ATRIAL FIBRILLATION PATIENTS AND RISK OF STROKE

AF Garfield
global anticoagulant registry in the field
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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 stroke[1].

BURDEN OF STROKE IN AF

AF is responsible for about 1 in 5 strokes caused by blood clots[3]

Stroke is
5x
more likely for patients with AF[3]

Risk of death from AF-related stroke is **double** from other causes of stroke[3]

Cost of care is increased by
50%[3]

GUIDELINES AND RISK SCORES

Scoring schemes, such as CHA_2DS_2-VASc, help doctors to classify patients with AF according to their risk of stroke, to facilitate decisions on antithrombotic treament[2].

AF guidelines recommend that antithrombotic therapy should be individualised based on the patient's stroke risk. Guidelines use risk scores to help doctors determine[2]:

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 families[4]

RISK FACTORS FOR STROKE IN AF[2]

- Age
- Sex
- Diabetes
- Previous stroke
- Congestive heart failure
- Hypertension
- Vascular disease

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)

References
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TRI Thrombosis Research Institute

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