

# Signals of bleeding among direct-acting oral anticoagulant users compared to those among warfarin users: analyses of the post-marketing FDA Adverse Event Reporting System (FAERS) database, 2010–2015

Thamir M Alshammari<sup>1-3</sup>  
 Sondus I Ata<sup>4</sup>  
 Mansour Adam Mahmoud<sup>5</sup>  
 Tariq M Alhawassi<sup>2,4,6</sup>  
 Hisham S Aljadhey<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Clinical Pharmacy, College of Pharmacy, University of Hail, Hail, Saudi Arabia; <sup>2</sup>Medication Safety Research Chair, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; <sup>3</sup>Saudi Food and Drug Authority, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; <sup>4</sup>Pharmacy Services, King Saud University Medical City, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; <sup>5</sup>Department of Clinical Pharmacy, College of Pharmacy, Taibah University, Medina, Saudi Arabia; <sup>6</sup>Department of Clinical Pharmacy, College of Pharmacy, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

**Purpose:** To analyze and compare the signals of bleeding from the use of direct-acting oral anticoagulants (DOACs) in the US Food and Drug Administration Adverse Event Reporting System (FAERS) database over 5 years.

**Methods:** Reports of bleeding and of events with related terms submitted to the FAERS between October 2010 and September 2015 were retrieved and then analyzed using the reporting odds ratio (ROR). The signals of bleeding associated with DOAC use were compared with the signals of bleeding associated with warfarin use utilizing the FAERS databases.

**Results:** A total of 1,518 reports linked dabigatran to bleeding, accounting for 2.7% of all dabigatran-related reports, whereas 93 reports linked rivaroxaban to bleeding, which accounted for 4.4% of all rivaroxaban-related reports. The concurrent proportion of bleeding-related reports for warfarin was 3.6%, with a total of 654 reports. The association of bleeding and of related terms with the use of all three medications was significant, albeit with different degrees of association. The ROR was 12.30 (95% confidence interval [CI] 11.65–12.97) for dabigatran, 15.61 (95% CI 14.42–16.90) for warfarin, and 18.86 (95% CI 15.31–23.23) for rivaroxaban.

**Conclusions:** The signals of bleeding varied among the DOACs, and the bleeding signal was higher for rivaroxaban and lower for dabigatran compared to that for warfarin.

**Keywords:** Warfarin, dabigatran, rivaroxaban, FAERS, bleeding

## Introduction

Oral anticoagulants are widely prescribed for patients with venous thromboembolism. Specific scoring systems are useful for determining who should use oral anticoagulants for diseases such as atrial fibrillation. The CHADS<sub>2</sub> scoring system is widely used to stratify the risk of thromboembolism in atrial fibrillation patients. Patients at low risk (CHADS<sub>2</sub> score = 0) should not be treated with oral anticoagulants, whereas patients at higher risk (CHADS<sub>2</sub> score ≥ 2) should be treated. An updated version of CHADS<sub>2</sub> is the CHA<sub>2</sub> DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc score, which is used by the European Society of Cardiology and the American College of Cardiology. Evidence indicates that patients with atrial fibrillation at moderate to high thromboembolic risk (CHA<sub>2</sub> DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc ≥ 2) should be treated with oral anticoagulants. Additionally, patients with CHA<sub>2</sub> DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc scores of 1 for men or 2 or above for women should be considered for anticoagulant therapy to prevent stroke.<sup>1-4</sup> Warfarin was considered the gold standard anticoagulant

Correspondence: Thamir M Alshammari  
 Department of Clinical Pharmacy, College of Pharmacy, University of Hail, PO Box 6166, Hail City, Saudi Arabia 81442  
 Tel +966 50 519 2886  
 Email thamer.alshammari@gmail.com

therapy to prevent stroke and to prevent and treat deep venous thrombosis and pulmonary embolism for many years, albeit the only option available at the time. Warfarin was also used to prevent and treat thromboembolic complications in patients with cardiac valve replacement and/or atrial fibrillation and to reduce the risk of death, stroke or systemic embolization after myocardial infarction and recurrent myocardial infarction. It is also used for patients with cerebral transient ischemic attack.<sup>5–8</sup> However, warfarin is a narrow therapeutic index drug, which encumbers the maintenance of patients at the required therapeutic level. A study found that approximately 50% of patients were out of the normal therapeutic range. Moreover, inter-individual variability in response to warfarin therapy exists, which causes warfarin dose variance among patients. Therefore, patients using warfarin require close monitoring, particularly at the beginning of treatment, because of the risk of bleeding and potential drug interactions.<sup>9–12</sup>

