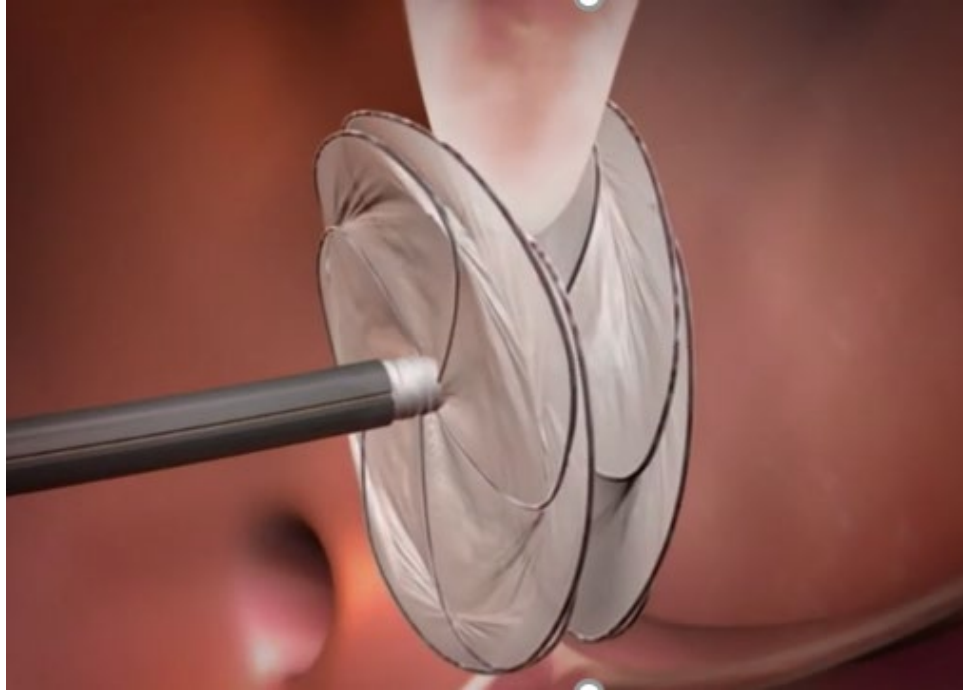
The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly angled view of a standard medical ECG (heart rate) tracing. The grid is a fine red mesh, and the black ink lines of the ECG trace are prominent, showing multiple cardiac cycles. The overall color palette is a mix of light pink, purple, and white.

Symposium annuel  
Centre cérébrovasculaire – CHUV

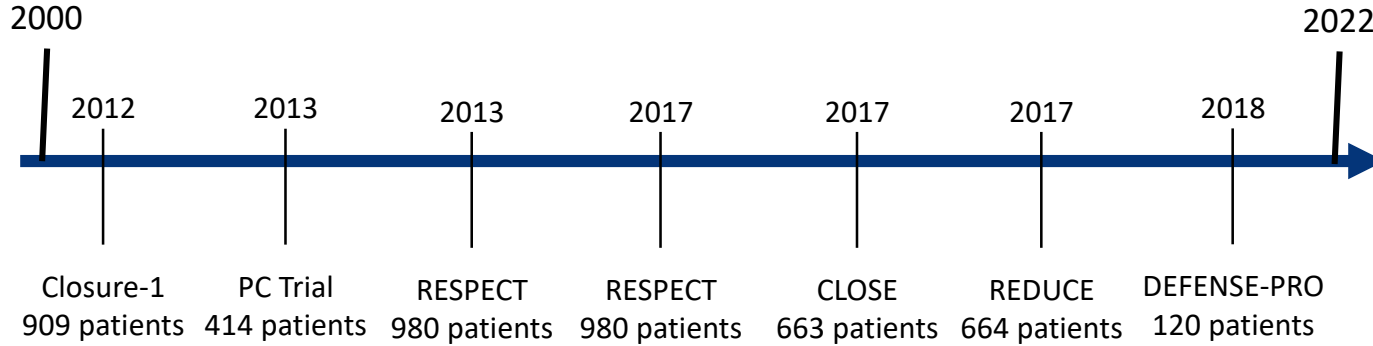
# Fermeture du FOP et de l'auricule

Olivier Muller  
Service de cardiologie CHUV

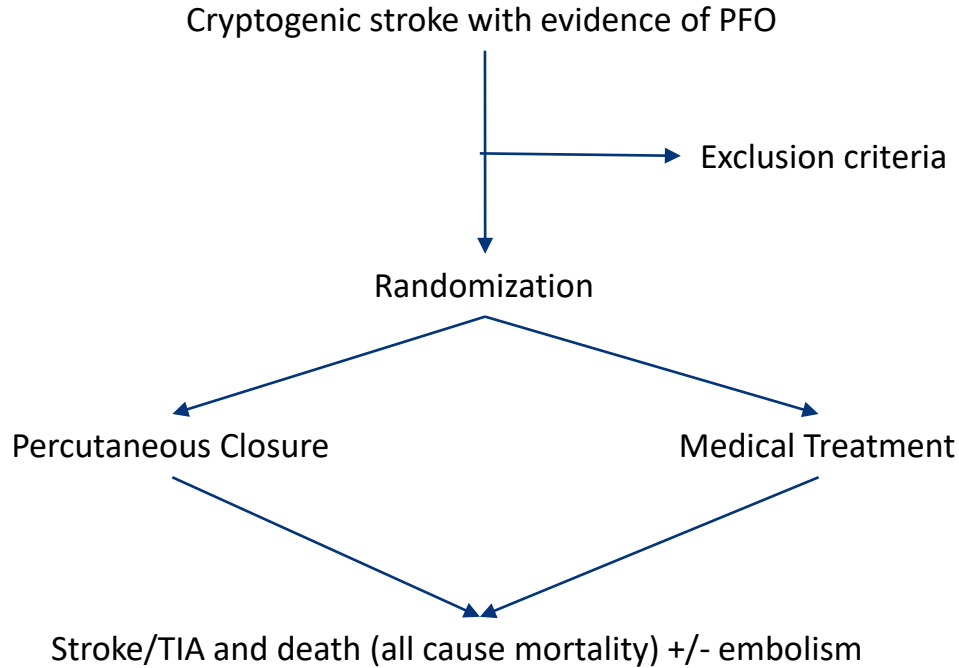
# PFO closure



# RCTs PFO closure

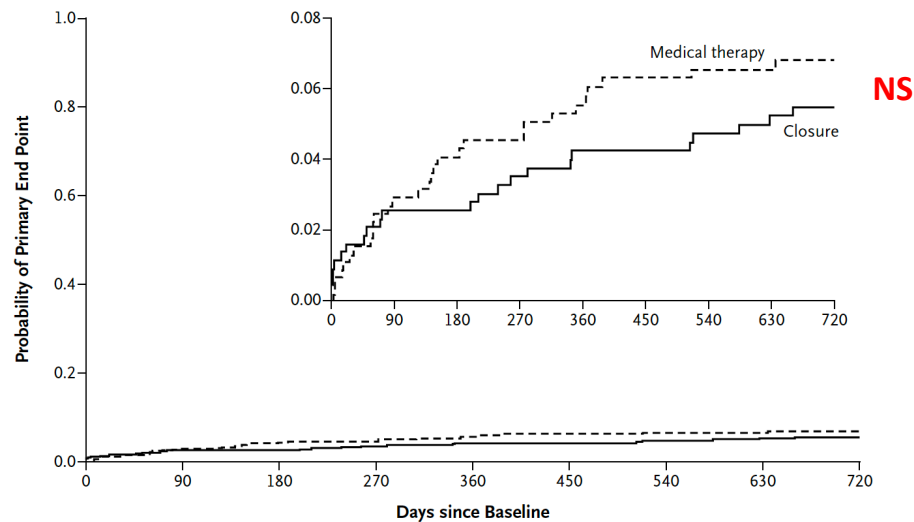


# Study design initial trials



# Closure-1

Closure not superior to medical therapy

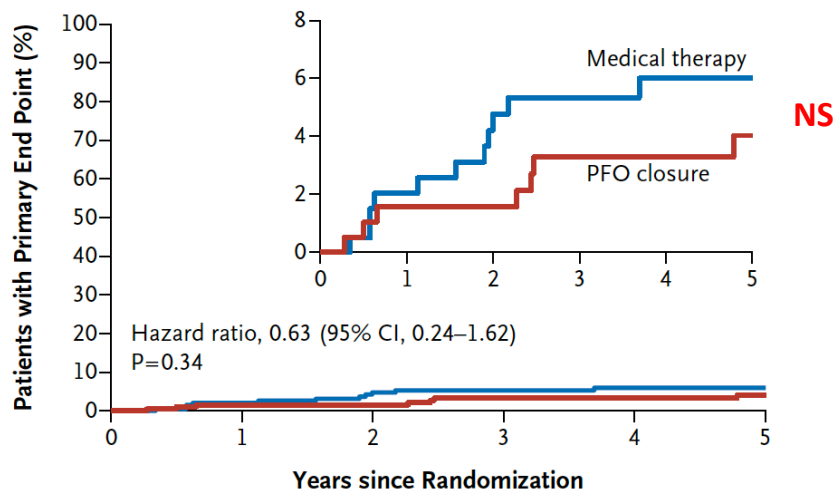


No. at Risk

Closure	447	411	406	399	392	389	384	380	254
Medical therapy	462	421	405	388	378	365	359	356	242

