

# **NAO: quando, per quanto e per quale paziente**

Marco Moia

Ospedale San Giuseppe - Milano

# Acronimi degli anticoagulanti orali

**DOAC** (Direct Oral AntiCoagulants)

**NOAC** or **NOA** (New Oral AntiCoagulants,  
Non-VKA Oral AntiCoagulants),  
nella variante Italiana: **NAO**

...ulteriore proposta, da evitare: **TSOAC** (Target-Specific  
Oral AntiCoagulants)

# Argomenti della mia relazione

- DOAC nel VTE: vantaggi/svantaggi vs VKA
- Efficacia e sicurezza
- Differenti schemi e posologie
- In tutti i pazienti con VTE? (il problema dell'APS)
- E nei pazienti con CTEPH?
- Quale farmaco, in quale paziente (How I treat)

# Principi generali di terapia del VTE

- Trattare un episodio trombotico e le sue complicanze (embolizzazione)
- Tutti i farmaci anticoagulanti aumentano il rischio emorragico
- Obiettivo primario: beneficio clinico netto (trombosi vs emorragie)
- Altri obiettivi rilevanti:
  - Trattamento domiciliare, ove possibile
  - Accettabilità (semplicità del trattamento per il paziente nelle terapie a lungo termine)
  - Costi

# Comparative PK/PD of DOAC

|                           | Dabigatran     | Rivaroxaban | Apixaban | Edoxaban |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| Target                    | IIa (thrombin) | Xa          | Xa       | Xa       |
| Hours to C <sub>max</sub> | 1-3            | 2-4         | 3-4      | 1-2      |
| Half-life, hours          | 12-17          | 5-13        | 12       | 10-14    |
| Renal Clearance, %        | 80             | 33*         | 27       | 50       |
| Transporters              | P-gp           | P-gp        | P-gp     | P-gp     |
| CYP Metabolism, %         | None           | 32          | <32      | <4       |

CYP = cytochrome P450; P-gp = P-glycoprotein

33% renally cleared; 33% excreted unchanged in urine

# Advantages of DOAC

- Rapid onset of action > No need for bridging
- Specific coagulation enzyme target > Low risk of off-target adverse effects
- Low potential for food interactions > No dietary precautions
- Low potential for drug interactions > Few drug restrictions
- **Predictable anticoagulant effect** > **NO need for routine coagulation monitoring**

# Efficacy and Safety of DOACs for the Treatment of VTE: Results From Clinical Trials

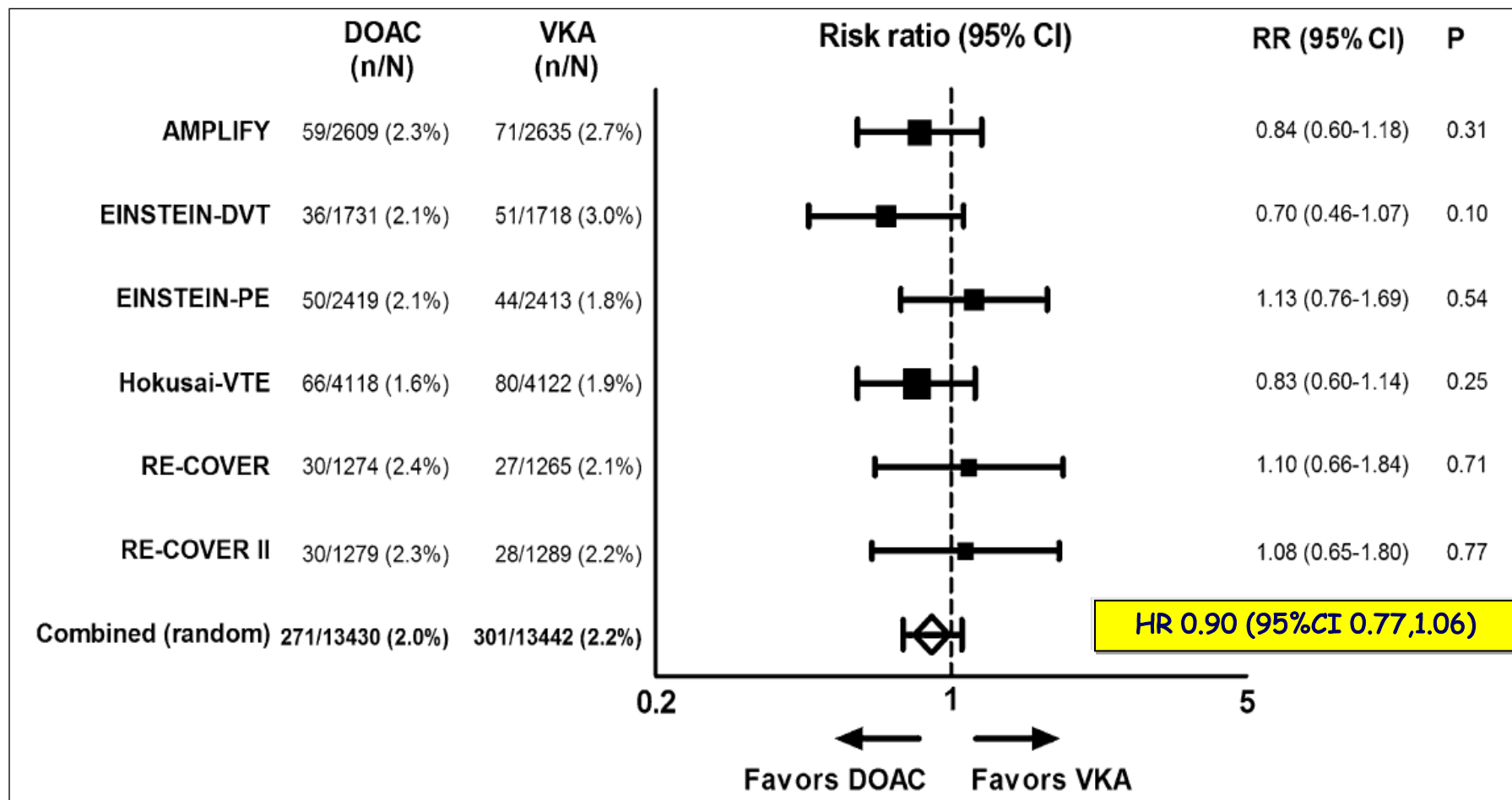
| Trial Name (Ref. #)     | Design     | Treatments   | Duration (months) | Patients        | TTR (%) | Efficacy Outcome   | Safety Outcome   |
|-------------------------|------------|--|-------------------|-----------------|---------|--|--|
| RE-COVER, 2009 (37)     | DB         | Enoxa/dabigatran (150 mg bid)<br>Enoxa/warfarin                      | 6                 | 2,539 acute VTE | 60      | Recurrent VTE or VTE-related death:<br>2.4% enoxa/dabigatran,<br>2.1% enoxa/warfarin | Major/clinically relevant nonmajor bleeding:<br>5.6% dabigatran,<br>8.8% warfarin            |
| RE-COVER II, 2011 (38)  | DB         | Enoxa/dabigatran (150 mg bid)<br>Enoxa/warfarin                      | 6                 | 2,539 acute VTE | 57      | Recurrent VTE or fatal PE:<br>2.3% dabigatran,<br>2.2% warfarin                      | Major/clinically relevant nonmajor bleeding:<br>5.0% dabigatran,<br>7.9% warfarin            |
| EINSTEIN-DVT, 2010 (39) | Open-label | Rivaroxaban (15 mg bid for 3 weeks, then 20 mg od)<br>Enoxaparin/VKA | 3, 6, or 12       | 3,449 acute DVT | 58      | Recurrent VTE:<br>2.1% rivaroxaban,<br>3.0% enoxa/warfarin                           | Major/clinically relevant nonmajor bleeding:<br>8.1% rivaroxaban,<br>8.1% enoxa/warfarin     |
| EINSTEIN-PE, 2012 (40)  | Open-label | Rivaroxaban (15 mg bid for 3 weeks, then 20 mg od)<br>Enoxa/VKA      | 3, 6, or 12       | 4832 acute PE   | 63      | Recurrent VTE:<br>2.1% rivaroxaban,<br>1.8% enoxa/VKA                                | Major/clinically relevant nonmajor bleeding:<br>10.3% rivaroxaban,<br>11.4% enoxa/VKA        |
| AMPLIFY, 2013 (41)      | DB         | Apixaban (10 mg bid for 7 days, then 5 mg bid)<br>Enoxa/warfarin     | 6                 | 5,395 acute VTE | 61      | Recurrent VTE or VTE-related death:<br>2.3% apixaban,<br>2.7% enoxa/VKA              | Major bleeding:<br>0.6% apixaban,<br>1.8% enoxa/warfarin                                     |
| Hokusai, 2013 (42)      | DB         | LMWH/edoxaban (60 mg od or 30 mg od)<br>UFH or LMWH/warfarin         | ≤12               | 8,292 acute VTE | 63      | Recurrent VTE:<br>3.2% enoxa/edoxaban,<br>3.5% enoxa/warfarin                        | Major/clinically relevant nonmajor bleeding:<br>8.5% enoxa/edoxaban,<br>10.3% enoxa/warfarin |