Direct-acting oral anticoagulants (DOACs) were introduced to the market in the new century. Two classes of DOACs are currently available: oral direct thrombin inhibitors (DTIs; eg, dabigatran) and oral direct factor Xa inhibitors (eg, rivaroxaban, apixaban, edoxaban, and betrixaban). Dabigatran was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in October 2010 for the prevention of stroke in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation.<sup>13</sup> Rivaroxaban and dabigatran are prescribed as alternatives to warfarin to prevent stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation. Furthermore, as per the CHEST (2016) guidelines, rivaroxaban and dabigatran may be used preferentially over warfarin as an anticoagulant therapy for venous thromboembolism.<sup>14</sup>

Clinical trials demonstrated that dabigatran was comparable to warfarin regarding efficacy and safety.<sup>15–17</sup> Some of the advantages of dabigatran over warfarin include the lack of a need for routine blood monitoring, a standard dosing regimen and fewer drug interactions. Additionally, because of its short half-life (12–17 hours), dabigatran use may not require bridging therapy before surgery. The protein binding of dabigatran is approximately 35% and its volume of distribution is 50–70 L.<sup>18</sup>

Rivaroxaban was approved by the US FDA in mid-2011 as prophylaxis for deep venous thrombosis and, later in the same year, for the prevention of stroke in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation. Rivaroxaban has high plasma protein binding (92%–95%), a volume of distribution of 50 L and a half-life of 5–9 hours.<sup>19</sup> For patients with atrial fibrillation, rivaroxaban was non-inferior to warfarin for the prevention of stroke and systemic embolism.<sup>20</sup> However, fatal

bleeding occurred less frequently in the rivaroxaban group. Notably, the normal rivaroxaban dosage for atrial fibrillation is 20 mg once daily and, for patients with a creatinine clearance 15–50 mL/min, 15 mg once daily.<sup>19,21</sup>

A systematic review reported no differences in the risks of non-hemorrhagic stroke and systemic embolic events between DOACs (rivaroxaban, dabigatran and apixaban) and warfarin.<sup>22</sup> However, the risk of intracranial bleeding with DOAC use was lower than that with warfarin use (relative risk [RR] = 0.46; 95% CI = 0.33–0.65). Table 1 shows the landmark clinical trials for the DOACs included in the study.

Adverse drug reactions (ADRs) cannot be easily detected in studies conducted before a new drug reaches the market for use in patients. However, after the drug is marketed, new spontaneous reports of ADRs are received by health authorities as a greater number of patients are prescribed the drug for longer periods of use. Observations from real-world data indicated increased cases of major bleeding in older patients, extremely obese patients and patients with impaired renal function who were using dabigatran.<sup>23</sup> Real-world data provide confirmative information on bleeding risks to help clinicians weigh the risks and benefits of these agents.

The FDA established the FDA Adverse Event Reporting System (FAERS) database to support post-marketing surveillance programs. The FAERS is a computerized database of more than nine million adverse event reports, including all reports from 1969 to the present time. Epidemiologists and other scientific personnel may access the reports submitted to the FAERS, and the FDA may depend on these reports to take action regarding medication safety concerns.<sup>24</sup>

Therefore, the aim of this study was to evaluate the associations between the use of warfarin (Coumadin®; Bristol-Myers Squibb, New York, NY, USA), dabigatran (Pradaxa®; Boehringer Ingelheim, Ingelheim am Rhein, Germany) and rivaroxaban (Xarelto®; Janssen Pharmaceutica NV, Beerse, Belgium) and the signals of bleeding using a case/non-case method. Other DOACs (apixaban and edoxaban) were not included in this study because they were approved during the study period.