# PC trial

Closure not superior to medical therapy



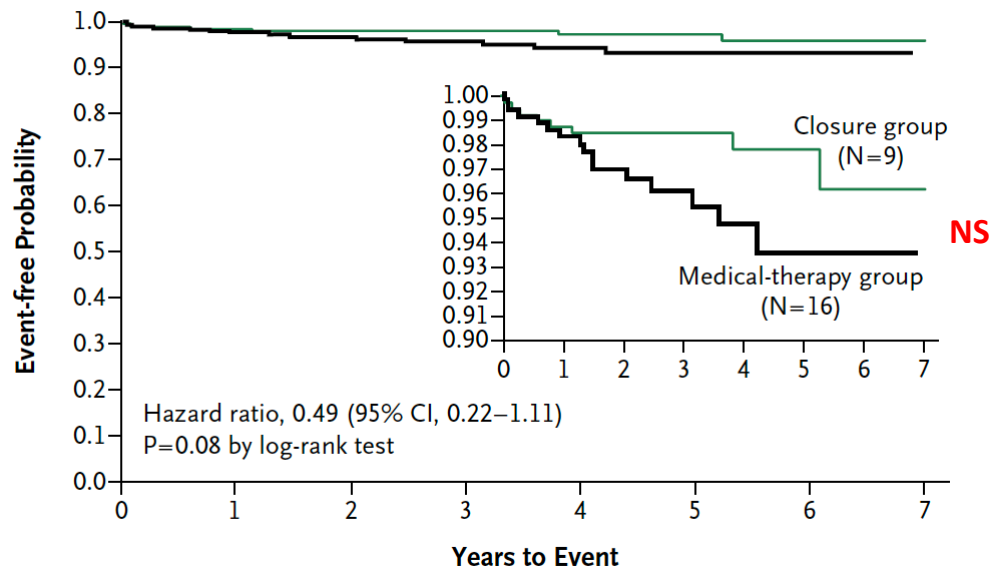
## No. at Risk

Medical therapy	210	185	170	159	131	90
PFO closure	204	186	181	163	142	110

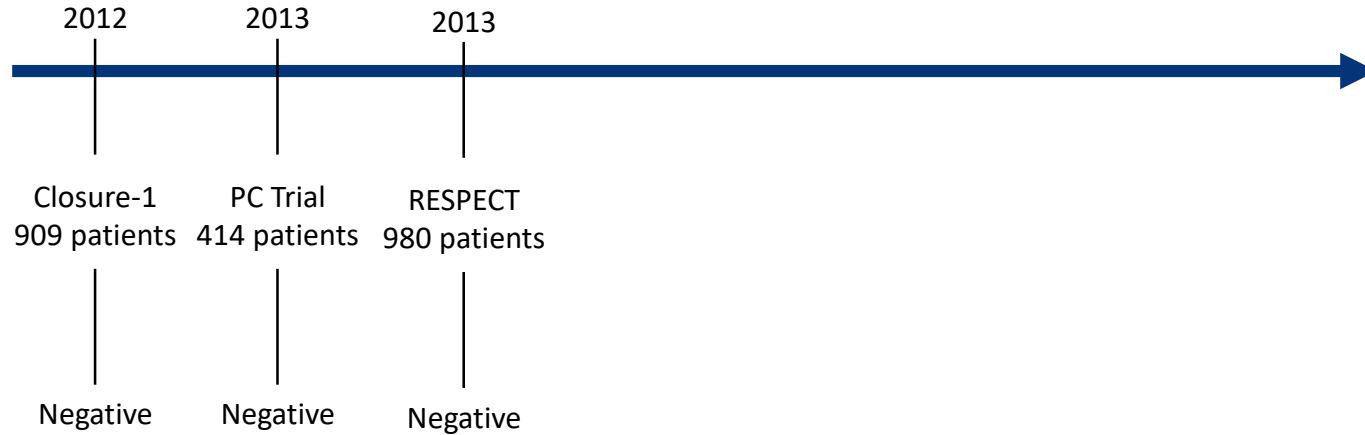
# RESPECT trial (FU 2.6 y)

Closure not superior to medical therapy

## A Intention-to-Treat Cohort



# RCTs PFO closure





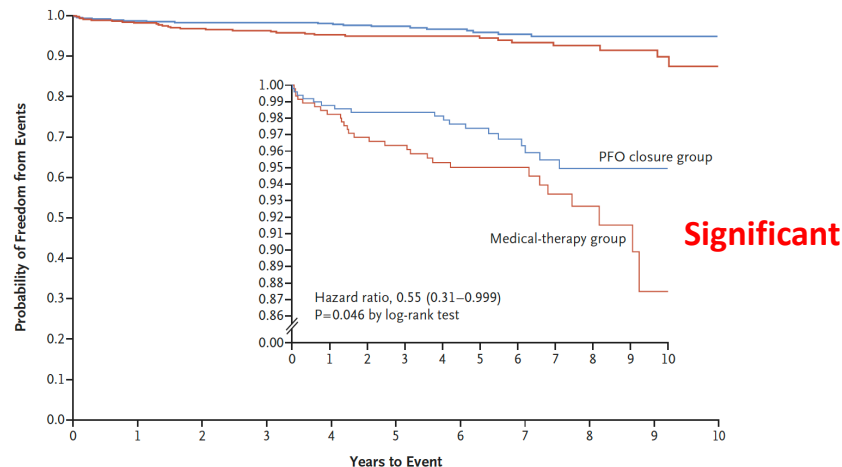
# Closure-1, PC and RESPECT

- High crossover between groups
- Failure to randomise those patients whose strokes were likely to have been caused by PFO
- Inconsistent use of anticoagulants in the medical therapy group
- STARFlex occluder concerns (residual defects and left-sided thrombus formation)

# RESPECT trial extended FU (5.9 y)

Reduction in ischaemic stroke NNT = 45

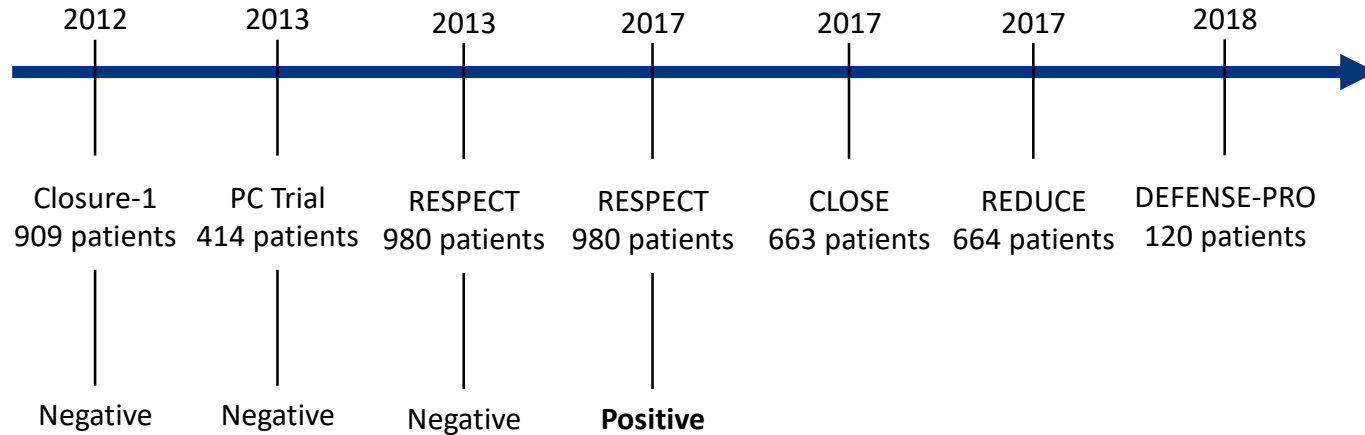
A Primary End-Point Events



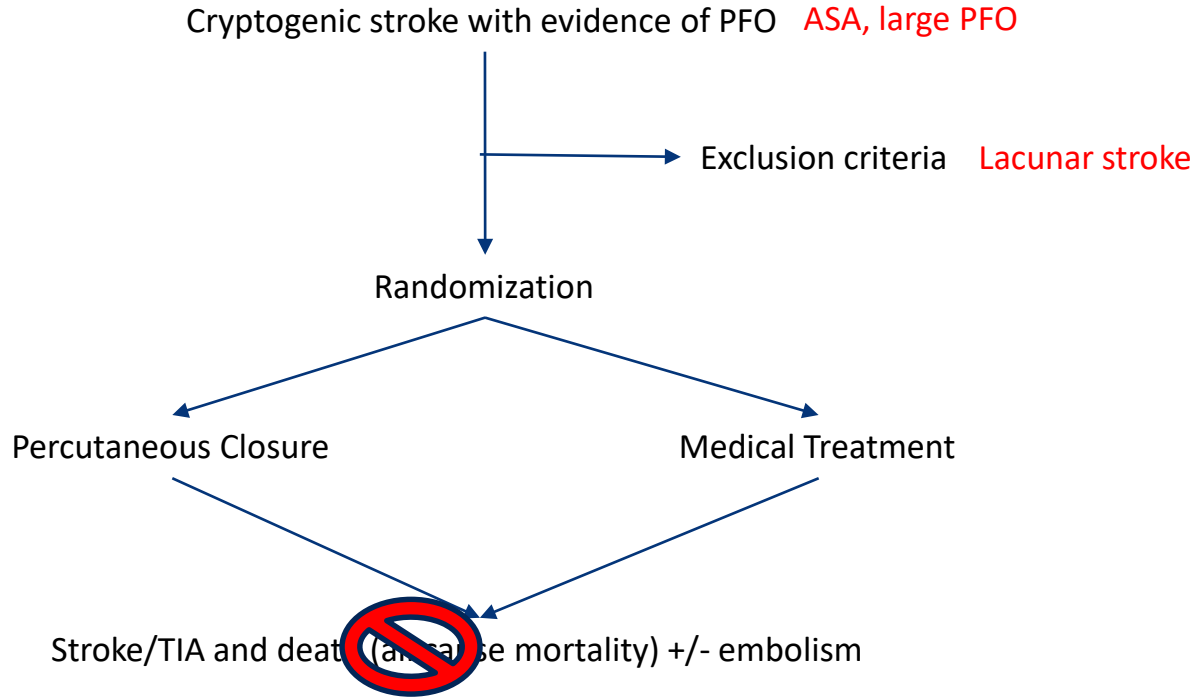
No. at Risk

PFO closure group	499	476	464	447	421	352	262	197	128	77	41
Medical-therapy group	481	433	394	380	354	282	218	150	104	59	31

