

# Hemostasis Update



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GENERAL  
HEMATOLOGY

# **DISCLOSURE**

**Relevant Financial Relationship(s)**

**Speaker Bureau - None**

**Consultant/Research – none**

# **What I am Talking About**

- **Therapy of VTE**
- **Duration of anticoagulation**
- **Thrombophilia work-ups**

**Don't Use Standard  
Heparin!**

# Heparin

- **LMWH was shown in the 90's to be superior to standard heparin**
  - **Better outcomes**
  - **Instantly therapeutic**
    - **> 50% UFH not at goal at 24 hrs**
  - **No need for the inaccurate PTT**
  - **Much less HIT**
  - **Much easier**
  - **Cheap ~ \$20/day**
  - **Reversible with protamine**

# Meta-analysis of LMWH inpatient therapy

## Recurrent DVT day 1-15

| LMWH        | SH            |        |
|-------------|---------------|--------|
| 3/365 (0.8) | 12/371 (3.2%) | RR 76% |

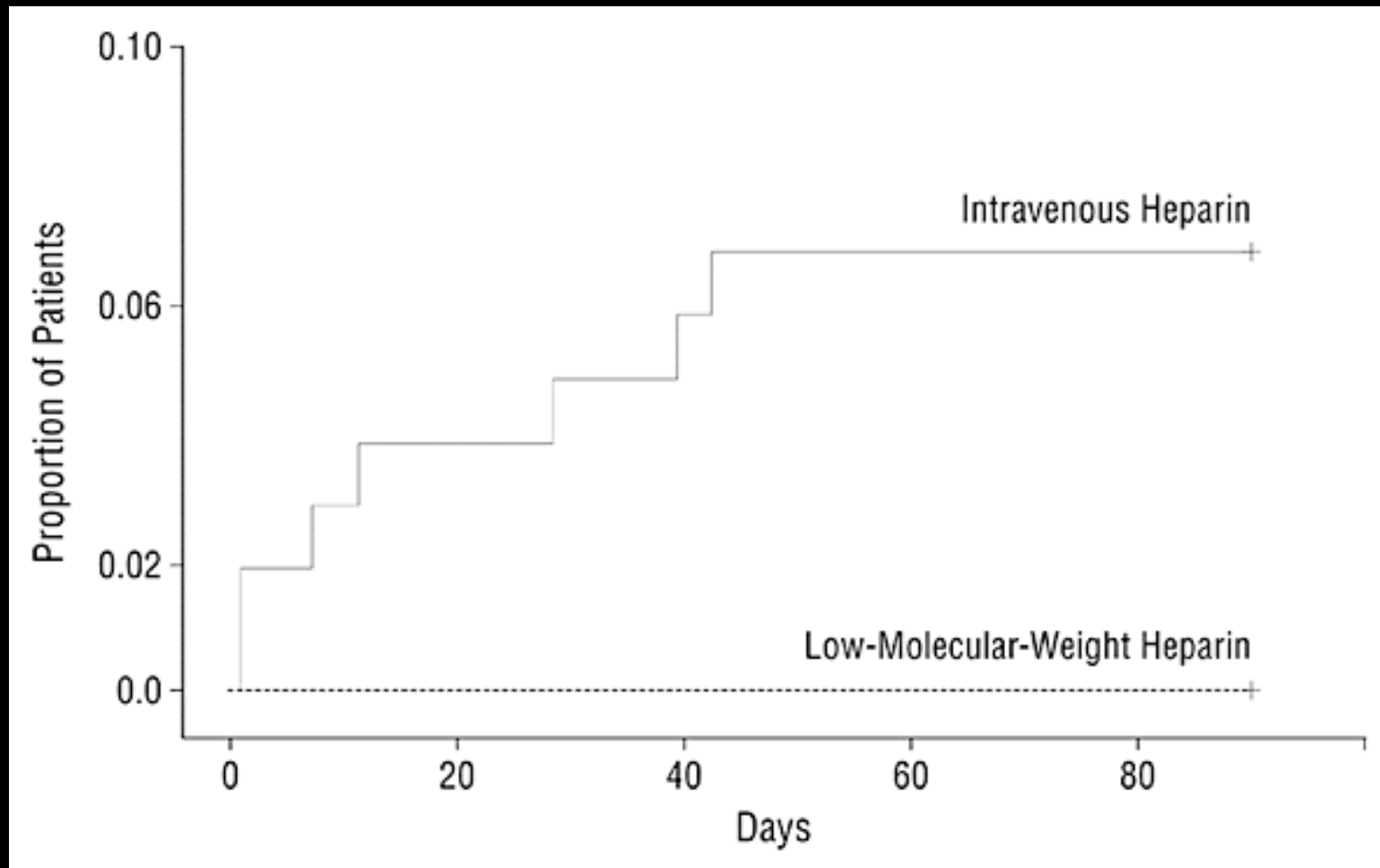
## Recurrent DVT day 16 -90

| LMWH         | SH            |        |
|--------------|---------------|--------|
| 7/365 (1.9%) | 12/371 (3.2%) | RR 61% |

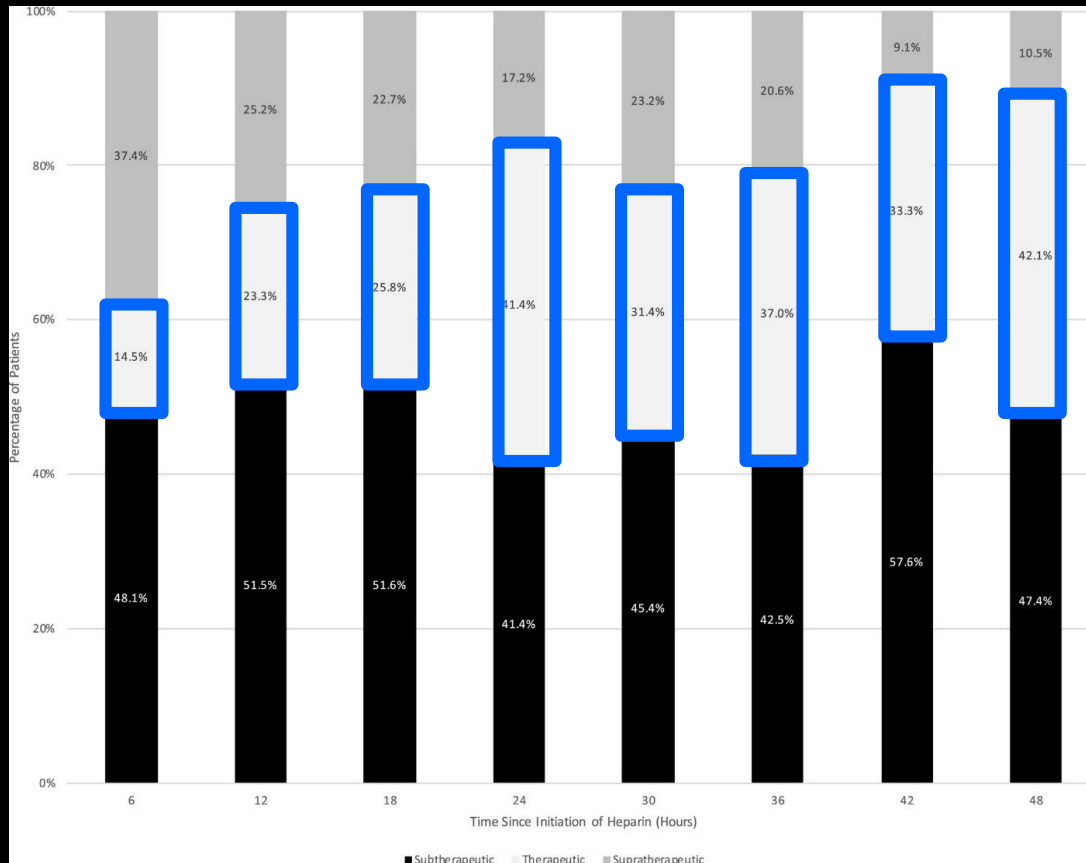
## Bleeding

| LMWH          | SH            |        |
|---------------|---------------|--------|
| 12/394 (3.0%) | 27/402 (6.7%) | RR 58% |

# LMWH vs UFH: Therapy of Pulmonary Embolism



# Analysis of PTT in Patients With PE First 48 Hours of Anticoagulation With UFH



Academic Emergency Medicine, 27: 117-127, 2020



# Renal Disease

- Enoxaparin adjustment FDA approved
  - Decreased clearance of drug with decreased creatinine clearances
- Renal dosing (< 30ml/min)
  - Therapy: 1 mg/kg q 24 hrs
  - Prophylaxis: 20-30 mg/day
- For therapy check level after third dose
- No difference in major bleeding compared to UFH

# Procedures

- No issues with IR procedures for PE
- Not that much difference in half-life

**Safety of Therapeutic Anticoagulation with  
Low-Molecular-Weight Heparin or  
Unfractionated Heparin Infusion during  
Catheter-Directed Thrombolysis for Acute  
Pulmonary Embolism**

# Conclusion

- **Standard heparin should be used only on rare occasions**



# **Post-Thrombotic Syndrome**

- **Common complication of DVT**
- **20-50% of all patients**
- **5-10% severe**
- **Can be disabling**

Edema



Hyperpigmentation  
Venous ulcer

Venous ectasia



Skin induration  
Venous ectasia



# **PTS: Risk Factors**

- **Common femoral or iliac vein thrombosis**
- **Previous DVT**
- **High BMI**
- **Older age**
- **Inadequate initial anticoagulation**



