

# Terapie con i NAO: quali vantaggi

Corrado Tamburino, MD, PhD

Direttore Cardiologia Ospedale Ferrarotto, Ospedale Policlinico e  
Ospedale Vittorio Emanuele  
Cattedra di Cardiologia, Università di catania



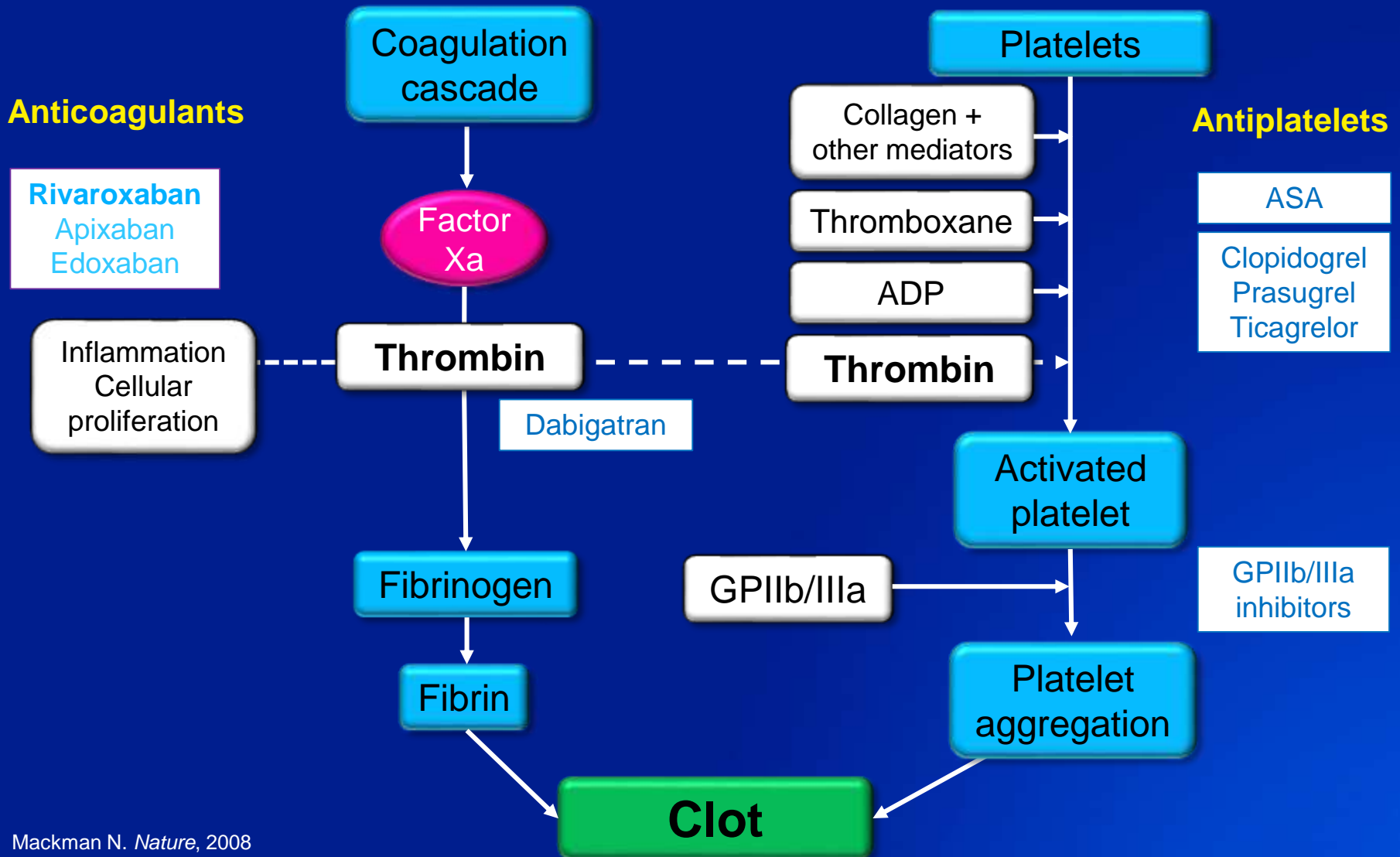
# Pharmacological Profiles of Warfarin and NOACs

Drug	Bioavailability	T <sub>max</sub>	T <sub>1/2</sub>	Metabolism	Primary excretion
<b>Warfarin</b>	100%	72-96 h	40 h	CYP2C9	92% renal (unchanged)
<b>Dabigatran</b>	6.5% (prodrug)	1-2 h	12-17 h	P-gp	80% renal (unchanged)
<b>Rivaroxaban*</b>	80%	2.5-4 h	5-9 h	CYP3A4 CYP2J2 P-gp	33% renal (unchanged)
<b>Apixaban</b>	50-66%	3 h	8-15 h	CYP3A4 P-gp	27% renal (unchanged)
<b>Edoxaban*</b>	62%	1-2 h	10-14 h	CYP3A4 (<4%) P-gp	50% renal (unchanged)