# RCTs PFO closure

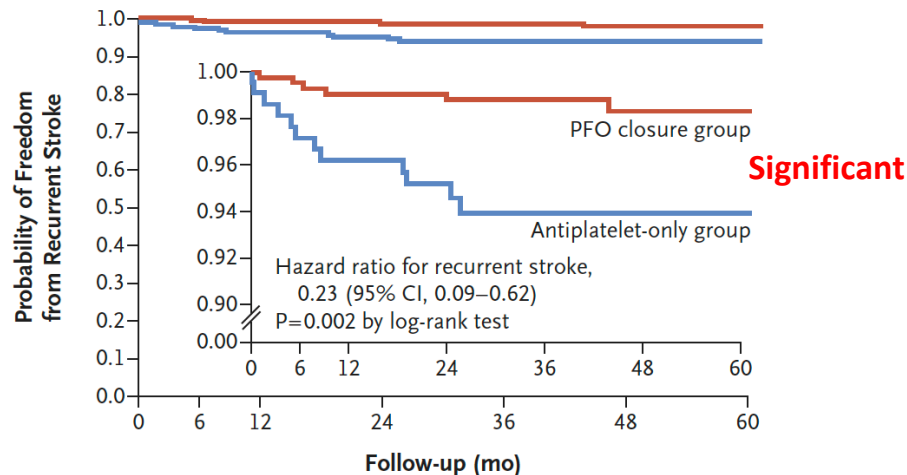


# Study design : recent trials



# REDUCE trial

Reduction in ischaemic stroke NNT = 25

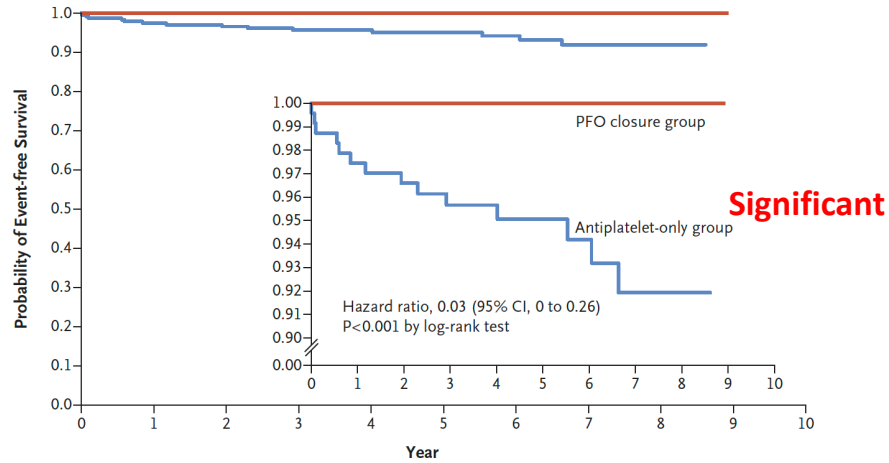


## No. at Risk

PFO closure group	441	422	417	398	278	182	102
Antiplatelet-only group	223	202	194	173	116	78	30

# CLOSE trial

Reduction in ischaemic stroke NNT = 17

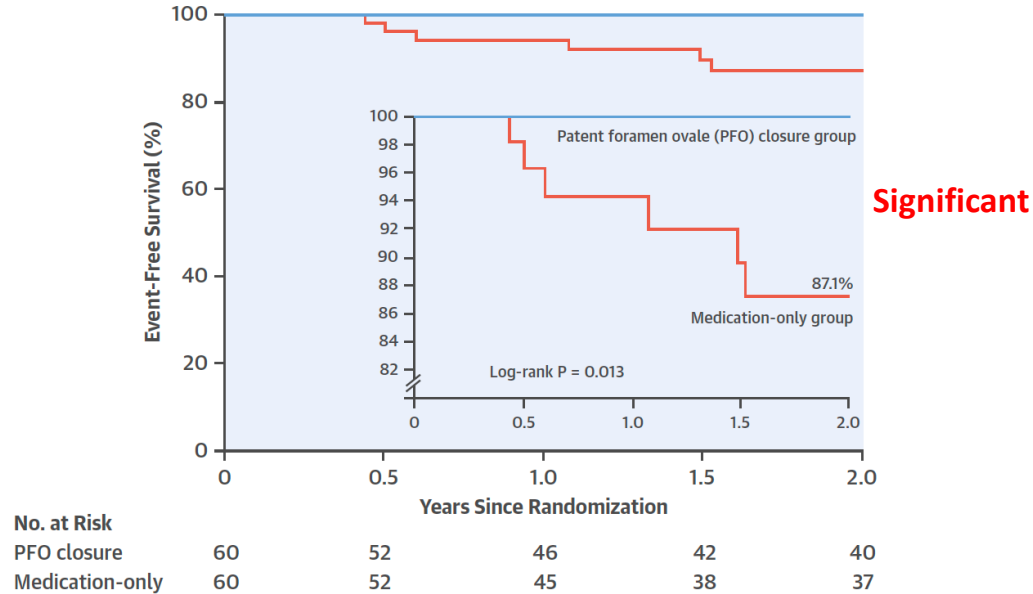


## No. at Risk

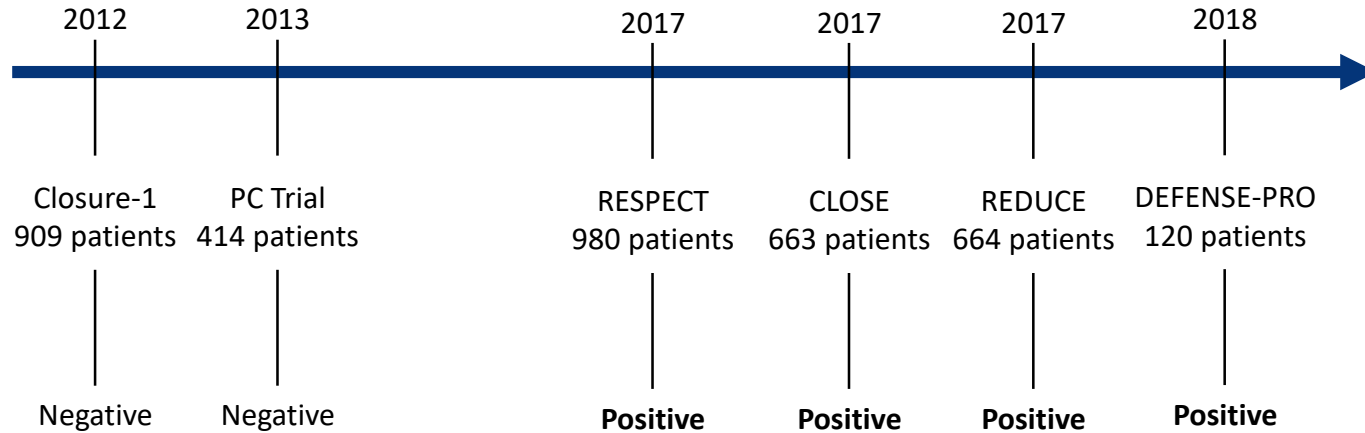
PFO closure group	238	238	232	200	179	141	99	64	20	0	0
Antiplatelet-only group	235	229	223	198	160	130	96	55	19	0	0