# Prevention

- **Prevent thrombosis!**
- **Knee-high compression stockings – controversial but...**
  - **Apply within 24 hours**
  - **20-30mmHg**
  - **At least 6 months**
- **Keep the patient active**
- **DOACs**
  - **4 studies show less PTS**



# Post-PE Syndrome?

- 50% of patients with PE report dyspnea 6 months later
- 20-70% state health status worse
- Seemingly not related to clot residual or scarring
- Chest pain/discomfort very common
- Warn/reassure patients
- “Cardiac” rehab



# Duration of Therapy

Idiopathic versus provoked thrombosis is the biggest determinant of risk of recurrent thrombosis

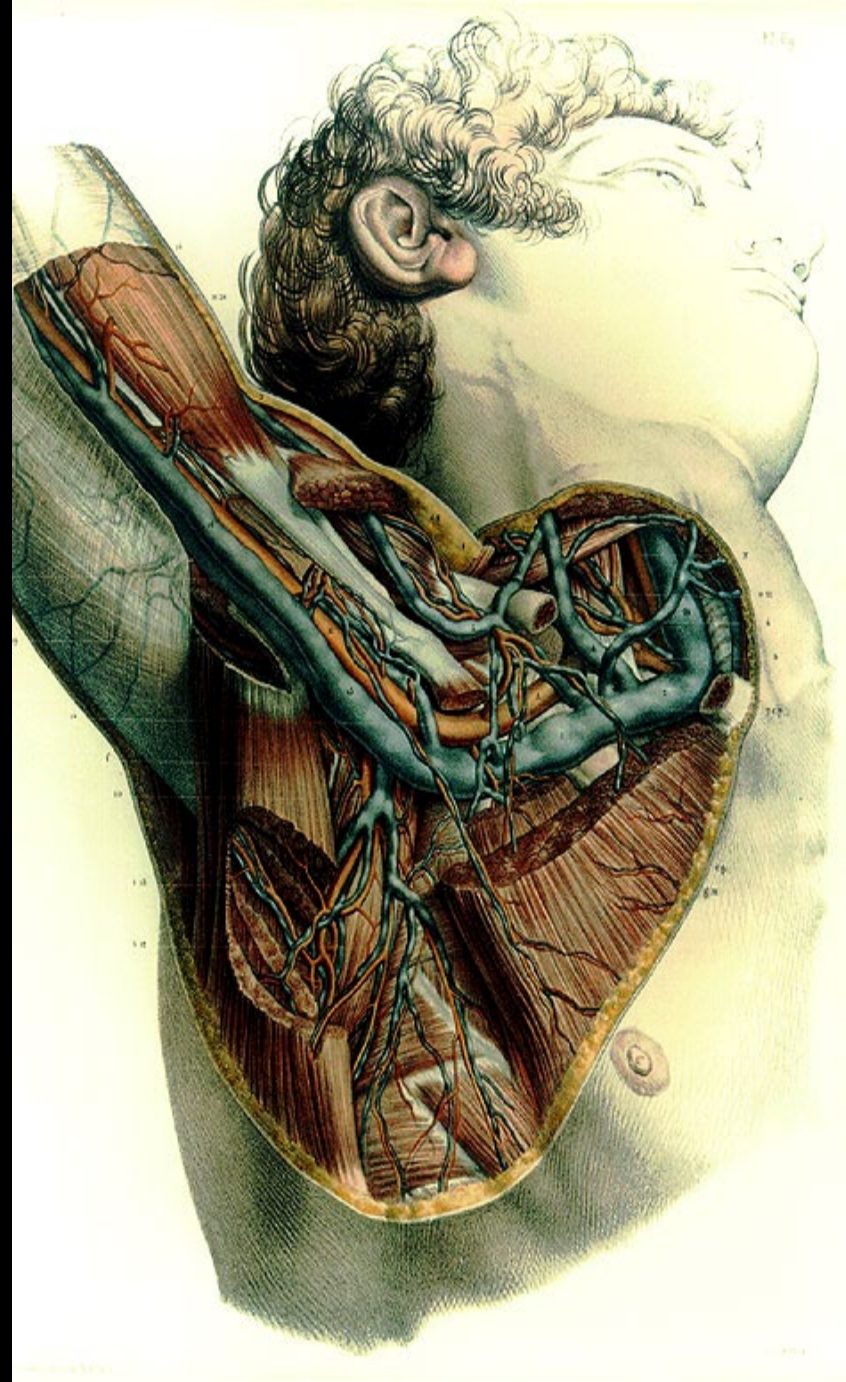
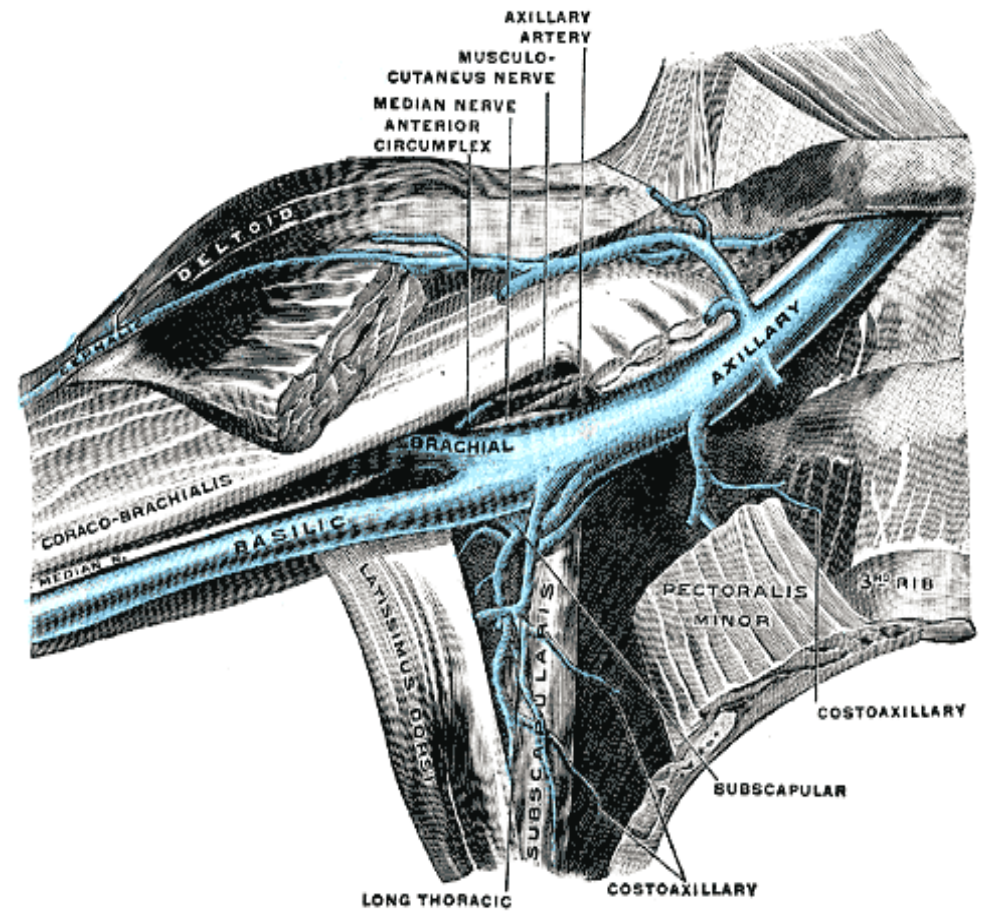
# Duration of Therapy

- **Not all thrombosis are the same**
- **Can stratify patients by:**
  - **Site of thrombosis**
  - **Circumstances of thrombosis**
    - **Most important!**

