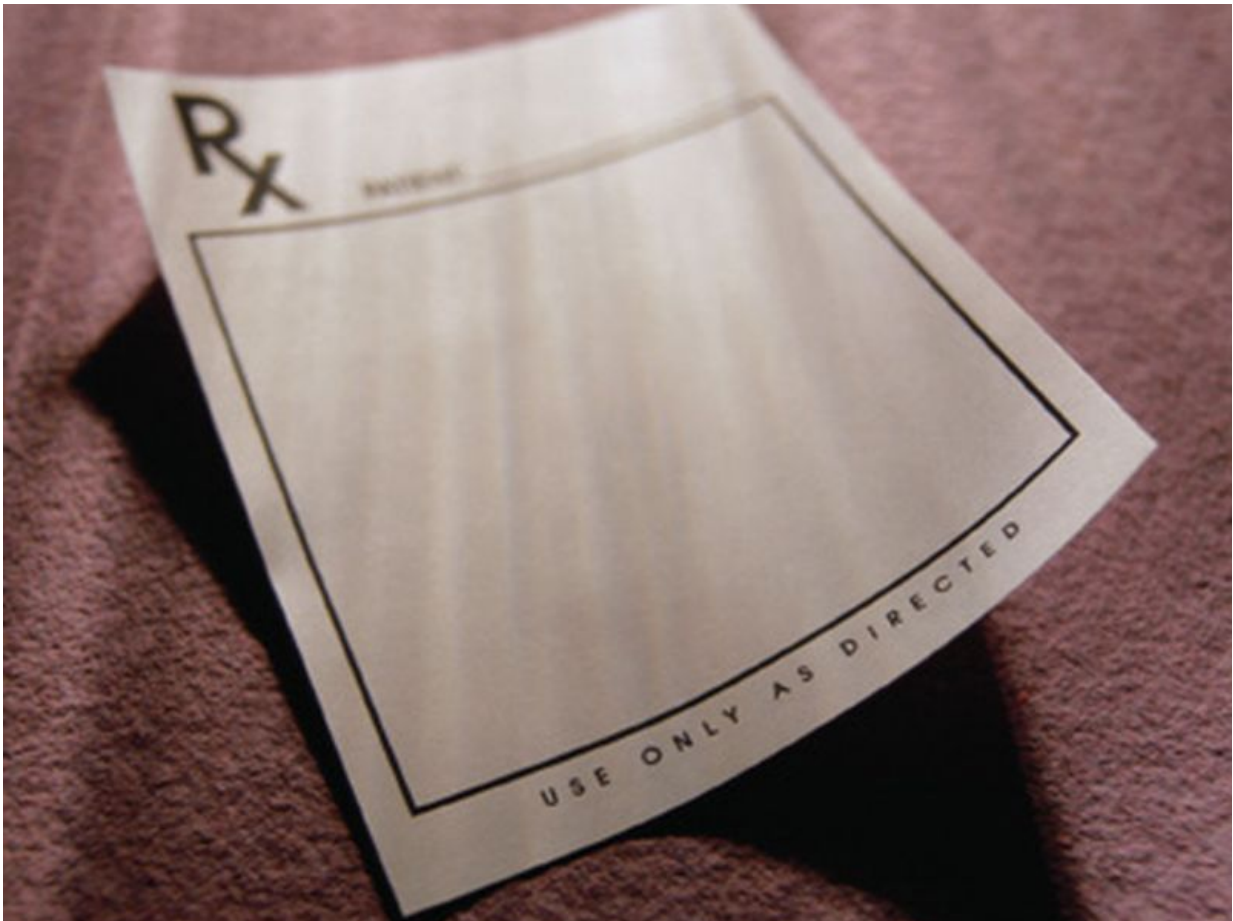


Many ischemic stroke survivors not prescribed anticoagulants

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(HealthDay)—Many patients surviving ischemic stroke are not

discharged with an oral anticoagulant (OAC), according to a study published online Dec. 30 in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

Emer R. McGrath, Ph.D., from Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, and colleagues conducted a [retrospective cohort study](#) involving 1,405 individuals (mean age, 79 years) with [ischemic stroke](#) surviving hospitalization. Reasons for nonuse of OAC were identified using structured chart review; survival was assessed one year after stroke.

The researchers found that 44 percent of participants were not prescribed an OAC at discharge even though the median CHA₂DS₂VASc score was 5. Fall risk, poor prognosis, bleeding history, participant or family refusal, older age, and dementia were the most frequent (non-mutually exclusive) physician reasons for not prescribing OAC. The most important independent predictors of nonuse of OACs were older age and disability. By one year, 42.5 and 19.1 percent of those not receiving an OAC and receiving an OAC at discharge had died, respectively (P

"To improve anticoagulation decisions and outcomes in this population, future research should focus on strategies to mitigate [fall risk](#), improve assessment of risks and benefits of anticoagulation in individuals with atrial fibrillation, and determine whether newer anticoagulants are safer in complex elderly and frail individuals," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical and health care industries.

More information: [Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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