# Defense Pro Trial

Reduction in stroke, vascular death and major bleeding NNT=8

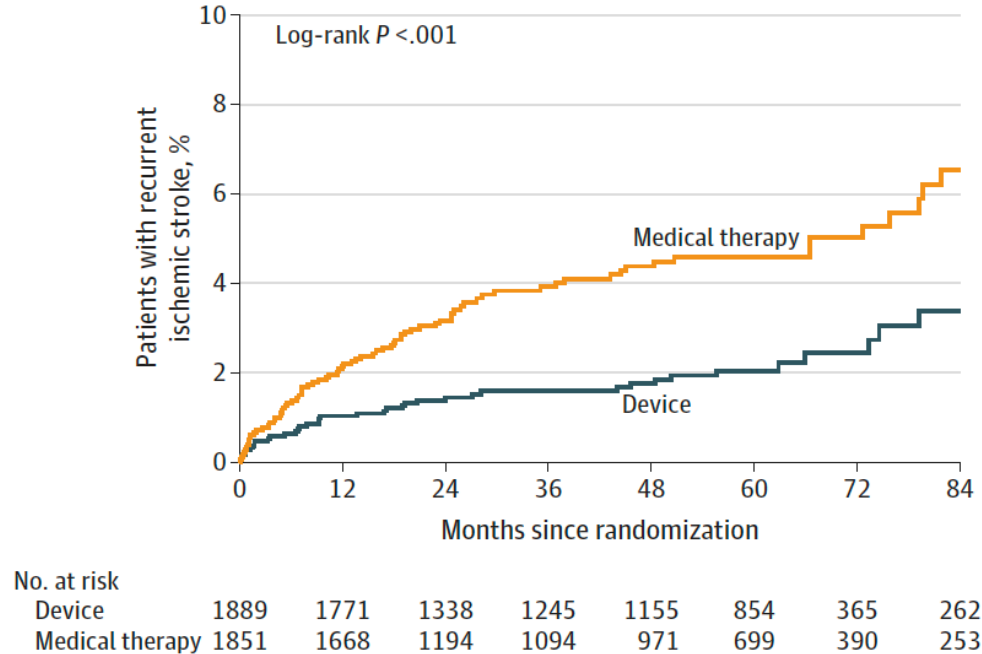


# RCTs PFO closure





# Pooled Individual Patient Data

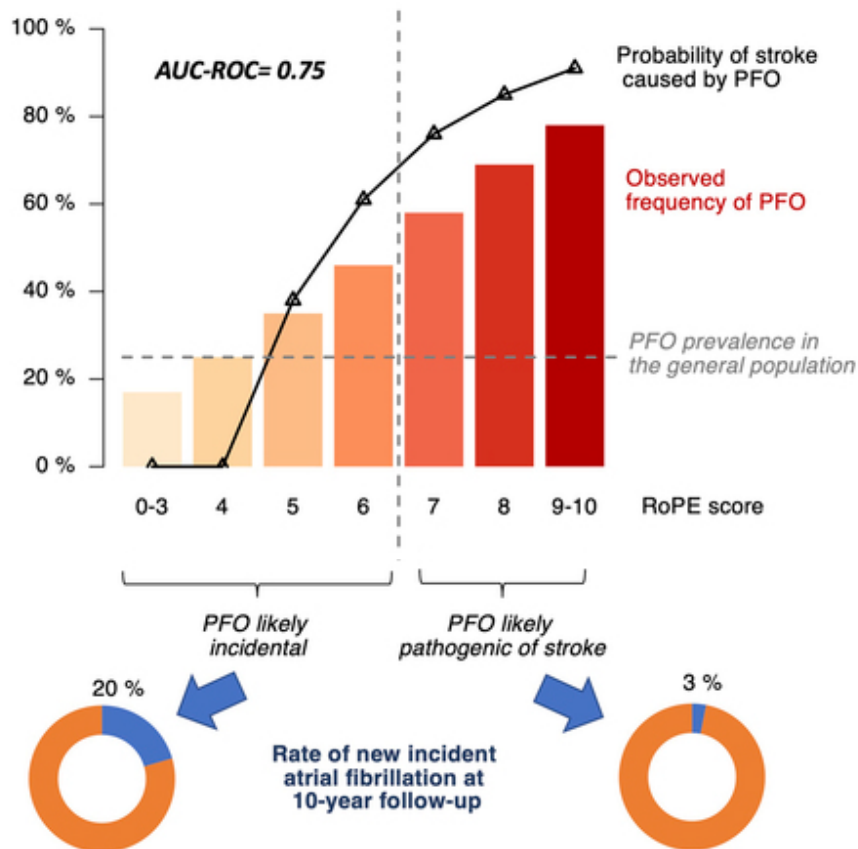


# RoPE score (Risk of Paradoxical Embolism)

**Table 4** RoPE score calculator

Characteristic	Points	RoPE score
No history of hypertension	1	
No history of diabetes	1	
No history of stroke or TIA	1	
Nonsmoker	1	
Cortical infarct on imaging	1	
Age, y		
18-29	5	
30-39	4	
40-49	3	
50-59	2	
60-69	1	
≥70	0	
Total score (sum of individual points)		
Maximum score (a patient <30 y with no hypertension, no diabetes, no history of stroke or TIA, nonsmoker, and cortical infarct)		10
Minimum score (a patient ≥70 y with hypertension, diabetes, prior stroke, current smoker, and no cortical infarct)		0

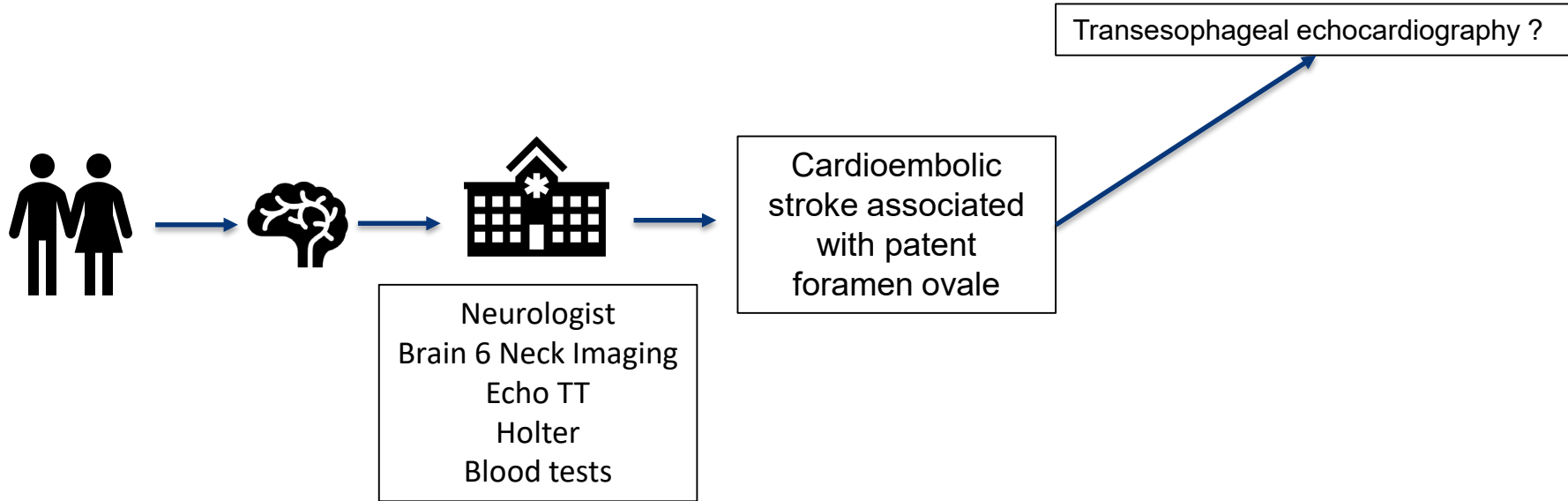
# Validation of RoPE score



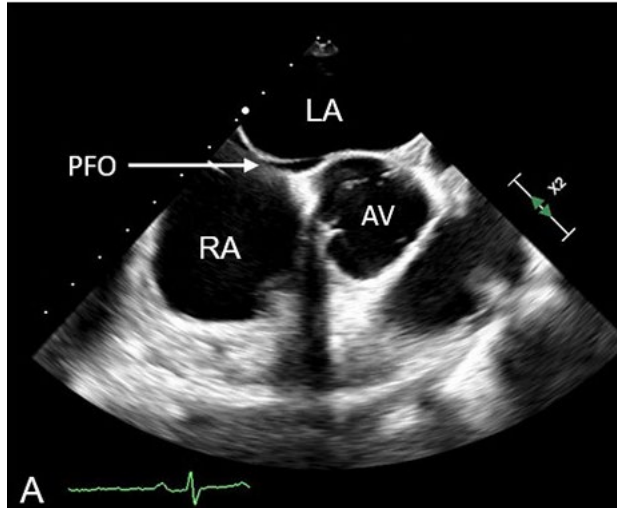
# PASCAL (PFO-Associated Stroke Causal Likelihood)

Risk source	Features	RoPE Score	
		Low <sup>b</sup> < 7	High <sup>b</sup> ≥ 7
Very high	A PFO and a straddling thrombus	Definite	Definite
High	(1) Concomitant pulmonary embolism or deep venous thrombosis preceding an index infarct combined with either (2a) a PFO and an atrial septal aneurysm or (2b) a large-shunt PFO	Probable	Highly probable
Medium	Either (1) a PFO and an atrial septal aneurysm or (2) a large-shunt PFO	Possible	Probable
Low	A small-shunt PFO without an atrial septal aneurysm	Unlikely	Possible

# Points still unclear

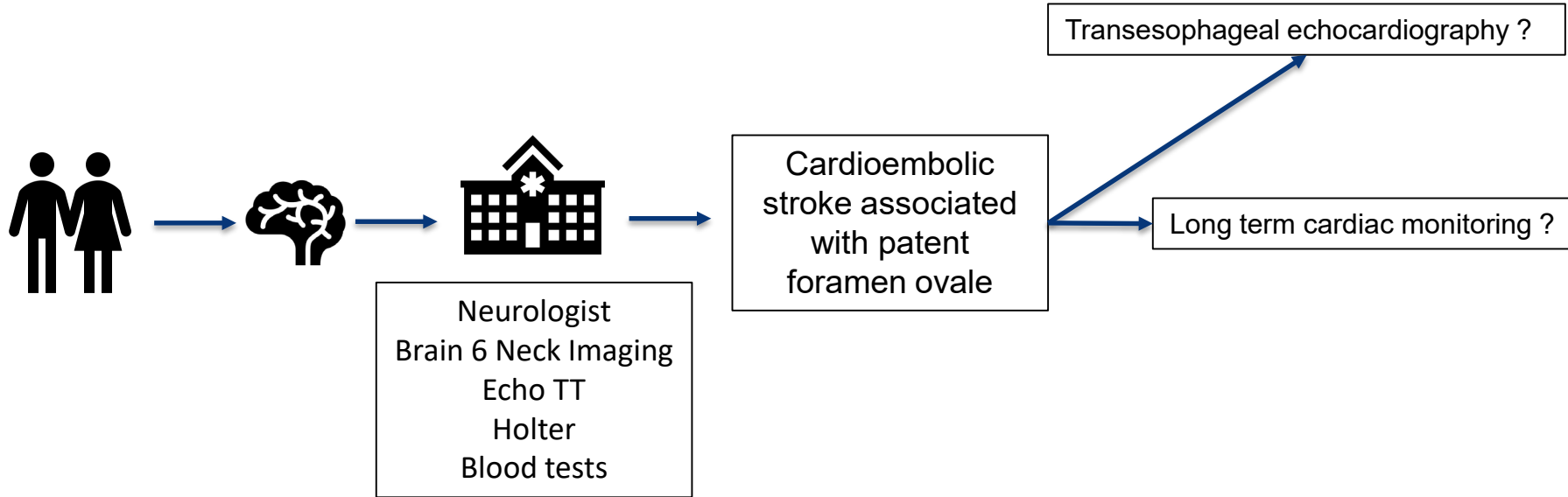


# Transesophageal echocardiography



- Atrial septal defect
- Atrial myxoma, Fibroelastoma
- Aortic arch atheroma,
- Small aortic or mitral valvular vegetations