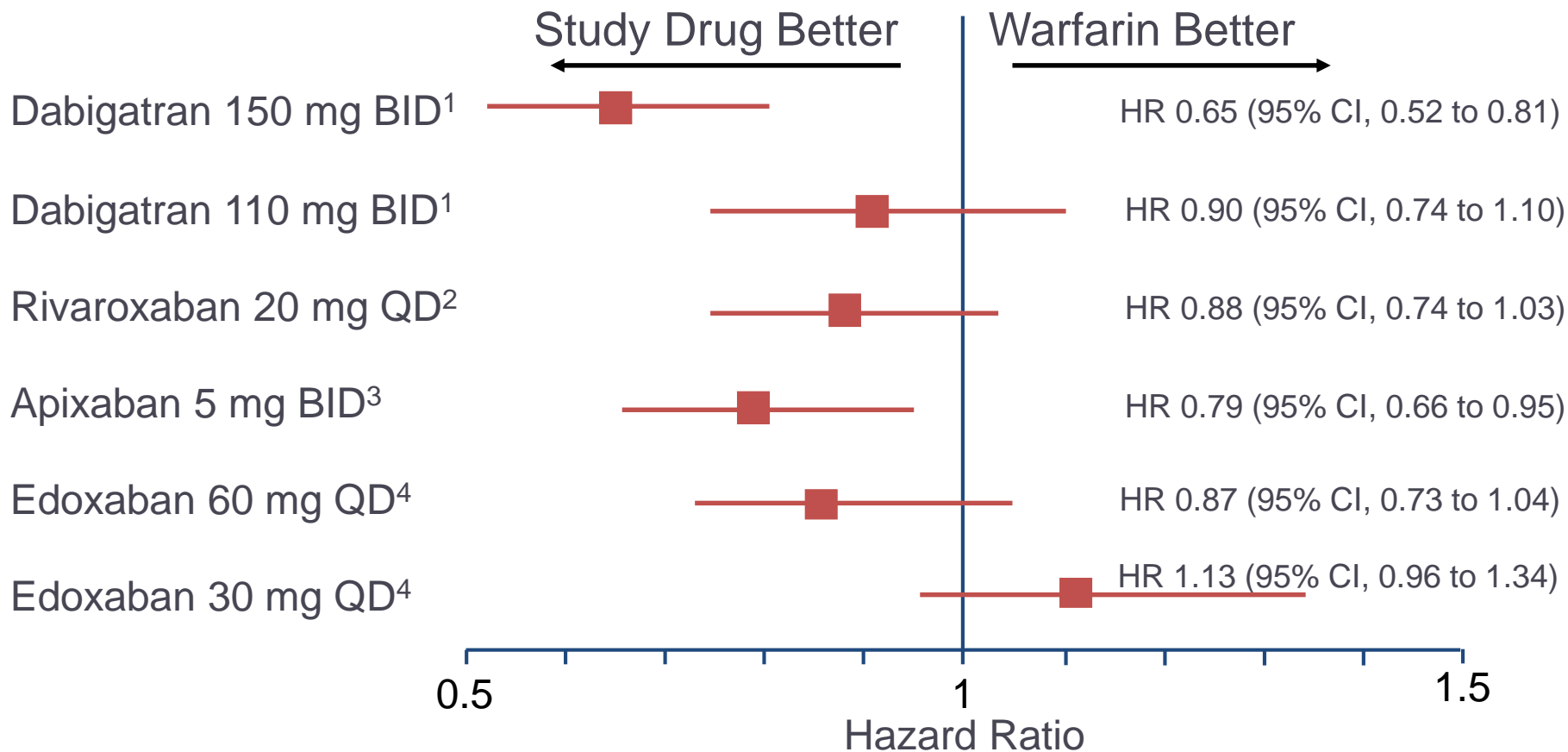
\* Once Day



# Thrombus formation involves both platelet activation and blood coagulation



# Nuovi anticoagulanti vs. Warfarin: *Stroke o Embolismo sistemico*



1. Connolly SJ et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2010;363:1875-1876.

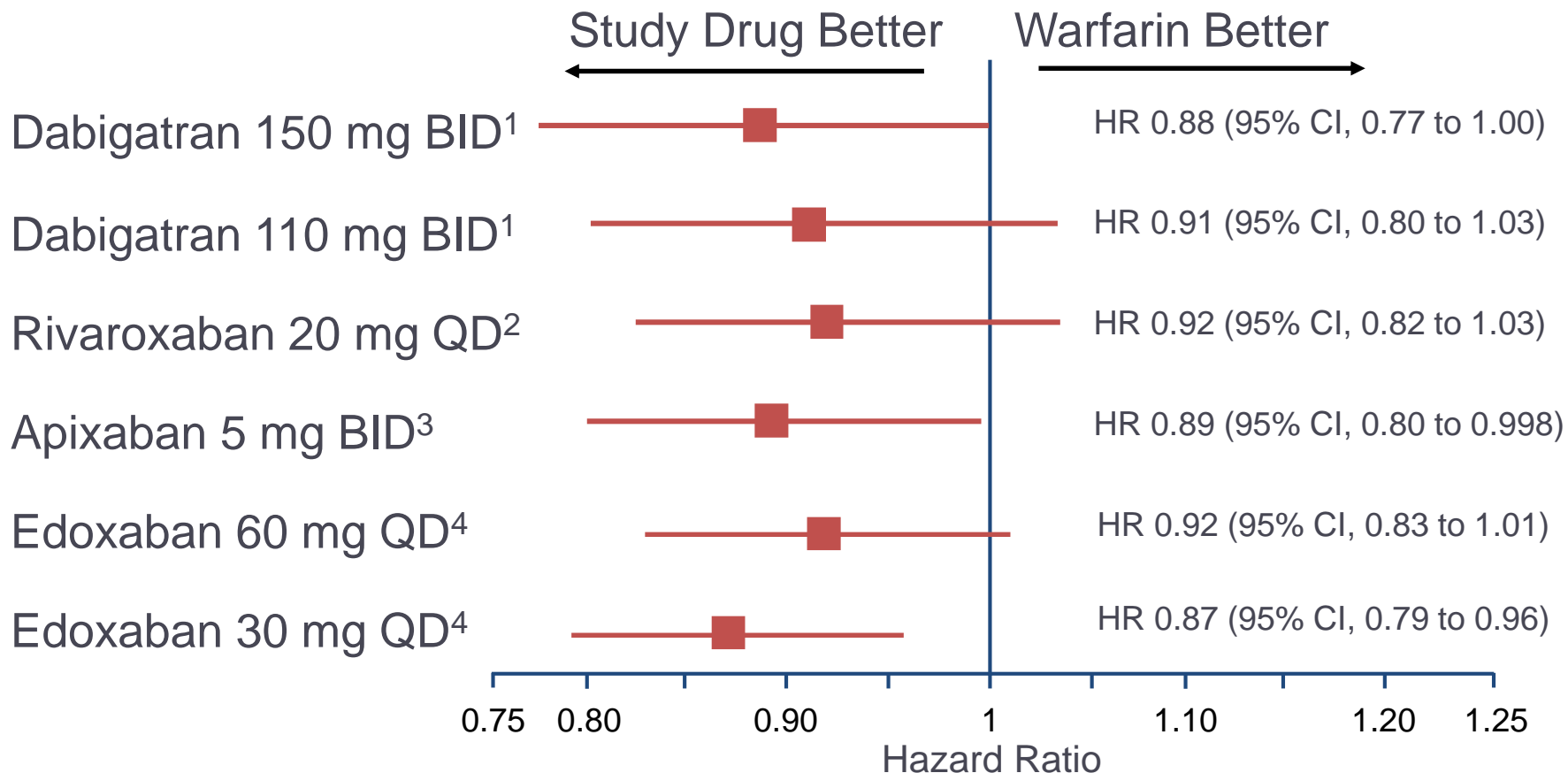
2. Patel MR et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2011;365:883-891.

3. Granger CB et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2011;365:981-992.

4. Giugliano RP et al, for the ENGAGE-AF TIMI 48 Investigators; *N Engl J Med.* 2013



# Nuovi anticoagulanti vs. Warfarin: Mortalità per tutte le cause



1. Connolly SJ et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2010;363:1875-1876.

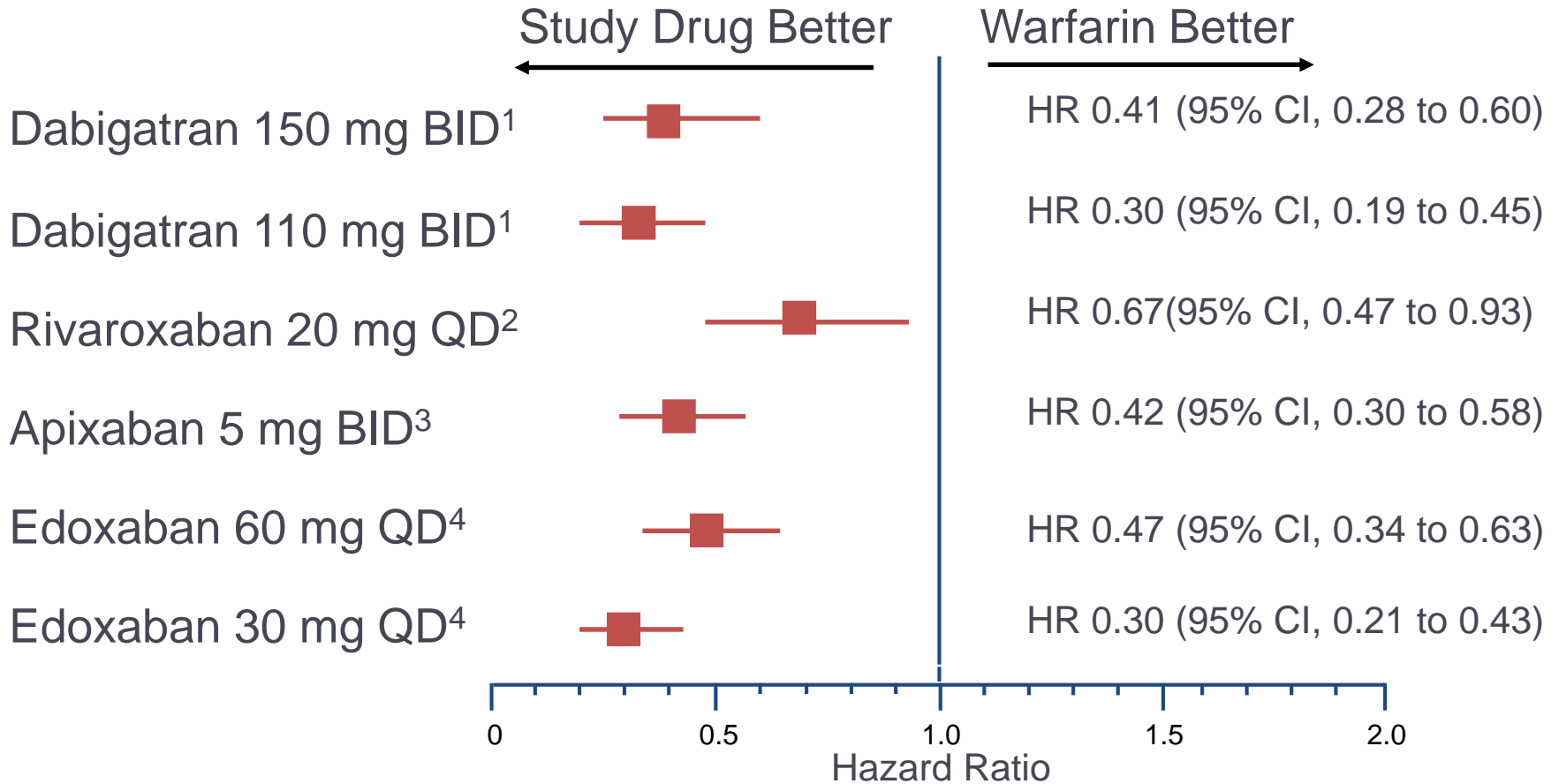
2. Patel MR et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2011;365:883-891.

