

The 10 Most Important AF-Stroke Clinical Research Questions:

CSPIN and More

Ottawa, June 2nd, 2016



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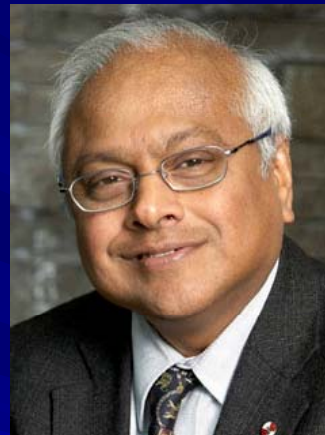


Disclosures

- Research grants and speaking fees
 - Boston Scientific, Medtronic, St. Jude Medical
 - Bayer, Bristol-Meyers-Squibb, Boehringer-Ingelheim
 - Mid-career investigator, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario
 - Chair, CSPIN network



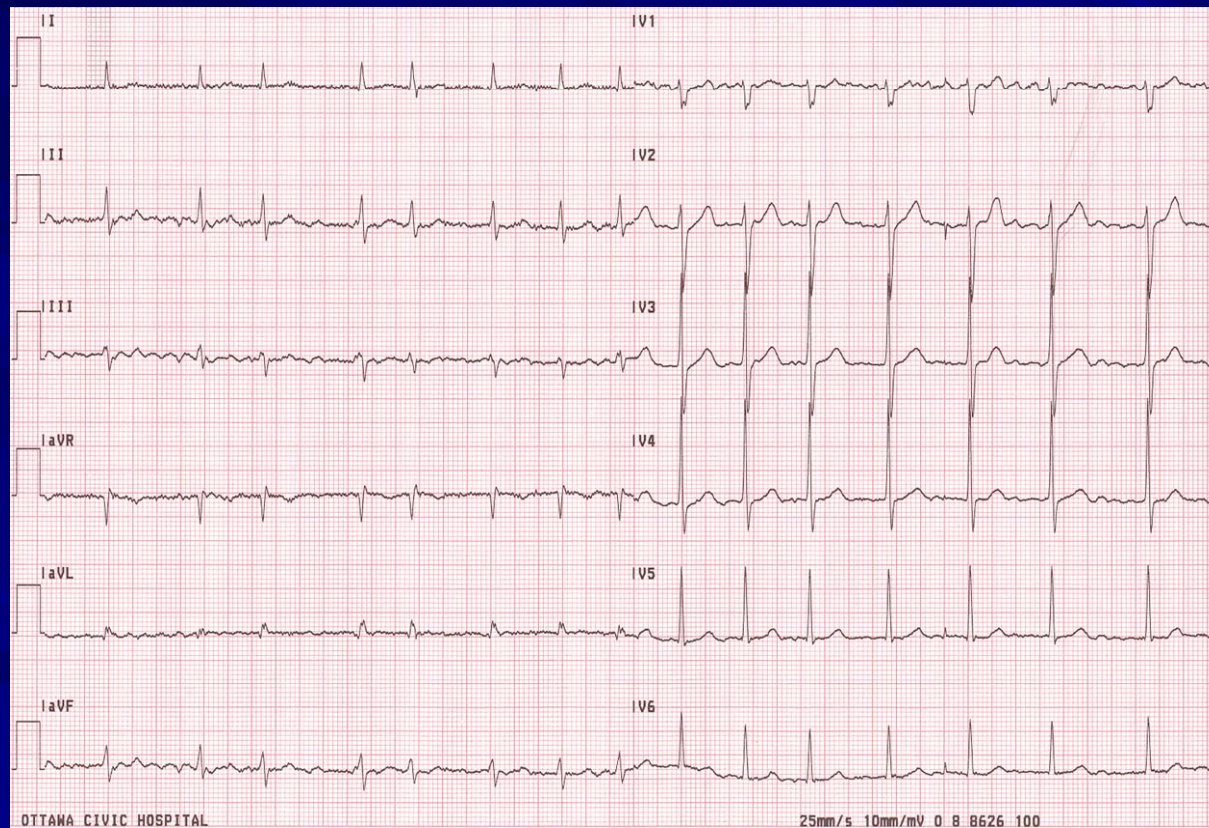
Canadian AF-Stroke Research



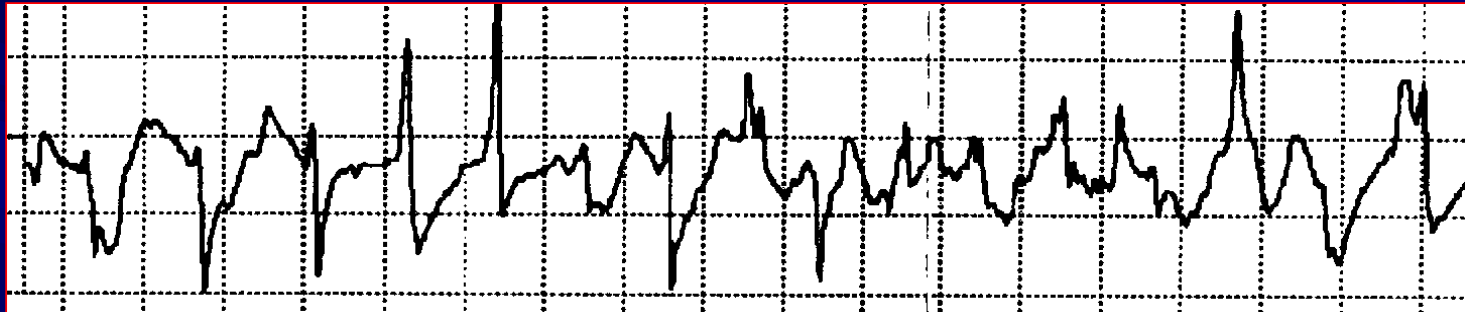
The Big AF and Stroke Questions

- 1. What is atrial fibrillation?
- 2. What is stroke?
- 3. How does atrial fibrillation cause stroke?
 - b. Does AF cause stroke, or is it simply a risk marker?
- 4. How does one prevent AF-related stroke?

Atrial Fibrillation in Framingham

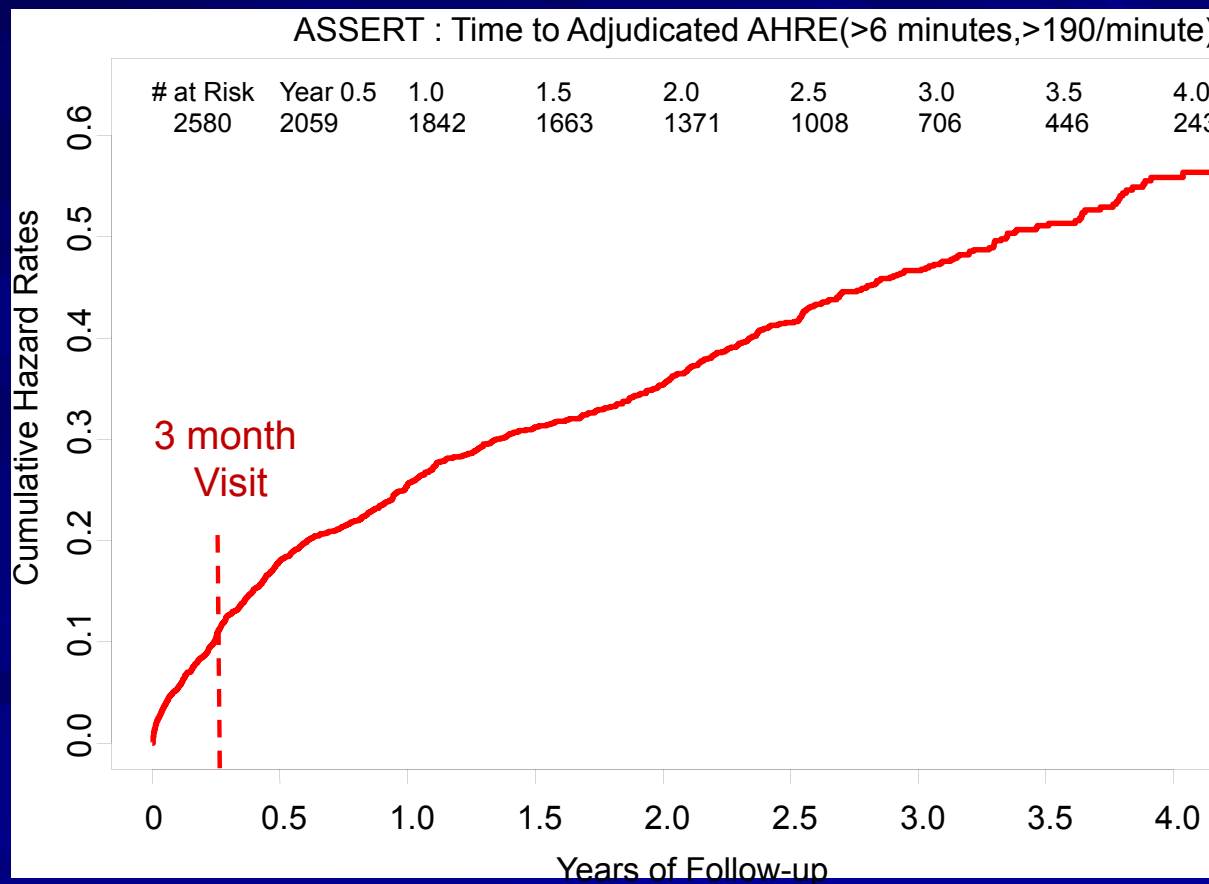


Sub-Clinical AF Detected by Pacemakers



1. Mostly asymptomatic
2. Relatively short episodes detected only with long-term, continuous monitoring

Time to First Device-Detected Atrial Tachyarrhythmia > 6 min, >190 bpm



Are brief episodes of AF detected with long-term continuous monitoring associated with stroke?

How are they related?

How long must they be to increase stroke risk?