## Methods

### Data source

Reports of bleeding events submitted to the FAERS database over 5 years (2010–2015) were retrieved and then analyzed using the reporting odds ratio (ROR). The FAERS contains adverse event and medication error reports submitted by healthcare professionals and consumers. The FAERS datasets

**Table 1** Safety and efficacy endpoints for landmark clinical trials for studied drugs

Trials	Study drug(s)	Primary outcome	Bleeding
RE-LY <sup>16</sup>	Dabigatran 110 mg (N = 6,015), dabigatran 150 mg (N = 6,076) vs warfarin (N = 6,022)	Stroke or systemic embolism (rate per year); dabigatran (D110 [1.53%, N = 182], D150 [1.11%, N = 134]), warfarin (1.69%, N = 199)	Major bleeding (rate per year); warfarin (3.36%, N = 404), dabigatran (D110 [2.71%, N = 326], D150 [3.11%, N = 378]) Intracranial bleeding (rate per year); warfarin (0.74%, N = 89), dabigatran (D110 [0.23%, N = 28], D150 [0.30%, N = 36])
ROCKET-AF <sup>20</sup>	Rivaroxiban (N = 7,131) vs warfarin (N = 7,133)	Stroke or systemic embolism (intention-to-treat population) (rate per year); rivaroxiban (1.7%, N = 188), warfarin (2.2%, N = 240)	Major and non-major (rate per year); rivaroxiban (14.9%, N = 1,475), warfarin (14.5%, N = 1,449)
RE-MEDY <sup>42</sup>	Dabigatran 150 mg (N = 1,430) vs warfarin (N = 1,426)	Recurrent VTE; dabigatran (N = 26, 1.8%), warfarin (N = 18, 1.3%)	Major bleeding; dabigatran (N = 13, 0.9%), warfarin (N = 25, 1.8%)
RECORD I <sup>43</sup>	Rivaroxiban vs enoxaparin	DVT, pulmonary embolism; rivaroxiban (18 of 1,595, 1.1%), enoxaparin (58 of 1,558, 3.7%)	Major bleeding; rivaroxiban (6 of 2,209, 0.3%), enoxaparin (2 of 2,224, 0.1%)
RE-NOVATE (I, II) <sup>44</sup>	Dabigatran vs enoxaparin	VTE; dabigatran (114 of 1,672, 6.8%), enoxaparin (129 of 1,682, 7.7%)	Major bleeding; dabigatran (37 of 2,156, 1.7%), enoxaparin (27 of 2,157, 1.3%)
RE-COVER <sup>45</sup>	Dabigatran (N = 1,274) vs warfarin (N = 1,265)	VTE; dabigatran (N = 30, 2.4%), warfarin (N = 27, 2.1%)	Major bleeding; dabigatran (N = 20, 1.6%), warfarin (N = 24, 1.9%)
RE-MODEL <sup>46</sup>	Dabigatran (150 mg, 220 mg) vs enoxaparin 40 mg	VTE; dabigatran (D150 [213 of 526, 40.5%], D220 [183 of 503, 36.4%]), enoxaparin (193 of 512, 37.7%)	Major bleeding; dabigatran (D150 [1.3%], D220 [1.5%]), enoxaparin (1.3%)
RE-MOBILIZE <sup>47</sup>	Dabigatran (150 mg, 220 mg) vs enoxaparin 30 mg	VTE (%); dabigatran (D150 [33.7%], D220 [31.1%]), enoxaparin (25.3%)	Major bleeding; dabigatran (D150 [0.6%], D220 [0.6%]), enoxaparin (1.4%)

**Abbreviations:** DVT, deep vein thrombosis; VTE, venous thromboembolism.

may be freely accessed using the FDA website (<https://open.fda.gov/data/faers/>).<sup>25</sup> The FAERS accepts reports from all regions of the country and from international manufacturers. Adverse event reporting by pharmaceutical companies is mandatory, whereas reporting by healthcare professionals is voluntary. For inclusion in the database, reports must include an identifiable patient, an identifiable reporter, the suspected drug and the adverse event encountered.

## Data collection

The FDA publishes FAERS files every quarter (ie, four comprehensive files published each year). Each quarterly file consists of seven sub-files, which include the following: a demographic file that includes patient demographic and administrative data; a drug file that includes drugs that the patient has taken, including suspected and any concomitant drugs; a reaction file that includes the medical dictionary for regulatory activities terms coded for the adverse event (the FDA, similar to other authorities, uses these preferred terms as the main terms for adverse events); an outcome file that includes patient outcomes for the event; a source file that contains the sources of reports; a file of therapy dates that includes drug therapy start dates and end dates for the reported drugs; and a file with indications for use that includes

the medical dictionary for regulatory activities coding for indications for use (diagnoses) for the reported drugs.<sup>26–28</sup>

All these files include one unique report ID, which is referred to as the primary ID in files from 2013 and as the individual safety report (ISR) before 2013. These unique IDs were used to merge all these files both within and between years.<sup>27</sup>

Reports of each bleeding event in the present analysis were submitted to the FAERS between October 2010 and September 2015, and the medications of interest that were considered a potential cause of bleeding were retrieved. The main medications of interest were warfarin, dabigatran and rivaroxaban. Searches were performed using both the generic and brand names of each medication. Additionally, searches were performed for subsets of medication-related terms (as a part of the word), and findings were reviewed case by case. Drug indications were also assessed to ensure that no discrepancies existed between the drug and its indication. Moreover, we included only the drug suspected to be the primary agent.