*Over 30,000 patients, if EXT studies are included*

*Becattini C, JACC 2016*

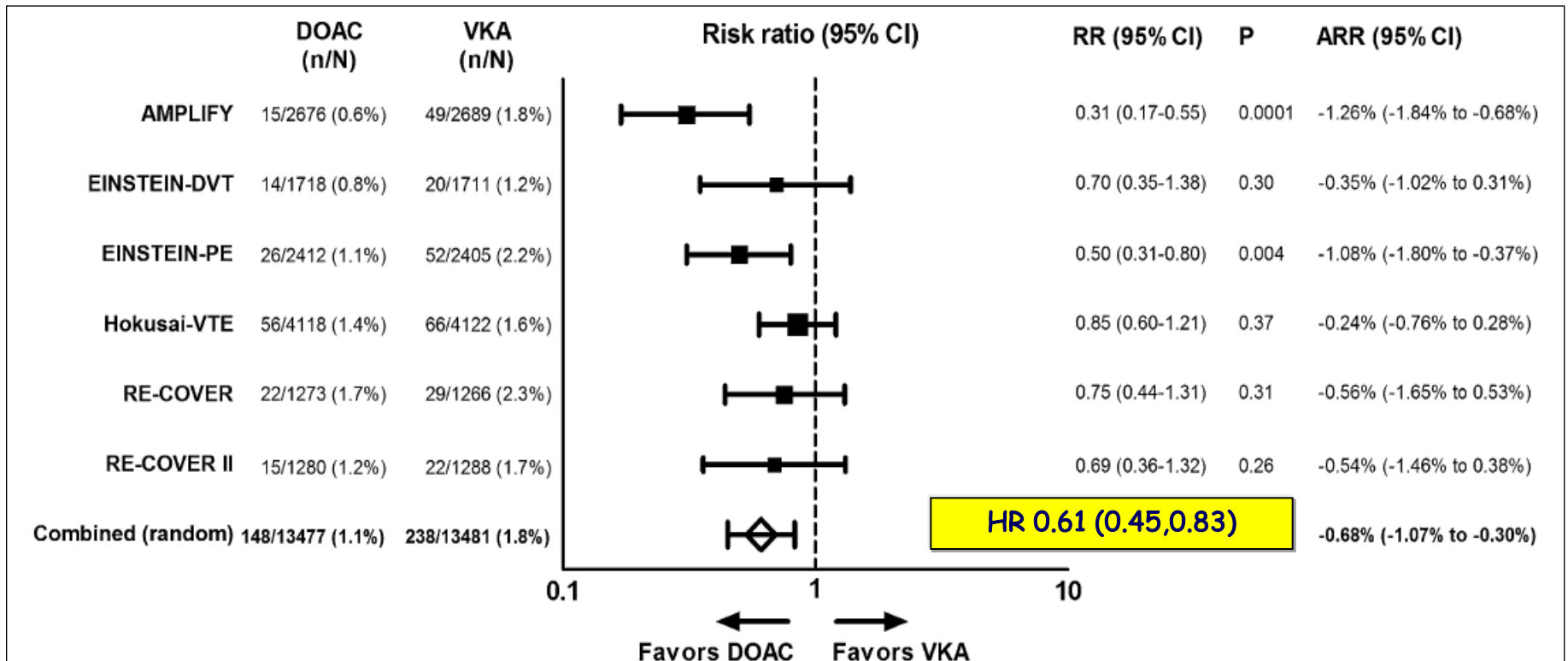
# VTE recurrence

## DOACs vs VKA

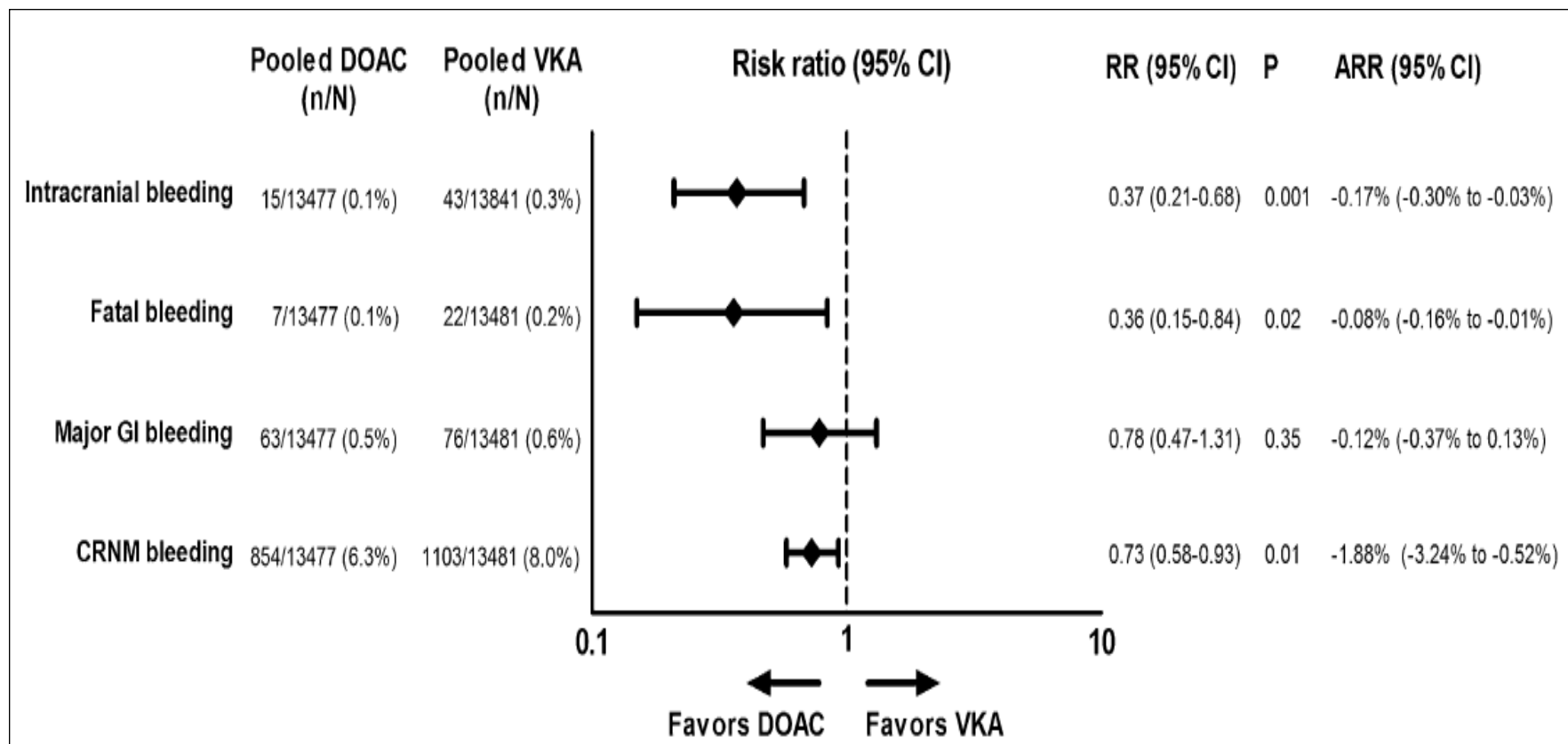




# Major Bleeding



# Other End Points



# DOACs for Treatment of PE

| Study   | Primary endpoint                     | Event, % (n/N)     |                    | HR*/RR†<br>(95%CI)   |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
|   |                                      | DOAC               | Warfarin           |                      |
| RECOVER I & II (index PE)                                 | VTE/VTE-related death                | 2.9 %<br>(23/795)  | 3.1 %<br>(25/807)  | 0.93*<br>(0.53–1.64) |
| EINSTEIN-PE   | Recurrent VTE                        | 2.1%<br>(50/2419)  | 1.8 %<br>(44/2413) | 1.12*<br>(0.75–1.68) |
| AMPLIFY (Index PE)  | Recurrent VTE /<br>VTE-related death | 2.3 %<br>(21/900)  | 2.6 %<br>(23/886)  | 0.90†<br>(0.50–1.61) |
| HOKUSAI (Index PE)  | Recurrent VTE                        | 2.8 %<br>(47/1650) | 3.9 %<br>(65/1669) | 0.73*<br>(0.50–1.06) |
| HOKUSAI (Severe PE)<br>(ProBNP ≥500 pg/mL)                | Recurrent VTE                        | 3.0 %<br>(14/465)  | 5.9 %<br>(30/507)  | 0.50*<br>(0.26–0.94) |
| HOKUSAI (Severe PE)<br>(RV/LV ≥0.9)                       | Recurrent VTE                        | 2.7 %<br>(11/414)  | 4.7 %<br>(20/427)  | 0.57*<br>(0.27-1.17) |
| HOKUSAI (Severe PE)<br>(ProBNP ≥500 pg/mL and RV/LV ≥0.9) | Recurrent VTE                        | 2.1 %<br>4/192     | 4.8 %<br>10/207    | 0.44*<br>(0.14-1.36) |