3. Granger CB et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2011;365:981-992.

4. Giugliano RP et al, for the ENGAGE-AF TIMI 48 Investigators; . *N Engl J Med.* 2013,



# Nuovi anticoagulanti vs. Warfarin: *Emorragie intracraniche*



1. Connolly SJ et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2010;363:1875-1876.

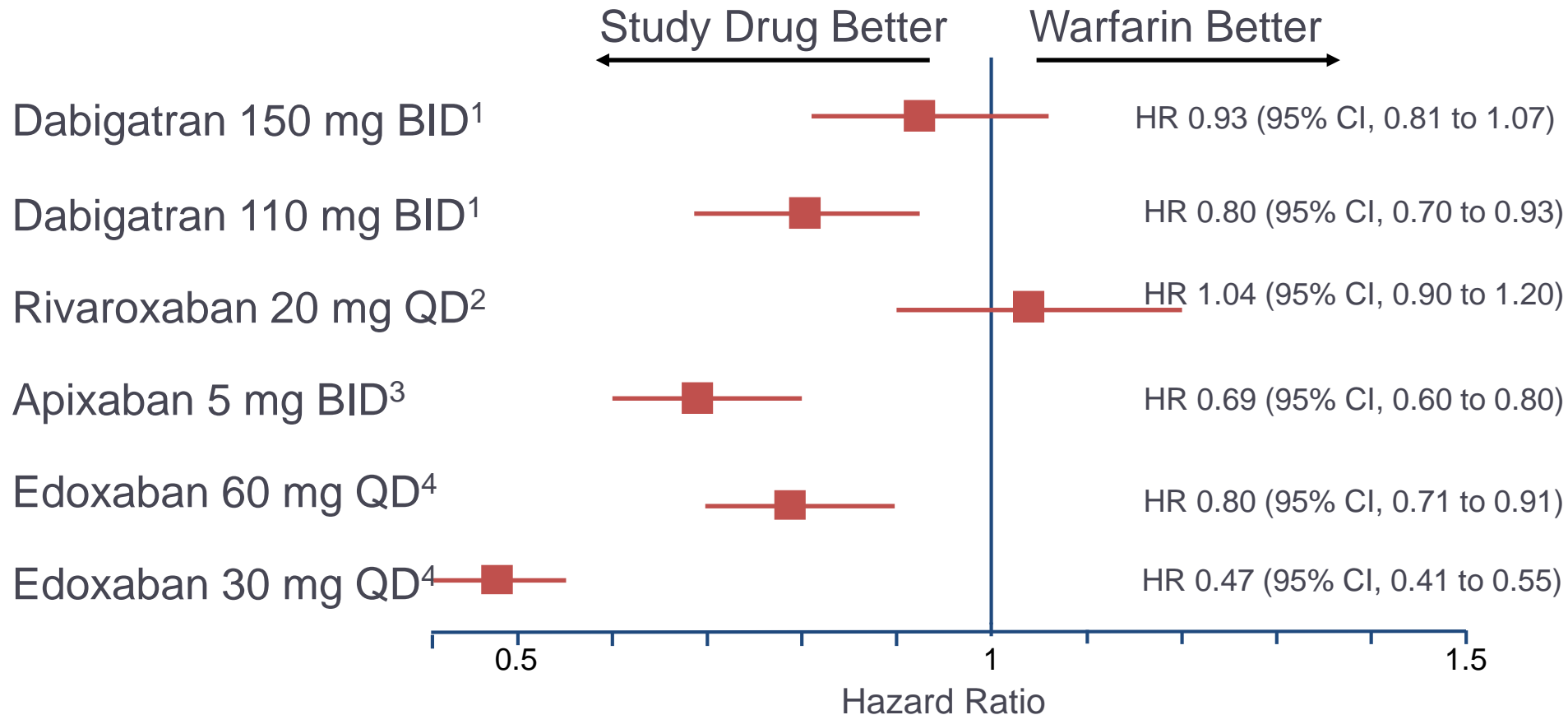
2. Patel MR et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2011;365:883-891.

3. Granger CB et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2011;365:981-992.

4. Giugliano RP et al, for the ENGAGE-AF TIMI 48 Investigators; *N Engl J Med.* 2013



# Nuovi anticoagulanti vs. Warfarin: *Sanguinamenti maggiori*



1. Connolly SJ et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2010;363:1875-1876.

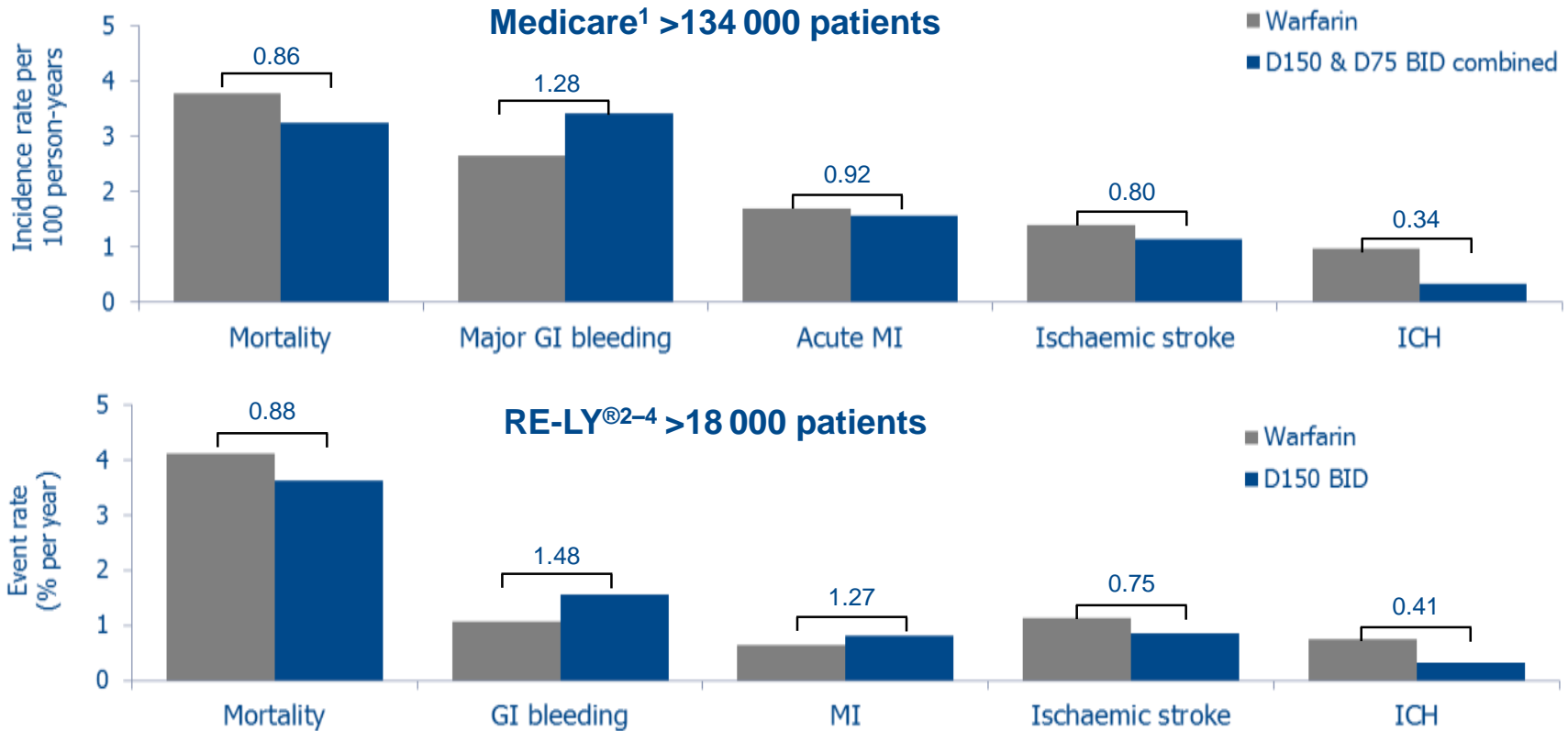
2. Patel MR et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2011;365:883-891.

