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<u>Anti-Thrombotic Strategy to Lower All cardiovascular and</u> <u>Neurologic Ischemic and Hemorrhagic Events after Trans-</u> <u>Aortic Valve Implantation for Aortic Stenosis : a</u> randomized, open-label, phase 3 trial







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ClinicalTrials.gov number, NCT02664649







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- Post-procedural thrombotic and bleeding events are frequent and negatively affect short-term survival.
- Thrombus formation on the implanted bioprosthesis adds to the potential hazards of TAVI.
- **SAPT alone** if no need for OAC and absence of recent stent implantation is the safest option.
- VKA alone are safer than when combined with antiplatelet therapy in patients requiring OAC.
- There is no evidence that NOAC could replace antiplatelet therapy or VKA after TAVI.
- GALILEO demonstrated more harm than benefit with low-dose rivaroxaban compared with APT.

ACTION Net clinical benefit of apixaban in Atrial Fibrillation



Apixaban vs. **warfarin** NCB*: 3.2% vs 4.1% p<0,001



* Net clinical benefit







 Primary study objective → to demonstrate superiority of apixaban 5mg bid compared to standard-of-care, comprising either antiplatelet or VKA therapy after successful TAVI.

 Secondary objective → to determine whether there was an interaction between treatment and outcomes according to the presence or absence of an indication other than TAVI for anticoagulation.





Study organization

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Study design



<u>Anti-Thrombotic Strategy to Lower All cardiovascular and Neurologic Ischemic and Hemorrhagic Events</u> after Trans-Aortic Valve Implantation for Aortic Stenosis



Primary end-point is a composite of death, MI, stroke, systemic emboli, intracardiac or bioprosthesis thrombus, episode of deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism, major bleedings over one year follow-up.

*2.5mg bid if creatinine clearance 15–29 mL/min or if two of the following criteria: age ≥80 years, weight ≤60kg or creatinine ≥1.5mg/dL (133µMol/L) or if concomitant antiplatelet therapy (ACS or recent stenting) or physician's choice.



CT and ECHO evaluation of subclinical leaflet thrombosis



- 4D-CT scan was protocol mandated to identify subclinical valve thrombosis, a component of the primary endpoint
- Definition: visible thrombosis on TTE or 4D-CT scan <u>AND</u> mean transprosthetic gradient
 ≥10 mmHg change from baseline (vs. hospital discharge) or > 20mmHg <u>OR</u> reduced leaflet mobility (RELM) grade 3 or 4 on at least one leaflet.

No Thrombus HALT Grade 0 GVD Grade 0 RLM Grade 0

Thrombus HALT Grade 3 GVD Grade 1 RLM Grade 3

Thrombus HALT Grade 4 GVD Grade 2 RLM Grade 3





Asymptomatic 83 y/o male M3 post TAVI with moderate transvalvular gradient increase in Doppler









Key Inclusion and exclusion criteria



INCLUSION

- 1. Man or woman of **18 years of age or** older
- 2. Successful TAVI of an aortic valve stenosis (native of valve-in-valve)
- 3. Irrespective of prior antithrombotic therapy
- 4. Written Informed consent obtained at enrolment into the study
- 5. With any approved/marketed TAVR device

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EXCLUSION

- 1. Creatinine Clearance < 15mL/min or dialysis.
- 2. Mechanical valves.
- 3. Severe mitral valve stenosis requiring an intervention.
- 4. Unsuccessful TAVI requiring re-intervention.
- 5. Ongoing major bleeding or vascular complication
- 6. Prior history of intracranial haemorrhage.
- 7. Recent stroke/TIA on anticoagulant therapy (<6 weeks).
- 8. Planned major surgery during follow-up
- 9. Expected survival less than one year.
- 10. Concomitant use of prasugrel or ticagrelor.
- 11. Coronary stent implantation <2 weeks prior to randomization
- 12. Concomitant treatments that are potent inhibitors of CYP3A4
- 13. Any coagulopathy and significant risk of bleeding.



