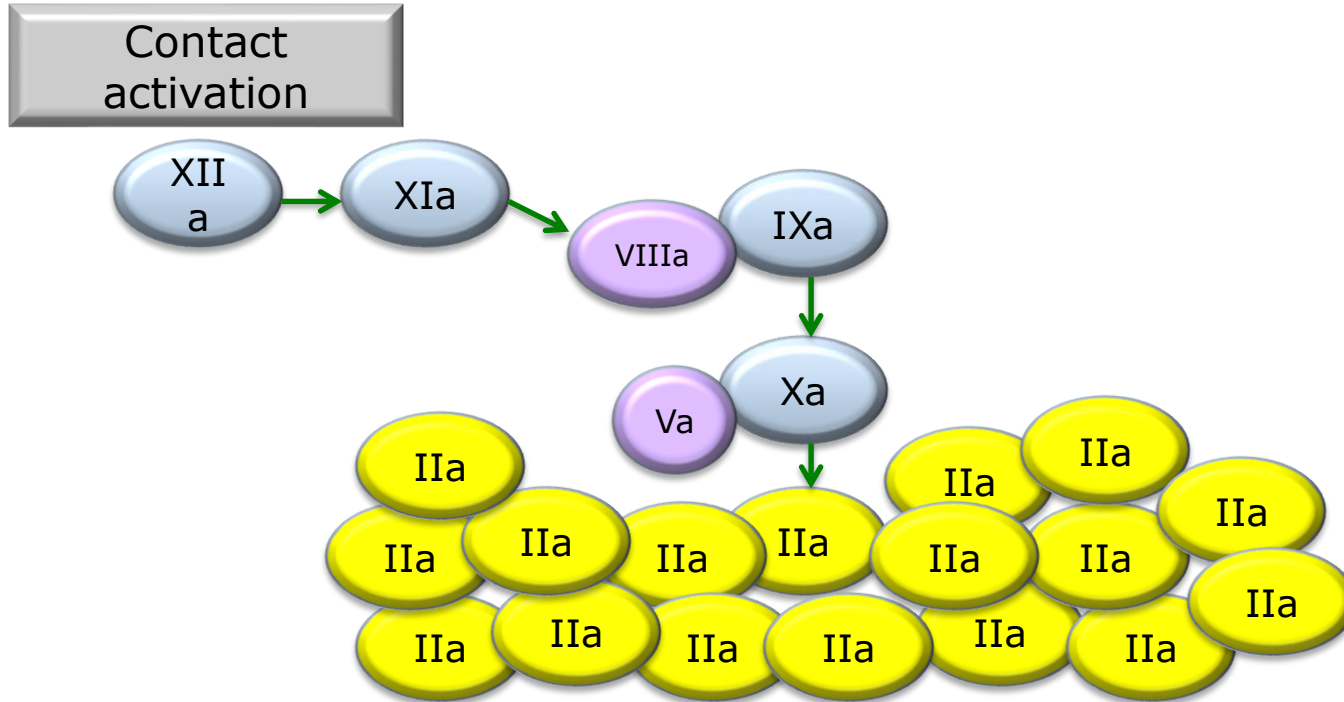
Dabigatran	168	129	103	86	58	32	11	6
Warfarin	84	73	56	50	38	22	11	4