ASSERT: Clinical Outcomes

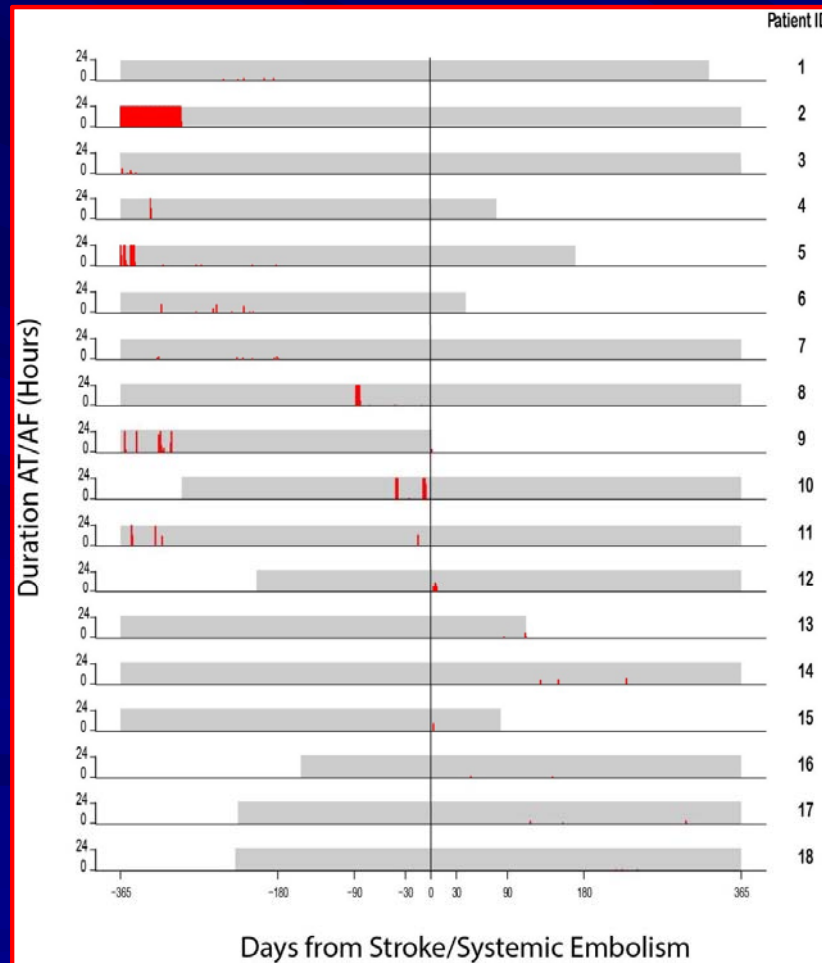
Healey JS, NEJM 2012

Event	Device-Detected Atrial Tachyarrhythmia				Device-Detected Atrial Tachyarrhythmia Present vs. absent		
	Absent N=2319		Present N= 261		RR	95% CI	p
	events	%/year	events	%/ year			
Ischemic Stroke or Systemic Embolism	40	0.69	11	1.69	2.49	1.28 – 4.85	0.007
Vascular Death	153	2.62	19	2.92	1.11	0.69 – 1.79	0.67
Stroke / MI / Vascular Death	206	3.53	29	4.45	1.25	0.85 – 1.84	0.27
Clinical Atrial Fibrillation or Flutter	71	1.22	41	6.29	5.56	3.78 – 8.17	<0.001

Clinical Outcomes in ASSERT

CHADS ₂ Score	Total Pts.	Sub-clinical Atrial Tachyarrhythmia between enrollment and 3 months						Sub-clinical Atrial Tachyarrhythmia Present vs. absent		
		Present			Absent			HR	95% CI	P trend
		Pts.	events	%/year	Pts.	events	%/year			
1	600	68	1	0.56	532	4	0.28	2.11	0.23 – 18.9	0.35
2	1129	119	4	1.29	1010	22	0.77	1.83	0.62 – 5.40	
>2	848	72	6	3.78	776	18	0.97	3.93	1.55 – 9.95	

Relation between AF and Stroke

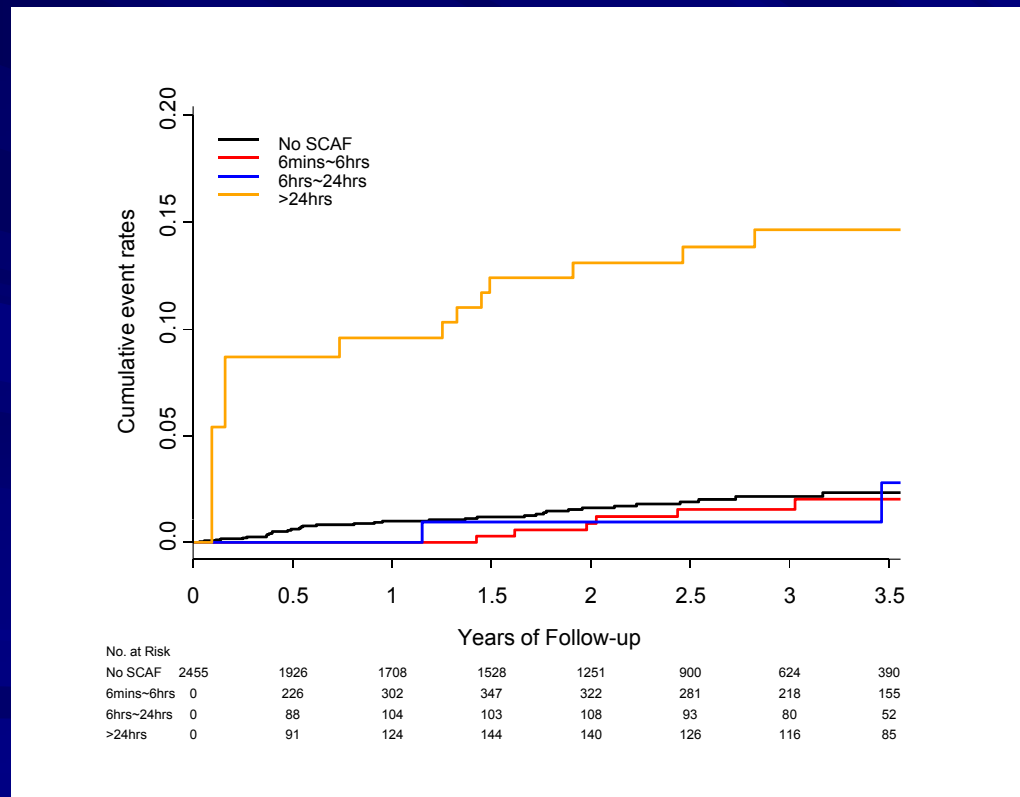


M. Brambatti
Circulation 2014

SCAF, Stroke Sub-Type and Severity in ASSERT

	Patients without SCAF	Patients with SCAF	P-value
Stroke Sub-Type			
Cardio-embolic	6.7%	35.7	
Large Artery	3.3%	7.1%	
Lacunar	56.7%	35.7%	
Undetermined	33.4%	21.4%	0.30
Stroke Severity			
7-day Rankin	3.1 ± 1.8	3.7 ± 2.0	0.37
30-day Rankin	2.6 ± 1.8	3.0 ± 2.0	0.64

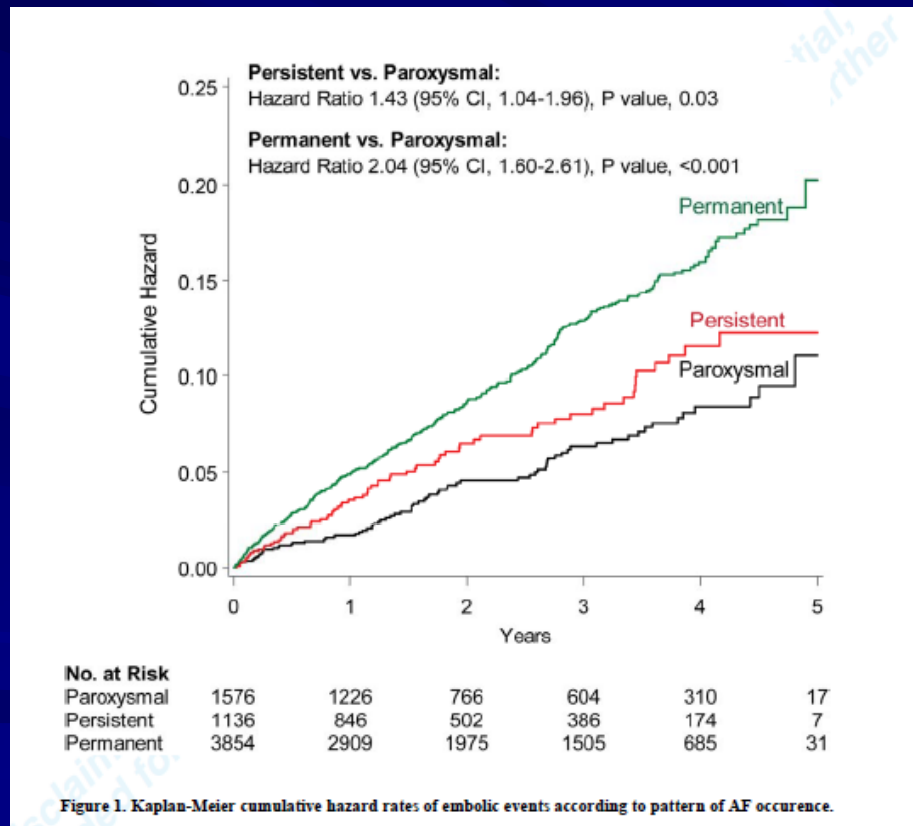
Risk of ischemic stroke or systemic embolism according to duration of SCAF