The outcome of interest was bleeding and was searched for using the terms “bleed,” “bleeding,” “hemorrhage” and “haemorrhage” in the preferred terms field in the FAERS database. Other data on demographic information and reporter type were also collected. Duplicate reports and contradictory

data were excluded by reviewing the unique ID (primary ID or ISR) and the case number (CASE or CASEID).

## Statistical analysis

The case/non-case methodology was used to evaluate the association between bleeding and the use of the drugs of interest. Cases were defined as reports of the outcome of interest, ie, bleeding, and were identified by searching for related terms such as “bleed,” “bleeding,” “hemorrhage” and “haemorrhage” or subsets of these terms in the preferred terms field. Cases were extracted based on the preferred terms for any given drug. The temporal relationship between the start and event dates (ie, start dates preceding event dates) was assessed because it is an important factor in case identification. A case by case review was conducted by the research team to ascertain the time points described above.

Non-cases were defined as all non-bleeding-related reports for the same drug. Reports indicating a drug of interest as the primary suspected drug were included in the analyses. The ROR was used to evaluate the association between the drugs of interest and bleeding. The ROR estimates the odds of bleeding among those exposed to the drugs of interest divided by the odds of bleeding among those not exposed to the drugs of interest. The case/non-case report ratio for each group was compared to that of the other medications. As mentioned above, this method is used in most of the studies using spontaneous ADR reporting databases to calculate ROR, which is obtained by the equation  $(ad/bc)$ , where *a* is the number of cases for the studied drug, *b* is the number of non-cases for the studied drug, *c* is the number of cases for other drugs in the database, and *d* is the number of non-cases for other drugs in the database.<sup>29</sup> All statistical analyses were conducted using Statistical Analysis Software (SAS 9.3) (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA).

## Confidentiality

The study investigators had no access to the personal patient and reporter data during the review and analysis of reports from the FAERS database. This study was approved by the medication safety research chair at King Saud University.

## Results

In total, 18,231 reports were on warfarin, 56,039 reports were on dabigatran, and 2,095 reports were on rivaroxaban as the primary suspected product in the period between October 2010 and September 2015. A total of 1,518 reports linked dabigatran to bleeding, accounting for 2.7% of all dabigatran-related reports, whereas 93 reports linked rivaroxaban to bleeding, which accounted for 4.4% of all rivaroxaban-related reports. Concurrently, 654 reports linked bleeding to warfarin, which accounted for 3.6% of all warfarin-related reports. For all the drugs, most of the reports were from the US and involved male patients. However, reports of dabigatran-associated bleeding occurred at similar rates in males and females (Table 2).

The ROR was significant for the risk of bleeding with the use of all three medications, albeit with varying degrees of association. The ROR was lowest for dabigatran (12.30 [95% CI 11.65–12.97]) among the investigated medications, whereas the ROR was highest for rivaroxaban (18.86 [95% CI 15.31–23.23]) (Table 3).

The highest number of reported cases for dabigatran was for the period between 2013 and 2014, whereas for warfarin and rivaroxaban, the highest number of reported cases was for the period between 2014 and 2015 (Figure 1). Most of the bleeding reports associated with dabigatran and warfarin were sent by consumers, whereas pharmacists were the most frequent reporting party for rivaroxaban-related bleeding cases (Figure 2).

## Discussion

Post-marketing surveillance is conducted after a new drug application is approved by the FDA to monitor the safety of medications and to identify medication-associated risks. The potential consumers after the release of a drug to market differ from the homogenous study population of the clinical trial, and thus, more valuable information may be provided from consumers than from data collected in the randomized trial.<sup>30</sup>

In this study, we demonstrated that, compared to warfarin and dabigatran, rivaroxaban was associated with a higher

**Table 2** Demographic distribution of reports

Characteristics	Dabigatran	Rivaroxaban	Warfarin
Male	51.63%	78.05%	70.47%
Female	48.37%	21.95%	29.53%
FDA year <sup>1</sup>	2014	2015	2014
Reporting country <sup>2</sup>	US, France and Canada	US, UK and Japan	US, UK and Italy
Source of the report <sup>3</sup>	Consumers	Pharmacists	Consumers

**Notes:** <sup>1</sup>Year with the highest number of reports; <sup>2</sup>Countries with the highest number of reports, listed in descending order; <sup>3</sup>Most frequent reporting party.

