Abstract: P4773

Oral anticoagulants in patients with atrial fibrillation having an intermediate risk of ischemic stroke but a high risk of bleeding

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Topic(s):
Atrial Fibrillation - Stroke Prevention

Citation:
Background: The use of oral anticoagulants (OACs) for patients with atrial fibrillation (AF) for stroke prevention should be balanced between the reduction on stroke risk and the increase in bleeding. Our aim was to investigate net clinical benefits of OACs among AF patients with a CHA2DS2-VASc score of 1 (males) or 2 (females) who had a HAS-BLED score >= 3.

Method: A total of 404,949 newly diagnosed AF patients were identified from the Taiwan National Health Insurance Research Database. The stroke risk was assessed using the CHA2DS2-VASc score and patients were classified as low (score 0 for males, 1 for females), intermediate (1 for males and 2 for females) and high risk (>=2 for males and >=3 for females). A high risk of bleeding was defined as a HAS-BLED score >=3.

Results: The CHA2DS2-VASc and HAS-BLED scores were significantly correlated (r = 0.70). Around 72.7% of patients with a high-risk of stroke had a HAS-BLED score >=3 (Figure A). Among patients with a CHA2DS2-VASc score of 1 (males) or 2 (females) who had a HAS-BLED score >= 3, the use of OACs was associated with a lower risk of adverse events (ischemic stroke, intra-cranial hemorrhage or mortality) with an adjusted hazard ratio of 0.781 (p = 0.037)(Figure B).

Conclusion: Even among patients with an intermediate risk of ischemic stroke (CHA2DS2-VASc score 1 for males, 2 for females) having a high risk for bleeding (HAS-BLED score >=3), use of OACs was associated with a better clinical outcome and should still be considered.
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**Figure A**: Percentage of patients with a HAS-BLED score < 3 and >= 3 within low, intermediate, and high CHA2DS2-VASc risk groups.

**Figure B**: Cumulative incidence of adverse events (ischemic stroke, intracranial hemorrhage, or mortality) over follow-up years with and without OACs. Logrank test P = 0.046.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Follow-up (years)</th>
<th>Number at riskWithout OACs</th>
<th>Number at riskWith OACs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,920</td>
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