Unpublished from ASSERT

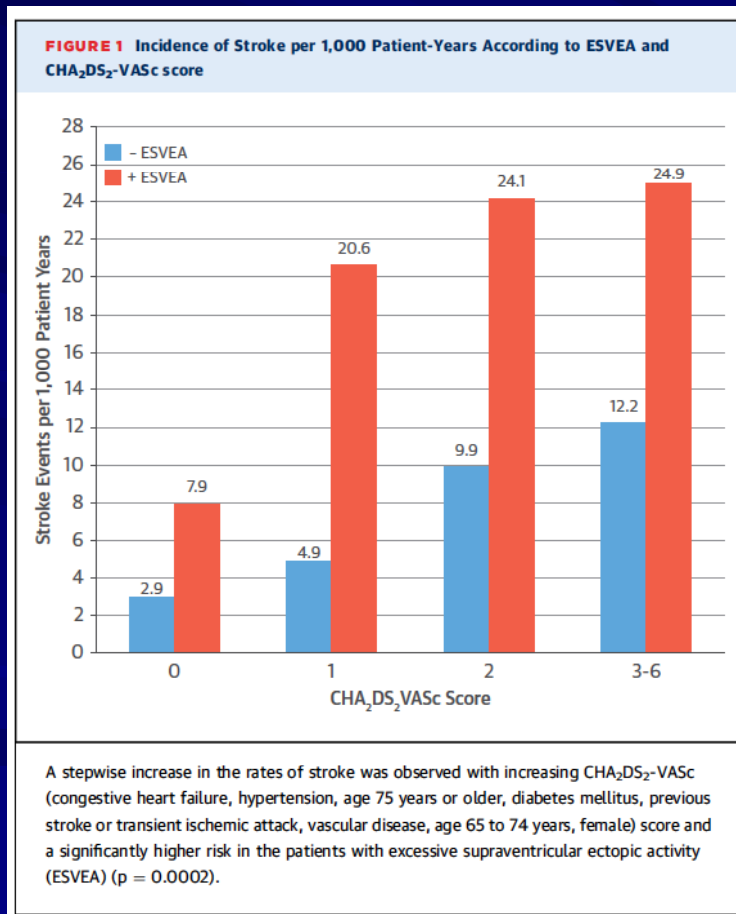
ACTIVE-AVERROES

N=6563, ASA-treated



Venassche T. Eur Heart J. 2014

Copenhagen Heart Study



■ JACC 2015;66:232-41

■ n=678, age 55-75 yrs

■ Median f/u 14 years

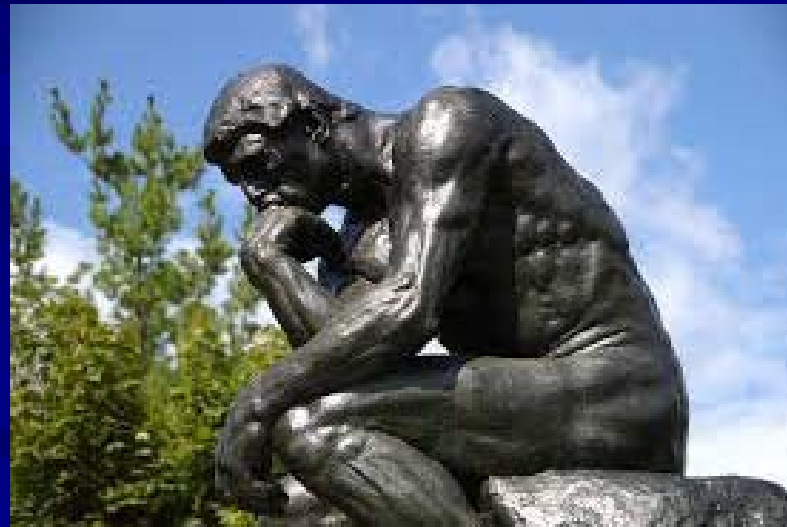
■ ESVEA on baseline Holter defined as:

– ≥ 30 APBs/h (≥ 720 APBs/d) or atrial runs ≥ 20 beats

Atrial Fibrillation and Stroke

- Relative risk for ischemic stroke appears increased for all types of AF and SCAF
- Appears to be a stepwise increase in ABSOLUTE risk with greater AF burden
- Further insights may come from large administrative datasets linking pacemaker or cardiac monitoring data with stroke

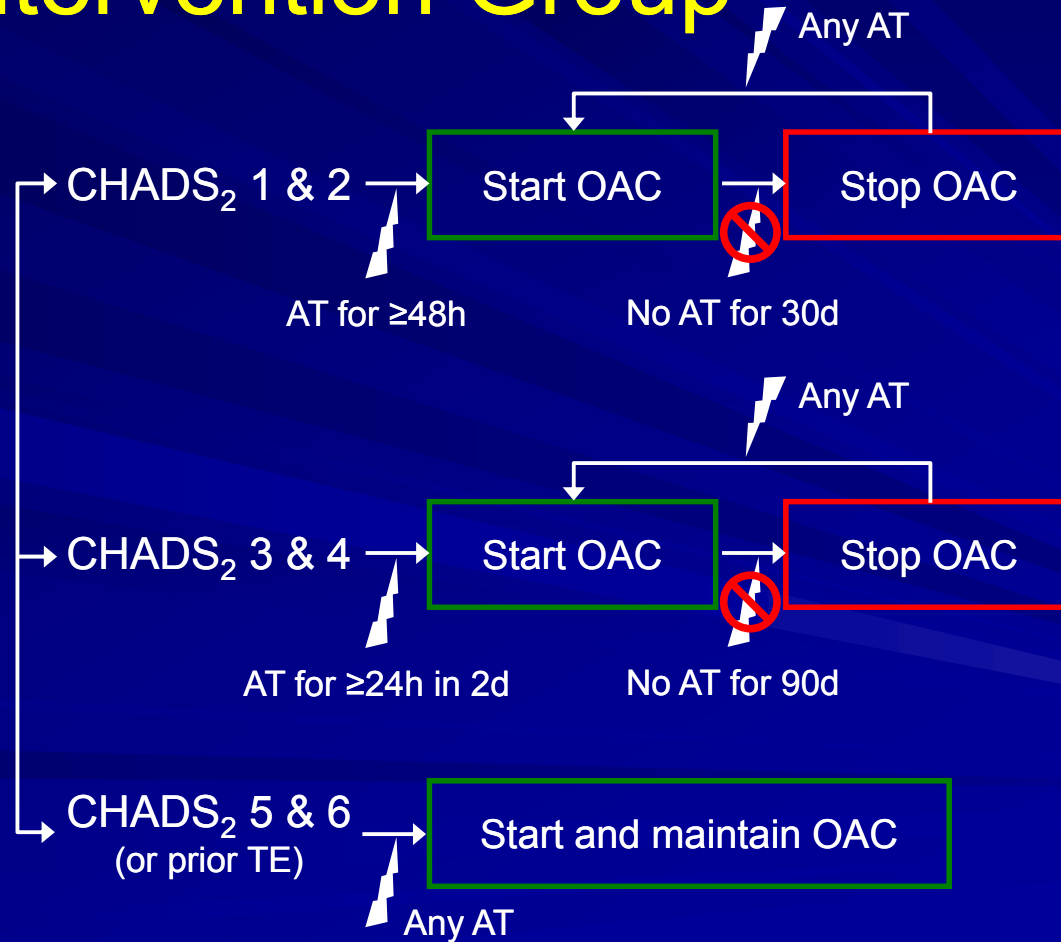
Should I use oral anticoagulation to treat patients with sub-clinical AF?





Anticoagulation Protocol Intervention Group

Continuous remote
monitoring for AT
(36 of 48 atrial beats
≥200 bpm)





Clinical Outcomes

	Control Group N = 1,361		Intervention Group N = 1,357		Hazard Ratio	<i>p</i>
	N	rate	N	rate		
Primary endpoint	61	2.3	63	2.4	1.06	0.732
Mortality	140	5.1	147	5.4	1.07	0.662
Thromboembolism	37	1.4	32	1.2	0.88	0.586
Ischemic stroke	28	1.0	22	0.8	0.79	0.417
Systemic embolism	2		0		-	0.969
TIA	8		10		1.27	0.619
Hemorrhagic stroke	3	0.1	3	0.1	1.03	0.973
Other major bleed	32	1.2	43	1.6	1.39	0.145

Rates are expressed as the number of events per 100 patient-years.



Patients with:
- SCAF (at least 1 episode \geq 6 min but none $>$ 24 hrs)
- CHA₂DS₂-VASc score \geq 3



CONSENT and RANDOMIZE

Double-blind, double-dummy design

Active aspirin 81mg OD + Placebo apixaban bid

Placebo aspirin OD + Active apixaban 5mg or 2.5mg* bid

Follow-up Visits at 1 month and every 6 months until 248 primary efficacy outcomes (est. avg 3 yrs)

Primary Efficacy Outcomes:
Stroke (including TIA with imaging)
Systemic Embolism
Primary Safety Outcomes:
Major Bleeding (ISTH)

- * 2.5 mg if either of the following:
 - At least 2 of 3 of:
 - Age \geq 80
 - Weight \leq 65 kg
 - Serum Creatinine \geq 133 μ mol/L (1.5 mg/dL)
 - Ongoing need for inhibitor of both CYP3A4 and P-glycoprotein

How hard must one look for AF after an embolic stroke?