# Points still unclear

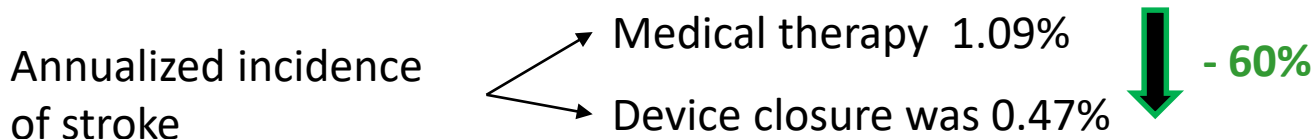




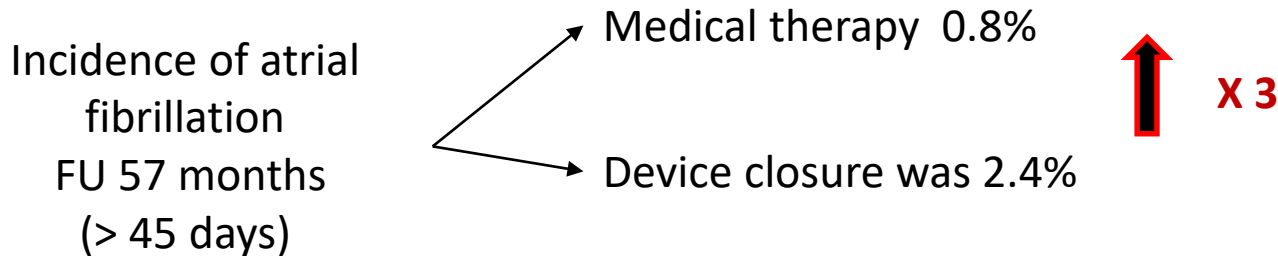


# Conclusions: Benefit – risk of PFO closure

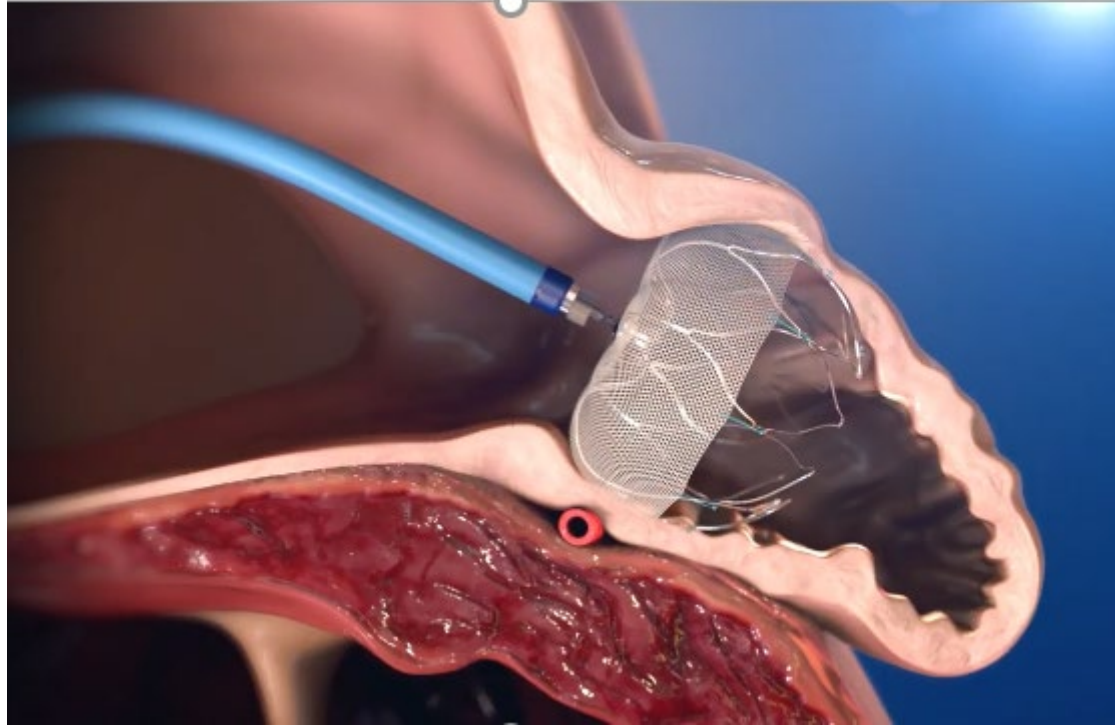
## The Benefit



## The Risk



# LAA Closure



# ESC guidelines

## Recommendations for occlusion or exclusion of the LAA

LAA occlusion may be considered for stroke prevention in patients with AF and contraindications for long-term anticoagulant treatment (e.g. intracranial bleeding without a reversible cause).<sup>448,449,481,482</sup>

**IIb**

**B**

Surgical occlusion or exclusion of the LAA may be considered for stroke prevention in patients with AF undergoing cardiac surgery.<sup>459,483</sup>

**IIb**

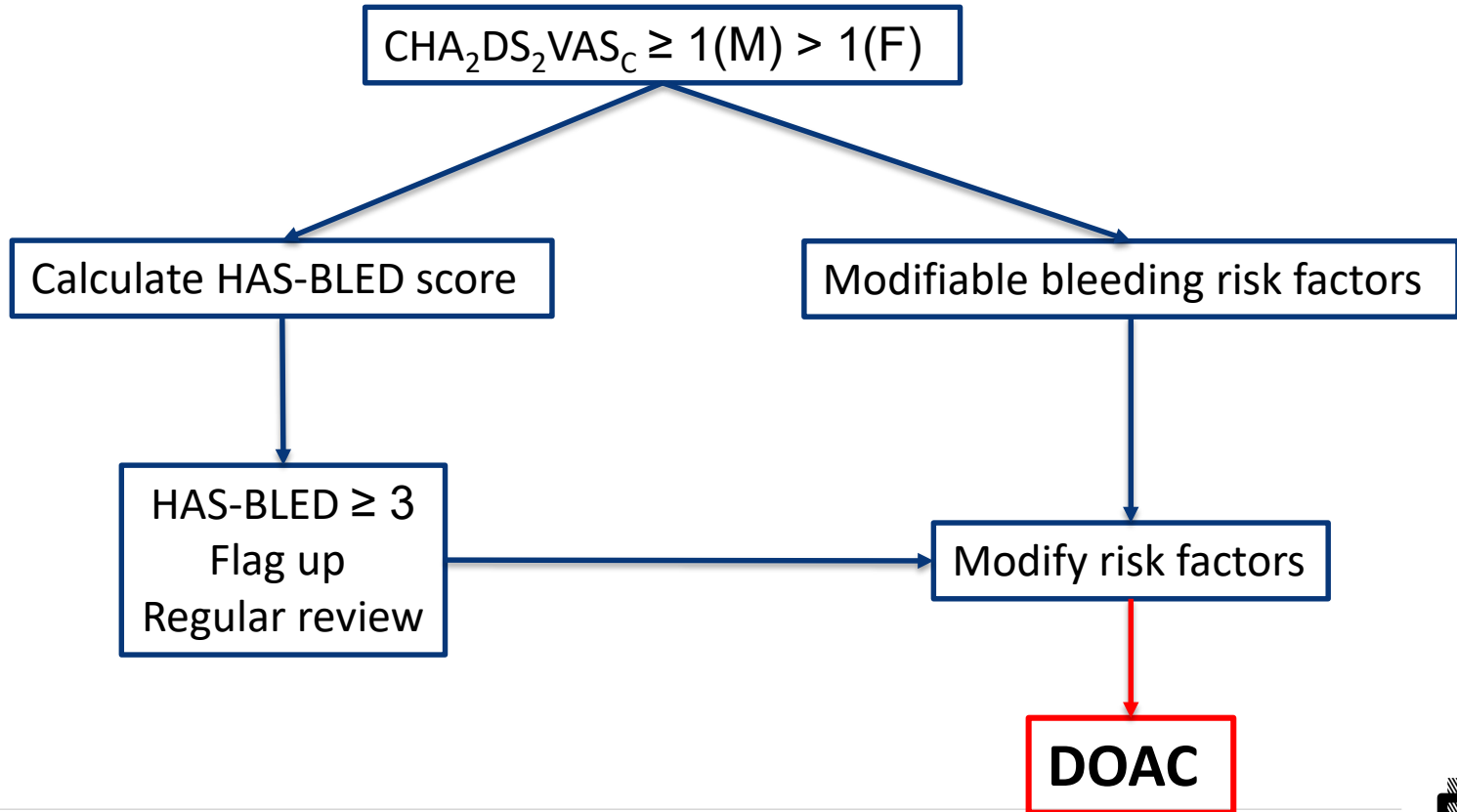
**C**

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# Rational of LAA closure

- Studies have reported that the **LAA is the source of thrombus** in about **90% of nonvalvular AF** and **57% of valvular AF**
  - Blackshear JL, Odell JA. Appendage obliteration to reduce stroke in cardiac surgical patients with atrial fibrillation. *Ann Thorac Surg* 1996;61:755–9.
  - Manning WJ, Silverman DI, Keighley CS, Oettgen P, Douglas PS. Transesophageal echocardiographically facilitated early cardioversion from atrial fibrillation using short-term anticoagulation: final results of a prospective 4.5-year study. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 1995;25:1354–61.

