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Title: *Retrospective Chart Review of Anticoagulant Use in Obese Patients with AFIB*

Background:

Recent publications have raised questions about the effectiveness of direct-acting oral anticoagulants (DOACs) in obese patients. This has prompted the ISTH advising the discontinuing such medications based on individual PK/PD data of the showing similar concerns about the lack of efficacy in this population. Data is lacking comparing the true clinical outcomes between the drugs in this class in the obese.

Objectives:

Identify a difference in stroke/TIA or bleeding outcomes in obese patients with atrial fibrillation taking DOACs.

Methods:

This retrospective chart review included patients with atrial fibrillation and a recorded weight >120 kilograms or BMI >40 kg/m². The primary efficacy and safety outcomes measured were stroke/TIA occurrence and major/non-major bleeding events. Fischer t-tests were used to evaluate statistical significance of data.

Results:

Of the 58 patient charts reviewed, two patients had a recorded stroke while taking a DOAC medication and one patient developed a TIA. All three patients belonged to apixaban group, with the other two oral anticoagulants having zero efficacy endpoint events. No major bleeding events were recorded and four patients in the rivaroxaban and three in the apixaban group experienced non-major bleeding episodes. Overall rate of stroke/TIA was 5.2% of patients and 12.1% patients experienced non-major bleeding.

Conclusion:

The data evaluated in this retrospective chart review cannot validate the guidance by the ISTH for the discontinuation of DOACs™ in obese patients. It did however show some interesting results comparing the three anticoagulants included in the review, showing higher rates of stroke/TIA compared to previous trials.