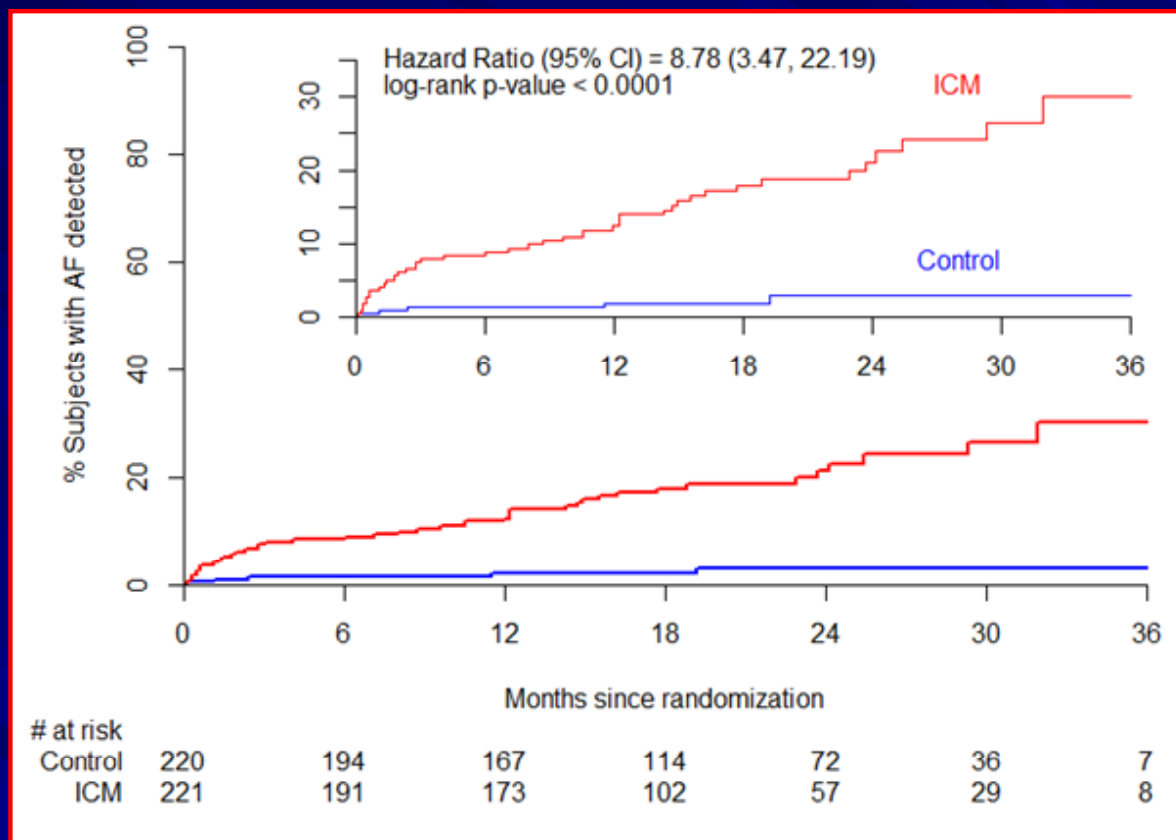
Embolic strokes of undetermined source: the case for a new clinical construct

Robert G Hart, Hans-Christoph Diener, Shelagh B Coutts, J Donald Easton, Christopher B Granger, Martin J O'Donnell, Ralph L Sacco, Stuart J Connolly, for the Cryptogenic Stroke/ESUS International Working Group

Lancet Neurology 2014

CRYSTAL-AF Trial: AF at 3 years

R. Bernstein 2014



Rate of detection in ICM arm was 30.0% vs 3.0% in control arm

EMBRACE Trial: AF Detection at 90 Days

D. Gladstone 2013

	Repeat Holter (n=285)	30-day Monitor (n=287)	p-value	Absolute Detection Difference (95% CI)	NNS
Primary Outcome					
AF ≥30 seconds	3%	16%	<0.001	13% (9%-18%)	8
AF ≥30 sec (study monitors only)	2%	15%	<0.001	13% (9%-18%)	8
Secondary Outcomes					
AF ≥2.5 min	2%	10%	<0.001	8% (4%-12%)	13
Any AF	4%	20%	<0.001	16% (10%- 21%)	6

Embolic Stroke of Unknown Source: ESUS

- RCT of DOAC vs. ASA in patients with ESUS
- Exclude AF by 12-lead and a single 24 hour Holter
- Then, just treat empirically

- Dabigatran: C. Diener
- Rivaroxaban: R. Hart; S. Connolly



How common is AF in the
general population?



CSPIN: PIAAF Program

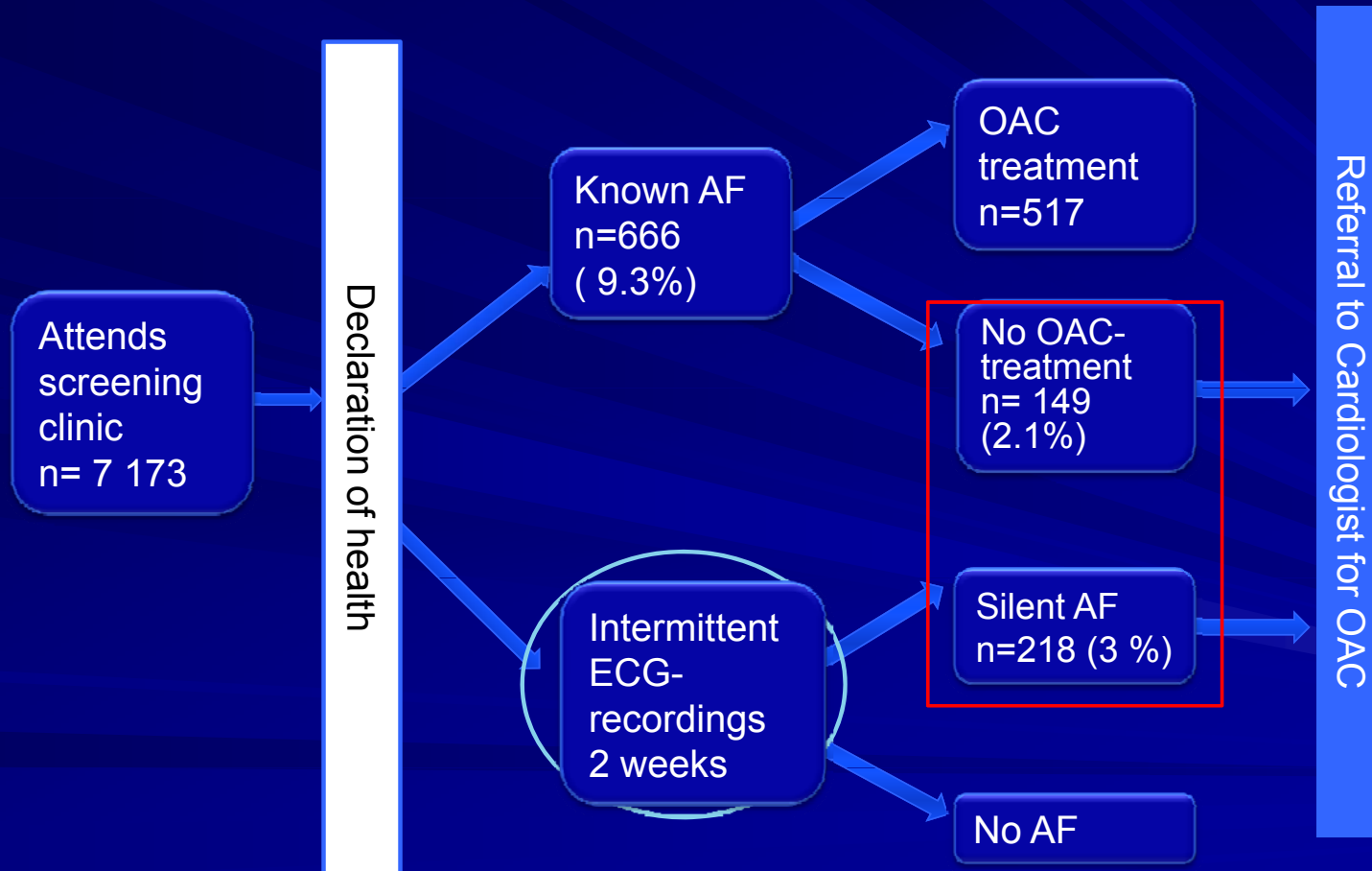


PIAAF Pharmacy: Subgroup Analyses



Age Groups (years)	Total N (%)	'Actionable' AF N (%)	No AF N (%)
65-74	620 (54.8)	11 (1.8)	609 (98.2)
75-85	422 (37.3)	9 (2.1)	413 (97.9)
>85	89 (7.9)	7 (7.9)	82 (92.1)

3 % new AF, total AF prevalence increase >30 %





Europace
doi:10.1093/europace/euv083

CLINICAL RESEARCH

Cost-effectiveness of mass screening for untreated atrial fibrillation using intermittent ECG recording

Mattias Aronsson^{1*}, Emma Svennberg², Märten Rosenqvist², Johan Engdahl³, Faris Al-Khalili^{2,4}, Leif Friberg², Viveka Frykman-Kull², and Lars-Åke Levin¹

¹Department of Medical and Health Sciences, Centre for Medical Technology Assessment, Linköping University, SE-581 83 Linköping, Sweden; ²Karolinska Institutet, Department of Clinical Science, Cardiology Unit, Danderyd University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden; ³Department of Medicine, Halland Hospital, Halmstad, Sweden; and ⁴Stockholm Heart Centre, Stockholm, Sweden

- 8 fewer strokes/1000 screened
- 12 QALYs / 1000 screened
- € 4313/QALY

ASSERT-3: Study Design

- Cohort study, 7 FP clinics and 1 general medical clinic
- ≥ 80 years old, no prior AF, no PM/ICD
 - History of: hypertension and ≥ 1 additional risk factor (diabetes, BMI ≥ 30 , sleep apnea, smoking, coronary disease, heart failure or LVH)