# Atrial Fibrillation: OAC



# Bleeding Score: HAS-BLED

**Table 10** Clinical risk factors in the HAS-BLED score<sup>395</sup>

Risk factors and definitions		Points awarded
<b>H</b>	<b>Uncontrolled hypertension</b> SBP >160 mmHg	1
<b>A</b>	<b>Abnormal renal and/or hepatic function</b> Dialysis, transplant, serum creatinine >200 µmol/L, cirrhosis, bilirubin > × 2 upper limit of normal, AST/ALT/ALP >3 × upper limit of normal	1 point for each
<b>S</b>	<b>Stroke</b> Previous ischaemic or haemorrhagic <sup>a</sup> stroke	1
<b>B</b>	<b>Bleeding history or predisposition</b> Previous major haemorrhage or anaemia or severe thrombocytopenia	1
<b>L</b>	<b>Labile INR<sup>b</sup></b> TTR <60% in patient receiving VKA	1
<b>E</b>	<b>Elderly</b> Aged >65 years or extreme frailty	1
<b>D</b>	<b>Drugs or excessive alcohol drinking</b> Concomitant use of antiplatelet or NSAID; and/or excessive <sup>c</sup> alcohol per week	1 point for each
<b>Maximum score</b>		<b>9</b>

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# Bleeding risk

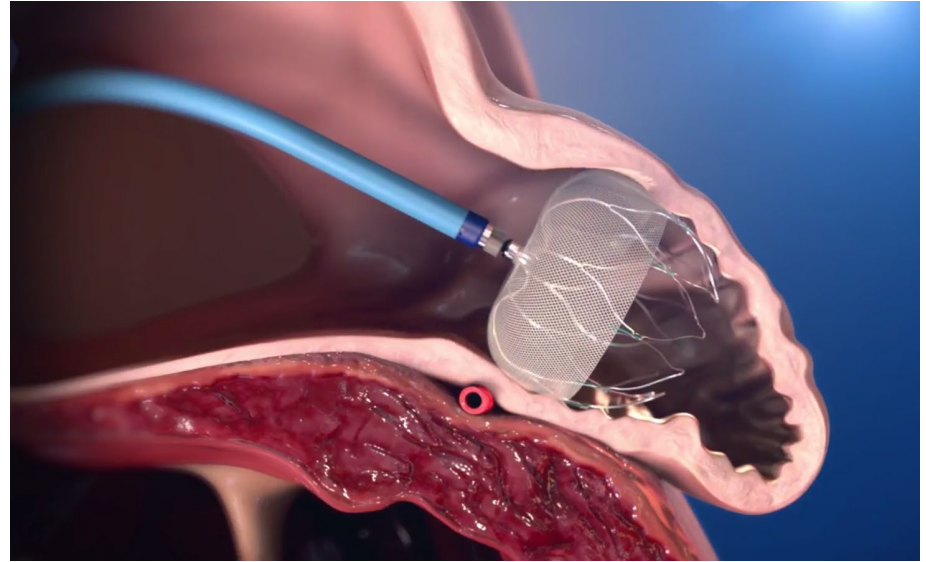
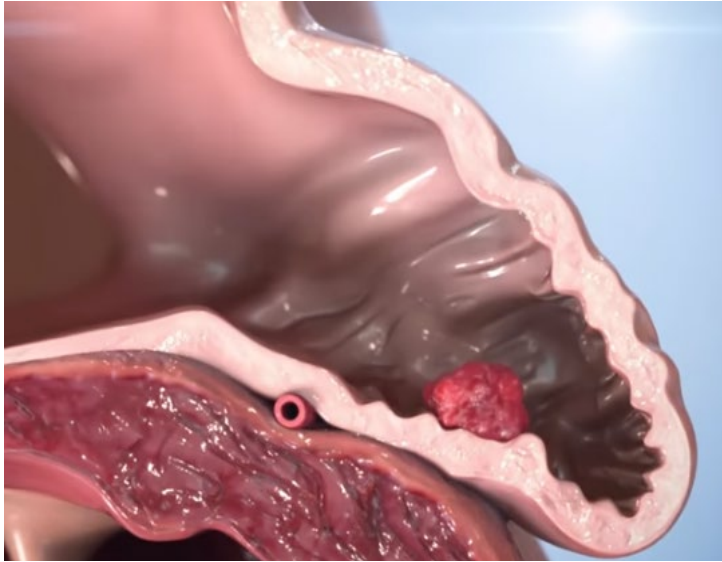
**Table 9** Risk factors for bleeding with OAC and antiplatelet therapy

Non-modifiable	Potentially modifiable	Modifiable	Biomarkers
Age >65 years Previous major bleeding Severe renal impairment (on dialysis or renal transplant) Severe hepatic dysfunction (cirrhosis) Malignancy Genetic factors (e.g. CYP 2C9 polymorphisms) Previous stroke, small-vessel disease, etc. Diabetes mellitus Cognitive impairment/dementia	Extreme frailty ± excessive risk of falls <sup>a</sup> Anaemia Reduced platelet count or function Renal impairment with CrCl <60 mL/min VKA management strategy <sup>b</sup>	Hypertension/elevated SBP Concomitant antiplatelet/NSAID Excessive alcohol intake Non-adherence to OAC Hazardous hobbies/occupations Bridging therapy with heparin INR control (target 2.0 - 3.0), target TTR >70% <sup>c</sup> Appropriate choice of OAC and correct dosing <sup>d</sup>	GDF-15 Cystatin C/CKD-EPI cTnT-hs von Willebrand factor (+ other coagulation markers)

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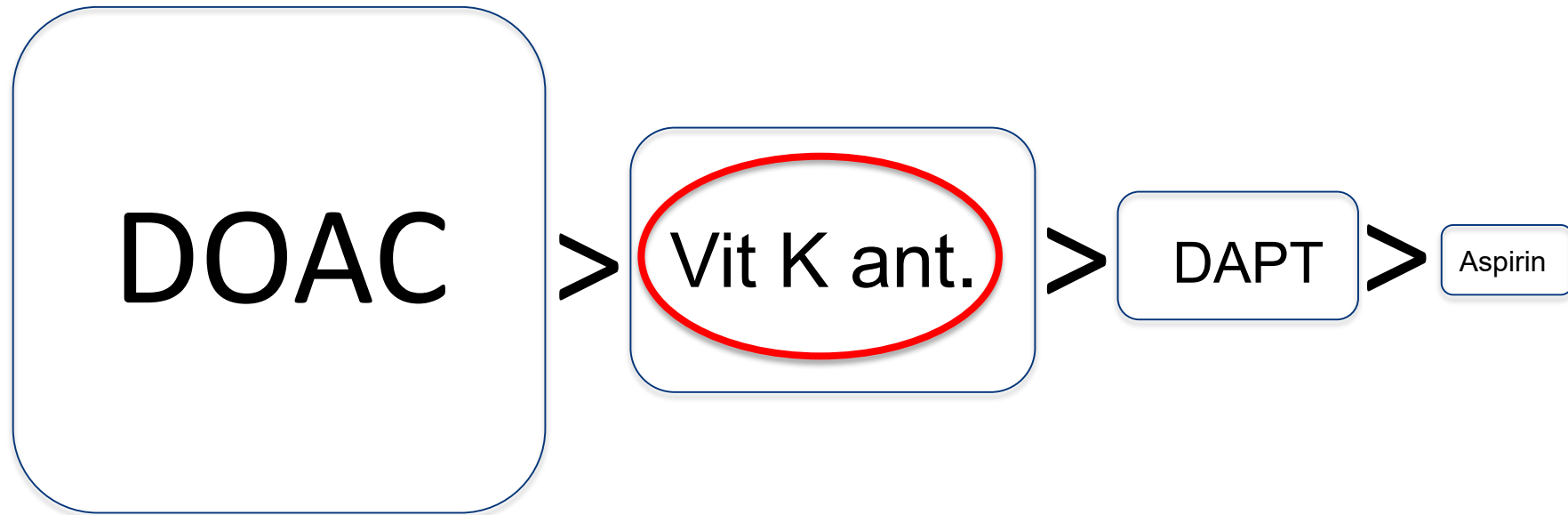
A high bleeding risk score should not lead to withholding OAC, as the net clinical benefit of OAC is even greater amongst such patients.

# What is the indication for the left atrial appendage (LAAC) closure ?





# Anticoagulation in Atrial Fibrillation



Apixaban (ARISTOTLE)

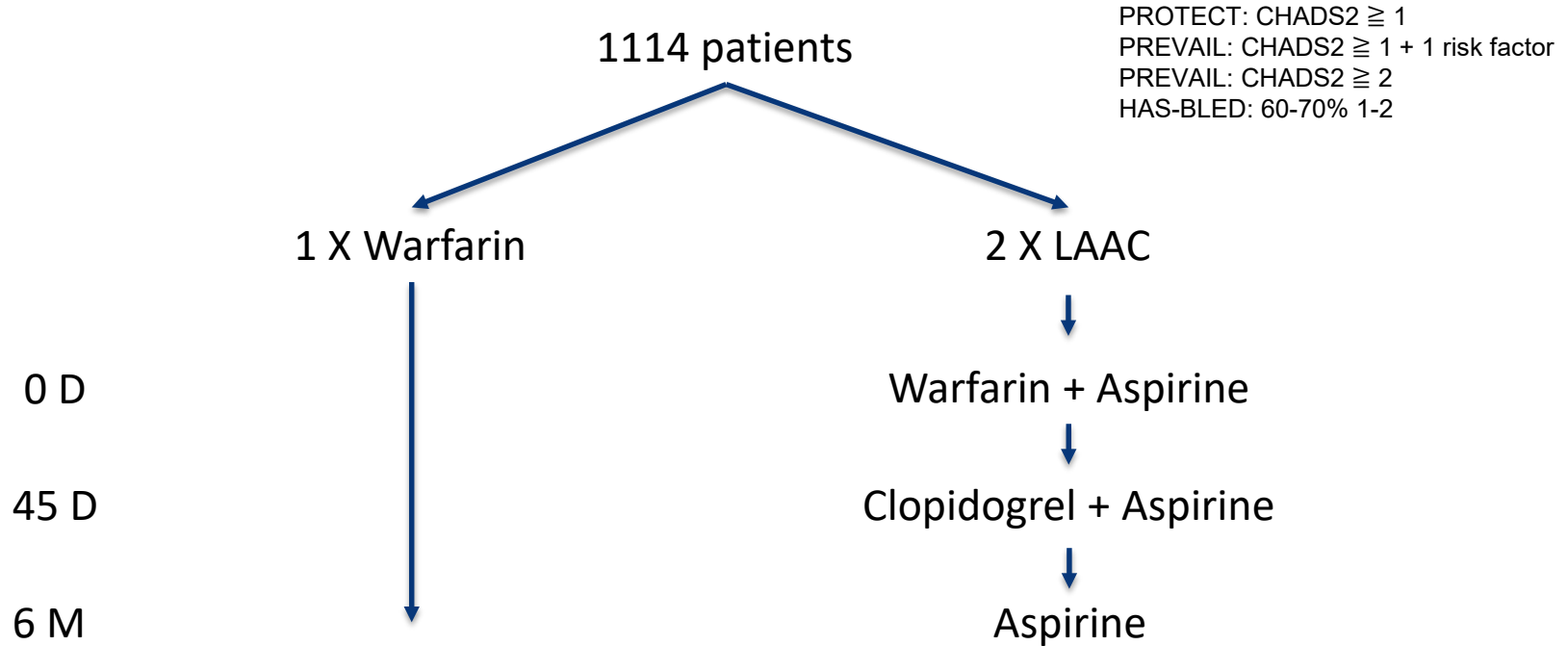
Edoxaban (ENGAGE AF TIMI 48)