# Upper Extremity Thrombosis

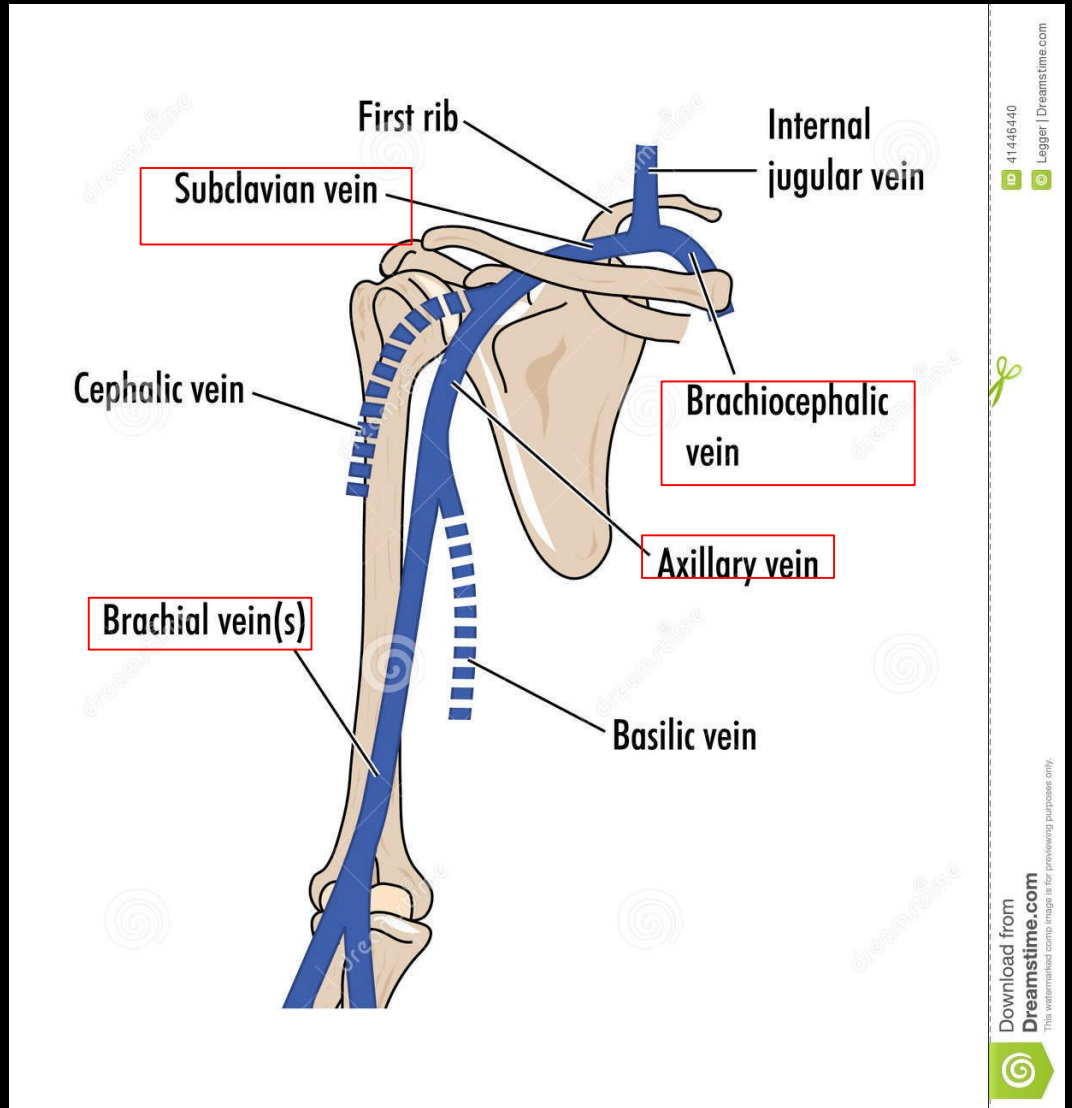
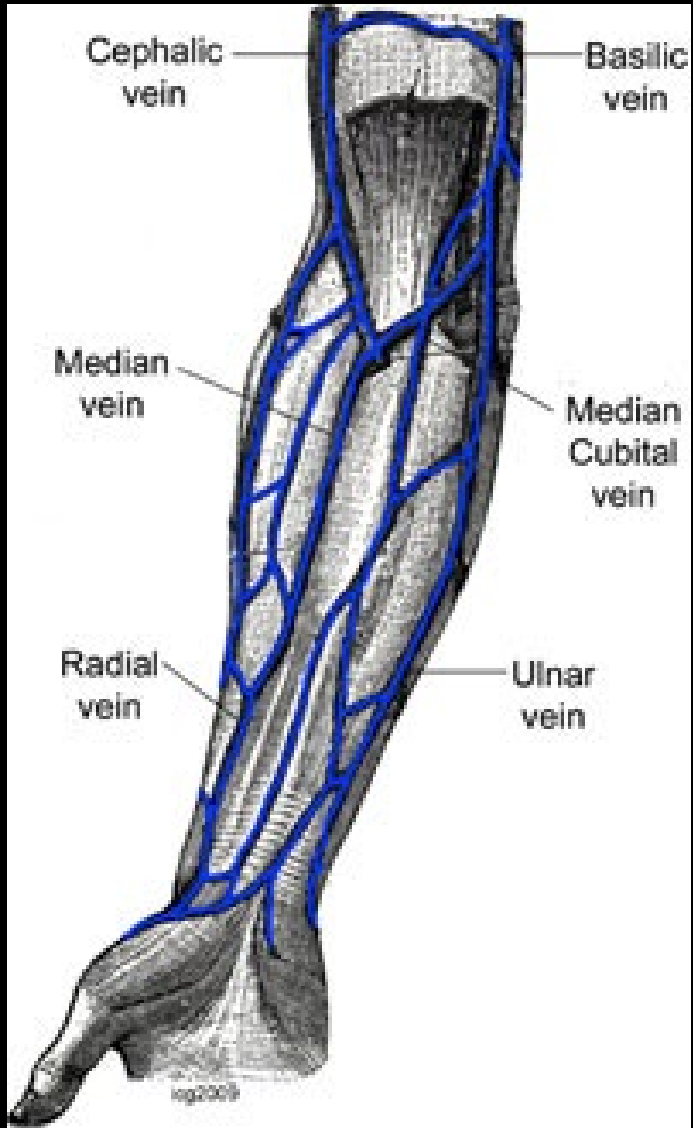
- Mechanical defects
  - Catheter
    - PICC 3-5%
  - Local venous trauma
- Prophylaxis ineffective
- Low risk of serious sequela





# Upper Extremity Thrombosis

- **Therapy: PICC Catheter**
  - **Key is removing catheter**
  - **No new one for at least 10 days**
  - **Benefit of anticoagulation uncertain**
    - **25% rate of bleeding**
  - **Remember many are superficial thrombosis**





# Upper Extremity Thrombosis

- **Therapy: Non-PICC Catheter**
  - **Line can be removed**
    - **Assess need for anticoagulation**
    - **Substantial rate of bleeding**
      - » **5% major bleeding**
  - **Line cannot be removed**
    - **3 months anticoagulation**
    - **High rates of serious bleeding**

# Upper Extremity Thrombosis

- “Spontaneous”
  - 3 months anticoagulation
  - Look for underlying vascular defects
  - Consider thrombolytic therapy
    - ~75% with underlying lesions







# Portland Portal Vein Protocol



# Portal Vein: Cirrhosis

- **Incidental**
  - **SMV negative – no treat**
  - **SMV involved - treat**
- **Symptomatic – treat**

# Noncirrhotics: Symptomatic

- Provoked
  - Surgery
  - Infection, etc.
    - Treatment: 3 months
    - Work-up: not recommended
- Unprovoked
  - PNH, MPS, APLA
  - Indefinite anticoagulation

# 2017 Meta-Analysis

- 8 studies with 353 patients
- Recanalization
  - 71% vs 42%
- Complete recanalization
  - 53% vs 33%
- PVT progression
  - 9% vs 33%
- Bleeding
  - 11% vs 11%
- Gastro 153:480, 2017

# 2021 Update: DOAC & PVT

- **DOAC vs Warfarin**
  - Increased PVT recanalization – RR = 1.67
  - Decreased progression – RR = 0.14
- **Anticoagulation in PVT**
  - Increased PVT recanalization – OR 4.29
  - Decreased progression – OR 0.26
  - Bleeding slightly up – OR 1.16



# DOAC in PVT

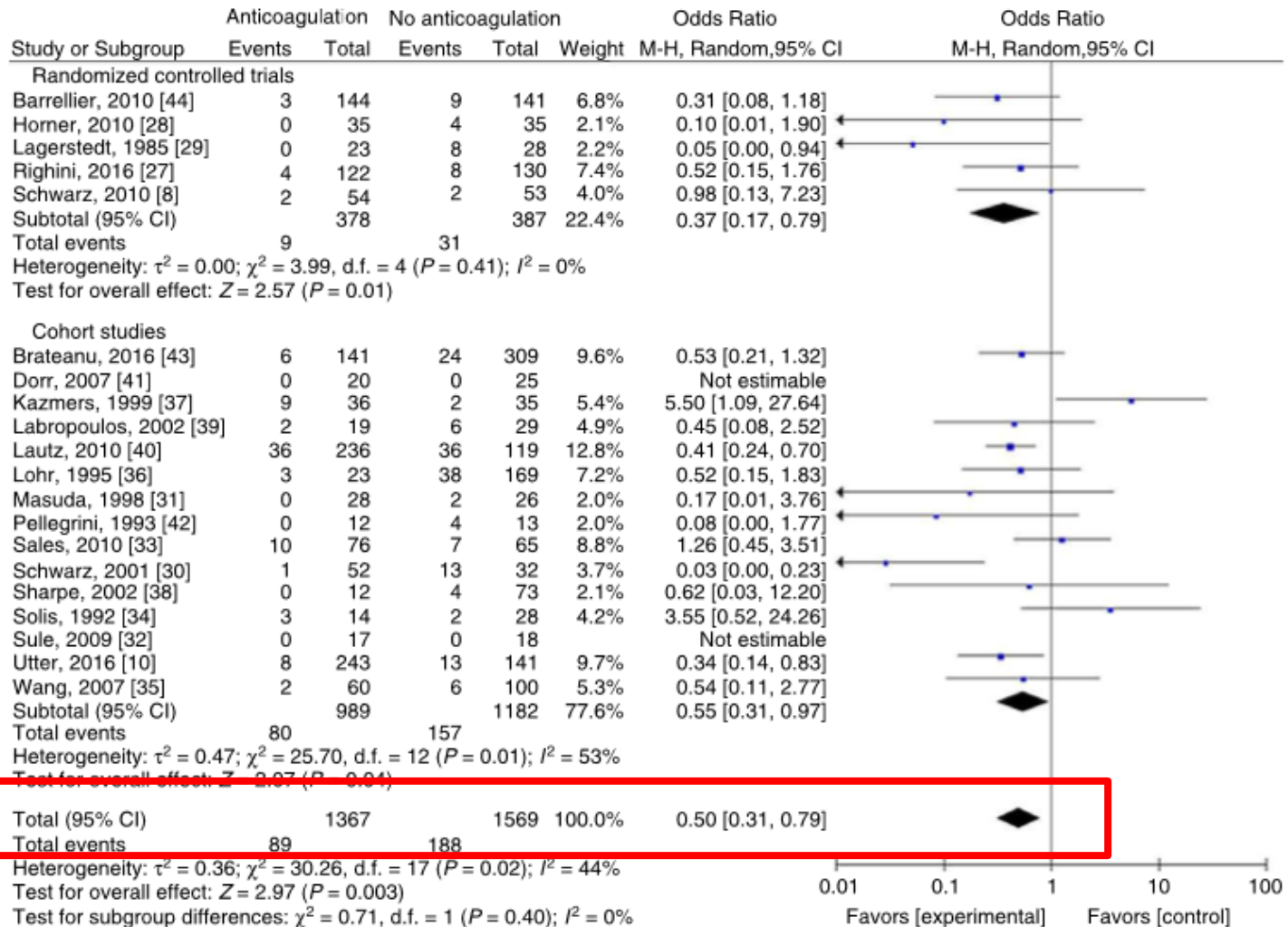
- **Increasing data on safety in liver disease**
  - Easier to use
  - Less bleeding
- **Drug of choice: apixaban**
- **Exception Child C**
  - Case by case basis