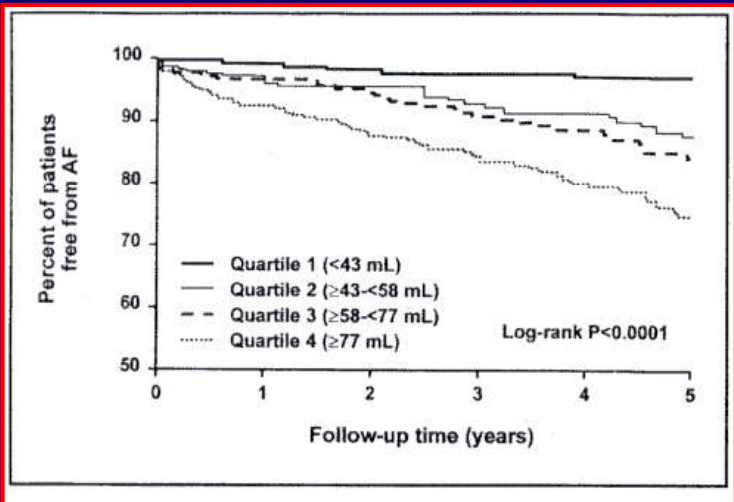
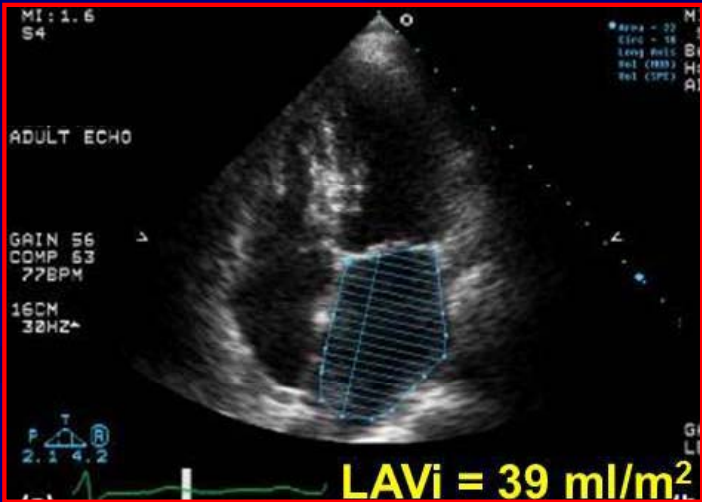
Duration of AF	N = 100
< 30 seconds	47
30 seconds – 6 minutes	4
≥ 6 minutes	15
≥ 6 hours	7

ASSERT-II

Prevalence of Sub-Clinical Atrial Fibrillation Using an Implantable Cardiac Monitor in Patients with Cardiovascular Risk Factors

Rationale and design of REVEAL AF: A prospective study of previously undiagnosed atrial fibrillation as documented by an insertable cardiac monitor in high-risk patients

James Reiffel, MD,^a Aml Verma, MD,^b Jonathan L. Halperin, MD,^c Bernard Gersh, MB, ChB, DPhil,^d Selcuk Tombul, DO,^e John Carrithers, PhD,^f Lou Sherfese, PhD,^f and Peter Kowey, MD^g *New York, NY; Ontario, Canada; Rochester, and Minneapolis, MN; Chattanooga, TN; and Wynnewood, PA*



Tsang Mayo Clinic Proc. 2001

J1 Linnea to provide slides on device and programming
Jeff-PC2012, 6/26/2012

Does it make sense to screen the population for AF?



Does the AF itself cause stroke?

Does elimination of AF reduce risk of stroke?

Drug-Based AF Rhythm Control

TABLE 3. ADVERSE EVENTS.*

EVENT	OVERALL (N=4060)	RATE-CONTROL GROUP (N=2027)	RHYTHM-CONTROL GROUP (N=2033)	P VALUE
		no. of patients (%)		
Primary end point (death)	666 (26.3)	310 (25.9)	356 (26.7)	0.08†
Secondary end point (composite of death, disabling stroke, disabling anoxic encephalopathy, major bleeding, and cardiac arrest)	861 (32.3)	416 (32.7)	445 (32.0)	0.33
Torsade de pointes	14 (0.5)	2 (0.2)‡	12 (0.8)	0.007
Sustained ventricular tachycardia	15 (0.6)	9 (0.7)	6 (0.6)	0.44
Cardiac arrest followed by resuscitation				
Ventricular fibrillation or ventricular tachycardia	19 (0.6)	10 (0.7)	9 (0.5)	0.83
Pulseless electrical activity, bradycardia, or other rhythm	10 (0.3)	1 (<0.1)	9 (0.6)	0.01
Central nervous system event				
Total	211 (8.2)	105 (7.4)	106 (8.9)	0.93
Ischemic stroke§	157 (6.3)	77 (5.5)	80 (7.1)	0.79
After discontinuation of warfarin	69	25	44	
During warfarin but with INR <2.0	44	27	17	
Concurrent atrial fibrillation	67	42	25	
Primary intracerebral hemorrhage	34 (1.2)	18 (1.1)	16 (1.3)	0.73
Subdural or subarachnoid hemorrhage	24 (0.8)	11 (0.8)	13 (0.8)	0.68
Disabling anoxic encephalopathy	9 (0.3)	4 (0.2)	5 (0.4)	0.74
Myocardial infarction	140 (5.5)	67 (4.9)	73 (6.1)	0.60
Hemorrhage not involving the central nervous system	203 (7.3)	107 (7.7)	96 (6.9)	0.44
Systemic embolism	16 (0.5)	9 (0.5)	7 (0.4)	0.62
Pulmonary embolism	8 (0.3)	2 (0.1)	6 (0.5)	0.16
Hospitalization after base line	2594 (76.6)	1220 (73.0)	1374 (80.1)	<0.001

*Percentages were derived from a Kaplan–Meier analysis. P values were derived from the log-rank statistic.

†The P value in the case of death was based on the square root of the log-rank statistic, adjusted for 10 interim monitoring analyses.

‡One patient had crossed over to the rhythm-control group and was taking quinidine, and one patient had torsade de pointes 72 hours after mitral-valve replacement.

§Information on warfarin therapy was missing for two patients in the rate-control group and three patients in the rhythm-control group. Information on the presence of atrial fibrillation with the event was missing for 16 patients in the rate-control group and 13 patients in the rhythm-control group.

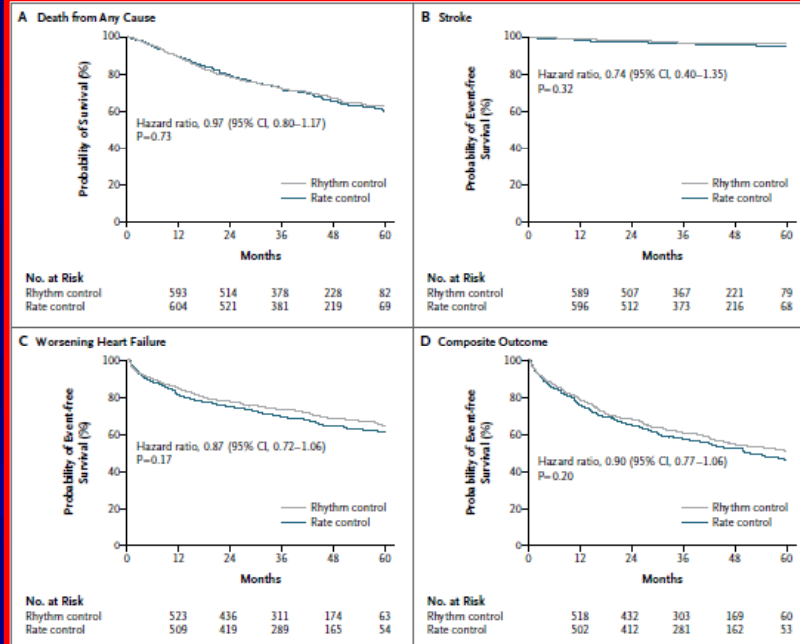


Figure 3. Kaplan–Meier Estimates of Secondary Outcomes.

None of the secondary outcomes differed significantly between the treatment groups. Panel A shows the probability of death from any cause (32% in the rhythm-control group and 33% in the rate-control group), Panel B the probability of ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke (3% and 4%, respectively), Panel C the probability of worsening heart failure, which was defined as heart failure requiring hospitalization, the administration of an intravenous diuretic, or a change in treatment strategy (28% and 31%), and Panel D the probability of the composite outcome of death from cardiovascular causes, stroke, or worsening heart failure (43% and 46%). There were also no significant differences favoring either strategy in any of the predefined subgroups. Hazard ratios are for the rhythm-control group, as compared with the rate-control group.

AFFIRM: G. Wyse, NEJM 2002

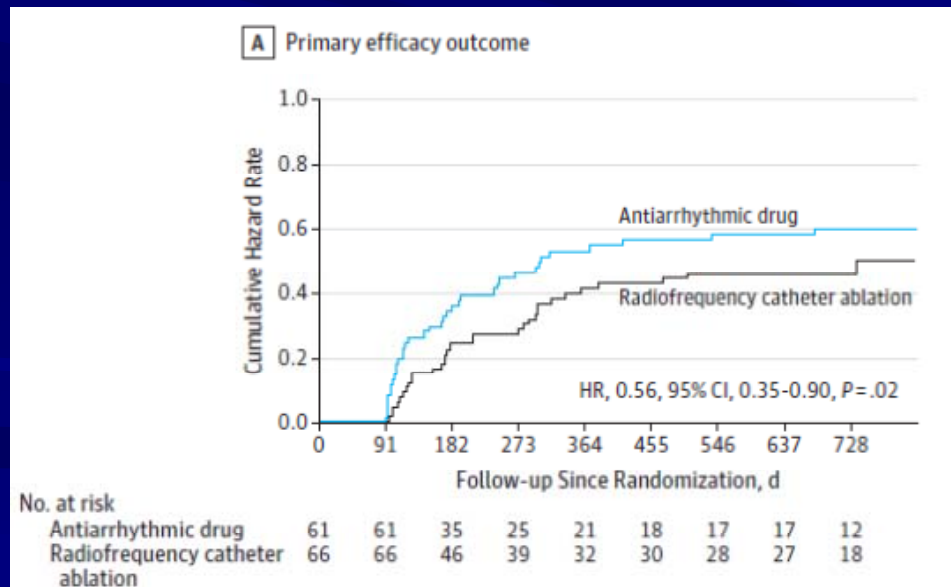
AF-CHF: D. Roy, NEJM 2008

Catheter Ablation: Ongoing Trials

Radiofrequency Ablation vs Antiarrhythmic Drugs as First-Line Treatment of Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation (RAAFT-2)