Rivaroxaban (ROCKET-AF)

Dabigatran (RE-LY)

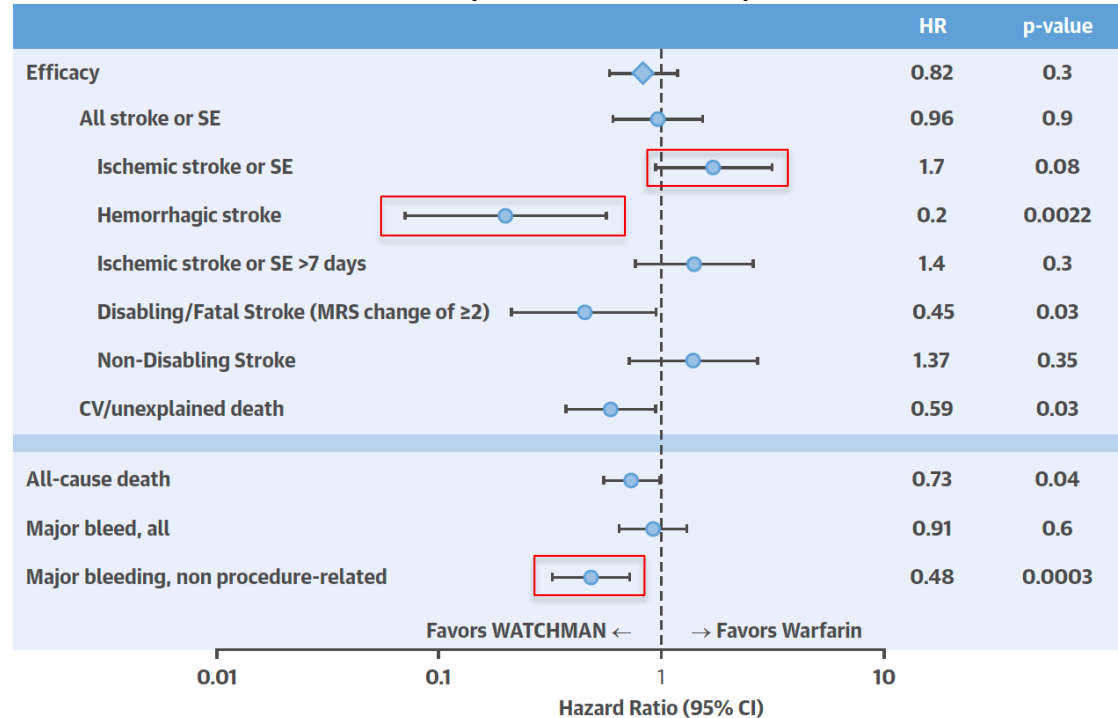
Aspirine + clopidogrel (ACTIVE W + A)

# PROTECT AF + PREVAIL

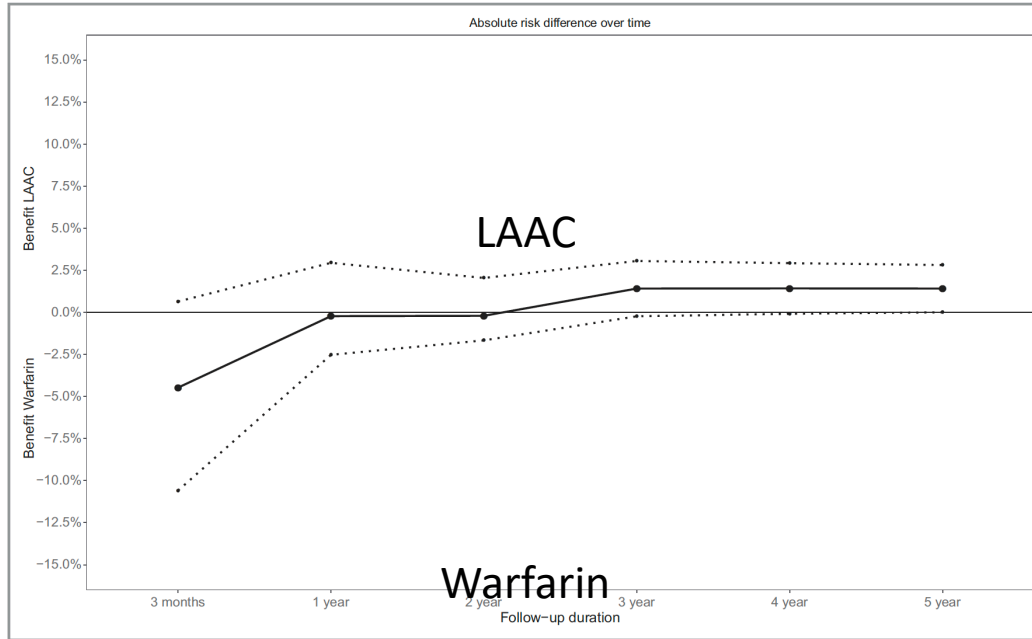


# PROTECT AF and PREVAIL

5 years follow-up



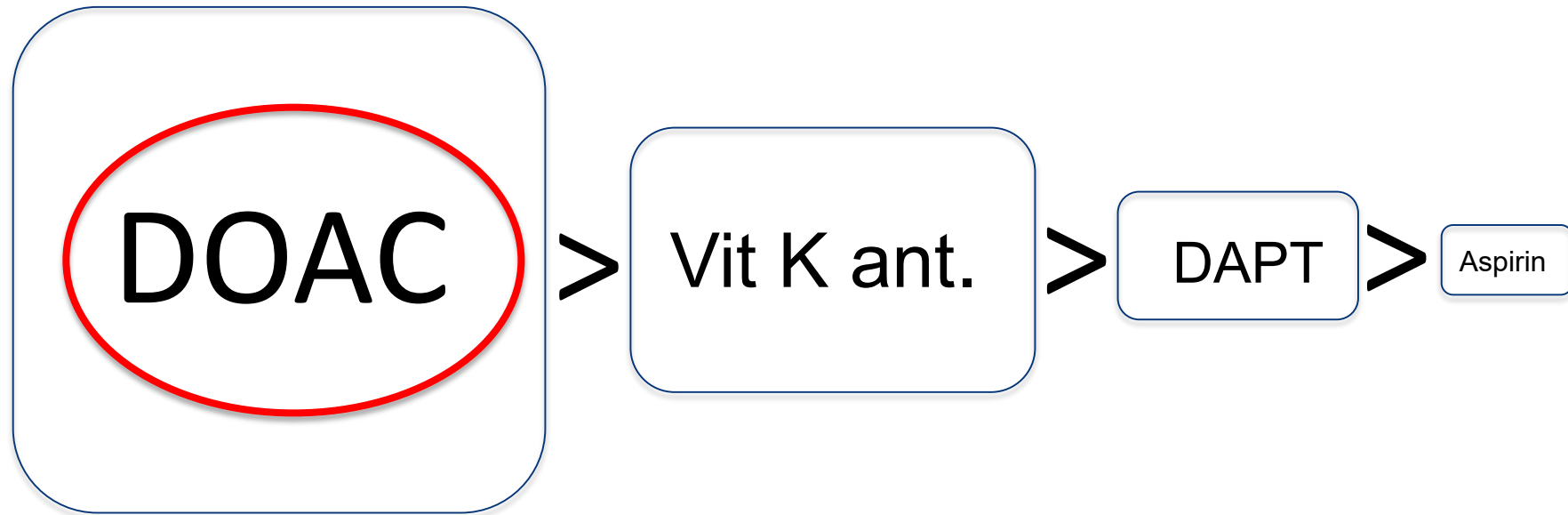
# Net Clinical Benefit



## Outcomes

- All death events irrespective of cause
- Ischemic stroke
- Intracranial hemorrhage
- Major extracranial bleeding and the
- major procedural complication
- Pericardial effusion

# Anticoagulation in Atrial Fibrillation



Apixaban (ARISTOTLE)

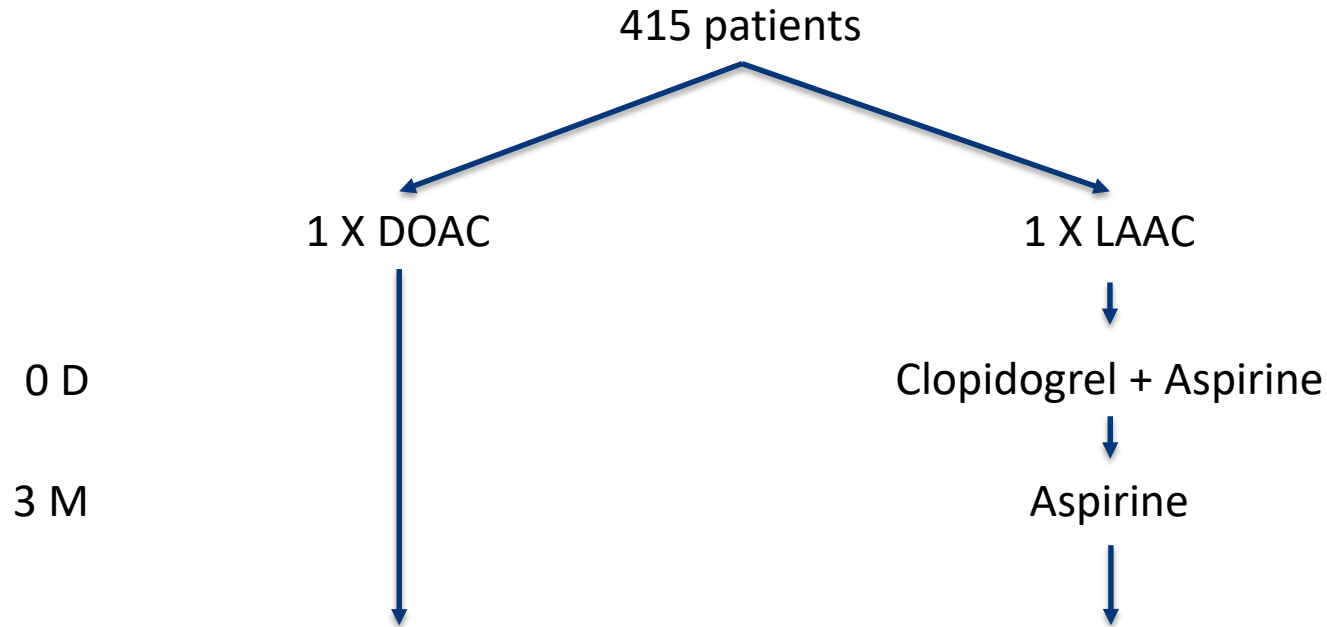
Edoxaban (ENGAGE AF TIMI 48)

