

Trade-off for six weeks versus six months of triple Tx post stent

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(HealthDay)—For patients receiving oral anticoagulation after drug-eluting stent implantation, six weeks of triple therapy is not superior to six months of therapy with respect to net clinical outcomes, according to a study published in the April 28 issue of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

Katrin A. Fiedler, M.D., from the Technische Universität in Munich, and colleagues examined the effect of shortening the duration of clopidogrel therapy from six months to six weeks after drug-eluting [stent implantation](#). A total of 614 patients were randomized to six weeks or six months of clopidogrel therapy.

The researchers found that the primary end point (a composite of death,

[myocardial infarction](#), definite stent thrombosis, stroke, or Thrombolysis In Myocardial Infarction major bleeding at nine months) occurred in 9.8 and 8.8 percent of patients in the six-week and six-month groups, respectively (hazard ratio [HR], 1.14; 95 percent confidence interval [CI], 0.68 to 1.91; P = 0.63). No significant differences were seen for the secondary combined ischemic end point (HR, 0.93; 95 percent CI, 0.43 to 2.05; P = 0.87) or the secondary bleeding end point (HR, 1.35; 95 percent CI, 0.64 to 2.84; P = 0.44).

"These results suggest that physicians should weigh the trade-off between ischemic and bleeding risk when choosing the shorter or longer duration of [triple therapy](#)," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical and medical device industries.

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