

Apixaban superior to warfarin for preventing stroke, reducing bleeding and saving lives

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A large-scale trial finds that apixaban, a new anticoagulant drug, is superior to the standard drug warfarin for preventing stroke and systemic embolism in patients with atrial fibrillation. Moreover, apixaban results in substantially less bleeding and also results in lower mortality.

The results were presented by Duke University Medical Center researchers at the European Society of Cardiology in Paris, France, today, and published simultaneously online in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#).

"These are important findings because they show that, when compared to [warfarin](#), a very effective treatment to prevent stroke, apixaban resulted in an additional 21 percent relative reduction in stroke or systemic embolism," says Christopher B. Granger, M.D., the study's lead author and professor of medicine at Duke. "It also resulted in a 31 percent relative reduction in major bleeding, as well as an 11 percent relative reduction in overall mortality."

The improvement in stroke prevention was statistically significant with $P=0.011$, the lower rate of major bleeding at P

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