A Randomized Trial

Carlos A. Morillo, MD, FRCPC; Atul Verma, MD, FRCPC; Stuart J. Connolly, MD, FRCPC; Karl H. Kuck, MD, FHRS; Girish M. Nair, MBBS, FRCPC; Jean Champagne, MD, FRCPC; Laurence D. Sterns, MD, FRCPC; Heather Beresh, MSc; Jeffrey S. Healey, MD, MSc, FRCPC; Andrea Natale, MD; for the RAAFT-2 Investigators



JAMA 2014

- General AF population
 - CABANA (n=2200)
 - EAST (n=2745)
- AF-Heart Failure population
 - RAFT-AF (n=1000)
 - CASTLE (n=420)

Asymptomatic or silent AF following AF Ablation: DISCERN AF

ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION

ONLINE FIRST

Discerning the Incidence of Symptomatic and Asymptomatic Episodes of Atrial Fibrillation Before and After Catheter Ablation (DISCERN AF)

A Prospective, Multicenter Study

Atul Verma, MD, FRCPC; Jean Champagne, MD; John Sapp, MD; Vidal Essebag, MD, PhD; Paul Novak, MD; Allan Skanes, MD; Carlos A. Morillo, MD; Yaariv Khaykin, MD; David Birnie, MD

Background: The DISCERN AF study (Discerning Symptomatic and Asymptomatic Episodes Pre and Post Radiofrequency Ablation of Atrial Fibrillation) monitored atrial fibrillation (AF) using an implantable cardiac monitor (ICM) to assess the incidence and predictors of asymptomatic AF before and after catheter ablation.

Methods: Patients with symptomatic AF underwent implantation of an ICM with an automated AF detection algorithm 3 months before and 18 months after ablation. Patients kept a standardized diary to record symptoms of arrhythmia, and ICM data were downloaded every 3 months. All episodes were blindly adjudicated and correlated with the diary. Asymptomatic recurrences were ICM episodes of 2 minutes or longer with no associated diary symptoms.

Results: Fifty patients had 2355 ICM episodes. Of these, 69.0% were true AF/atrial flutter (AFL)/atrial tachycardia (AT); 16.0%, sinus with extrasystoles; 11.0%, artifact; and 4.0%, sinus arrhythmia. Total AF/AFL/AT burden was reduced by 86% from a mean (SD) of 2.0 (0.5) h/d per patient before to 0.3 (0.2) h/d per patient after ablation ($P < .001$), and 56.0% of all episodes were asymp-

tomatic. The ratio of asymptomatic to symptomatic AF episodes increased after ablation from 1.1 to 3.7 ($P = .002$). By symptoms alone, 29 of 50 patients (58%) were free of AF/AFL/AT after ablation compared with 23 of 50 (46%) using ICM-detected AF/AFL/AT recurrence. Asymptomatic episodes were more likely AFL/AT and were significantly shorter and slower, with lower heart rate variability. However, the postablation state was the strongest independent predictor of asymptomatic AF.

Conclusions: The ratio of asymptomatic to symptomatic AF episodes increased from 1.1 before to 3.7 after ablation. Postablation state is the strongest predictor of asymptomatic AF. Symptoms alone underestimate postablation AF burden, with 12% of patients having asymptomatic recurrences only.

Trial Registration: clinicaltrials.gov Identifier: NCT00745706

Arch Intern Med.
Published online December 24, 2012.
doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2013.1561

O C E A N



The Optimal Anticoagulation for Enhanced Risk Patients Post-AF Ablation Trial

David Birnie, Ottawa Heart Institute
Atul Verma, Southlake Regional Health
Centre

OCEAN: Long-Term AF Monitoring

- Use of an implantable AF monitor in subset of patients to assess for silent AF
- Correlate silent AF to occurrence of new embolic events



**Do most strokes in patients with AF
come from clots in the LA Appendage?**

Protect-AF: Key Events

	Watchman N=463		Warfarin N=244		Rel. Risk	95%CI
	events	Rate/y r	events	Rate/y yr		
Total Stroke	16	2.3	12	3.2	0.71	0.35-1.64
Ischemic	15	2.2	6	1.6	1.34	0.60-4.39
Hemorrhagic	1	0.1	6	1.6	0.09	0.0-0.45
Systemic Embolism	2		0		-	-
Stroke + SEE	18	(2.5)	12	(3.3)		
Ischemic Stroke+SEE	17	(2.4)	6	(1.7)		

THE LANCET

➤ Percutaneous closure of the left atrial appendage versus warfarin therapy for prevention of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation: a randomised non-inferiority trial

David R Holmes, Vivek Y Reddy, Zoltan G Turi, Shephal K Doshi, Horst Sievert, Maurice Buchbinder, Christopher M Mullin, Peter Sicks, for the PROTECT AF Investigators*

Summary

Background In patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation, embolic stroke is thought to be associated with left atrial appendage (LAA) thrombi. We assessed the efficacy and safety of percutaneous closure of the LAA for prevention of stroke compared with warfarin treatment in patients with atrial fibrillation.

Methods Adult patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation were eligible for inclusion in this multicentre, randomised non-inferiority trial if they had at least one of the following: previous stroke or transient ischaemic attack, congestive heart failure, diabetes, hypertension, or were 75 years or older. 707 eligible patients were randomly assigned in a 2:1 ratio by computer-generated randomisation sequence to percutaneous closure of the LAA and subsequent discontinuation of warfarin (intervention; n=463) or to warfarin treatment with a target international normalised ratio between 2.0 and 3.0 (control; n=244). Efficacy was assessed by a primary composite endpoint of stroke, cardiovascular death, and systemic embolism. We selected a one-sided probability criterion of non-inferiority for the intervention of at least 97.5%, by use of a two-fold non-inferiority margin. Serious adverse events that constituted the primary

Lancet 2009; 374: 534-42
See Editorial page 501
See Comment page 504
*Members listed at end of paper
Margo Chiriac, College of Medicine, Rochester, MN, USA
(Prof D R Holmes MD); Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY, USA (V Y Reddy MD); Cooper Hospital, Camden, NJ, USA (Z G Turi MD); Pacific Heart Institute/SJ Jobs Hospital, Santa Monica, CA, USA (S K Doshi MD); Cardiovascular

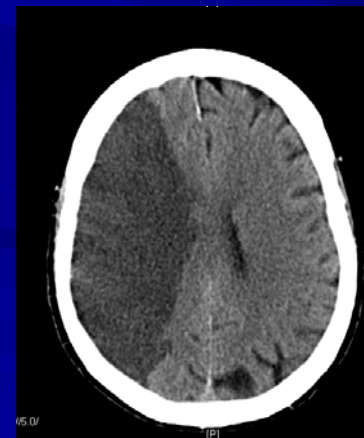
LAA Thrombus and Stroke



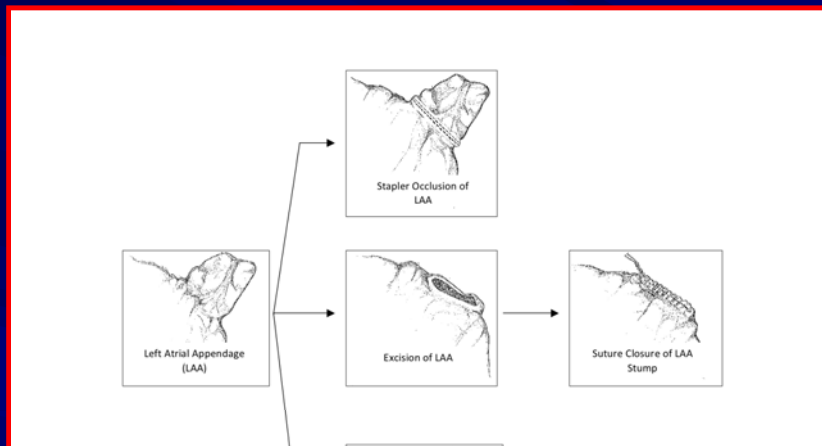
- Most strokes (70%) in AF patients are cardio-embolic originating from the LAA
- At least 90% of the clots are in the LAA in AF patients



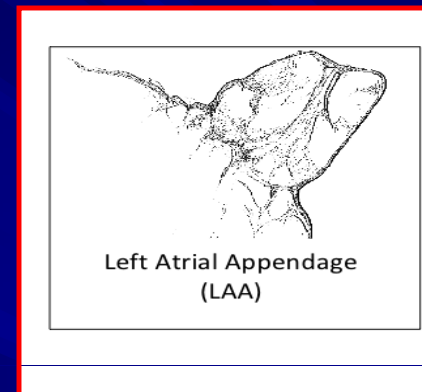
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LAAOS-III Trial



VS.



- Ongoing RCT (n=3700)
- Patients coming for routine CABG or valve surgery
- History of AF; on or off anticoagulation
- Randomized to LAA removal or control
- Currently, over 1000 patients, 25% not on anticoagulation

What is a stroke?

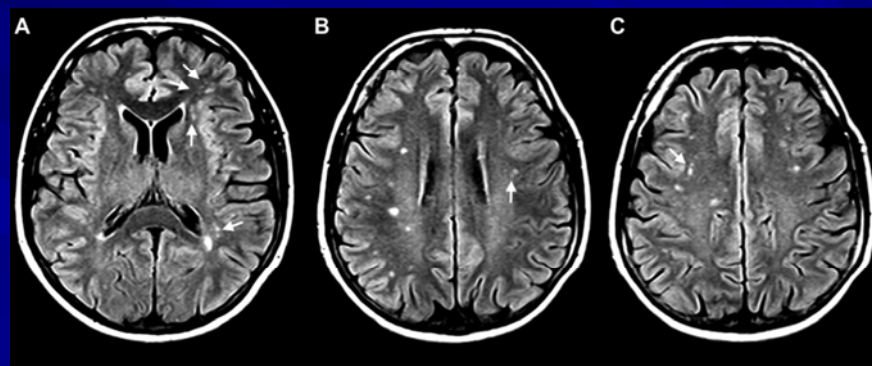
Does AF cause dementia?