# Antithrombotic Therapy for Venous Thromboembolism

Christopher D. Jackson, MD; Adam S. Cifu, MD; Desirée C. Burroughs-Ray, MD, MPH

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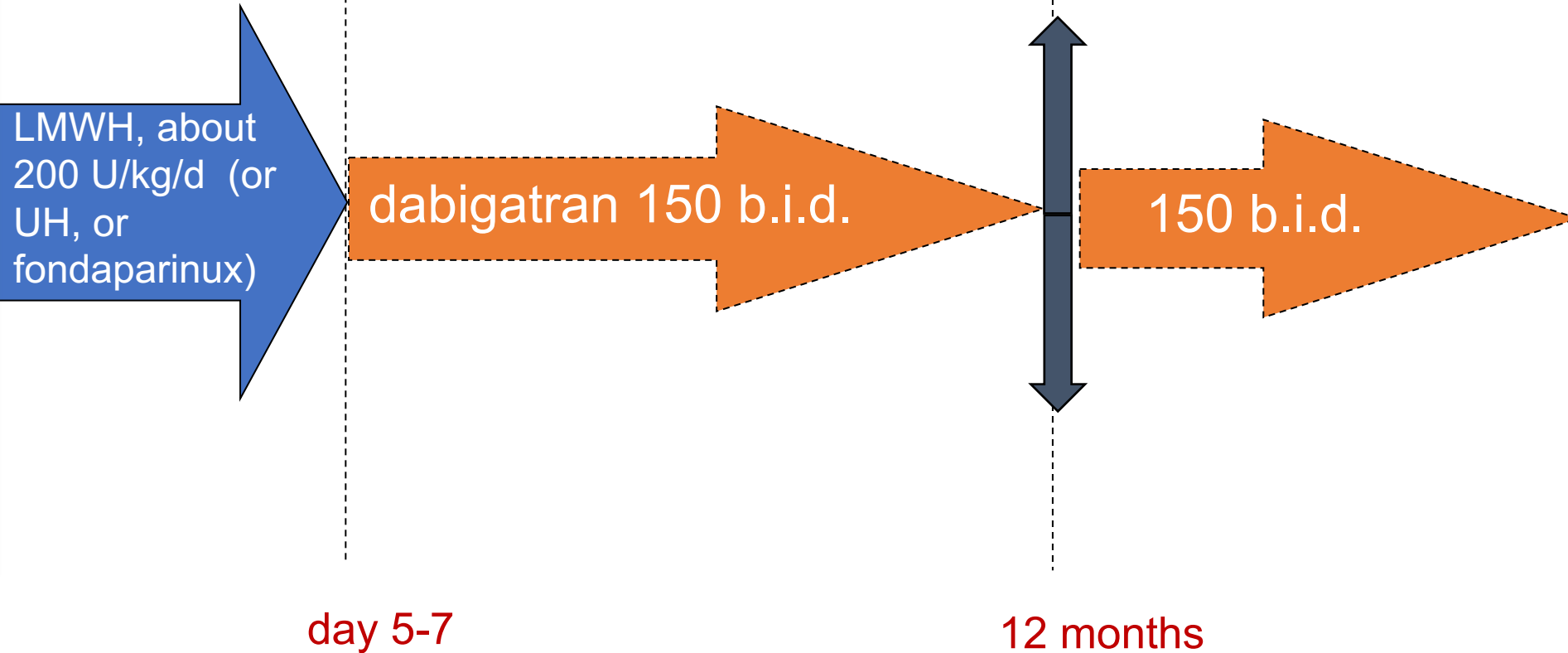
## MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- DOACs should be used to treat acute VTE for the 3-month treatment phase (strong recommendation, moderate evidence)
- Oral Xa inhibitors should be used to treat acute VTE in a patient with cancer for both the initial and extended treatment phases (strong recommendation, moderate evidence)
- VTE: treatment with full dose DOACs for 3 months (strong recommendation, moderate evidence) followed by reduced-dose DOACs for extended therapy if indicated (weak recommendation, moderate evidence)