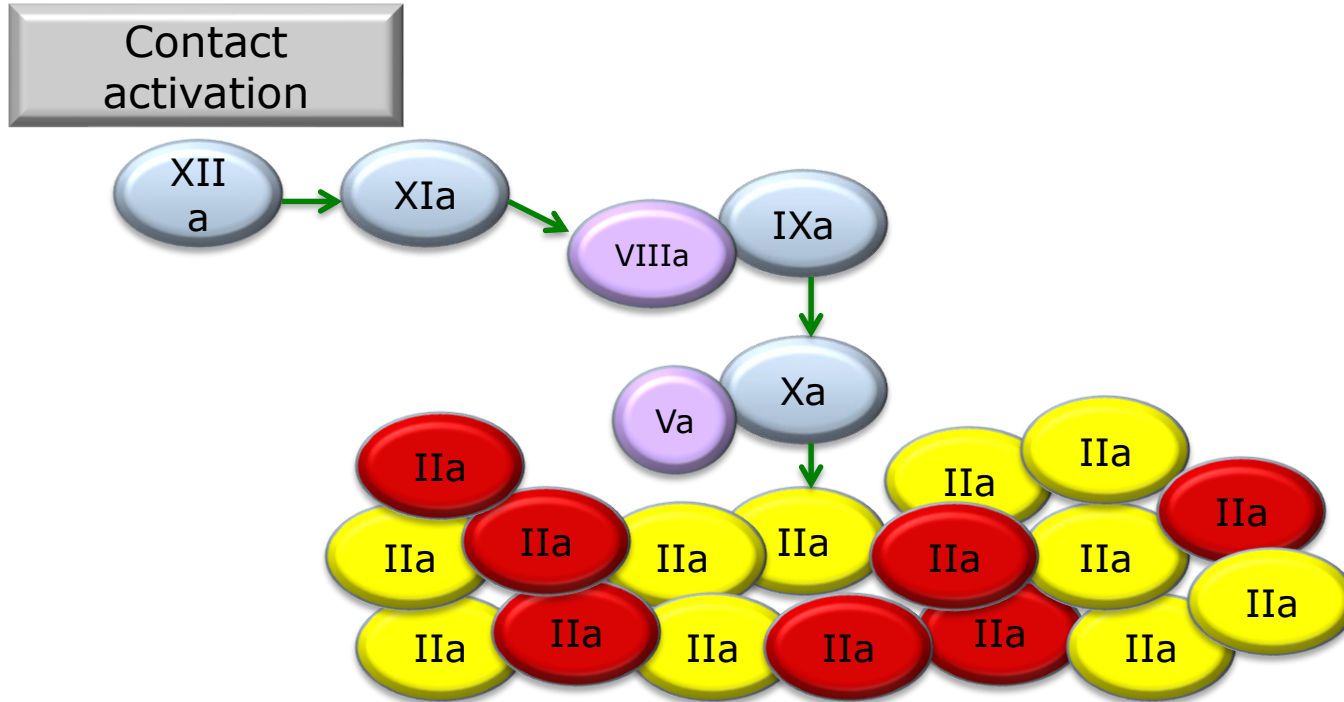
# COAGULATION PATHWAYS



# COAGULATION PATHWAYS

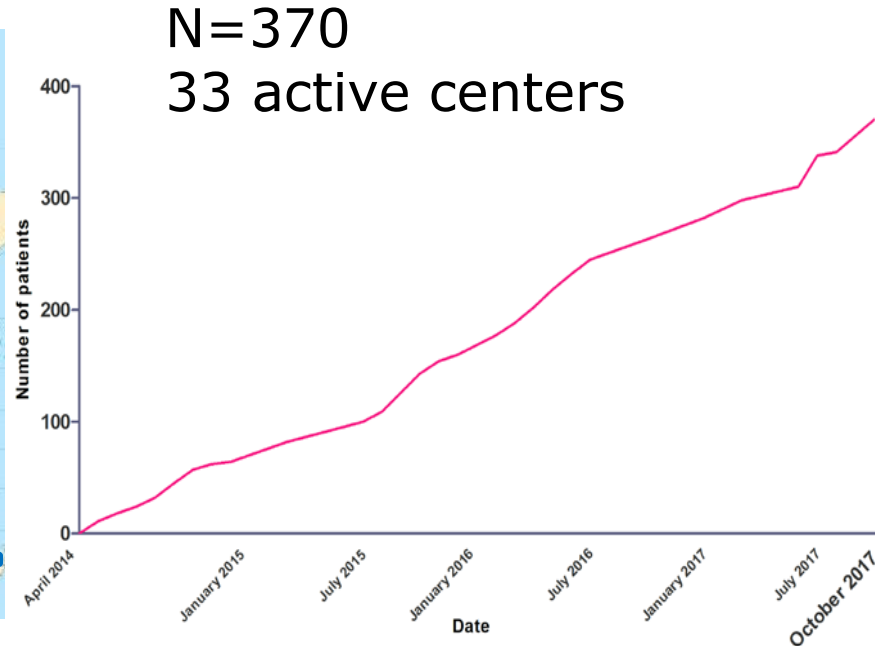
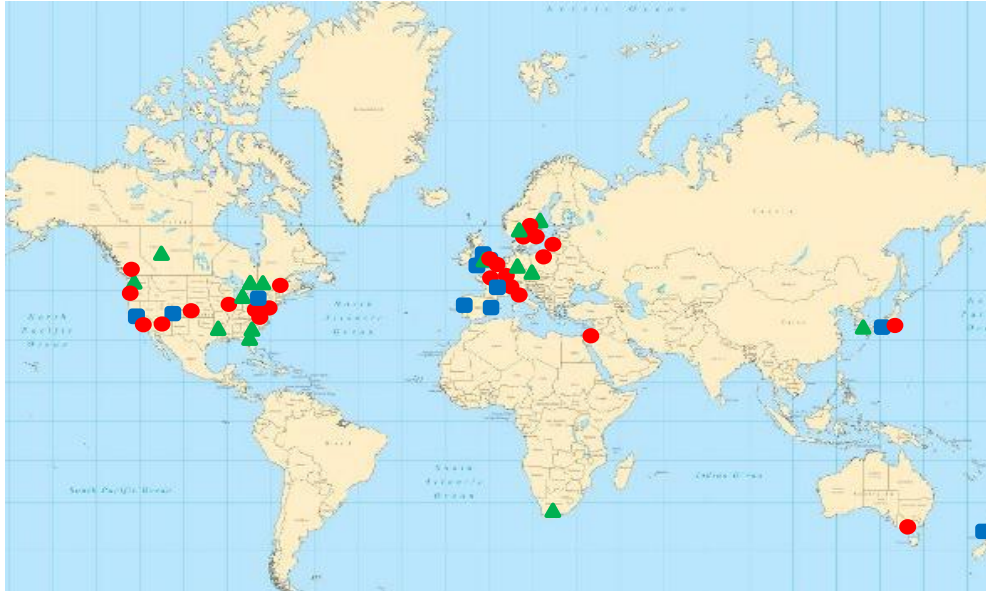