3. Granger CB et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2011;365:981-992.

4. Giugliano RP et al, for the ENGAGE-AF TIMI 48 Investigators; *N Engl J Med.* 2013



# Independent FDA Medicare analysis findings are consistent with findings from RE-LY®



Independent FDA analysis confirmed the favourable benefit–risk profile of dabigatran in clinical practice

In the USA, the licensed doses for Pradaxa® are: Pradaxa® 150 mg BID and Pradaxa® 75 mg BID for the prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in adult patients with nonvalvular AF

Numbers on bars denote HRs vs warfarin. D75 = dabigatran 75 mg; D150 = dabigatran 150 mg

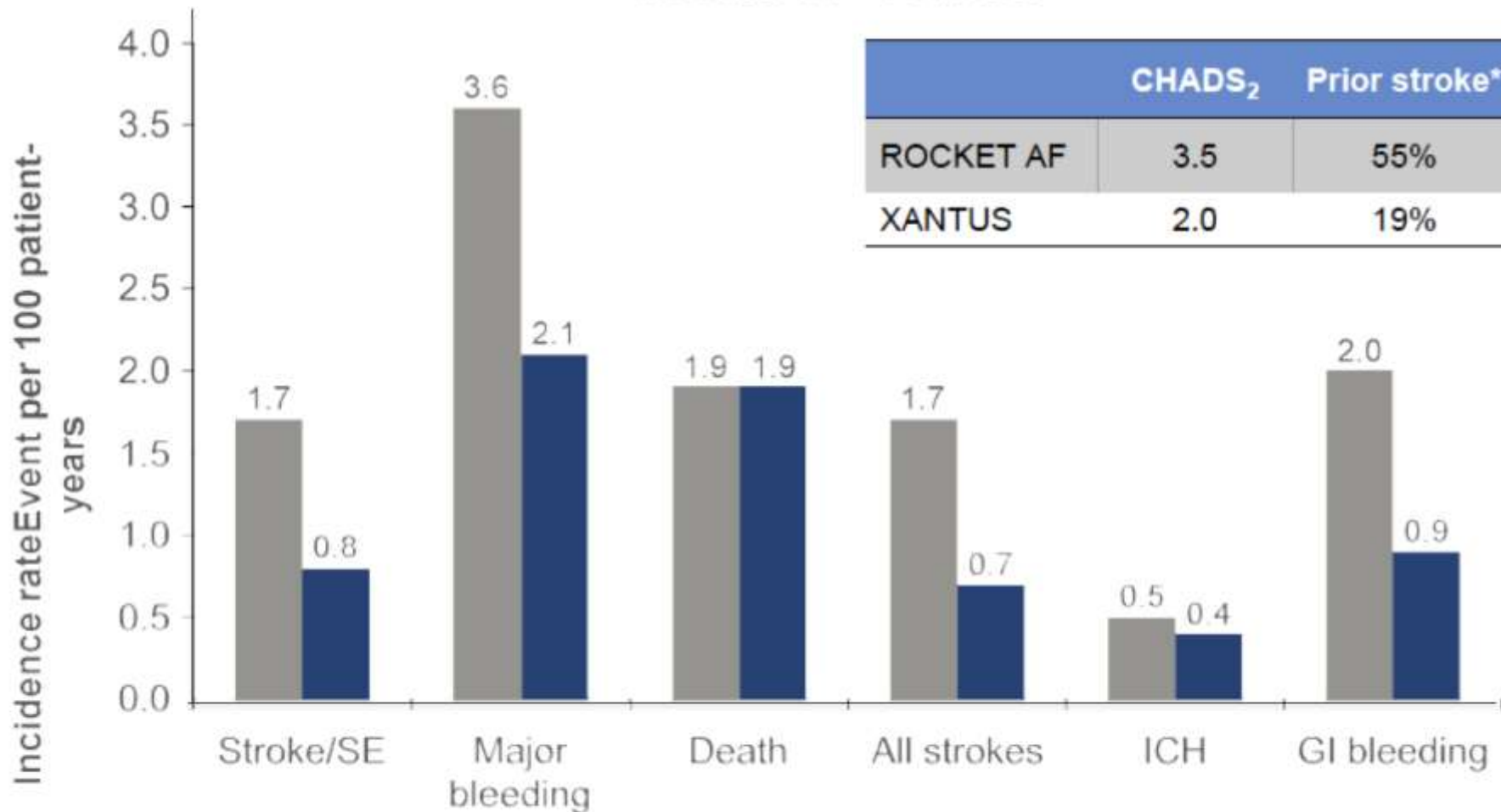
1. Available at <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm396470.htm>; accessed September 2014; 2. Connolly SJ et al. N Engl J Med 2009;361:1139–51; 3. Connolly SJ et al. N Engl J Med 2010;363:1875–6; 4. Pradaxa®: EU SPC, 2014