# Calf Vein Thrombosis

- High risk of progression
  - Up to 10% progression
  - PE rate 2-3%
- **12 weeks** therapy for most patients

# Calf Vein Thrombosis Therapy



# Calf Vein Thrombosis Therapy

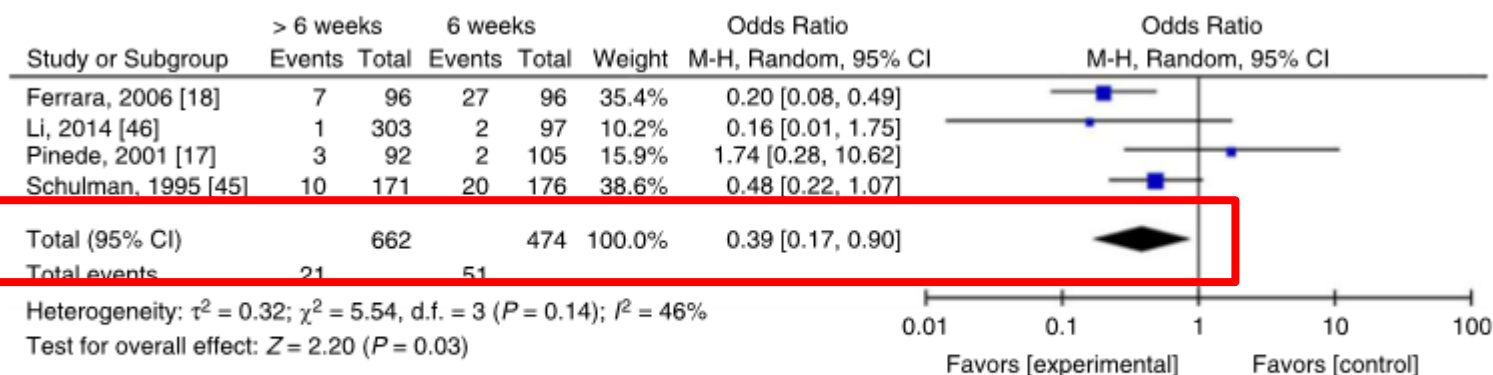


Fig. 6. Recurrent venous thromboembolism in patients receiving anticoagulant treatment for > 6 weeks versus 6 weeks. CI, confidence interval; d.f., degrees of freedom; M-H, Mantel-Haenszel. [Color figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

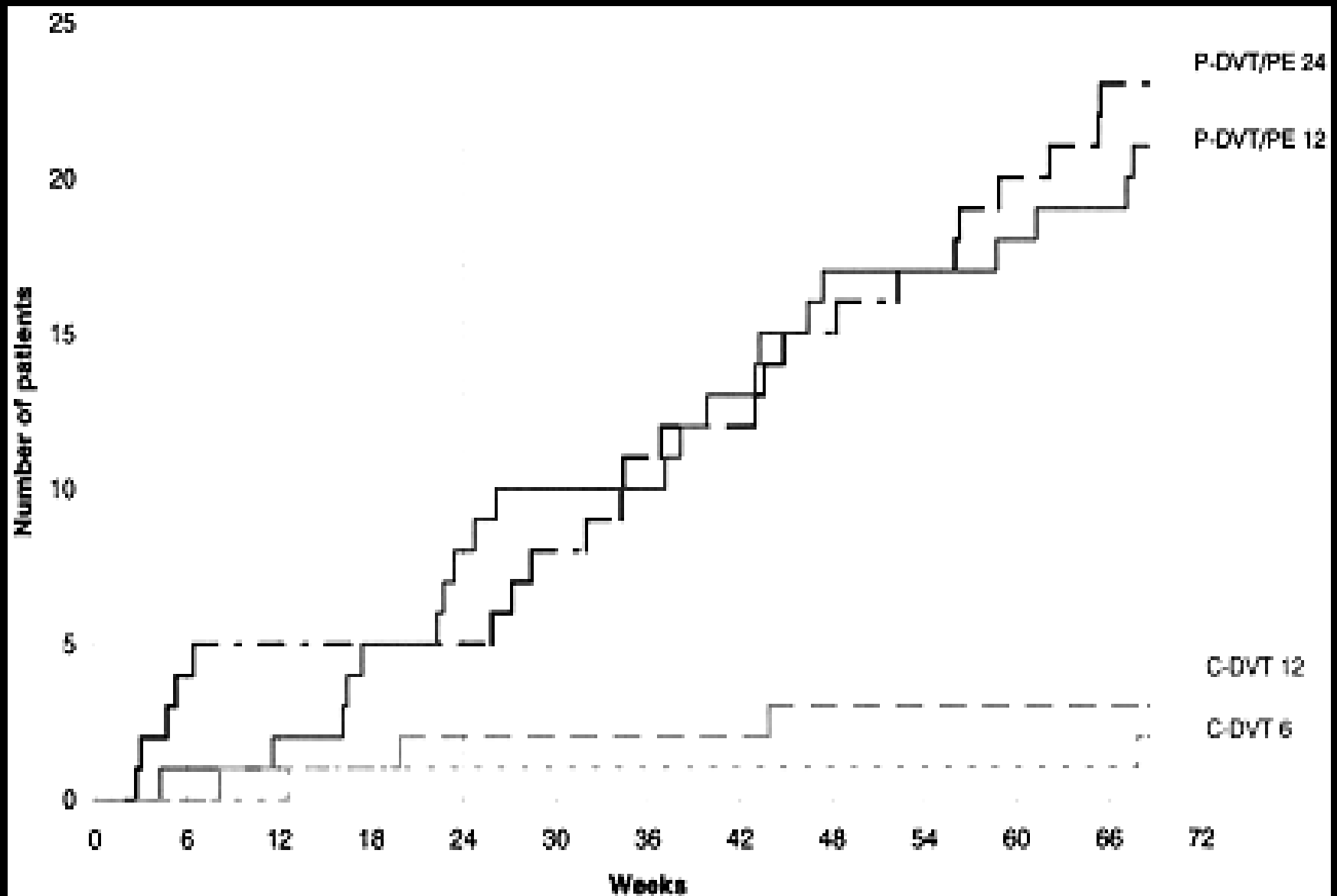
# Distal DVT Trial

- Rivaroxaban 6 vs 12 weeks
- N = 400
- rDVT 6: 15% 12:8%
- No major bleeding
- BMJ. 2022 11 23; 379:e072623

# **Duration of Therapy: Proximal DVT**

- **3 months**
  - **Provoked DVT**
    - **Especially estrogen related**
- **No benefit with 6 months except more bleeding**
- **Obtain scan at end of therapy for new baseline**
  - **J Thromb Haemost. 2011 Dec;9(12):2406-10**

# Proximal DVT





# Duration of Therapy

- **What is an Idiopathic Thrombosis?**
  - No trauma, surgery or hospital stay for 1-3 months
  - No estrogens
  - No long travel (> 4 hours)
  - No cancer or major risk factors
  - Exact definition controversial

# **1<sup>st</sup> Idiopathic VTE**

- **High rates (30-40%) of recurrence off anticoagulation**
- **Multiple RCTs show benefit of long term anticoagulation**
  - **Marked increase in recurrence when stopping anticoagulation**

# BMJ 2019 Meta-analysis

| Year       | Risk      | Cumulative Incidence |
|------------|-----------|----------------------|
| 1 Year     | 10.3%     | -                    |
| 2 year     | 6.3%      | 16%                  |
| 3-5 years  | 3.8%/year | 25% 5 years          |
| 6-10 years | 3.1/year  | 36% 10 years         |

**Case fatality rate for recurrence 4%**

**Distal thrombosis 1/10<sup>th</sup> of risk**

**BMJ 2019: 366:4364**

# Extended Therapy

Treating 1,000 patient-years with extended anticoagulation following acute VTE may result in<sup>a</sup>:

## DOAC

→ ≈ 5 (95% CI, 1 to 9) fewer deaths

→ ≈ 4 (95% CI, 1 to 6) fewer VTE-related deaths

→ ≈ 70 (95% CI, 41 to 99) fewer VTE recurrence

→ ≈ 3 (95% CI, -2 to 8) more major bleeding<sup>b</sup>

→ ≈ 67 (95% CI, 39 to 94) net clinical benefit  
(absence of VTE recurrence or major bleeding)