Should young, low-risk AF patients receive OAC?

OAC for Low-Risk Patients and Covert Stroke

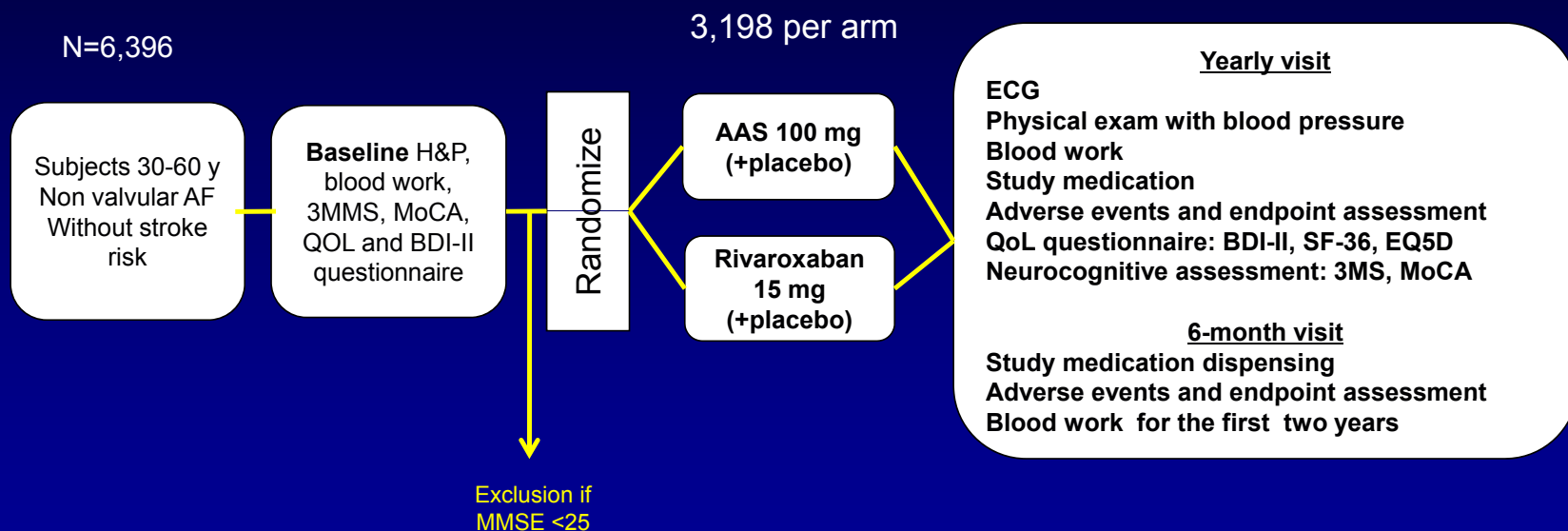
Prevalence of Silent Cerebral Ischemia (SCI) in Paroxysmal and Persistent Atrial Fibrillation and Correlation With Cognitive Function

- 180 AF pts (60.5% with CHADs Vasc 0/1) and 90 controls in SR.
- Higher prevalence of SCI (OR=11.2; 95% CI 6 to 21; $P<0.01$) in AF patients vs. patients in SR with a worse cognitive performance.
- Higher number of areas of SCI per pt in AF patients vs. subjects in SR.
- Higher number of areas of SCI per pt in persistent AF patients vs. paroxysmal AF patients.



Brain MRI of a 55-year-old man with paroxysmal AF without other risk factor

BRAIN-AF: Study Schema

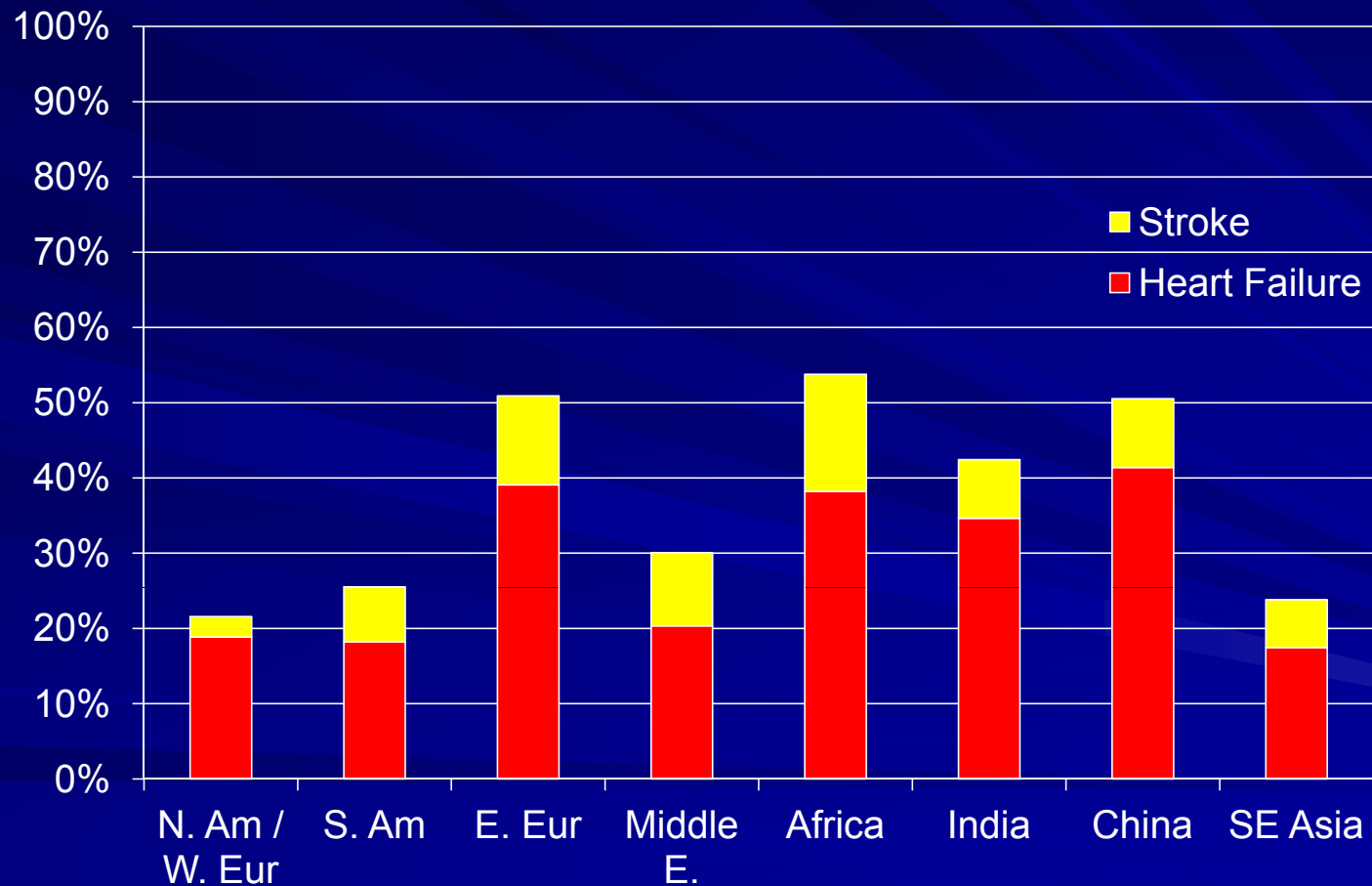


Phase I: 500 patient in 50 centers in Canada
Phase II: Expansion to international sites

Can we prevent AF and stroke due to AF by treating risk factors?

Can we prevent other AF-related complications?