Statistical considerations



- Sample size → a one-year incidence in the composite primary endpoint of 15% in the SOC, 686 patients per group (total number of events E=167) was determined to allow an 80% power to detect a 30% relative difference in event rate using a log-rank test with a 5% two-sided significance level.
- Testing for the primary endpoint
 - A test of difference was first performed.
 - Interaction according to the need for oral anticoagulation was then tested.
- Secondary criteria \rightarrow hierarchical strategy of testing
 - Tests for significance of difference with a two-sided 5% alpha value were performed only if the primary hypothesis of superiority was verified.
 - Each criterion was tested only if a significant difference was found for the previous one; otherwise, only 95% CI of the HR were reported.
 - (i) death, MI, stroke
 - (ii) death, stroke/TIA or peripheral embolism
 - (iii) all cause death





Baseline Characteristics



	Apixaban (n=749)	Standard-of- care (n=751)
Age, years	81.6 (6.1)	82.3 (6.4)
Male	344 (45.9%)	360 (47.9%)
Body mass index, kg/m ² †	27.52 (5.45)	27.33 (5.16)
Diabetes mellitus	221 (29.5%)	214 (28.5%)
Hypertension	606 (80.9%)	601 (80.0%)
STS risk score	5.14 (5.02)	5.14 (5.38)
Glomerular filtration rate, mL/min	62.87 (30.75)	61.58 (31.00)
Congestive heart failure	292 (39.0%)	284 (37.8%)
Prior myocardial infarction	83 (11.1%)	90 (12.0%)
Prior PCI	202 (27.0%)	188 (25.0%)
PCI <1 month	38 (5-1%)	36 (4.8%)
Prior CABG	65 (9-1%)	56 (7.8%)
Peripheral artery disease	90 (12.0%)	111 (14.8%)
Prior stroke	78 (10·4%	89 (11-9%)
Atrial fibrillation	212 (28·3%)	199 (26.5%)
CHA ₂ DS ₂ VASc score	4.4 (1.4)	4.3 (1.4)

	Apixaban (n=749)	Standard-of-care (n=751)
Pre-TAVI antithrombotic treatment		
VKA	123 (16-4%)	111 (14-8%)
Non-VKA oral anticoagulant	66 (8-8%)	55 (7.3%)
Single antiplatelet therapy	428 (57-1%)	443 (59-0%)
Dual antiplatelet therapy	104 (13-9%)	94 (12.5%)
Procedural characteristics		
Self-expanding Balloon-expanding Valve in valve Mild PVR Moderate to severe PVR	395 (52·8%) 353 (47·2%) 40 (5·3%) 35 (15·4%) 3 (1·3%)	386 (51·5%) 363 (48·5%) 35 (4·7%) 39 (16·6%) 1 (0,4%)
Post-randomization antithrombotic treatment		
Apixaban 2,5mg bid	258 (34.4%)	
Apixaban 5mg bid	491 (65-6%)	
VKA alone		155 (20.6%)
SAPT (single antiplatelet therapy)		112 (14.9%)
DAPT (Dual antiplatelet therapy		427 (56.9%)
DAT (Dual therapy)		54 (7,2%)
Triple therapy		3 (0,4%)



Primary Endpoint (Intent-to-treat)



Time to death, stroke, MI, systemic emboli, intracardiac or valve thrombosis, DVT/PE, major bleedings







(Post-Hoc sensitivity analysis)

Time to death, stroke, MI, systemic emboli, DVT/PE, major bleedings





Secondary outcomes



	Apixaban (n=749)	Standard-of-care (n=751)	Hazard ratio (95% CI)
Death, MI, any stroke/TIA	79 (10-5%)	62 (8-26%)	1-32 (0-95–1-85)
Death, any stroke/TIA or systemic embolism	78 (10-4%)	60 (8·0%)	1-35 (0-96–1-90)
Death	54 (7·2%)	41 (5-5%)	1-39 (0-92–2-09)
From cardiovascular causes	38 (5-1%)	28 (3.7%)	1.42 (0.87–2.32)
From non-cardiovascular causes	16 (2.1%)	13 (1.8%)	1.33 (0.63–2.77)
Myocardial infarction	6 (0.8%)	5 (0.7%)	1-22 (0-37–4-00)
Stroke or TIA	28 (3.7%)	21 (2·8%)	1.38 (0.78–2.44)
Systemic embolism	2 (0·3%)	3 (0.4%)	0.65 (0.11–3.91)
Bioprosthetic thrombosis	8 (1.1%)	35 (4.7%)	0·23 (0·11–0·50)
Intracardiac thrombus	3 (0-4%)	3 (0-4%)	1.11 (0.22–5.54)
Deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism	1 (0.1%)	11 (1.5%)	0.09 (0.01–0.72)



Safety analysis



	Apixaban (n=749)	Standard-of-care (n=751)	Hazard ratio (95% CI)
Primary safety endpoint†	64 (8-5%)	64 (8-5%)	1.02 (0.72–1.44)
Life-threatening bleeding	19 (2.5%)	18 (2.4%)	1.06 (0.55–2.02)
Major bleeding	50 (6.7%)	48 (6-4%)	1.07 (0.72–1.59)
Minor bleeding (BARC 2 or 3a)	70 (9-3%)	78 (10-4%)	0-91 (0-66–1-26)
Any bleeding	174 (23-2%)	170 (22-6%)	1.05 (0.85–1.30)

Data are n (%). BARC=Bleeding Academic Research Consortium. †Life-threatening (including fatal) or disabling or major bleeding (BARC 4, 3a, b and 3c), as defined by Valve Academic Research Consortium-2 (VARC-2).