## VKA

→ ≈ 78 (95% CI, 40 to 117) fewer VTE recurrence

→ ≈ 14 (95% CI, 02 to 29) more major bleeding

→ ≈ 63 (95% CI, 20 to 107) net clinical benefit  
(absence of VTE recurrence or major bleeding)

Chest 155:1199-1216, 2019

# Two Phases of VTE Therapy

- **Active phase (3 months)**
  - Prevents reactivation of initial thrombosis
- **Secondary prevention (> 3 months)**
  - Prevents new thrombosis
  - Need to identify patients who will benefit
- **J Thromb Haemo 2012: 10: 507–5**

# D-Dimers

- D-dimers checked off therapy to predict risk
- Meta-analysis
  - 7 studies
  - Positive D-Dimer: 10%/yr
  - Negative D-Dimer: 2.9 - 4.0%/yr
- Unclear if repeat testing helps
- Most recent study showed high rates of recurrence with negative D-dimer 5%/yr

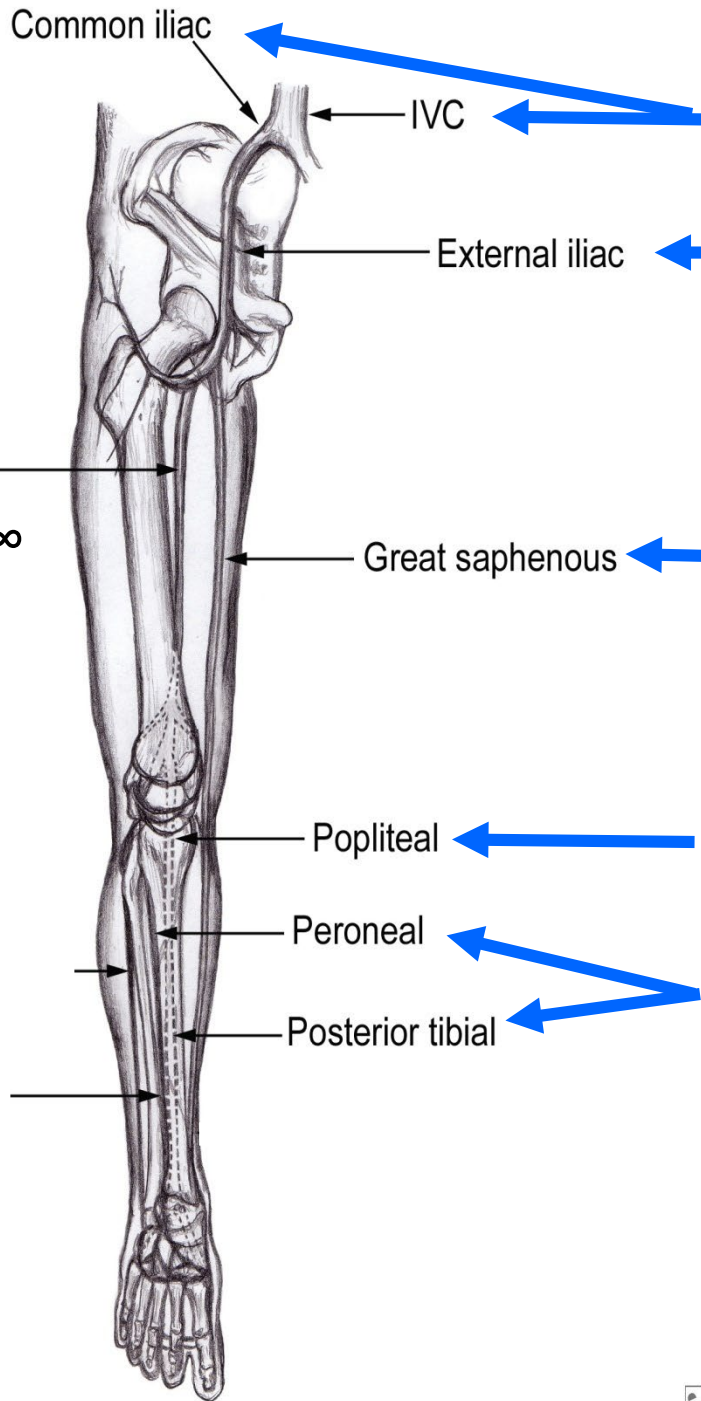
# Idiopathic VTE

- **No good prediction rules**
  - Negative D-dimer - NOT predictive
  - Thrombus resolution – NOT predictive
- **Still need better prediction rules!**
- **Safer anticoagulants is shifting balance toward longer treatment**



# Duration of Therapy

- Indefinite
  - >1 DVT (except upper ext)
  - Acquired hypercoagulable states
  - Idiopathic unusual site
  - Idiopathic severe pulmonary embolism
- 3 months
  - Provoked pulmonary embolism



**3 months - ∞**

**3 months - ∞**

**14 days  
(prophylactic dose)**

**3 months - ∞**

**3 months**

# **What about Hypercoagulable States?**

- **Testing not recommend**
  - **Provoked thrombosis**
  - **Arterial thrombosis (inherited thrombophilia)**
  - **Upper extremity**
  - **Distal thrombosis**
  - **Superficial thrombosis**



# DOACs

- Robust randomized trial data for all new anticoagulants
- Now recommend by ACCP/ASH first line over warfarin
- Irreversibility = Myth
  - Less need to reverse
  - **No** difference in bleeding outcomes in multiple studies

# DOAC in VTE

- Recurrent VTE: 0.90 (0.77-1.06)
- Major bleeding: 0.74 (0.59-0.85)
- ICH: 0.37 (0.21-0.68)
- Fatal bleeding: 0.36 (0.15-0.84)

Blood 2014;124(12):1968-1975

Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg. 2014 Nov;48(5):565-575.

# Venous Thrombosis

| Drug        | Heparin First? | Thrombosis | Bleeding |
|-------------|----------------|------------|----------|
| Apixaban    | No*            | Equal      | Safer    |
| Dabigatran  | Yes            | Equal      | Equal    |
| Edoxaban    | Yes            | Equal      | Safer    |
| Rivaroxaban | No*            | Equal      | Safer    |

\*Apixaban 10mg bid x 7 days then 5mg BID

\*Rivaroxaban 15mg bid x 21 days then 20mg daily



**Vitamin K Antagonist**

**LMWH**

5 days

Vitamin K Antagonist

**Dabigatran**

**LMWH**

5 days

Dabigatran 150 mg BID

**Rivaroxaban**

\*Must take with food

15 mg BID

21 days

20 mg daily

6 months

10 mg daily<sup>13</sup>

**Apixaban**

10 mg BID

7 days

5 mg BID

6 months

2.5 mg BID<sup>6</sup>

**Edoxaban**

**LMWH**

5 days

Edoxaban 60 mg daily (CrCl 30-50, <60 kg: 30 mg daily)

# Lower Dose DOACs?

- Older data for lower doses in chronic therapy of VTE
  - LMWH
  - Ximelagatran
  - Did not work for warfarin