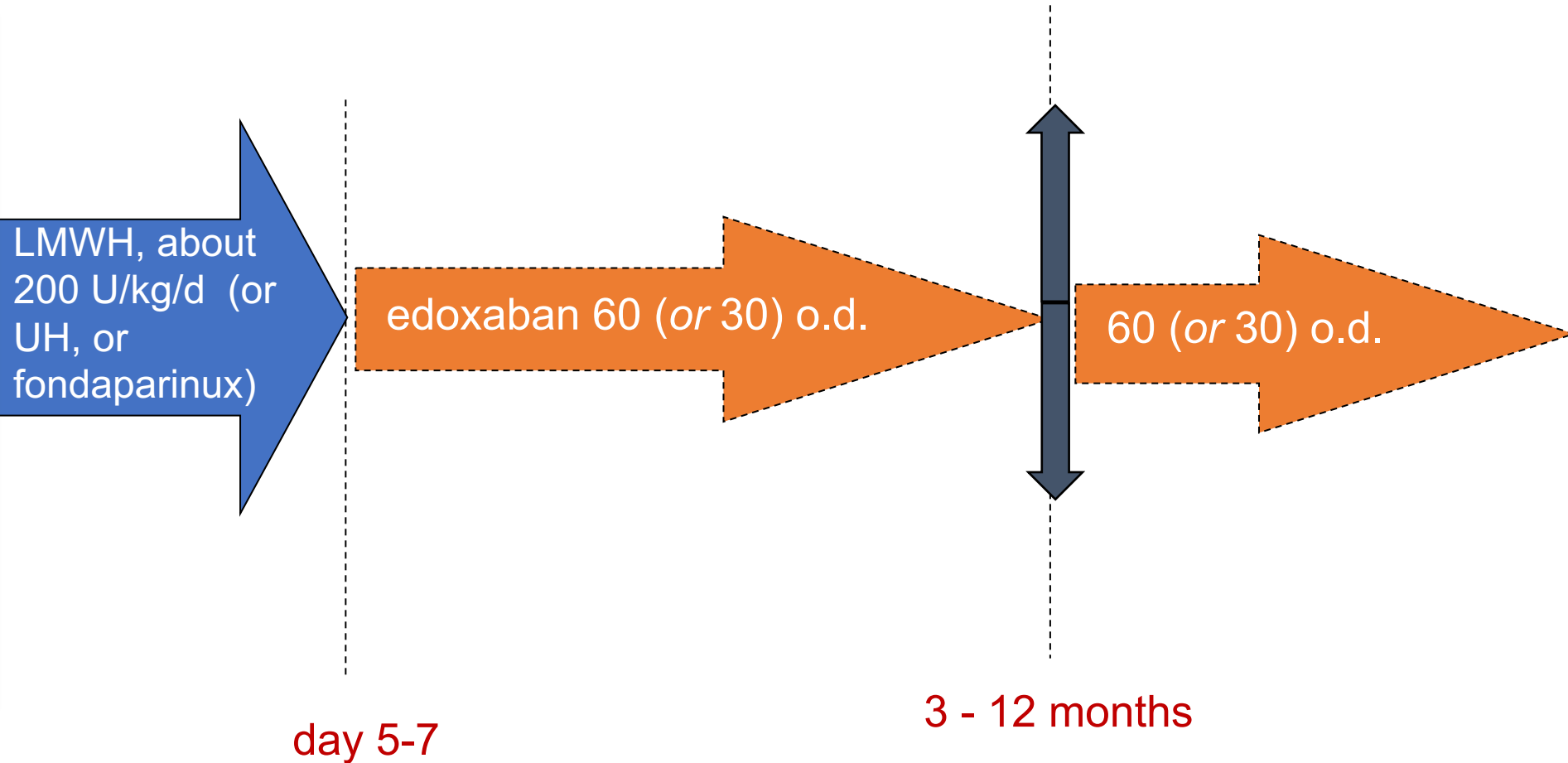
# Heparin lead-in approach

dabigatran, edoxaban

# Dabigatran



# Edoxaban

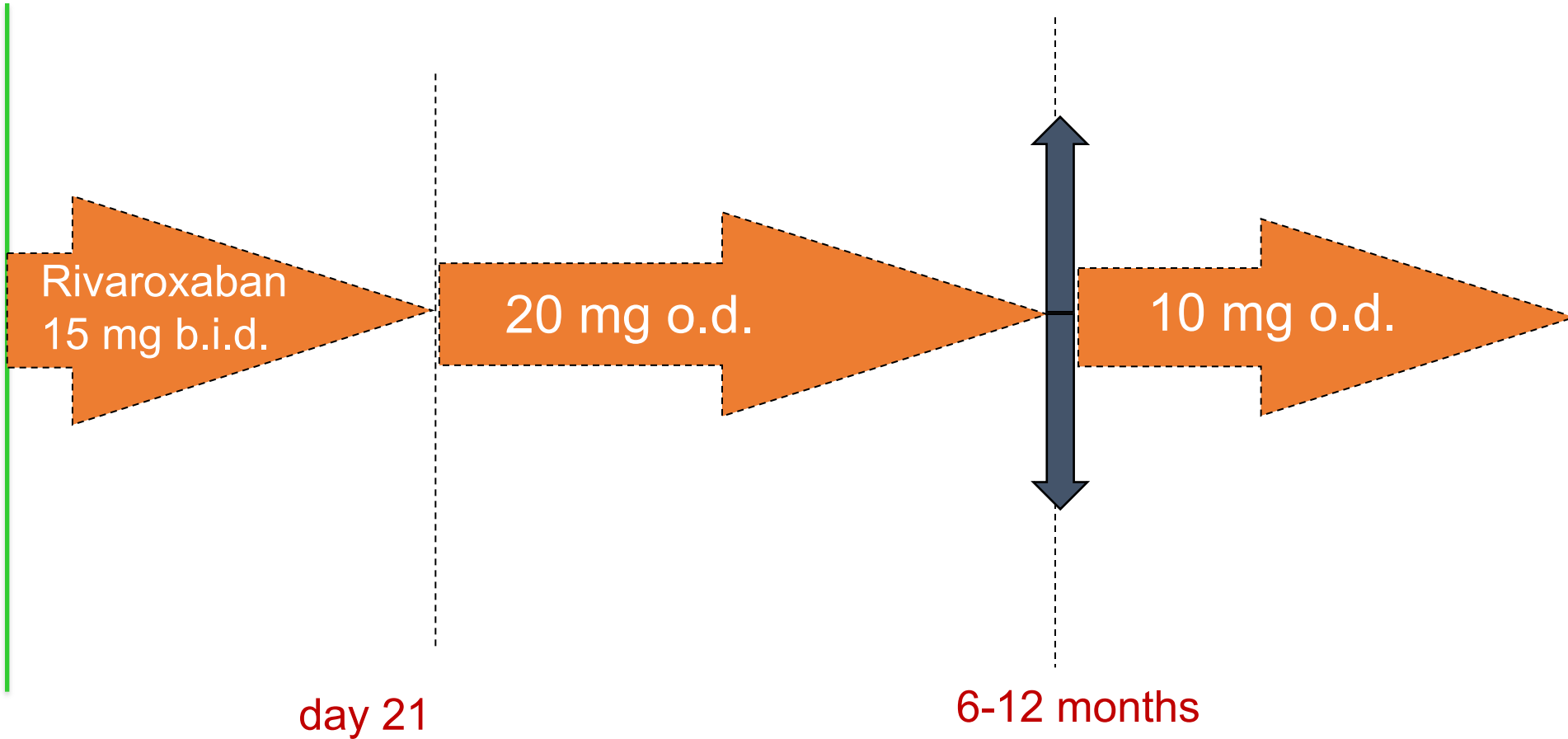


Single drug approach

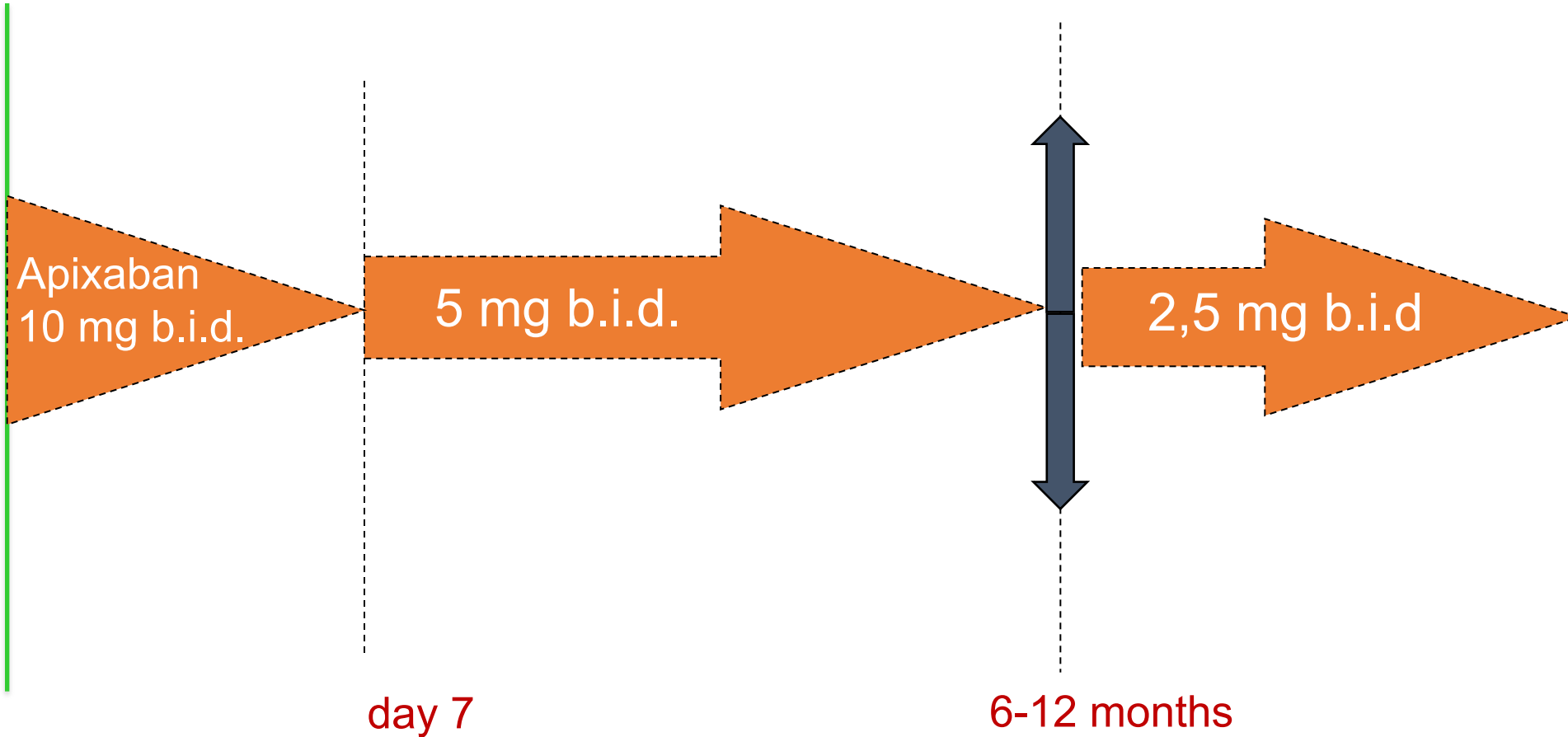
rivaroxaban, apixaban



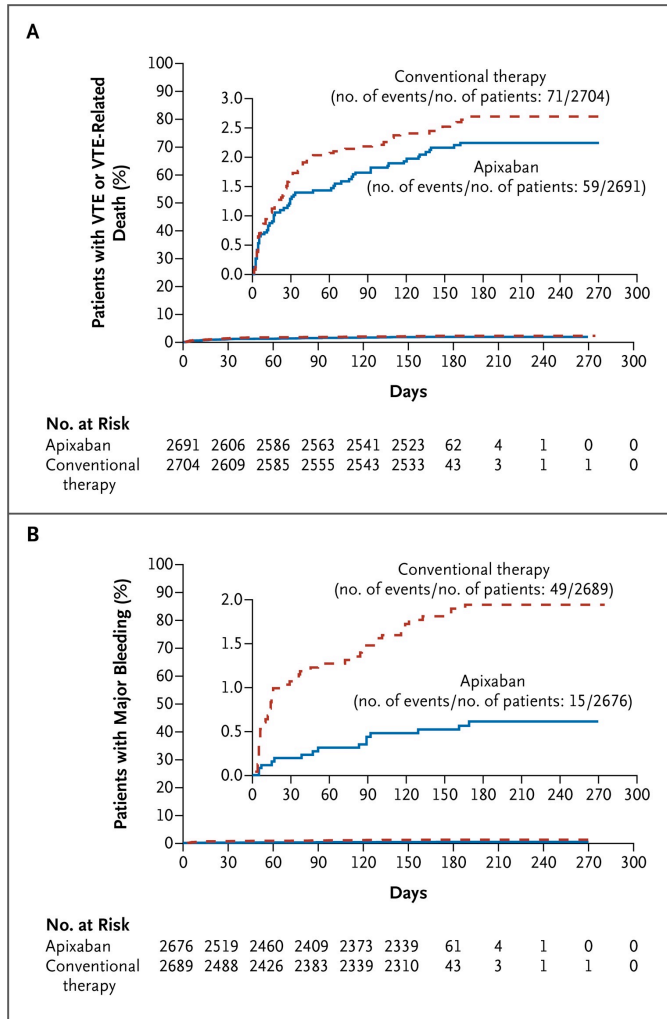