Proportion of Causes of Death by Region



Circulation 2015

Slide 47

WS19 N. Am and W. Eur were combined.
Wang, Steven, 1/15/2015

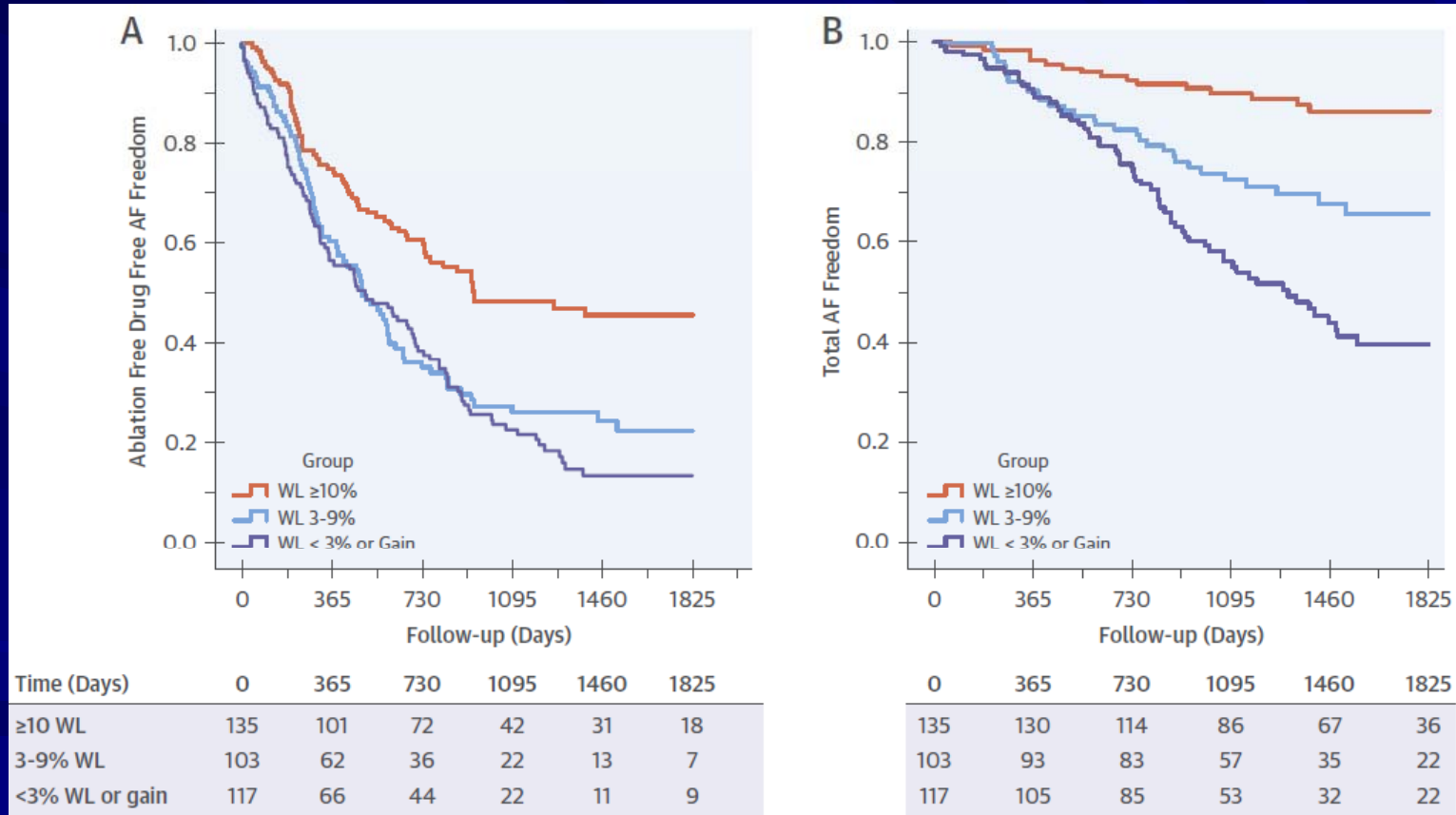
ARIC

Huxley, Circulation 2011

Table 4. Incidence Rate, Relative Hazard (95% Confidence Intervals), and Population-Attributable Fractions for Atrial Fibrillation for Risk Factors in the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study, 1987 to 2007

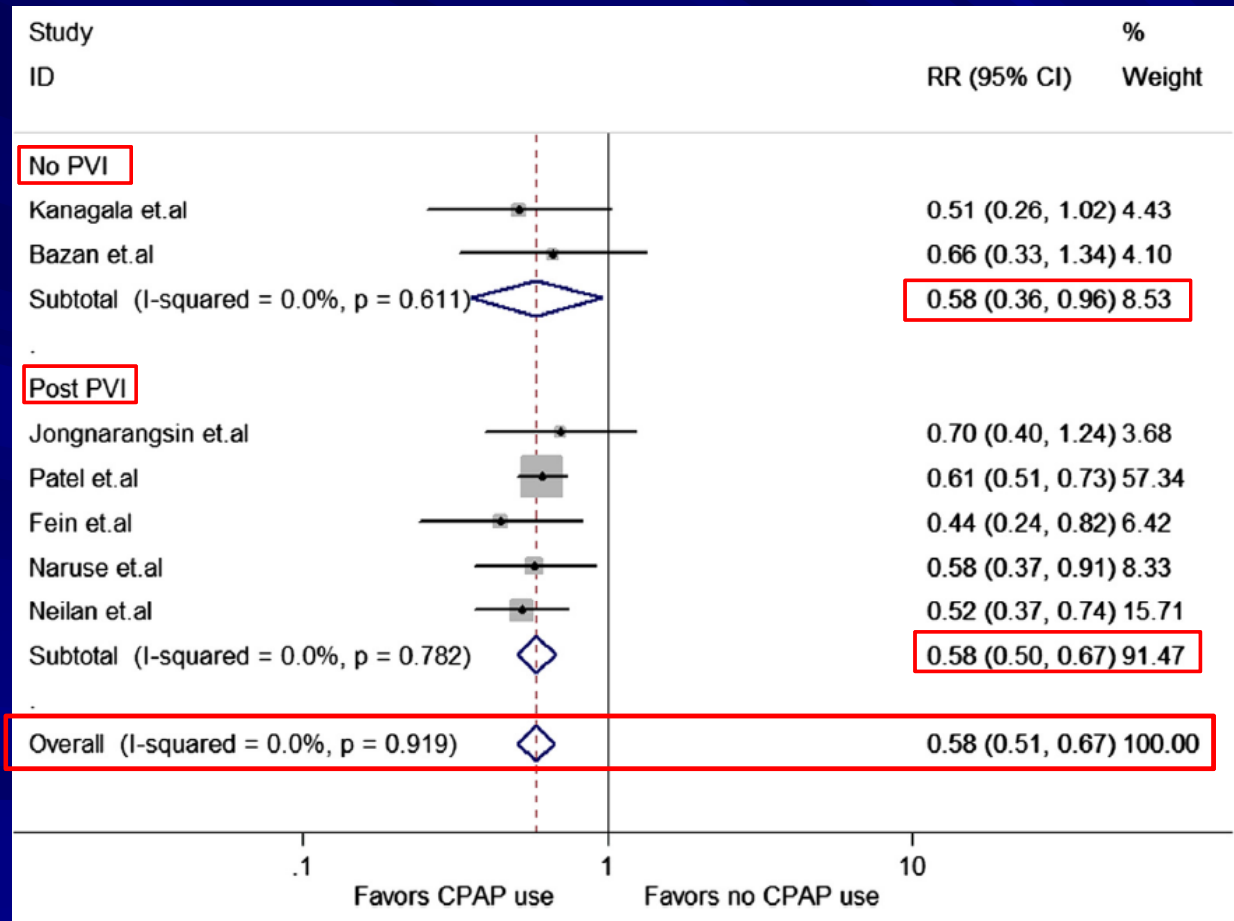
	At Risk, n	Incident AF, n	IR	RH (95% CI)*	PAF, %	95% CI
History of cardiac disease, %						
Optimal	13 398	1259	5.00	0.54 (0.46–0.62)	0.00	...
Elevated	1200	261	12.17	1 (Reference)	5.35	3.32–7.45
Blood pressure, %						
Optimal	5626	381	3.93	0.55 (0.48–0.63)	0.00	...
Borderline	3317	304	4.72	0.65 (0.56–0.74)	2.89	–0.11–5.64
Elevated	5655	835	7.65	1 (Reference)	21.6	16.8–26.7
BMI, %						
Optimal	4889	389	4.27	0.65 (0.56–0.74)	0.00	...
Borderline	5767	591	5.28	0.70 (0.62–0.79)	5.16	0.93–9.26
Elevated	3942	531	7.36	1 (Reference)	12.7	9.30–16.3
Diabetes mellitus, %						
Optimal	7558	645	4.68	0.67 (0.58–0.78)	0.00	...
Borderline	5491	617	5.83	0.71 (0.61–0.82)	0.78	–3.52–4.84
Elevated	1533	253	8.77	1 (Reference)	3.08	0.91–5.30
Smoking, %						
Optimal	6077	510	4.23	0.55 (0.48–0.62)	0.00	...
Borderline	4769	550	5.76	0.60 (0.52–0.68)	2.06	–2.05–6.05
Elevated	3752	460	7.45	1 (Reference)	9.78	6.74–12.9

Weight Loss Maintenance and AF

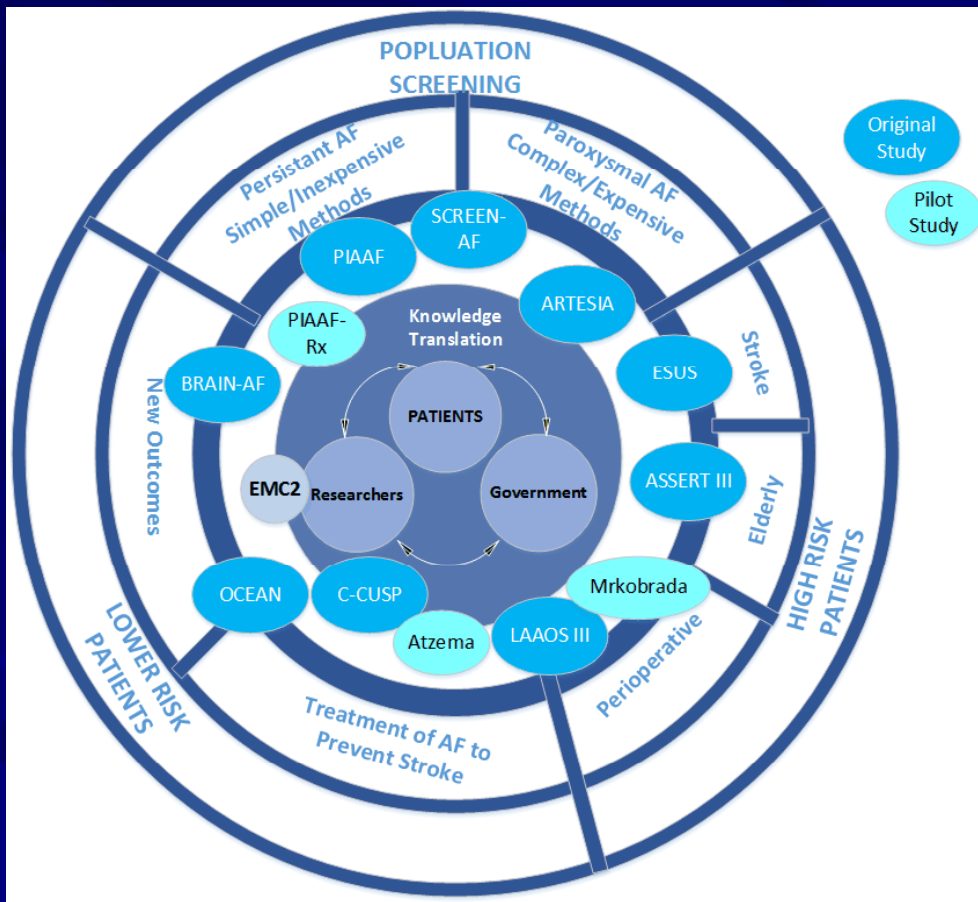


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CPAP Use in Sleep Apnea and AF



Synergies Across Network





Canadian AF Research: Gen 2.0