# Comparison of Main Outcomes: XANTUS versus ROCKET AF

**6784 patients**

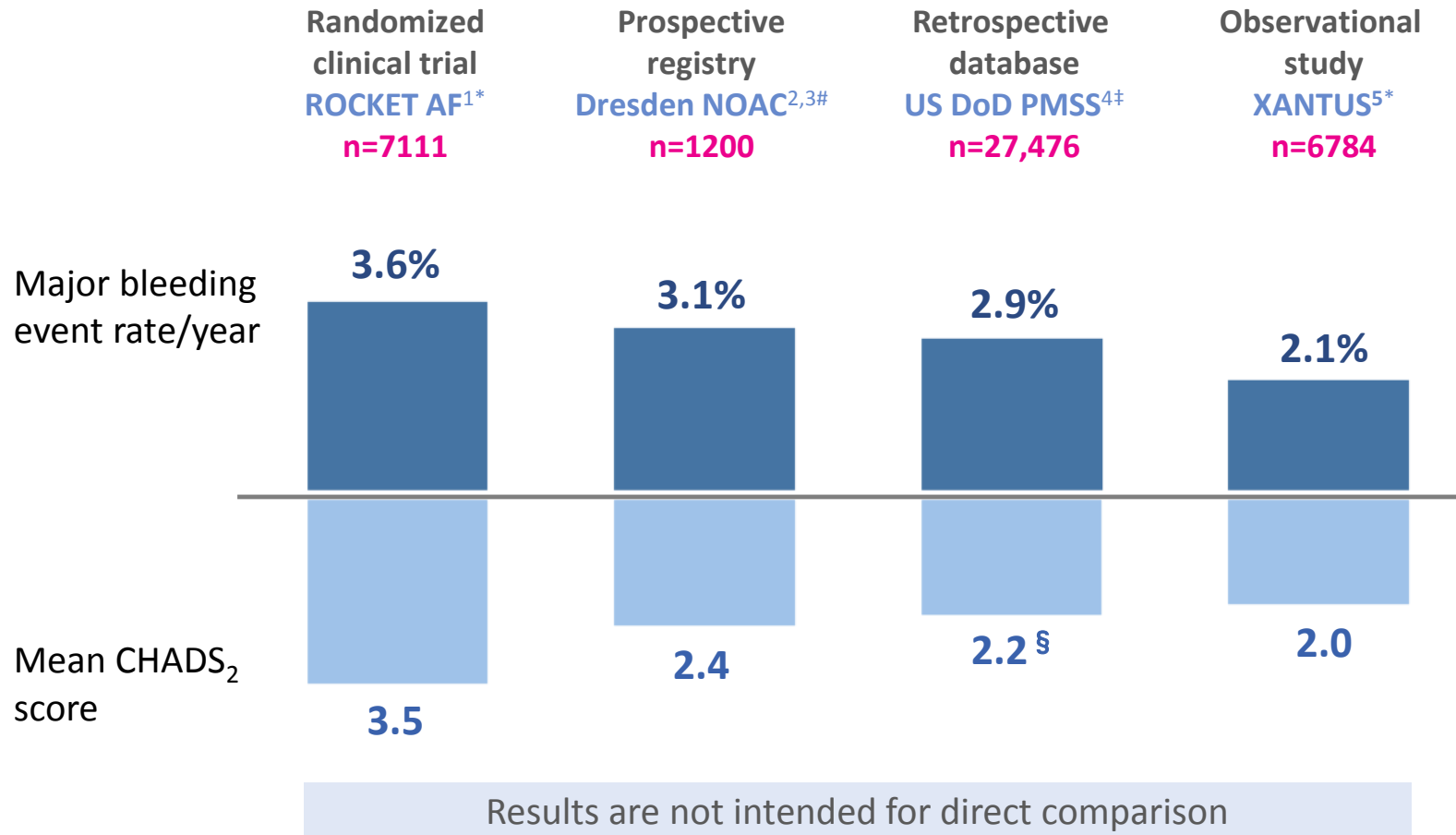
■ ROCKET AF ■ XANTUS



	CHADS <sub>2</sub>	Prior stroke*
ROCKET AF	3.5	55%
XANTUS	2.0	19%

\*Includes prior stroke, SE or TIA

# Safety Profile of Rivaroxaban Confirmed Through Real-World Evidence Regardless of Data Source

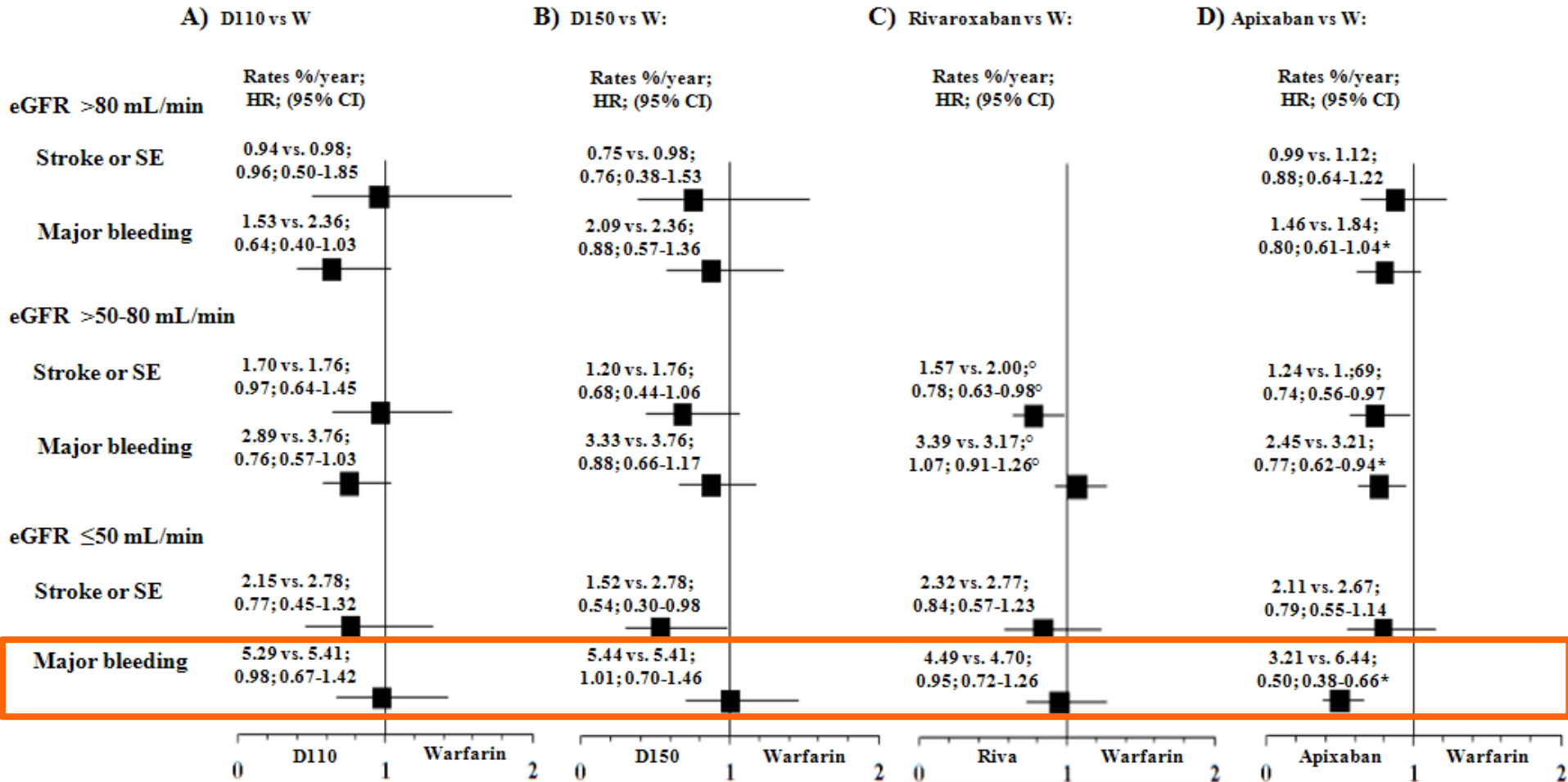


\*Major bleeding definition according to ISTH; #modified ISTH definition (additionally included surgical revision from bleeding); ‡major bleeding defined by the Cunningham algorithm<sup>6</sup>; § No major bleeding cohort (representative of >98% of the patient population)

1. Patel MR *et al*, *N Engl J Med* 2011;365:883–891; 2. Beyer-Westendorf J *et al*, *Blood* 2014;124:955–962; 3. Beyer-Westendorf J *et al*. Presented at ESC 2013: abstract P4870; 4. Tamayo S *et al*, *Clin Cardiol* 2015;38:63–68; 5. Camm AJ *et al*, *Eur Heart J* 2015;doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehv466; 6. Cunningham A *et al*, *Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Saf* 2011;20:560–566



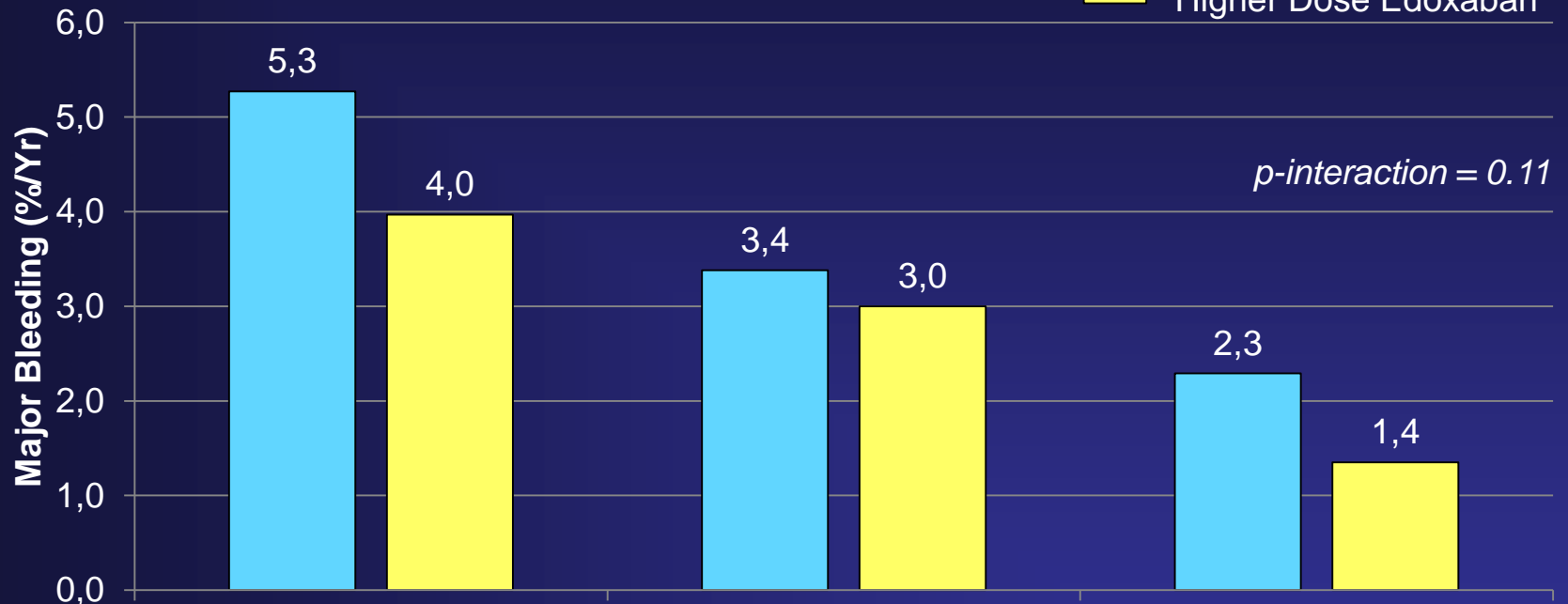
# Efficacy and safety of NOACs vs W across levels of GRF