# Rivaroxaban



# Apixaban

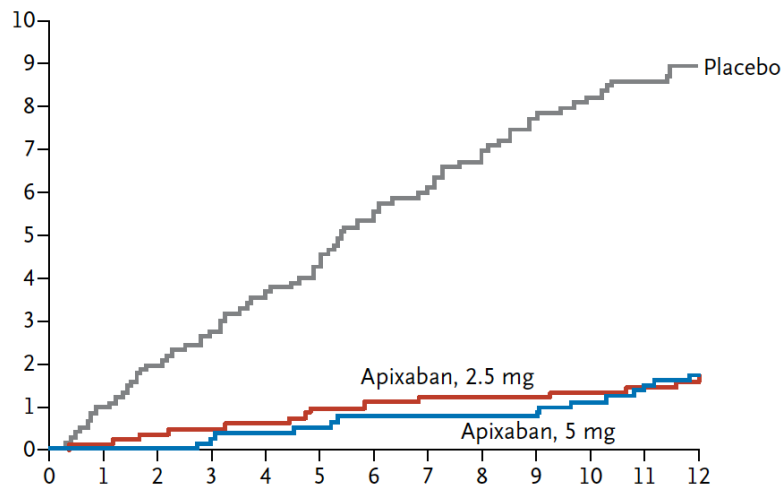


## Oral Apixaban for the Treatment of Acute Venous Thromboembolism

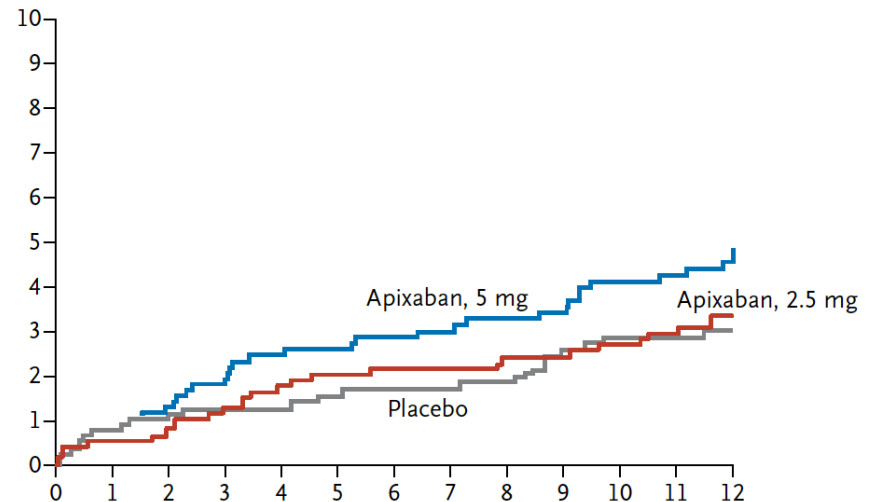


# Apixaban for Extended Treatment of Venous Thromboembolism

Symptomatic Recurrent VTE  