**Abbreviation:** FDA, the US Food and Drug Administration.

**Table 3** The ROR and associated 95% CIs for bleeding following dabigatran, rivaroxaban or warfarin use

Drug	Bleeding events	All ADRs	ROR	95% CI
Dabigatran	1,518	56,039	12.30	11.65–12.97
Warfarin	654	18,231	15.61	14.42–16.90
Rivaroxaban	93	2,095	18.86	15.31–23.23

**Abbreviations:** ADR, adverse drug reactions; ROR, reporting odds ratio.

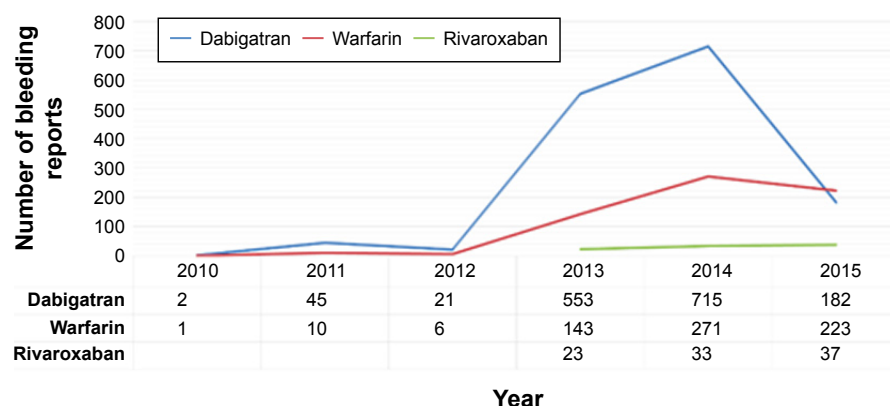
risk of bleeding. The risk of bleeding among these oral anti-coagulant medications was lowest for dabigatran. Several studies reported the association between oral anticoagulants and bleeding and support our finding regarding the high risk associated with rivaroxaban use. A recent systematic review included 17 different studies and reported that rivaroxaban had a significantly higher risk of major bleeding than dabigatran (hazard ratio, 1.38; 95% CI, 1.27–1.49).<sup>31</sup> Another meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials found that DOACs were associated with an increased risk of gastrointestinal bleeding, with ORs of 1.58 (95% CI, 1.29–1.93) for dabigatran and 1.48 (95% CI, 1.21–1.82) for rivaroxaban.<sup>32</sup> A study conducted in 2016 that included older adult patients (>65 years) with non-valvular atrial fibrillation reported higher rates of intracerebral hemorrhage and gastrointestinal bleeding among patients taking 20 mg of rivaroxaban daily compared with the rates among patients taking 150 mg of dabigatran twice daily.<sup>33</sup>

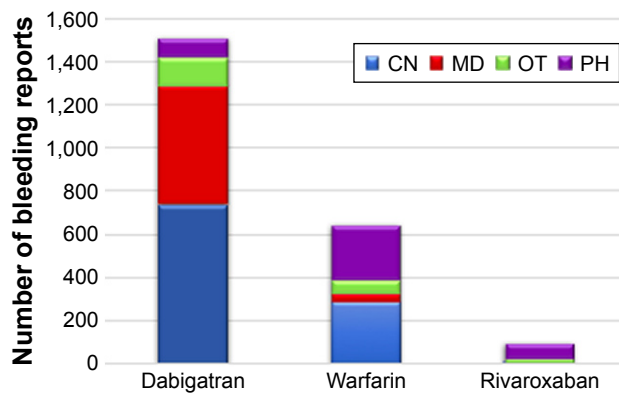
In contrast to our study, spontaneous reports to the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration between June 2009 and May 2014 revealed more reports of hemorrhages associated with dabigatran than those associated with rivaroxaban (504 vs 240).<sup>34</sup> Compared to this Australian study, our study revealed three times more reports of bleeding due to dabigatran (504 vs 1,518) and less than half the number of reports of bleeding due to rivaroxaban (93 vs 240).<sup>17</sup>