# COAGULATION PATHWAYS





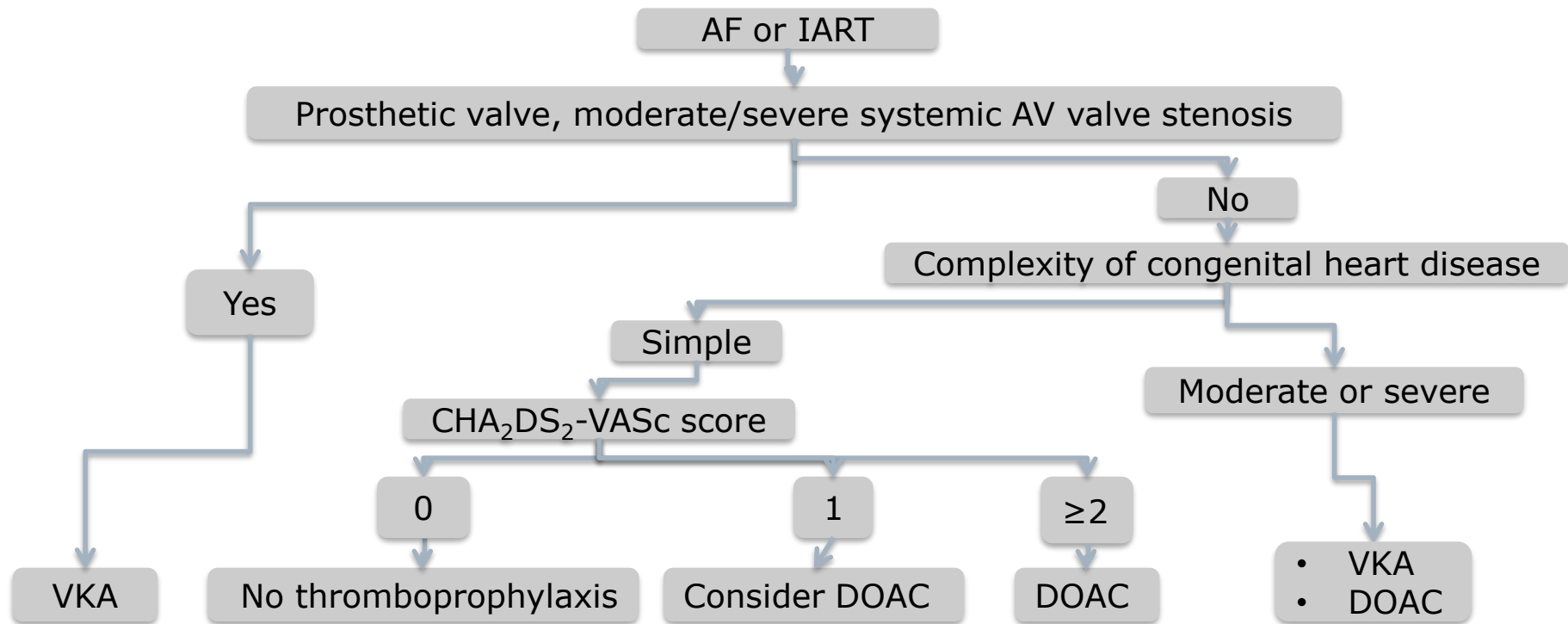
# Non-vitamin K antagonist Oral anticoagulants for ThromboEmbolic prevention



● = centers actively recruiting   ■ = centers in process of obtaining MEC approval   ▲ = interested centers



# MY CURRENT APPROACH TO ANTICOAGULATION



Adapted from Khairy P et al. *Heart Rhythm* 2014;11:e102-65

# THANK YOU!

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International Society for  
Adult Congenital Heart Disease



[www.isachd.org](http://www.isachd.org)





# CONCLUSION

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- Strong association between atrial arrhythmias (IART and AF) and thromboembolic events in patients with CHD
- Risk increases with complexity of CHD
- Anticoagulation is generally indicated in those with moderate/severe CHD, whereas additional risk stratification tools could help guide therapy in those with simple CHD
- A low %TTR is observed in patients on VKAs, with ramifications regarding bleeding and thromboembolic complications
- Increasing safety data suggest that DOACs are a reasonable alternative to VKAs in patients without prosthetic material or severe systemic AV valve stenosis, although long-term follow-up studies are pending