# Major Bleeding by Exploratory CrCl Subgroup

Safety Population On Treatment Period

Warfarin (TTR 68.4%)  
Higher Dose Edoxaban\*



CrCl (mL/min)	≤50	>50-95	>95
N (%)	2728(20)	8177 (58)	3119 (22)
Warf Events	132	309	83
HD Edox Events	100	267	51
HR (95% CI)	0.76 (0.58, 0.98)	0.89 (0.75, 1.04)	0.60 (0.42, 0.85)

\*60mg daily or 30mg if dose-reduced for CrCl≤50, weight ≤60kg or P-gp use

# Safety of NOACs in elderly (> 75 years)

## Apixaban

Rates % / yr  
HR (95% CI)

Major  
bleed

3.33 vs 5.19  
0.64 (0.52–0.79)



## Rivaroxaban

Rates % / yr  
HR (95% CI)

4.86 vs 4.40  
1.11 (0.92–1.34)



## Dabigatran 110 mg

Rates % / yr  
HR (95% CI)

4.43 vs 4.37  
1.01 (0.83–1.23)\*



## Dabigatran 150 mg

Rates % / yr  
HR (95% CI)

5.10 vs 4.37  
1.18 (0.98–1.42)\*



ICH

0.43 vs 1.29  
0.34 (0.20–0.57)



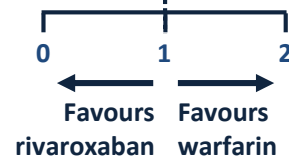
0.66 vs 0.83  
0.80 (0.50–1.28)



0.37 vs 1.00  
0.37 (0.21–0.64)



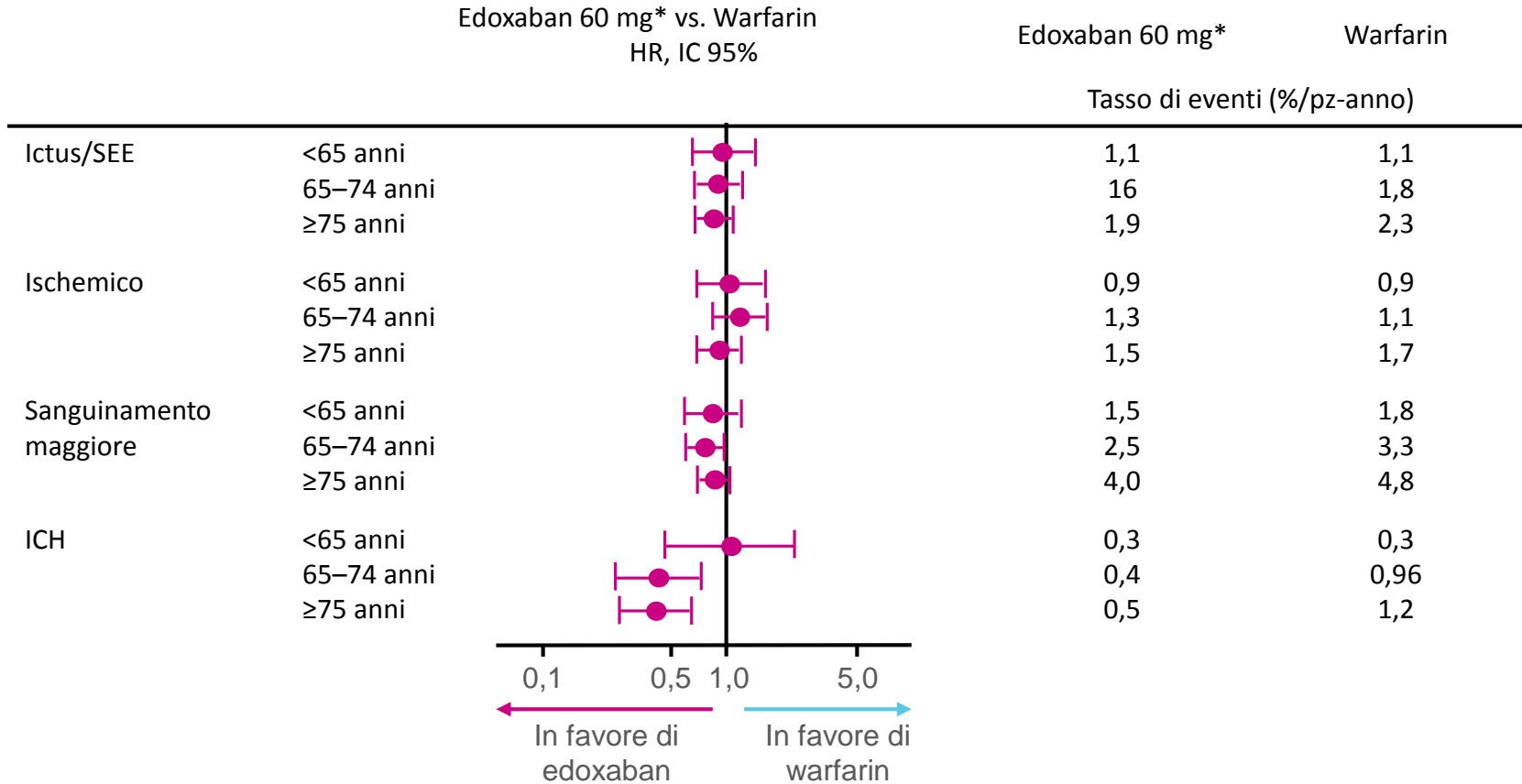
0.41 vs 1.00  
0.42 (0.25–0.70)



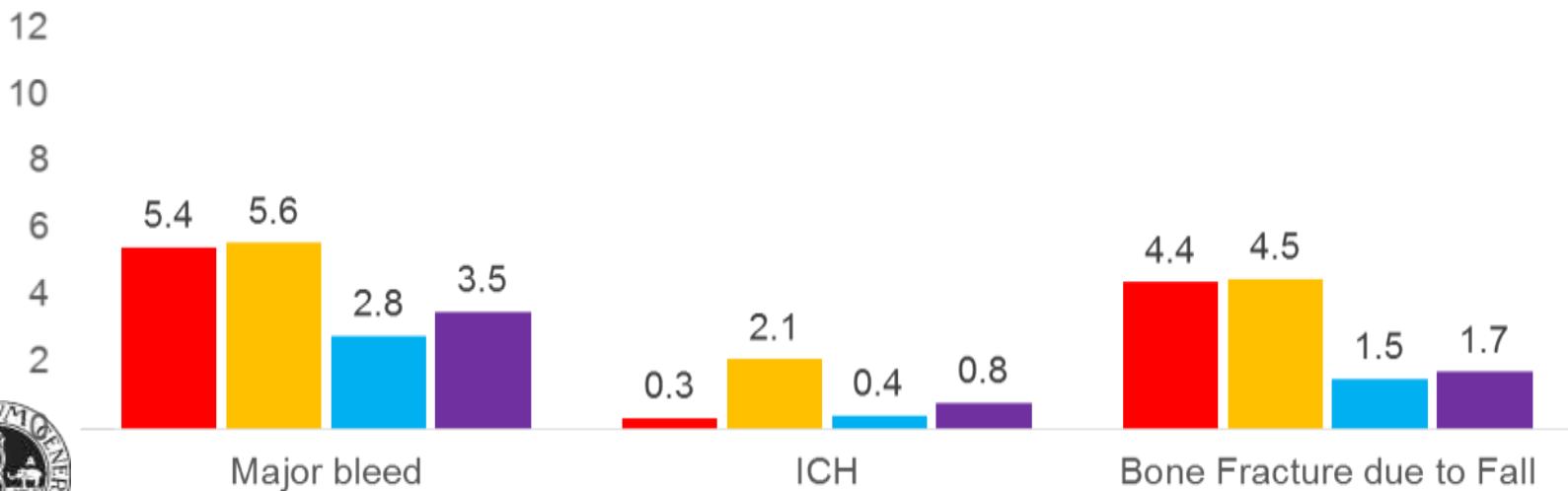
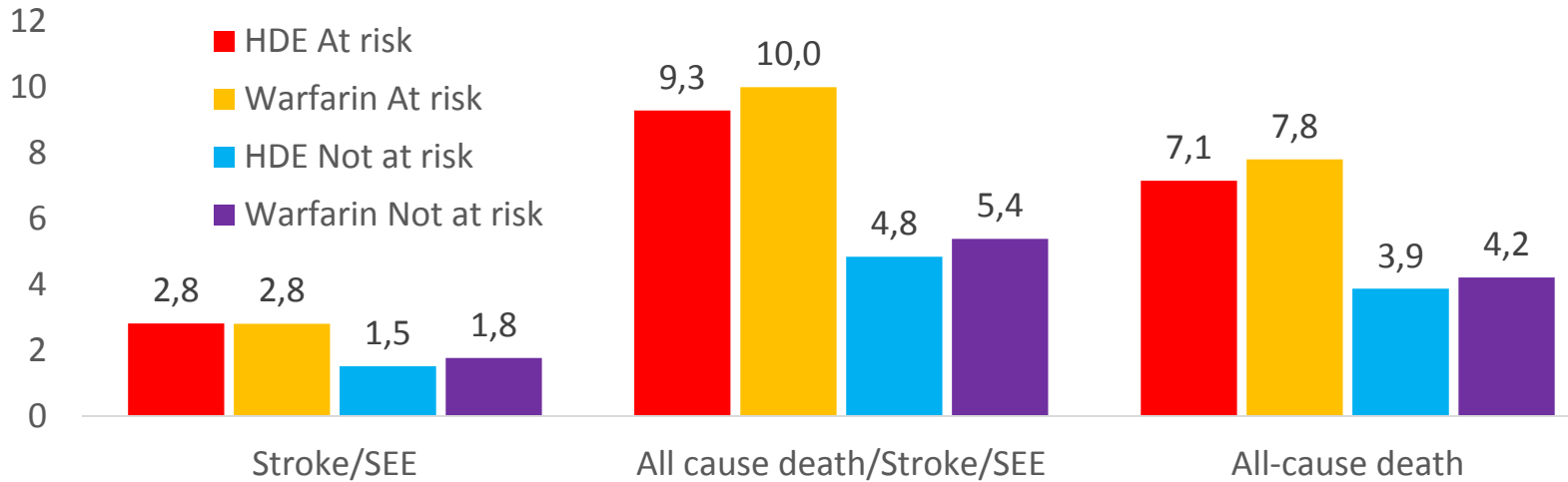
# Caratteristiche dei pazienti nel trial ENGAGE AF - EDOXABAN

