

No dual antiplatelet therapy in atrial fibrillation

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Managing atrial fibrillation is common in daily practice and an important part of this management is deciding over the embolism prevention strategy. Oral anticoagulants (warfarin, acenocumarol, apixaban, rivaroxaban or dabigatran) and antiplatelets (acetylsalicylic acid or clopidogrel) are the two groups of drugs used to prevent embolism events. To choose wisely CHA₂DS₂-VASC embolism risk scale aids in making this decision. But, is dual antiplatelet therapy, acetylsalicylic acid plus clopidogrel, a correct option in embolism prevention in atrial fibrillation?

A primary source search was done in

Pubmed (Medline) using as key words “dual antiplatelet therapy and atrial fibrillation” and the most relevant articles were chosen [1-4]. Secondary sources guidelines were also reviewed, but only two major guidelines discussed this matter, European Society of Cardiology [5] and Upto date [6]. The conclusion was that double anticoagulation was not an appropriate treatment for embolism prevention in atrial fibrillation. The risk of bleeding of dual antiplatelet therapy was similar to the anticoagulation therapy but the embolism prevention was much lower.

Antonio L Aguilar-Shea**
Centro de Salud Puerta de Madrid, Spain
*Author for correspondence:
Tel.: +34918806699
antonio.aguilar@salud.madrid.org

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