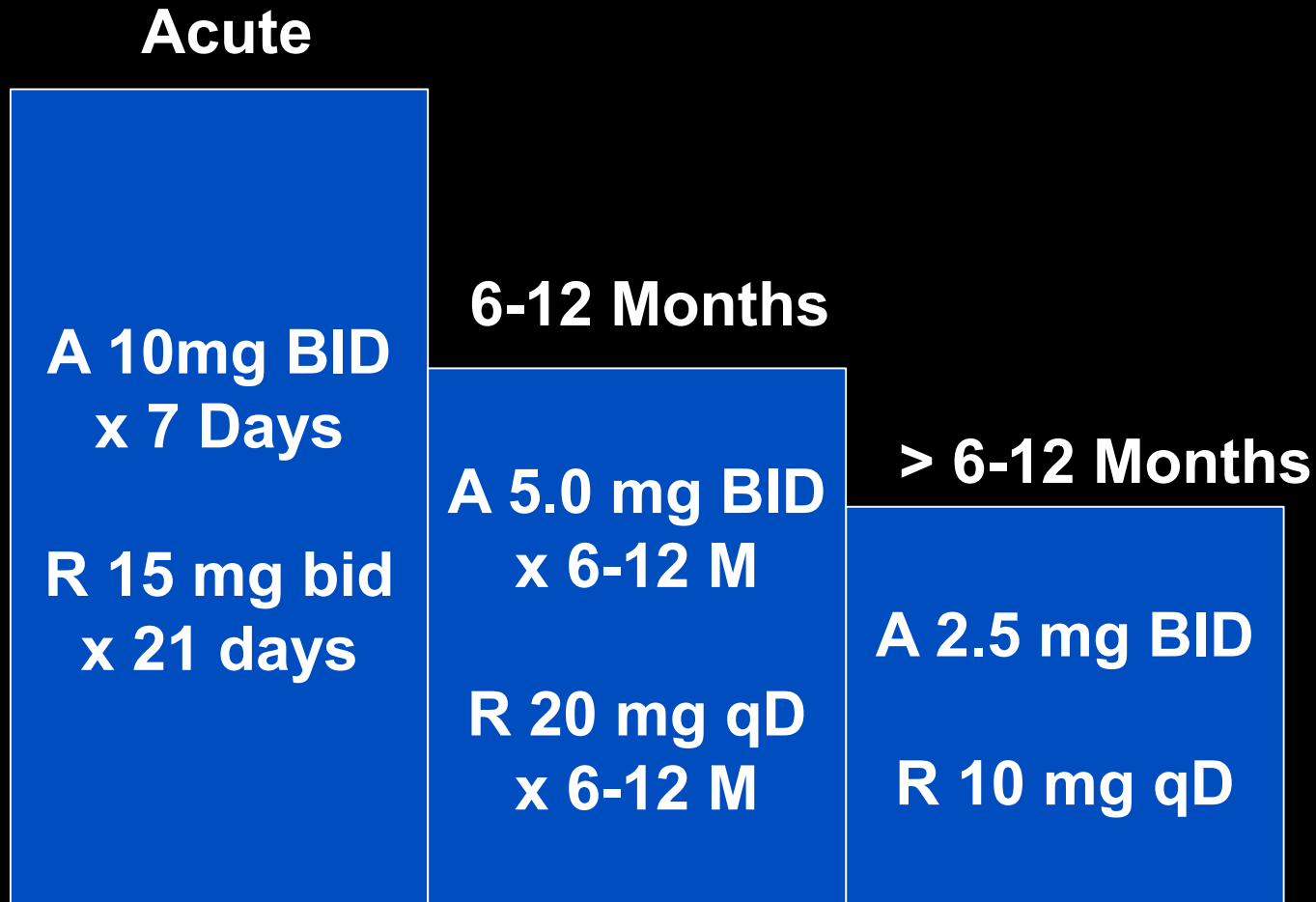
# Low Dose DOAC

- **Two trials**
  - Rivaroxaban 20mg vs 10mg
  - Apixaban 5mg vs 2.5 mg
- **Start 6-12 months after VTE**
- **No difference in VTE or bleeding**
  - Trend toward reduce major bleeding

# Lower Dose Therapy

- Only for chronic venous thrombosis!!
- NOT
  - Atrial fibrillation
  - Cancer
  - Bad thrombophilia
  - Visceral vein thrombosis

# DOAC VTE Stepped Care





# DOACs in Cancer

- **Advantages**
  - Few drug no food interactions
  - Short half-life
  - Not a shot
- **Warfarin inferior to LMWH**
  - Increase thrombosis
- **Less than 33% of cancer patients on LMWH**



# Cancer

- 4 RCT: DOAC vs LMWH
- Recurrence: HR 0.62 (sig)
- Major Bleeding: HR 1.33 (NS)
- Relevant bleeding: HR 1.58 (sig)
- Tao DL, Eur J Haem 2020

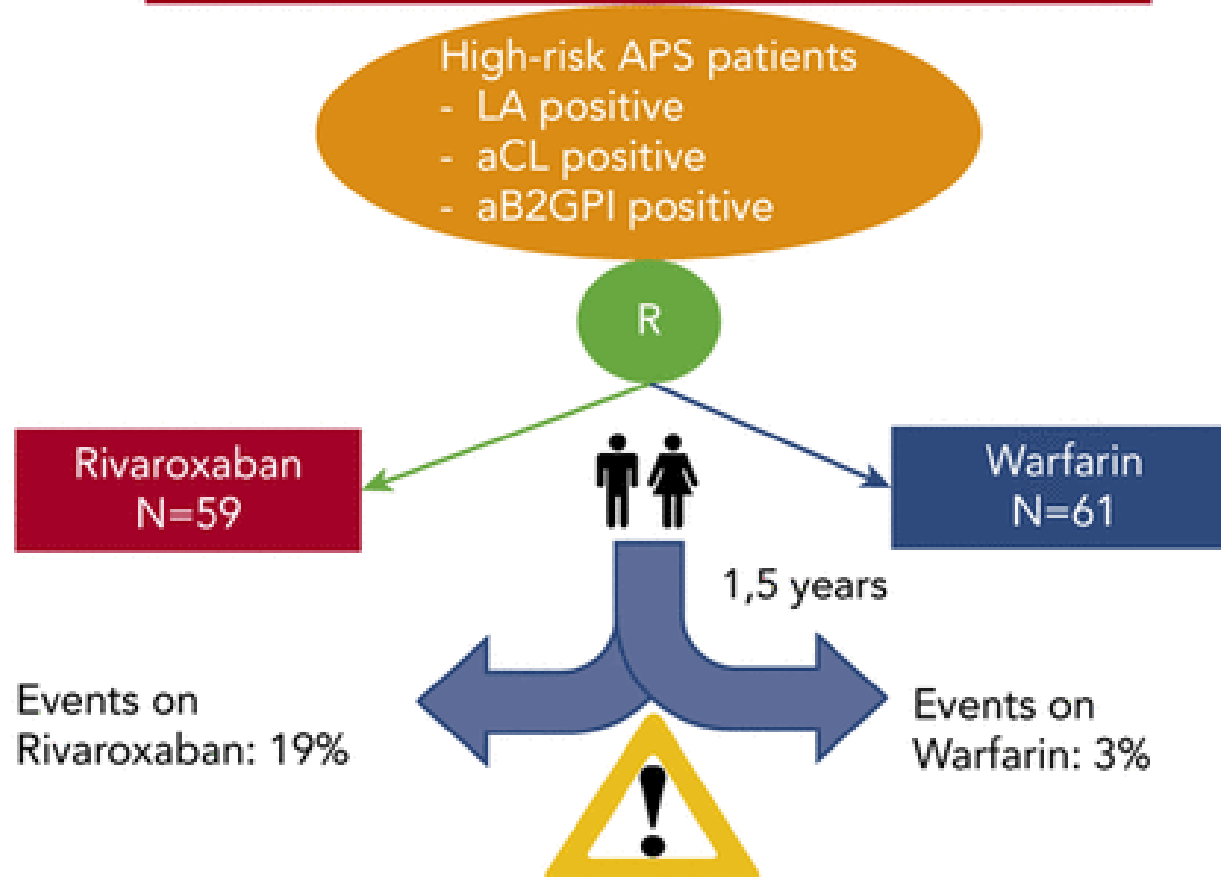
# Cancer

- **DOACs now front line**
- **Reserve LMWH for break through thrombosis**
- **GI bleeding issue**
  - **Less with apixaban**

# **Who NOT to use New Anticoagulants**

- **Triple positive APLA**
- **Mechanical Valves**
- **Rheumatic Valvular disease**
- **< 50 or > ??? kg**

**TRAPS**  
**Randomized controlled trial of Rivaroxaban**  
**vs Warfarin in APS**



**Stopped early for excess of events on Rivaroxaban**

# Direct Oral Anticoagulants

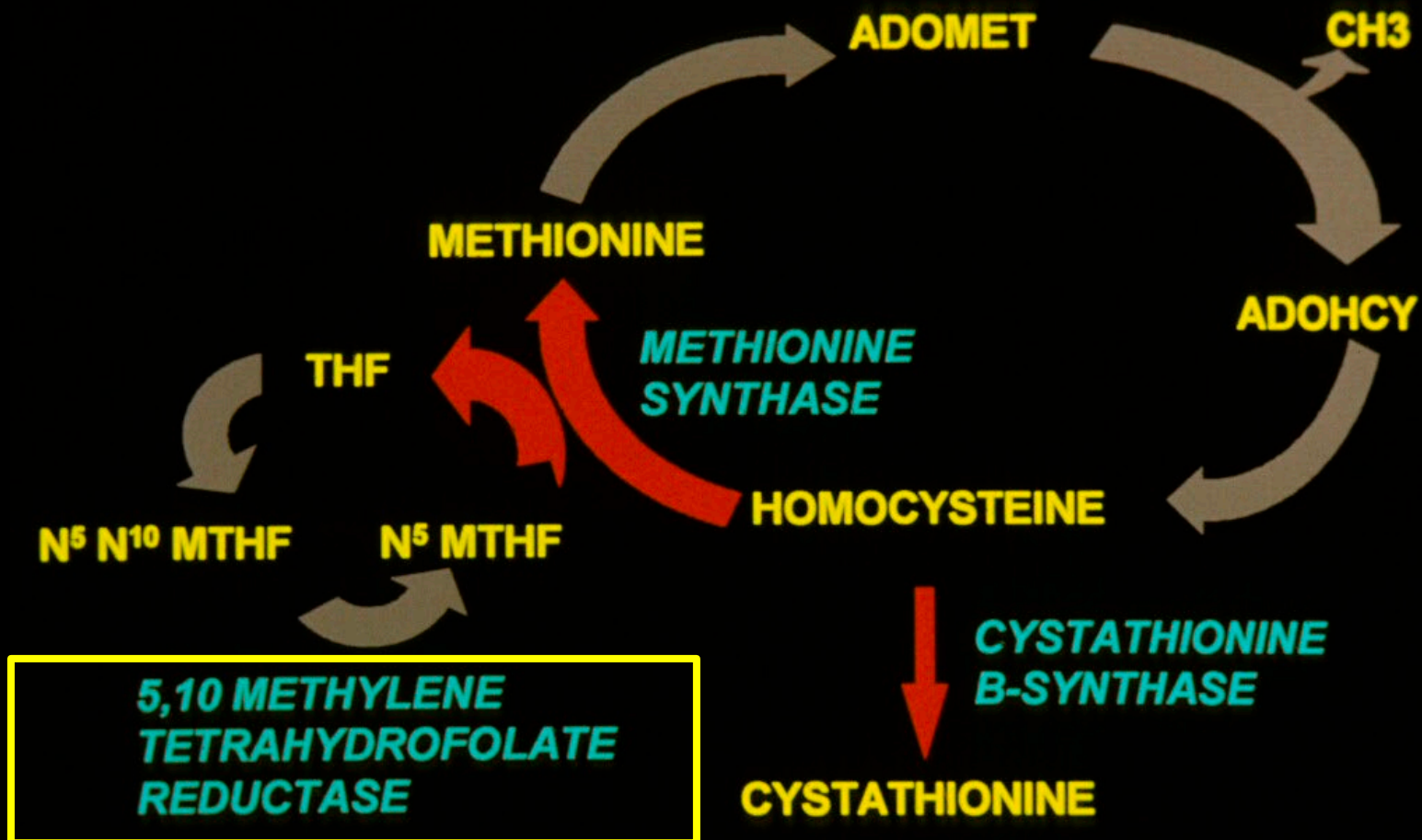
- **First line therapy for VTE**
- **Simplified management**
- **But**
  - **Patients still need close follow-up**
  - **Still need to manage anticoagulants**
  - **Expense an issue**