The randomized evaluation of long-term anticoagulation therapy reported that the frequency of major gastrointestinal bleeding was significantly higher with dabigatran use than that with warfarin use.<sup>35</sup> A limitation of the spontaneous reports submitted to the FAERS is that the reports generally do not contain data regarding the patients' risk factors, age and renal function or whether the dose complied with the drug manufacturer's directions.<sup>36</sup> Additionally, the availability of more than one anticoagulant agent poses a challenge for healthcare professionals in choosing the appropriate option because information on which patient group is most likely to benefit from a specific drug is not yet available. One study found that patients younger than 65 years had less risk of gastrointestinal bleeding when using DOACs.<sup>37</sup> This causes a dilemma because according to an epidemiological study conducted in 2010, 9% of the US population aged 80 years or older has atrial fibrillation.<sup>38</sup> Moreover, older adults are less likely to be initiated on dabigatran because the risk of bleeding among adults older than 80 years is high, including at low doses such as 110 mg twice daily.<sup>39</sup>

All the above-mentioned factors may affect the validity of the submitted reports, which may influence the safety alerts generated by the FDA and the regulatory authorities. Our study found that consumers were most often the reporting party. Spontaneous reporting by consumers is increasing yearly given the importance of involving patients in the reporting process. The US, along with the European Union, has facilitated consumer reporting by establishing the Adverse Medicine Events Line, electronic reporting systems and smartphone applications, such as MedWatcher.<sup>40</sup>

This study has several strengths, such as the use of a rich, open-access database that includes millions of reports from the US and other countries. Furthermore, these data are not limited to US FDA researchers and may be utilized by any other researchers. However, this study also has several

**Figure 1** Number of bleeding reports associated with each drug stratified by year.



**Figure 2** Number of bleeding reports associated with each drug stratified by reporter.

**Abbreviations:** CN, consumer; MD, medical doctor; OT, others; PH, pharmacist.

limitations, including (1) under-reporting, (2) over-reporting, (3) missing data and lack of complete information in the report, and (4) the unknown denominator for exposure.<sup>41</sup> Additionally, we were unable to assess other DOACs (apixaban and edoxaban) because they were approved during the study period. Despite the limitations of the case/non-case method and the FAERS database, we believe that the data in this study may offer an important reference for defining the safety profile of these medications.

## Conclusion

Analysis of the FAERS database suggests that the signals of bleeding vary among DOACs, ie, the bleeding signal was higher for rivaroxaban and lower for dabigatran relative to the bleeding signal for warfarin. However, all these medications have a high risk of bleeding. Healthcare professionals might consider the findings of this study along with those of previous studies in their daily medical practice.

## Acknowledgments

The abstract of this study was presented as a poster abstract at the 32nd International Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology & Therapeutic Risk Management, Dublin, Ireland, August 25–28, 2016. This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

## Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

## References

- Kirchhof P, Benussi S, Kotecha D, et al. 2016 ESC Guidelines for the management of atrial fibrillation developed in collaboration with EACTS. *Eur Heart J*. 2016;37(38):2893–2962.