Or VTE-Related Death



Major or Clinically Relevant  
Non major Bleeding

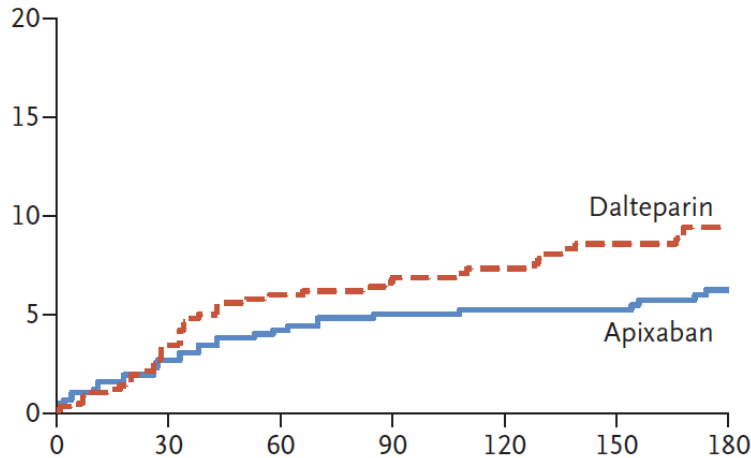


Agnelli et al, N Engl J Med 2012

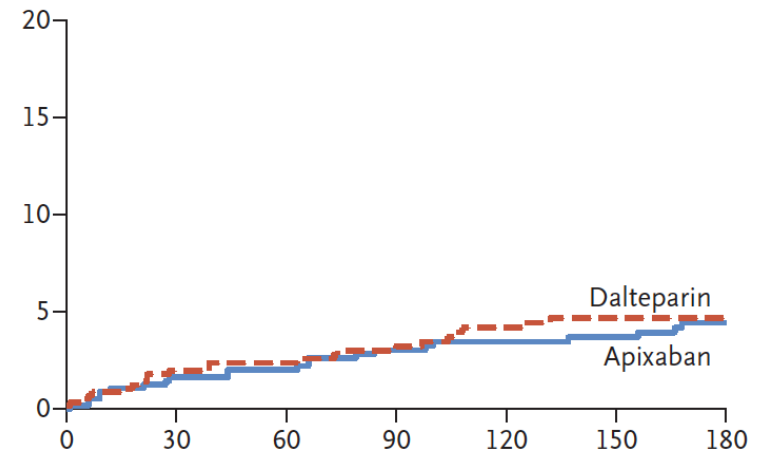
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Apixaban for