# Thrombophilia

- MTHFR
- APLA





# MTHFR C667T

| <u>Genotype</u> | - <u>Hcy (nmol/ml)</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| -/-             | 11.04                  |
| +/-             | 11.03                  |
| +/+             | 13.28*                 |

\*P<0.01

**Table 1.** Prevalence of the MTHFR 677 C-to-T Mutation ([Table view](#))

|                                      |     | MTHFR Genotype*† |            |            |                |
|--------------------------------------|-----|------------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| Study Group†                         | n   | Ala/Ala, %       | Ala/Val, % | Val/Val, % | Val Allele, %† |
| Peripheral vascular disease          | 247 | 114 (46)         | 111 (45)   | 22 (9)     | 31             |
| Healthy blood donors                 | 170 | 65 (38)          | 77 (45)    | 28 (17)    | 39             |
| Canadian neonates                    | 293 | 125 (43)         | 122 (42)   | 46 (15)    | 36             |
| Hospital/laboratory control subjects | 133 | 50 (38)          | 63 (47)    | 20 (15)    | 39             |

**DeLoughery, Circulation. 1996;94:3074–3078**

## **But.....**

- **RCT of lower homocysteine uniformly negative**
- **Good studies show no relationship between MTHFR and thrombosis**
- **Hcy more of reflection of inflammation and endothelial damage**

# MTHFR not Associated with VTE

## OR for 1<sup>st</sup> VTE for CT and TT vs nl MTHFR genotype

| <i>MTHFR</i> genotype | Homocysteine; geometric mean* ( $\pm$ SE) (mmol/l) | Cases<br><i>n</i> = 507 | Controls<br><i>n</i> = 1430 | OR <sup>†</sup> | 95% CI    |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| CC (wild type)        | 13.69 ( $\pm$ 1.01)                                | 255 (50)                | 726 (51)                    | 1               | reference |
| CT (heterozygote)     | 14.34 ( $\pm$ 1.01)                                | 208 (41)                | 582 (41)                    | 1.01            | 0.81–1.25 |
| TT (homozygote)       | 16.35 ( $\pm$ 1.04)                                | 44 (9)                  | 122 (8)                     | 1.02            | 0.70–1.49 |

\*Calculated in the controls.

<sup>†</sup>Adjusted for age (5-year age bands) and sex.

**“polymorphisms” not “mutations”**

**HUNT2: prospective case control of 66,140 Norwegians**





**505 VTE cases identified, 1458 matched controls**

**Serum homocysteine level and MTHFR C677T genotype**

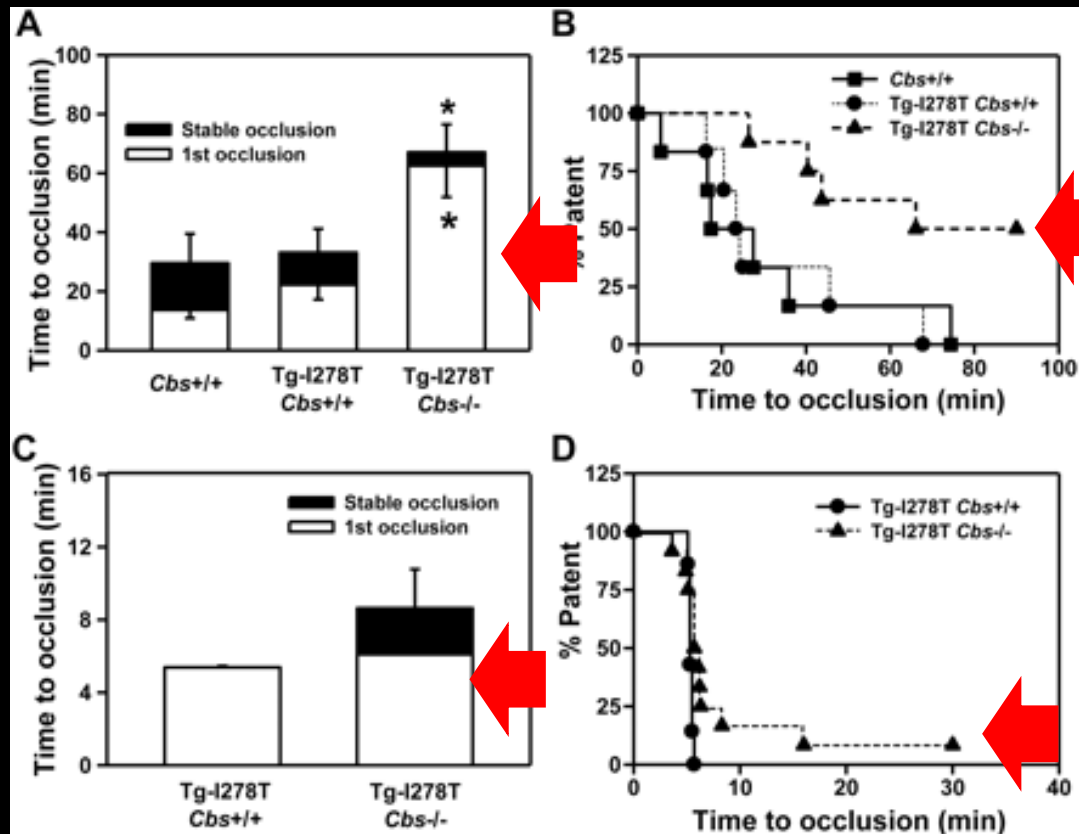
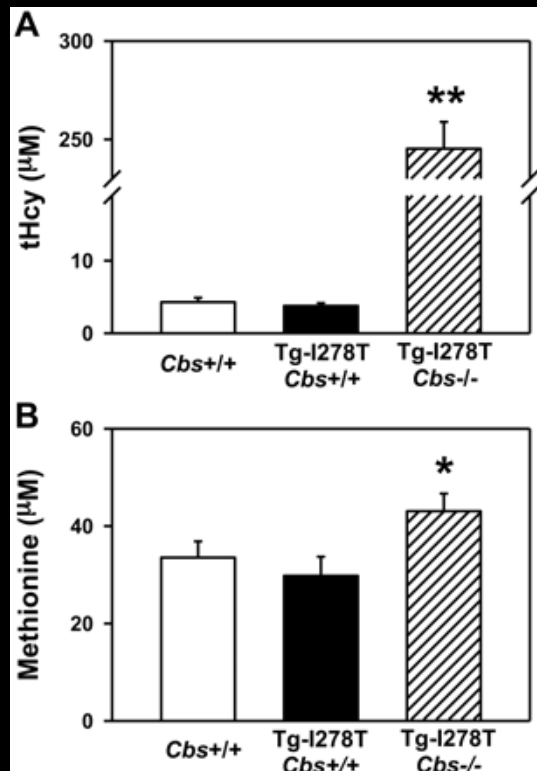
**not associated with VTE** Also: Bezemer, Arch Int Med 2007

Naess, BJH 2008

# A call to action: MTHFR polymorphisms should not be a part of inherited thrombophilia testing

Thomas G. Deloughery MD, MACP, FAWM<sup>1</sup>  | Beverley J. Hunt OBE<sup>2</sup>  |  
Geoffrey D. Barnes MD, MSc<sup>3</sup>  | Jean M. Connors MD<sup>4</sup>  | The WTD Steering Committee

[Res Pract Thromb Haemost.](#) 2022 May; 6(4): e12739.



