ATRIAL FIBRILLATION PATIENTS AND RISK OF STROKE



WHAT IS AF?



Atrial fibrillation (AF) is a condition in which the heart sends rapid, disorganised electrical signals creating an

irregular heartbeat that can cause blood to pool and lead to a blood clot. Blood clots can travel to the brain and trigger a stroke¹.

BURDEN OF STROKE IN AF



Stroke is

5x

AF is responsible for about 1 in 5 mostrokes caused by blood clots³ patie

more likely for patients with AF³



Risk of death from AF-related stroke is double from other causes of stroke³ Cost of care is increased by

50%

GUIDELINES AND RISK SCORES

Scoring schemes, such as CHA₂DS₂-VASc, help doctors to classify patients with AF according to their risk of stroke, to facilitate decisions on antithrombotic treament².

AF guidelines recommend that antithrombotic therapy should be individualised based on the patient's stroke risk. Guidelines use risk scores to help doctors determine²:

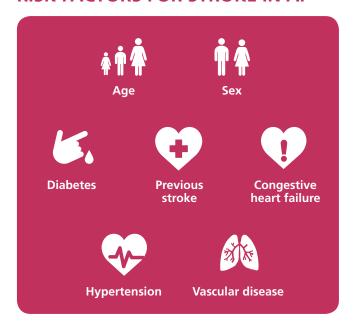


Low risk – Does not need anticoagulation Medium risk – May need anticoagulation High risk – Does need anticoagulation



Better identification and appropriate antithrombotic therapy can help physicians reduce incidence of stroke and prevent burdensome consequences for patients and families⁴

RISK FACTORS FOR STROKE IN AF2



MANAGING LOW-RISK PATIENTS



Risk assessment now focuses on improved identification of truly low-risk AF patients who do not need antithrombotic therapy



Improved risk stratification tools are needed to help identify truly low-risk patients



Real-world data can help with the understanding of everyday clinical practice, providing information about under-represented low-risk AF patients for whom disease management may be challenging

GARFIELD-AF is an independent academic research initiative led by an international steering committee under the auspices of the Thrombosis Research Institute (TRI)

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