the Treatment of Venous Thromboembolism Associated with Cancer

## Recurrent VTE



## Major Bleeding



Agnelli G et al, N Engl J Med 2020;382:1599-607

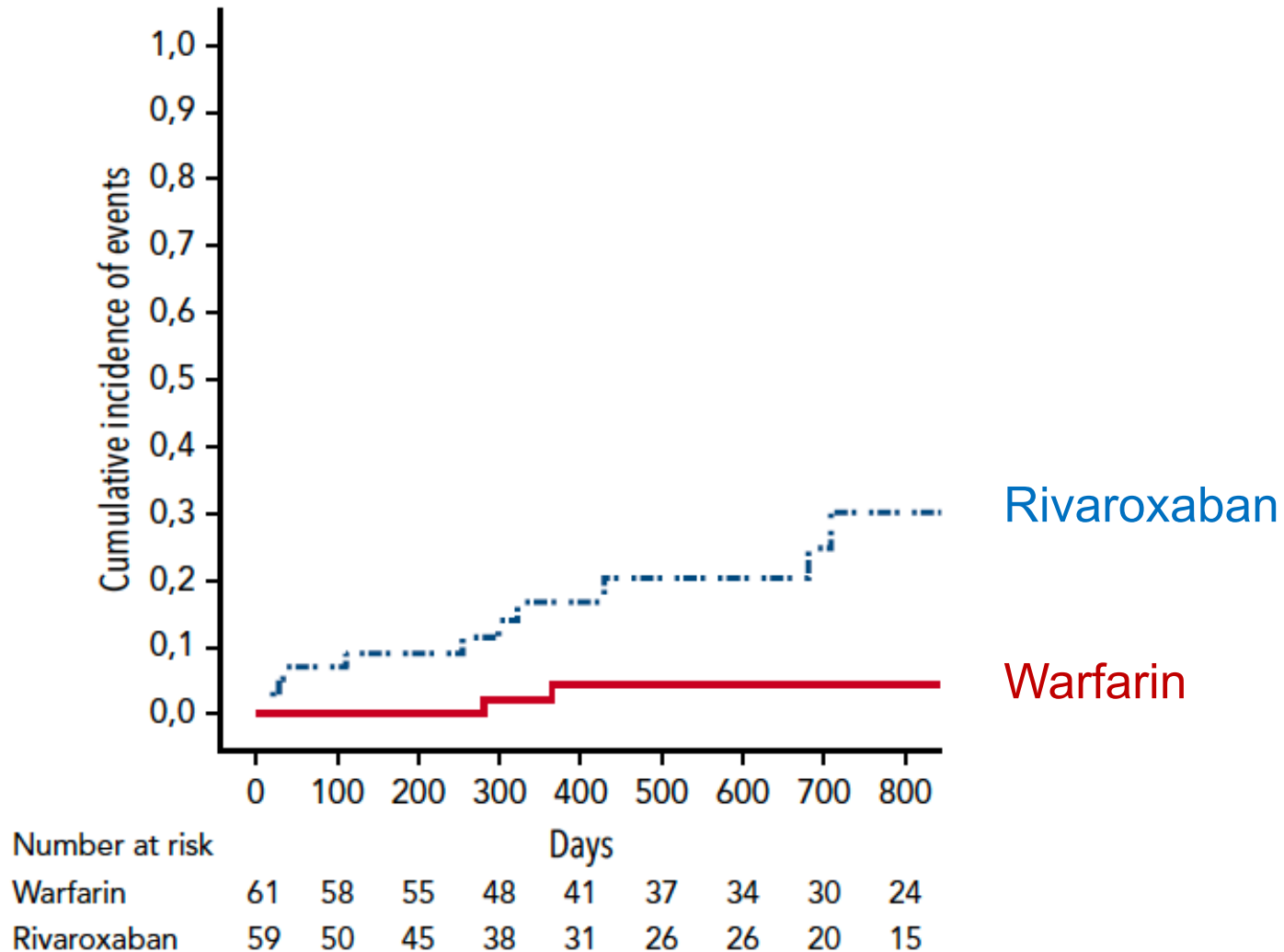
# Rivaroxaban vs warfarin in high-risk patients with antiphospholipid syndrome