	<65 anni (N=5.497)	65-74 anni (N=7.134)	≥75 anni (N=8.474)
Sesso femminile (%)	27	39	45
Dislipidemia (%)	51	54	52
TTR con warfarin (%)	67	69	70
Punteggio CHADS <sub>2</sub> (medio)	2,6	2,7	3,2
Scompenso cardiaco congestizio (%)	70	63	45
Ipertensione (%)	94	94	93
Età media (anni)	59	70	79
Diabete (%)	41	43	28
Pregresso ictus o TIA (%)	28	33	25
Punteggio HAS - BLED ≥3 (%)	16	57	56
CrCl mediana (ml/min)	98	74	56
Peso mediano (kg)	91	83	76
Riduzione dose a randomizzazione (%)	10	18	41

# Sicurezza ed efficacia di Edoxaban nei pazienti anziani



# Edoxaban versus Warfarin in Patients with an Increased Risk of Falls



Steffel et al., presented at AHA 2015





# ESC AF guidelines 2016

When oral anticoagulation is initiated in a patient with AF who is eligible for a NOAC (apixaban, dabigatran, edoxaban, or rivaroxaban), a NOAC is recommended **in preference** to a Vitamin K antagonist.

IA

AF patients already on treatment with a vitamin K antagonist may be considered for NOAC treatment if TTR is not well controlled despite good adherence, or if patient preference without contra-indications to NOAC (e.g. prosthetic valve).

IIb A

NOACs (apixaban, dabigatran, edoxaban, and rivaroxaban) are not recommended in patients with mechanical heart valves (Level of evidence B) or moderate-to-severe mitral stenosis (Level of evidence C).

III



# NOACs outcomes

Study	Treatment	Major Bleeding	Emorragic Stroke	Discontinuation during the study
RE-LY	Dabigatran (110 mg)	2.71%	0.12%	20,7%
	Dabigatran (150 mg)	3.11%	0.10%	21,2%
	Warfarin	3.36%	0.38%	16,6%
ROCKET-AF	Rivaroxaban	3.6%	0.5%	23.7%
	Warfarin	3.4%	0.7%	22,2%
ARISTOTLE	Apixaban	2.13%	0.24%	25.3%
	Warfarin	3.09%	0.47%	nc

In elderly or in patients with moderate renal insufficiency major bleeding rate per year ranging from 3 to 5%



# Strategies to minimize the risk of bleeding

- Adjusted dosage in high risk patients
- Preference of one NOAC over another in specific subgroups.
- Definition of **specific follow-up** management, especially in high-risk subgroups



# Valutazione del rischio di sanguinamento in pazienti con FA

		Dabigatran	Apixaban	Edoxaban	Rivaroxaban
Aged ≥80 years	Increased plasma level	Orange	Yellow	Yellow with diagonal lines	Yellow
Aged ≥75 years	Increased plasma level	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow with diagonal lines	Yellow
Weight ≤60 kg	Increased plasma level	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Yellow
Renal function	Increased plasma level	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow

Other increased bleeding risk



Pharmacodynamic interactions – antiplatelet drugs, NSAIDs

Systemic steroid therapy

Recent surgery on critical organ (brain, eye)

Thrombocytopenia (e.g. chemotherapy)

**HAS-BLED ≥3 (Dabigatran 110 e Rivaroxaban 15 mg)**

Red = contraindicated; Orange = adapt dose; Yellow = consider dose reduction if two concomitant yellow interactions present

Heidbuchel H et al. Europace 2015;



# Underdosing and Thrombosis Risk

Analysis of claims in ~13,000 patients with NVAf within the Optum Labs Data Warehouse without any renal indication for dose adjustment.

NOAC*	Reduced Dose <sup>†</sup> Stroke/SE Rate (events/100 pt-y)	Standard Dose Stroke/SE Rate (events/100 pt-y)	HR (P Value) Standard Dose Is Reference
Apixaban (N = 550/dose)	2.57	0.54	4.87 (P = .02)
Dabigatran (N = 412/dose)	1.64	1.75	0.92 (P = .89)
Rivaroxaban (N = 815/dose)	1.23	1.65	0.71 (P = .54)

Patients more likely to receive a reduced dose (of any NOAC) were older, female, had higher stroke and bleeding risk.

\*1:1 propensity-score matched reduced to standard-dose patients within each NOAC on 50 baseline characteristics.

<sup>†</sup>Renal dose adjustment (dabigatran users with GFR < 30 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>, rivaroxaban users with GFR < 50 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>, and apixaban users with Cr ≥ 1.5 mg/dL).

# Dose reduction in NOACs Trial

	RE-LY (Dabigatran)	ARISTOTLE (Apixaban)	ENGAGE AF-TIMI 48 (Edoxaban)	ROCKET-AF (Rivaroxaban)
Study Drug Dosage	150 and 110 mg	5 mg	21,105	14,266
Adjusted dose	No adjustment	2.5 mg BID	60/30	20/15
Characteristics requiring dose adjustment	-	If at least two of these conditions: age $\geq$ 80 years, body weight $\leq$ 60 kg, serum creatinine $\geq$ 1.5 mg/dL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CrCl 30–50 mL/min,</li> <li>• body weight <math>\leq</math>60 kg</li> <li>• patient receiving verapamil, quinidine or dronedarone</li> </ul>	CrCl 30–49 mL/min
Patients with dose reduction	-	N=428	N=1784	N=1474

All NOACs are contraindicated when CrCl < 30 mL/min according to guidelines



# Preference of one NOAC

- No reliable comparisons can be done. However it appears that **apixaban and edoxaban** are the safest in elderly and in patients with moderate renal insufficiency.
- With **Edoxaban** there are more possibilities to **adjust dosage** and this could turn useful in higher-risk patients.
- No specific guidelines recommendations regarding preference.



# Checklist during follow-up contacts of AF patients on NOACs

<b>Adherence</b>	
<b>Side effects</b>	
<b>Co-medications</b>	NSAID, antiplatelet, amiodarone, verapamil
<b>Blood sampling</b>	
Yearly	Haemoglobin, renal and liver function
6-monthly	≥75–80 years (especially if on dabigatran), or frail
X-monthly	If renal function ≤60 mL/min: recheck interval = $\text{CrCl}/10$
On indication	If intercurrent condition that may impact renal or hepatic function





# ESC Guidelines 2016

In patients at high-risk of gastrointestinal bleeding, a VKA or another NOAC preparation should be preferred over dabigatran 150 mg twice daily, rivaroxaban 20 mg once daily, or edoxaban 60 mg once daily.

