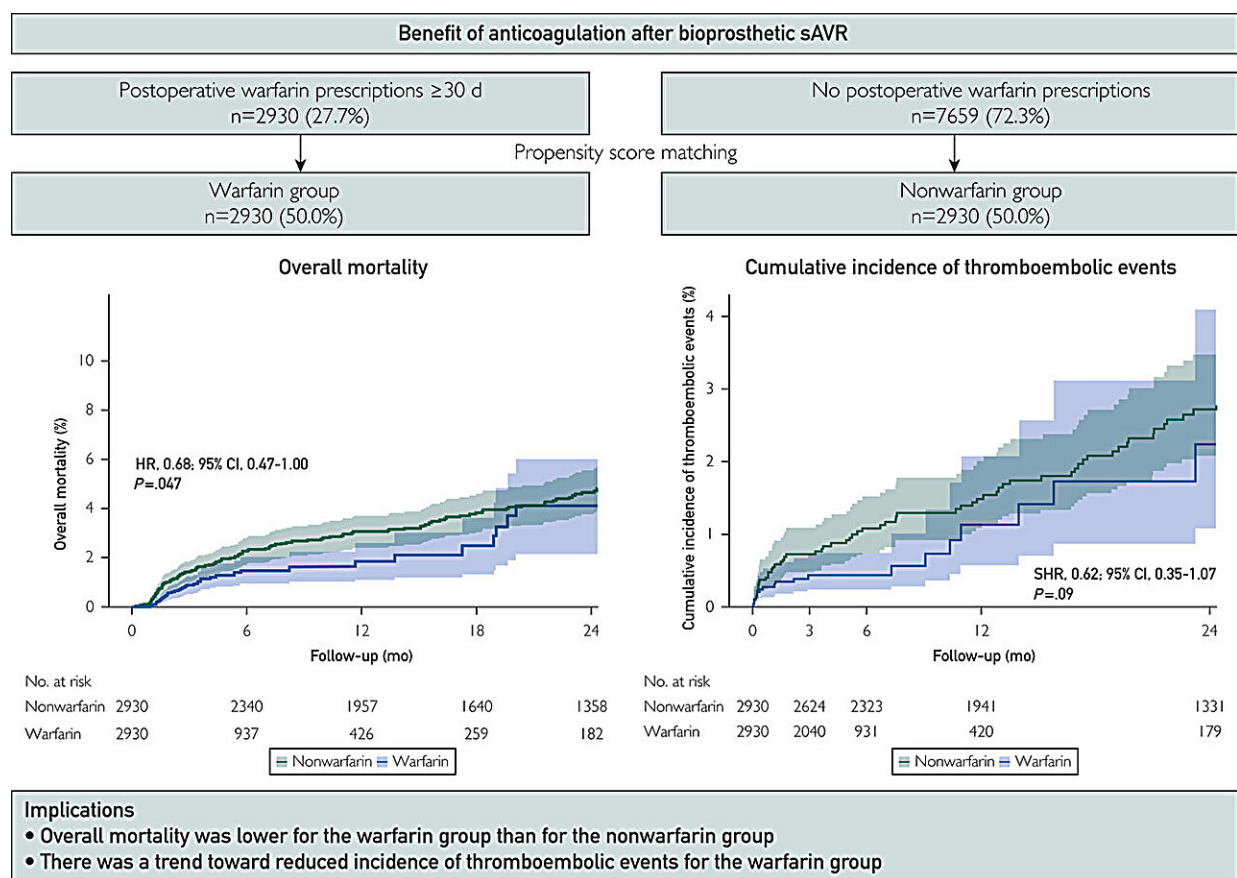


Use of anticoagulant drug after aortic valve replacement lowers mortality risk, study finds

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Graphical abstract. Credit: *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* (2023). DOI: 10.1016/j.mayocp.2023.08.012

Patients who received the anticoagulant drug warfarin after bioprosthetic aortic valve replacement had lower incidence of mortality and a decreased risk of blood clots, according to a retrospective study published in [Mayo Clinic Proceedings](#).

The use of bioprosthetic aortic valve replacement has increased significantly during the past decade. Among its advantages is that most patients can avoid warfarin for anticoagulation treatment. Even so, research has been conflicting on whether patients would benefit from more aggressive early postoperative anticoagulation treatment.

Mayo Clinic researchers analyzed nationwide data on more than 10,000 patients who underwent bioprosthetic aortic valve replacement. Warfarin use was associated with a 32% reduction in mortality risk. Patients treated with warfarin early postoperatively also had an increased risk of major bleeding events.

"The findings support early warfarin use in appropriately selected patients, such as patients with low bleeding risk," says Hartzell Schaff, M.D., a Mayo Clinic cardiovascular surgeon who contributed to the study.

"There's often a reluctance to prescribe anticoagulant treatment early after surgery due to concerns about bleeding and uncertainty about benefits. Our research finds that the small increased hazard of bleeding (4% versus 2.3%) may be an acceptable risk given the benefits in terms of mortality risk as well as reduced risk of thromboembolism."

More information: Ying Huang et al, Benefit of Anticoagulation Early After Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement Using Bioprosthetic Valves, *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* (2023). DOI: [10.1016/j.mayocp.2023.08.012](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mayocp.2023.08.012)

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