Pengo V et al, Blood 2018;132(13):1365-1371

- Efficacy and safety of rivaroxaban compared with warfarin in high-risk patients with thrombotic APS
- Positive for all 3 aPL tests in the last blood sampling (triple positivity), and had a history of thrombosis (objectively proven arterial, venous, and/or biopsy proven microthrombosis)
- The use of rivaroxaban in high-risk patients with APS was associated with an increased rate of events compared with warfarin, thus showing no benefit and excess risk

# Cumulative incidence of events (death, thromboembolic events, and major bleeding)

Pengo V et al, Blood. 2018;132:1365-1371



# Adverse events with Rivaroxaban

| Patient  | Sex | Age, y | BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup> | Arm | History of events | Event      | Description                                     | Days from randomization |
|--|-----|--------|------------------------|-----|-------------------|------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1  | F   | 44     | 49.6                   | R   | A+V+O             | Bleeding   | Metrorrhagia causing acute Hb fall              | 21                      |
| 2  | M   | 39     | 25.2                   | R   | V                 | Thrombosis | Acute myocardial infarction                     | 709                     |
| 3  | F   | 47     | 35.6                   | R   | A+O               | Bleeding   | Rectorrhagia requiring transfusion              | 429                     |
| 4  | M   | 59     | 24.5                   | R   | A+O               | Thrombosis | Ischemic Stroke                                 | 322                     |
| 5  | F   | 35     | 32.8                   | R   | A                 | Thrombosis | Ischemic Stroke                                 | 36                      |
| 6  | F   | 57     | 26.1                   | R   | V                 | Thrombosis | Ischemic Stroke                                 | 299                     |
| 7  | F   | 55     | 24.7                   | R   | A                 | Thrombosis | Acute myocardial infarction                     | 253                     |
| 8  | M   | 52     | 19.8                   | R   | A                 | Bleeding   | Gastrointestinal bleeding causing acute Hb fall | 681                     |
| 9  | F   | 58     | 24.2                   | R   | A+V               | Thrombosis | Ischemic Stroke                                 | 110                     |
| 10   | M   | 47     | 29.6                   | R   | V                 | Thrombosis | Acute myocardial infarction                     | 20                      |
| 11   | F   | 43     | 19.1                   | R   | V                 | Bleeding   | Hb fall   | 28                      |
| 12   | F   | 51     | 20.5                   | W   | A+V               | Bleeding   | Provoked Hb fall                                | 365                     |
| 13   | F   | 36     | 21.3                   | W   | A+V               | Bleeding   | Metrorrhagia requiring intervention             | 280                     |
| Additional end points considered in ITT analysis |     |        |                        |     |                   |            |   |                         |
| 14   | M   | 47     | 22.5                   | R   | V                 | Thrombosis | Bilateral DVT in the lower limbs                | 175                     |
| 15   | M   | 55     | 27.4                   | R   | A                 | Death      | Cardiovascular death                            | 475                     |



# Use of direct oral anticoagulants in Chronic ThromboEmbolic Pulmonary Hypertension (CTEPH): a systematic review

Sheldom R et al, J Thromb Thrombolysis 2022;53:51-57

- We systematically searched MEDLINE and Google Scholar databases from January 2010 to January 2021 for studies of DOACs in CTEPH
- Three observational studies, 2 abstracts and one case series met our inclusion criteria
- Similar or even less rates of major bleeding in patients receiving DOACs compared to VKA, but there were concerns about the possibility of increased risk of VTE recurrence

## A multicenter study of anticoagulation in operable chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension

Bunclark K et al, J Thromb Haemost 2020;18(1):114-122

- Retrospective analysis on 1,000 consecutive CTEPH patients undergoing PEA between 2007 and 2018
- 794 VKA, 206 DOACs (155 rivaroxaban)
- Post-PEA functional and hemodynamic outcomes appear unaffected by anticoagulant choice
- Bleeding events were similar, but recurrent VTE rates significantly higher in those receiving DOACs
- Recurrences in DOAC: n=10 (4 in subtherapeutic doses)

BRIEF COMMUNICATION

## Oral anticoagulants (NOAC and VKA) in chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension



Marc Humbert, MD, PhD,<sup>a</sup> Gérald Simonneau, MD,<sup>a</sup> David Pittrow, MD, PhD,<sup>b</sup>  
Marion Delcroix, MD, PhD,<sup>c</sup> Joanna Pepke-Zaba, PhD, FRCP,<sup>d</sup>  
David Langleben, MD,<sup>e</sup> Lisa M. Mielniczuk, MD,<sup>f</sup>  
Pilar Escribano Subias, MD, PhD,<sup>g</sup> Repke J. Snijder, MD,<sup>h</sup>  
Joan A. Barberà, MD, PhD,<sup>i</sup> Jens Klotzsche, MD,<sup>j</sup>  
Christian Meier, MD, PhD,<sup>k</sup> and Marius M. Hoeper, MD, PhD<sup>l</sup>

2022

- Prospective, uncontrolled, non-interventional cohort study in patients with pulmonary hypertension treated with riociguat
- VKA n = 683 ; NOAC n = 198 (164 rivaroxaban)
- Exposure-adjusted hemorrhagic event rates were similar in the two groups, while exposure-adjusted embolic and/or thrombotic event rates were higher in the NOAC group, although the numbers of events were small

## “How I treat” VTE

- Apixaban (10x2 > 5x2 > 2,5x2)
- In alternativa: rivaroxaban (15x2 > 20x1 > 10x1)
- < 60 kg: fondaparinux (5,0 mg x 7 gg) > edoxaban (30x1)
- $30 < \text{CrCl} < 50$ : LMWH x 7 gg > edoxaban (30x1)
- $\text{CrCl} < 30$ : LMWH dosi 50% + edoxaban 30x1 o VKA
- APS con “tripla positività”: fondaparinux + VKA
- CTEPH: apixaban o VKA



*È men male l'agitarsi  
nel dubbio che il riposar  
nell'errore.*

*Alessandro Manzoni,  
Storia della colonna infame, 1840*