Outcomes in stratum 1 (post-hoc)

Need for oral anticoagulation



	Apixaban (n=223)	Standard of Care (n=228)	Hazard ratio (95% CI)
Primary outcome*	49 (21-9%)	50 (21.9%)	1.02 (0.68-1.51)
Secondary efficacy outcomes			
Death, MI, any stroke/TIA	29 (13.0%)	27 (11.8%)	1.13 (0.67-1.91)
Death, any stroke/TIA or systemic embolism	28 (12.6%)	27 (11.8%)	1.09 (0.64-1.85)
Death	23 (10-3%)	23 (10-1%)	1.04 (0.58-1.86)
Safety outcomes			
Primary safety endpoint [†]	23 (10·3%)	26 (11-4%)	0.92 (0.52-1.60)
Minor bleeding (BARC 2 or 3a)	21 (9.5%)	27 (10-4%)	0.79 (0.44-1.39)
Any bleeding	59 (26-4%)	58 (25.4%)	1.05 (0.73-1.51)
Any Valve Thrombosis**	2 (0·9%)	3 (1·3%)	0.67 (0.11-4.04)

*death, stroke, MI, systemic emboli, intracardiac or valve thrombosis, DVT/PE, major bleedings; †Life-threatening (including fatal) or disabling or major bleeding (BARC 4, 3a, b and 3c), as defined by Valve Academic Research Consortium-2 (VARC-2); ** Any evidence for valve thrombosis including HALT ³/₄.



Outcomes in stratum 2 (post-hoc)

No need for oral anticoagulation



	Apixaban	Standard of Care	Hazard ratio
	(n=526)	(n=523)	(95% CI)
Primary outcome*	89 (16-9%)	101 (19-3%)	0.88 (0.66-1.17)
Secondary efficacy outcomes			
Death, MI, any stroke/TIA	50 (9.5%)	35 (6.7%)	1.48 (0.96-2.30)
Death, any stroke/TIA or systemic embolism	50 (9-5%)	33 (6-3%)	1.56 (1.01-2.43)
Death	31 (5-9%)	18 (3·4%)	1.86 (1.04-3.34)
Cardiovascular death	17 (3.2%)	13 (2·5%)	1-42 (0-69-2-94)
Non cardiovascular death	14 (2·66%)	5 (0·96%)	2.99 (1.07-8.35)
Safety outcomes			
Primary safety endpoint [†]	41 (7.8%)	38 (7.3%)	1.09 (0.69-1.69)
Minor bleeding (BARC 2 or 3a)	49 (9·3%)	51 (9.7%)	0.96 (0.65-1.42)
Any bleeding	115 (21.%)	112 (21.8%)	1.04 (0.80-1.35)
Any Valve Thrombosis**	6 (1.1%)	32 (6-1%)	0.19 (0.08-0.47)

*death, stroke, MI, systemic emboli, intracardiac or valve thrombosis, DVT/PE, major bleedings; [†]Life-threatening (including fatal) or disabling or major bleeding (BARC 4, 3a, b and 3c), as defined by Valve Academic Research Consortium-2 (VARC-2); ** Any evidence for valve thrombosis including HALT ³/₄.







 Open-label trial subject to reporting and ascertainment biases, although outcomes were prespecified and adjudicated by an independent blinded clinical-events committee.

 Apply only to patients who underwent a successful TAVI procedure and not to those scheduled for a TAVI or any other valve procedure.

- ATLANTIS results cannot draw definitive conclusions on efficacy.









- Apixaban after a TAVI procedure is not superior to SOC antithrombotic treatment in terms of net clinical benefit, globally and in each stratum (indication for OAC or not).
- The safety (bleeding) of apixaban is similar to that of current SOC, globally and in each stratum.
- Subclinical value thrombosis is decreased with apixaban (but not statistically demonstrated), a reduction driven by the stratum of patients without an indication for anticoagulation.
- A signal on non-cardiovascular mortality is observed only versus antiplatelet therapy in the stratum of patients without an indication for anticoagulation.

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