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EFFECTIVENESS AND SAFETY OF APIXABAN, DABIGATRAN, AND RIVAROXABAN COMPARED TO WARFARIN AMONG NON-VALVULAR ATRIAL FIBRILLATION PATIENTS IN THE US MEDICARE POPULATION

Moderated Poster Contributions
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Session Title: Atrial Fibrillation, Anticoagulation and Novel Device Therapies
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Background: Clinical trials have shown direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) are at least as effective and safe as warfarin for risk of stroke/systemic embolism (S/SE) and major bleeding (MB) compared to warfarin. This study compared risk of S/SE and MB among non-valvular atrial fibrillation (NVAF) patients initiating oral anticoagulants in the US Medicare population.

Methods: NVAF patients ≥65 years in the US Medicare database; recently prescribed apixaban, rivaroxaban, dabigatran or warfarin were selected from 01JAN2013-31DEC2014. 1:1 propensity score matching was used to balance demographics and clinical characteristics. Cox proportional hazards models were used to estimate the hazard ratio (HR) of S/SE and MB (using primary ICD-9 codes of inpatient claims).

Results: The matched cohorts, followed for a mean of 5-6 months, were balanced with mean age of 77-78 years and CHA_2DS_2-VASc score of 4.4-4.7. Apixaban and rivaroxaban initiators had a lower risk of S/SE, while dabigatran showed similar risk of S/SE compared to warfarin. Apixaban and dabigatran initiators had significantly lower risk of MB, while rivaroxaban showed higher risk of MB compared to warfarin.

Conclusions: This study included NVAF patients in the US Medicare population with higher risk of S/SE and MB than those in Phase III clinical trials. Apixaban showed lower risks of S/SE and MB, dabigatran showed similar risk of S/SE but lower risk of MB, and rivaroxaban showed lower risk of S/SE but higher risk of MB in comparison to warfarin.

	Apixaban vs Warfarin		Dabigatran vs Warfarin		Rivaroxaban vs Warfarin	
	N=20,803		N=16,731		N=52,476	
	HR (95% CI)	p-value	HR (95% CI)	p-value	HR (95% CI)	p-value
Stroke/SE	0.40 (0.31-0.53)	<0.0001	0.94 (0.74-1.21)	0.647	0.72 (0.63-0.83)	<0.0001
Major Bleeding	0.51 (0.44-0.58)	<0.0001	0.79 (0.69-0.91)	0.001	1.17 (1.10-1.26)	<0.0001