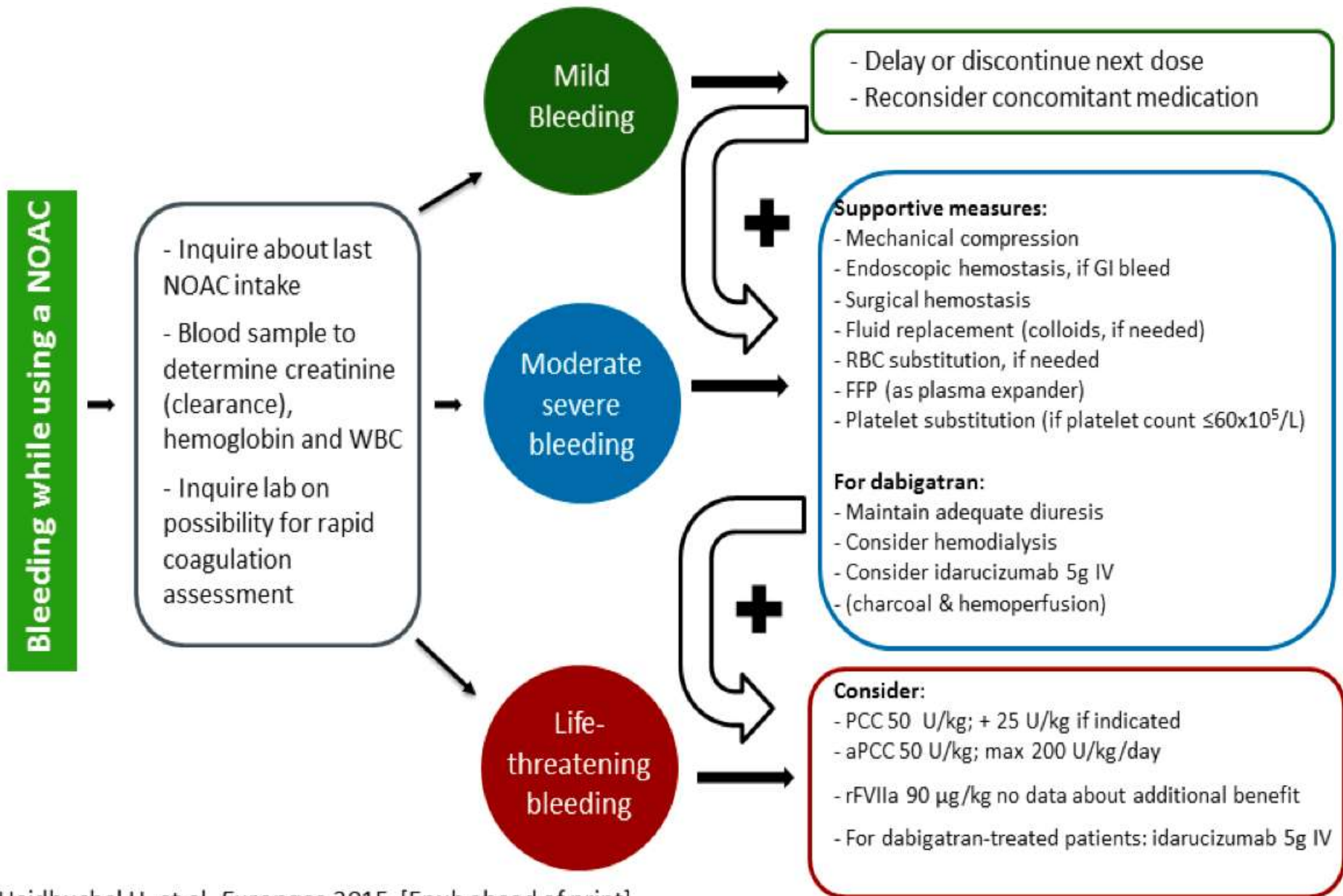
**IIa**

**B**

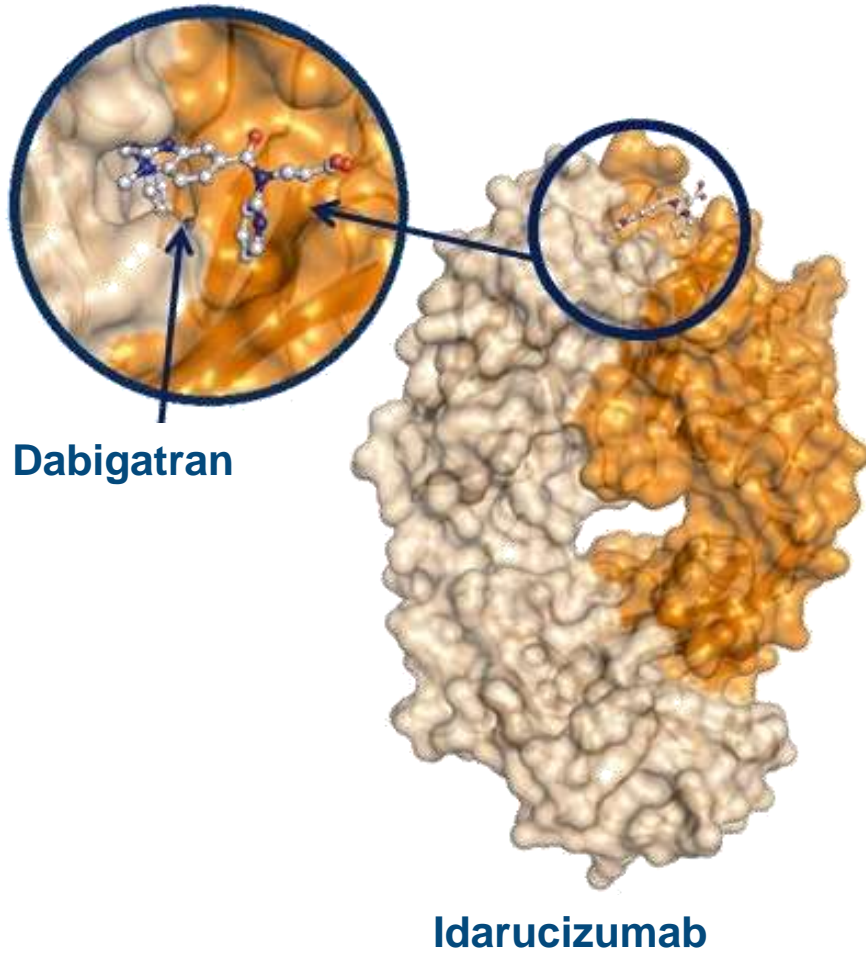
Prefer Dabigatran 110 or Apixaban 5



# NOACs management of bleeding



# Idarucizumab: a specific reversal agent for dabigatran



- ➔ Humanized Fab fragment
- ➔ Binding affinity for dabigatran **~350 × higher** than dabigatran to thrombin
- ➔ IV administration, immediate onset of action
- ➔ Short half-life
- ➔ No intrinsic procoagulant or anticoagulant activity



•Adapted from Schiele F et al. Blood 2013;  
•Stangier J et al. ISTH 2015, OR320



# Idarucizumab: EMA approved indications

- for emergency surgery/urgent procedures.
- In life-threatening or uncontrolled bleeding.



# Management of bleeding in dabigatran and W

	Dabigatran* (16775 pz)	Warfarin (10002 pz)	P value
Patients with major bleeds, n (%)	741 (4)	421 (4.2)	
Blood transfusion, n (%)	439 (59.2)	210 (49.9)	0.002
Fresh frozen plasma, n (%)	147 (19.8)	127 (30.2)	<0.001
Vitamin K, n (%)	70 (9.4)	115 (27.3)	<0.001
Prothrombin complex concentrate, n (%)	5 (0.7)	5 (1.2)	0.36
Recombinant Factor VIIa, n (%)	8 (1.1) (0.04)	3 (0.7) (0.03)	0.53



# Conclusions

- NOACs offers important clinical benefits, also in more vulnerable patients.
- NOACs allowed to treat more risky patients.
- Bleeding and thrombotic risk still persist with NOACs.
- Several strategies could be useful to optimize outcomes with NOACs, but they are still not established.
- Compliance to NOACs remains an important issue to be addressed.