- Hart RG, Pearce LA, Aguilar MI. Meta-analysis: antithrombotic therapy to prevent stroke in patients who have nonvalvular atrial fibrillation. *Ann Intern Med*. 2007;146(12):857–867.
- Cooper NJ, Sutton AJ, Lu G, Khunti K. Mixed comparison of stroke prevention treatments in individuals with nonrheumatic atrial fibrillation. *Arch Intern Med*. 2006;166(12):1269–1275.
- January CT, Wann LS, Alpert JS, et al. 2014 AHA/ACC/HRS guideline for the management of patients with atrial fibrillation: a report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines and the Heart Rhythm Society. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2014;64(21):e1–e76.
- Ansell J, Hirsh J, Hylek E, Jacobson A, Crowther M, Palareti G. Pharmacology and management of the vitamin K antagonists: American College of Chest Physicians Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines. 8th ed. *Chest*. 2008;133(6 Suppl):160S–198S.
- Mueller RL, Scheidt S. History of drugs for thrombotic disease. Discovery, development, and directions for the future. *Circulation*. 1994;89(1):432–449.
- Warfarin. Drugs@FDA. Food and Drug Administration [Internet]. Available from: [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2017/009218s118lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2017/009218s118lbl.pdf). Accessed February 5, 2018.
- Warfarin. Electronic Medicines Compendium [Internet]. Available from: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/2803>. Accessed February 5, 2018.
- Ansell J, Hirsh J, Poller L, Bussey H, Jacobson A, Hylek E. The pharmacology and management of the vitamin K antagonists: the Seventh ACCP Conference on Antithrombotic and Thrombolytic Therapy. *Chest*. 2004;126(3 Suppl):204S–233S.
- Boulanger L, Kim J, Friedman M, Hauch O, Foster T, Menzin J. Patterns of use of antithrombotic therapy and quality of anticoagulation among patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation in clinical practice. *Int J Clin Pract*. 2006;60(3):258–264.
- Pirmohamed M. Warfarin: almost 60 years old and still causing problems. *Br J Clin Pharmacol*. 2006;62(5):509–511.
- Kimmel SE. Warfarin therapy: in need of improvement after all these years. *Expert Opin Pharmacother*. 2008;9(5):677–686.
- Hughes B. First oral warfarin alternative approved in the US. *Nat Rev Drug Discov*. 2010;9(12):903–906.
- Kearon C, Akl EA, Ornelas J, et al. Antithrombotic therapy for VTE disease: CHEST guideline and expert panel report. *Chest*. 2016;149(2):315–352.
- Wallentin L, Yusuf S, Ezekowitz MD, et al. Efficacy and safety of dabigatran compared with warfarin at different levels of international normalised ratio control for stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation: an analysis of the RE-LY trial. *Lancet*. 2010;376(9745):975–983.
- Connolly SJ, Ezekowitz MD, Yusuf S, et al. Dabigatran versus warfarin in patients with atrial fibrillation. *N Engl J Med*. 2009;361(12):1139–1151.
- Diener HC, Connolly SJ, Ezekowitz MD, et al. Dabigatran compared with warfarin in patients with atrial fibrillation and previous transient ischaemic attack or stroke: a subgroup analysis of the RE-LY trial. *Lancet Neurol*. 2010;9(12):1157–1163.
- Dabigatran. Drugs@FDA. Food and Drug Administration. Available from: [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2015/022512s028lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2015/022512s028lbl.pdf). Accessed February 5, 2018.
- Food and Drug Administration. Drugs@FDA: FDA Approved Drug Products. Available from: <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/daf/index.cfm?event=overview.process&ApplNo=022406>. Accessed January 15, 2018.
- Patel MR, Mahaffey KW, Garg J, et al. Rivaroxaban versus warfarin in nonvalvular atrial fibrillation. *N Engl J Med*. 2011;365(10):883–891.
- Rivaroxaban. Drugs@FDA. Food and Drug Administration. Available from: [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2011/202439s0011lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2011/202439s0011lbl.pdf). Accessed February 3, 2017.
- Gomez-Outes A, Terleira-Fernandez AI, Calvo-Rojas G, Suárez-Gea ML, Vargas-Castrillón E. Dabigatran, rivaroxaban, or apixaban versus warfarin in patients with nonvalvular atrial fibrillation: a systematic review and meta-analysis of subgroups. *Thrombosis*. 2013;2013:640723.