Rivaroxaban (ROCKET-AF)

Dabigatran (RE-LY)

Aspirine + clopidogrel (ACTIVE W + A)

# PRAGUE - 17



# PRAGUE-17 results

- 402 High-Risk AF Pts → Randomized

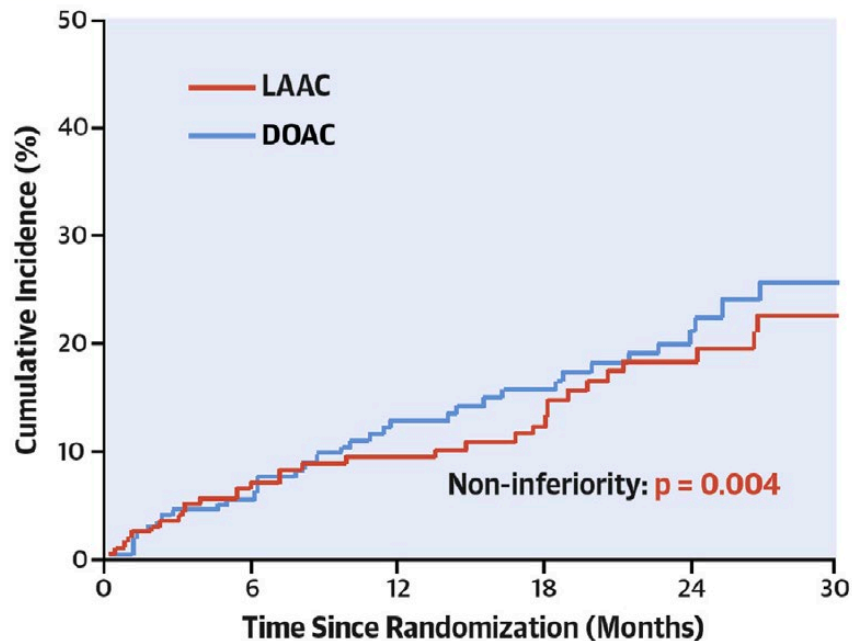
CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc =  $4.7 \pm 1.5$

HAS-BLED =  $3.1 \pm 0.9$

- Follow-up:  $20.8 \pm 10.8$  mo (695 pt-year)

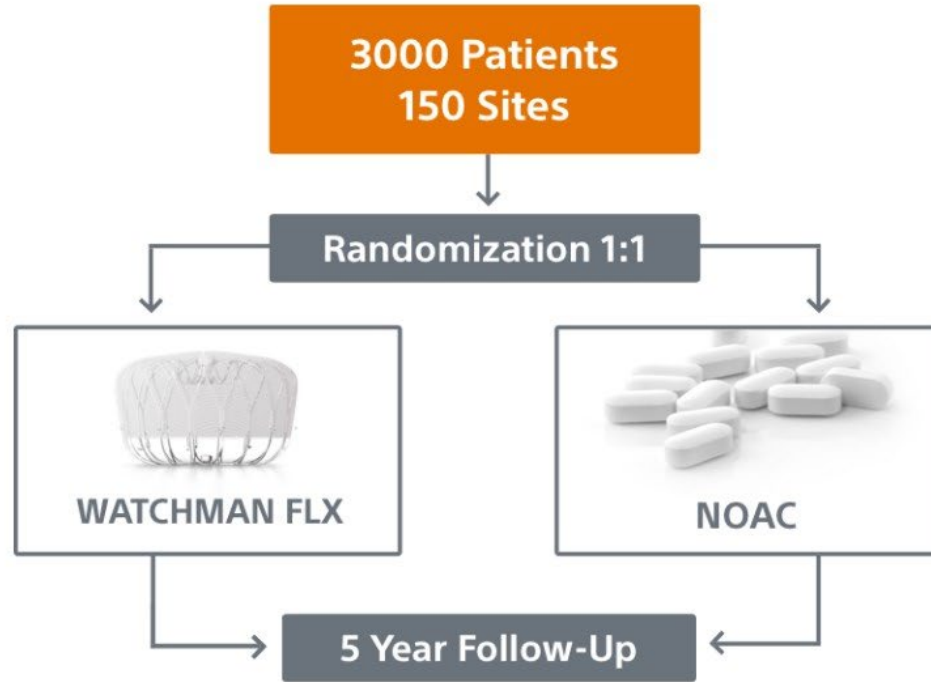
## Primary Endpoint

Stroke, TIA, SE, CV Death, Bleeding, or Complications



Osmancik, P. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2020;75(25):3122-35.

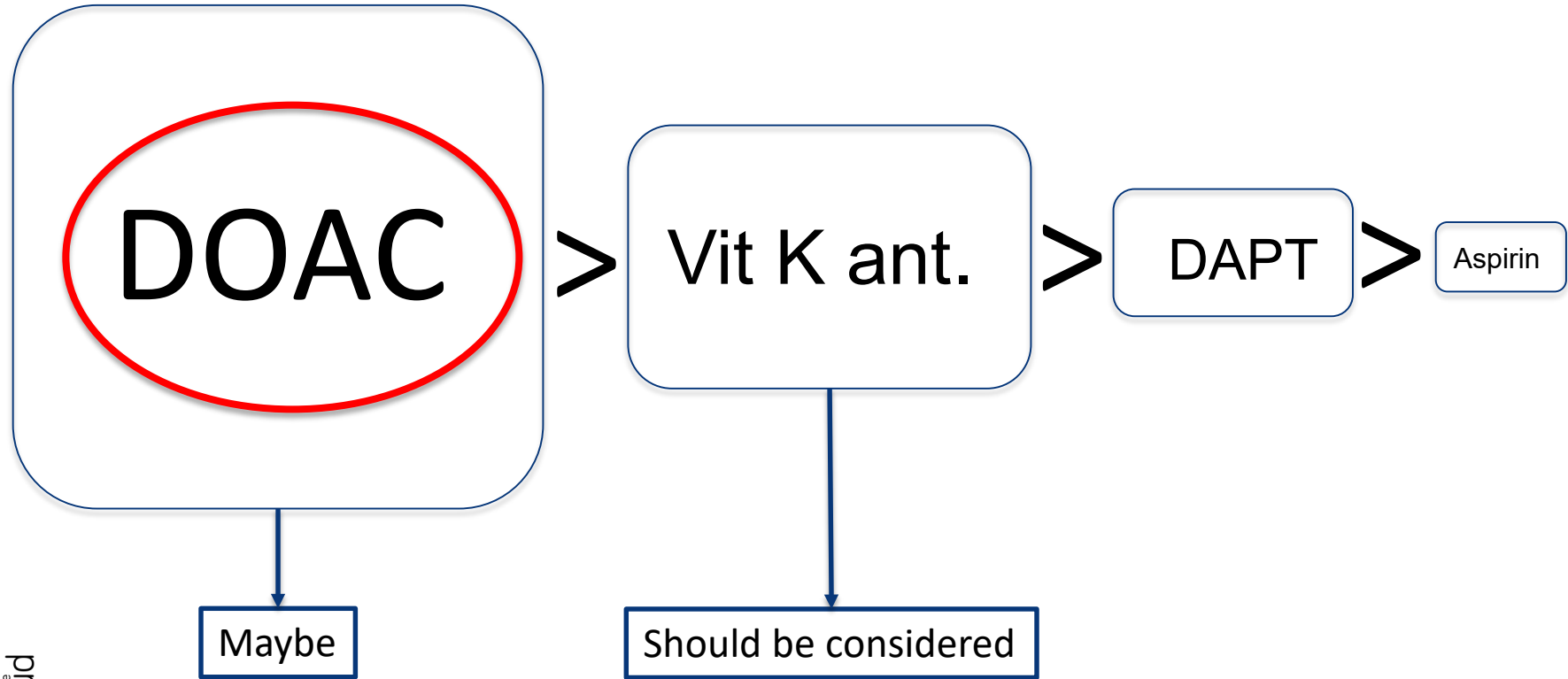
# CHAMPION-AF Clinical Trial



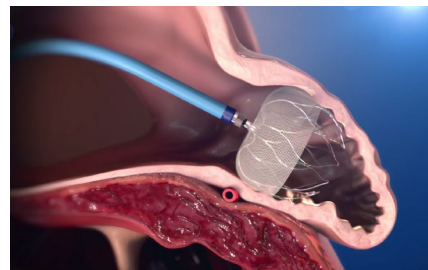
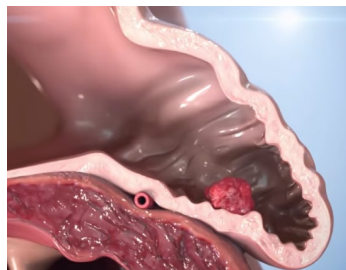
2025



# Anticoagulation in Atrial Fibrillation



# Absolute contraindications to oral anticoagulants



- Severe thrombocytopenia  $<50$  platelets/ $\mu$ L,
- Recent high-risk bleeding event
  - Intracranial haemorrhage (ICH)
  - GI bleeding such angiodysplasia
- Iterative DAPT
- Renal failure with contraindication to DOAC