23. Poli D, Antonucci E, Testa S, et al. Bleeding risk in very old patients on vitamin K antagonist treatment: results of a prospective collaborative study on elderly patients followed by Italian Centres for Anticoagulation. *Circulation*. 2011;124(7):824–829.
24. Food and Drug Administration. Post-Marketing Surveillance Programs [updated 2014 Aug 19]. Available from: <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/guidancecomplianceregulatoryinformation/surveillance/ucm090385.htm>. Accessed January 15, 2018.
25. Food and Drug Administration. Available from: <https://open.fda.gov/data/faers/>. Accessed January 7, 2018.
26. The FDA Adverse Event Reporting System (FAERS). Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Available from: <https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Surveillance/AdverseDrugEffects/>. Accessed December 13, 2017.
27. OpenFDA. The FDA Adverse Event Reporting System (FAERS). Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Available from: <https://open.fda.gov/data/faers/>. Accessed December 13, 2017.
28. Sakaeda T, Tamon A, Kadoyama K, Okuno Y. Data mining of the public version of the FDA Adverse Event Reporting System. *Int J Med Sci*. 2013;10(7):796–803.
29. Böhm R. Reporting odds ratio. primer on disproportionality analysis. 2015. Available from: <http://openvigil.sourceforge.net/doc/DPA.pdf>. Accessed February 2, 2018.
30. Waning B, Montagne M. *Pharmacoepidemiology Principles and Practice*. Chapter 8: Post-marketing surveillance. New York: McGraw Hill Education; 2001.
31. Bai Y, Deng H, Shantsila A, Lip GY. Rivaroxaban versus dabigatran or warfarin in real-world studies of stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation: systematic review and meta-analysis. *Stroke*. 2017;48(4):970–976.
32. Holster IL, Valkhoff VE, Kuipers EJ, Tjwa ET. New oral anticoagulants increase risk for gastrointestinal bleeding: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Gastroenterology*. 2013;145(1):105.e15–112.e15.
33. Graham DJ, Reichman ME, Wernecke M, et al. Stroke, bleeding, and mortality risks in elderly medicare beneficiaries treated with dabigatran or rivaroxaban for nonvalvular atrial fibrillation. *JAMA Intern Med*. 2016;176(11):1662–1671.
34. Chen EY, Diug B, Bell JS, et al. Spontaneously reported haemorrhagic adverse events associated with rivaroxaban and dabigatran in Australia. *Ther Adv Drug Saf*. 2016;7(1):4–10.
35. Bytzer P, Connolly SJ, Yang S, et al. Analysis of upper gastrointestinal adverse events among patients given dabigatran in the RE-LY trial. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2013;11(3):246–252.e1–5.
36. Southworth MR, Reichman ME, Unger EF. Dabigatran and postmarketing reports of bleeding. *N Engl J Med*. 2013;368(14):1272–1274.
37. Abraham NS, Singh S, Alexander GC, et al. Comparative risk of gastrointestinal bleeding with dabigatran, rivaroxaban, and warfarin: population based cohort study. *BMJ*. 2015;350:h1857.
38. Chugh SS, Havmoeller R, Narayanan K, et al. Worldwide epidemiology of atrial fibrillation: a Global Burden of Disease 2010 Study. *Circulation*. 2014;129(8):837–847.
39. Staerk L, Fosbøl EL, Gadsbøll K, et al. Non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulation usage according to age among patients with atrial fibrillation: Temporal trends 2011–2015 in Denmark. *Sci Rep*. 2016;6:31477.
40. MedWatcher. Available from: <https://medwatcher.org/>. Accessed February 7, 2017.
41. Edwards R, Lindquist M (eds). *Pharmacovigilance: Critique and Ways Forward*. New York: Springer; 2017.
42. Schulman S, Kearon C, Kakkar AK, et al. Extended use of dabigatran, warfarin, or placebo in venous thromboembolism. *N Engl J Med*. 2013;368(8):709–718.
43. Eriksson BI, Borris LC, Friedman RJ, et al. Rivaroxaban versus enoxaparin for thromboprophylaxis after hip arthroplasty. *N Engl J Med*. 2008;358(26):2765–2775.
44. Eriksson BI, Dahl OE, Rosencher N, et al. Oral dabigatran etexilate versus enoxaparin for venous thromboembolism prevention after total hip arthroplasty: pooled analysis of two phase 3 randomized trials. *Thromb J*. 2015;13:36.
45. Schulman S, Kearon C, Kakkar AK, et al. Dabigatran versus warfarin in the treatment of acute venous thromboembolism. *N Engl J Med*. 2009;361(24):2342–2352.
46. Eriksson BI, Dahl OE, Rosencher N, et al. Oral dabigatran etexilate vs. subcutaneous enoxaparin for the prevention of venous thromboembolism after total knee replacement: the RE-MODEL randomized trial. *J Thromb and Haemost*. 2007;5(11): 2178–2185.
47. Ginsberg JS, Davidson BL, Comp PC, et al. Oral thrombin inhibitor dabigatran etexilate vs North American enoxaparin regimen for prevention of venous thromboembolism after knee arthroplasty surgery. *J Arthroplasty*. 2009;24(1):1–9.

## Therapeutics and Clinical Risk Management

### Publish your work in this journal

Therapeutics and Clinical Risk Management is an international, peer-reviewed journal of clinical therapeutics and risk management, focusing on concise rapid reporting of clinical studies in all therapeutic areas, outcomes, safety, and programs for the effective, safe, and sustained use of medicines. This journal is indexed on PubMed Central, CAS,

Submit your manuscript here: <http://www.dovepress.com/therapeutics-and-clinical-risk-management-journal>

Dovepress

EMBASE, Scopus and the Elsevier Bibliographic databases. The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system, which is all easy to use. Visit <http://www.dovepress.com/testimonials.php> to read real quotes from published authors.