Blood. 2012 Mar 29;119(13):3176-83

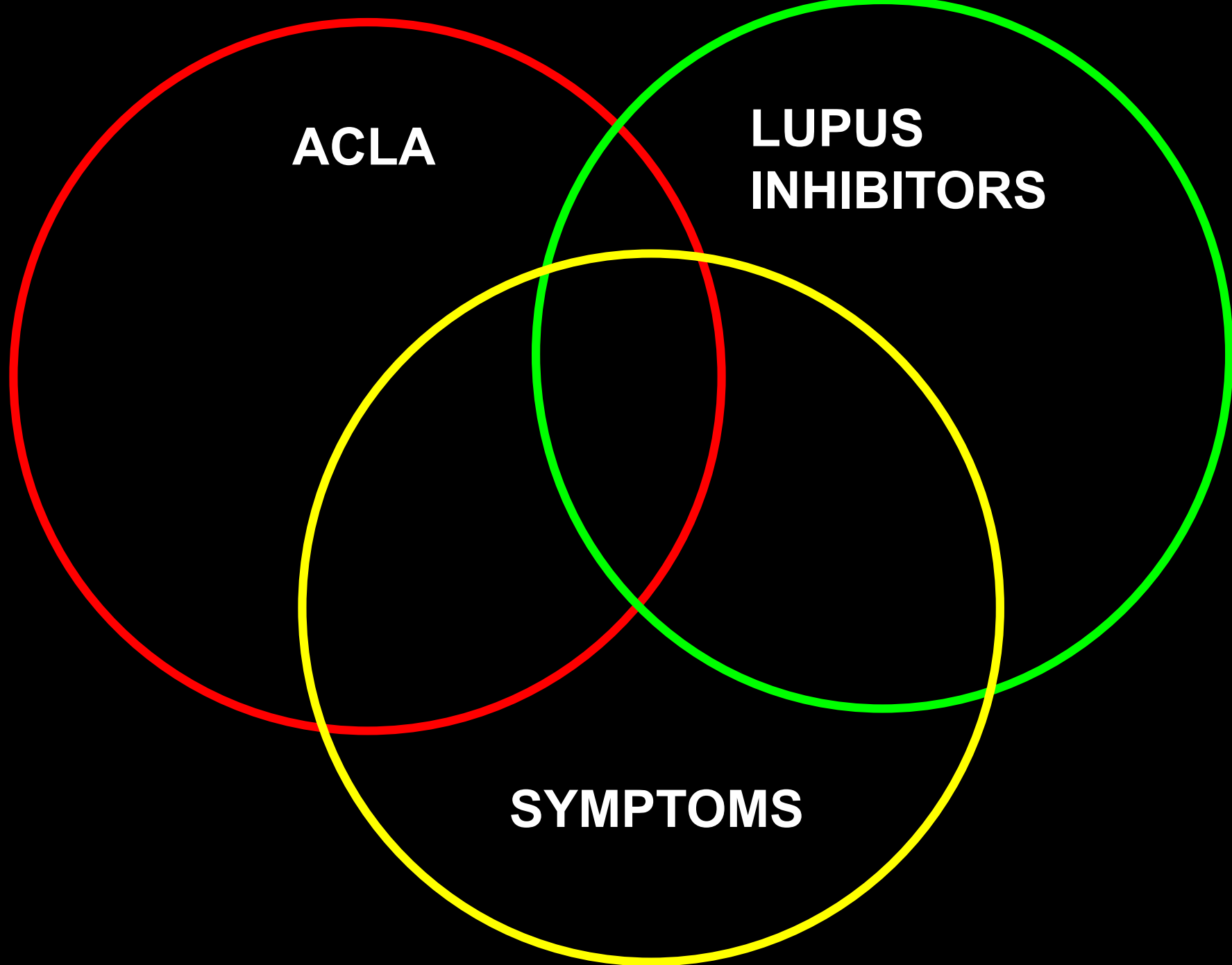
# Bottom Line

- Hcy not a part of thrombophilia work-ups
- **NEVER** check MTHFR



# How do We Test for APLA?

- Screening aPTT inadequate
- Different APLA behave differently in tests
- Only 60% of ACLA and lupus inhibitors overlap



# Testing for APLA

- **Anticardiolipin antibodies**
  - ELISA assay
- **Anti $\beta$ 2glycoprotein antibodies**
  - ELISA
- **Coagulation based test:**
  - All based on demonstrating phospholipid dependent antibodies

# Anticardiolipin Antibodies

- Based on observation of false positive VDRL
- Laboratory dependent
- Common in older patients
- Low titer ACLA very common (~20-30%)
- High titers predictive of recurrent events
  - How high > **40 units (>99<sup>th</sup> percentile)**
- Anti- $\beta$ 2 glycoprotein antibodies more predictive??

# Testing Strategy

- **Get total set**
  - **dRVVT**
    - **Ratio is key number**
  - **Hexagonal**
  - **Anticardiolipin antibody**
  - **Anti $\beta$ 2glycoprotein**

# Need to Repeat Test

- Triple positive – 98% confirmed
- Double positive – 84% confirmed
- Single positive – 40% confirmed
- Note
  - No LA only confirmed
    - Can be falsely high due to CRP
  - ACLA and A $\beta$ 2GP same isotype

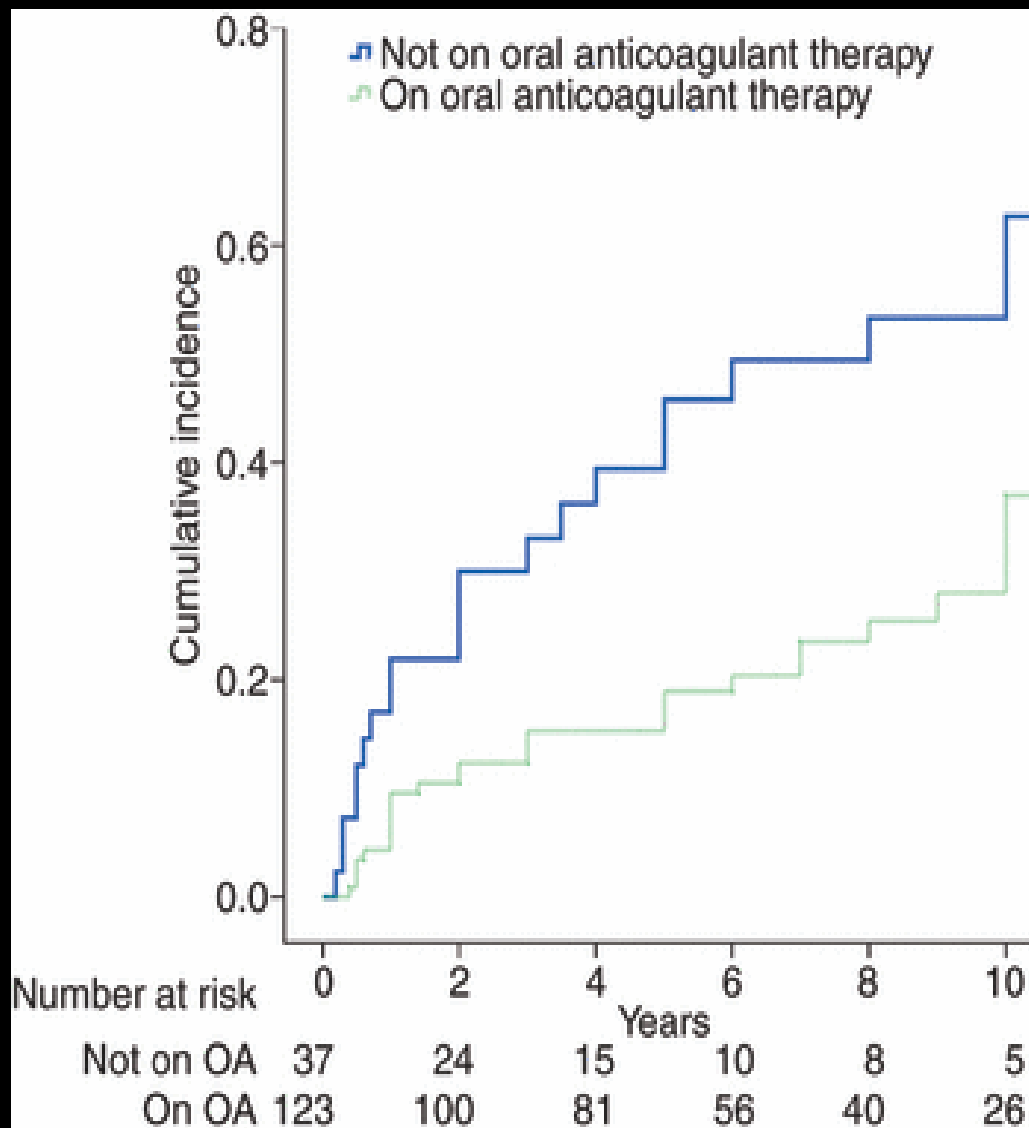
# Is The APLA Significant?

- **More significant if:**
  - Good history
  - Younger patient
  - Lupus inhibitor
  - High titer ACLA
  - Positive dRVVT
  - Multiple tests positive

# Triple Positive

- **LA, ACLA and A $\beta$ 2GP positive**
  - Same isotype (IgG, etc)
- **High risk of recurrence**
- **High risk of first event**
- **Higher risk of warfarin refractoriness**





**Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis 8:237-242, 2010**

# Burn Point #1

- **Diagnosis is based on 99<sup>th</sup> percentile and not lab listed as “abnormal”**
- **Labs have wildly different 99<sup>th</sup> percentile and reference ranges**
- **Know your lab!**

# ACLA

Cardiolipin IgA Antibody:

0 - 19 CU Negative

$\geq 20$  CU Positive

Cardiolipin IgG Antibody:

0 - 19 CU Negative

20 - 94 CU Low Positive

$\geq 95$  CU Moderately to High Positive

Cardiolipin IgM Antibody:

0 - 19 CU Negative

20 - 30 CU Low Positive

$\geq 31$  CU Moderately to High Positive

## REFERENCE VALUES ⓘ

Negative  $< \text{or } = 30.0$  U

Borderline 30.1-40.0 U

Positive  $> \text{or } = 40.1$  U

Cardiolipin Antibody, IgG

Effective November 15, 2021

$\leq 14$  GPL

Negative

15-19 GPL

Indeterminate

20-80 GPL

Low to Moderately Positive

81 GPL or above

High Positive

# AB2GP

---

Negative <20 CU

Positive  $\geq 20$  CU

<15.0 U/mL (negative)

15.0-39.9 U/mL (weakly positive)

40.0-79.9 U/mL (positive)

$\geq 80.0$  U/mL (strongly positive)

Results are expressed in arbitrary units.

Reference values apply to all ages.

# Burn Point #2

- **Persistent**
  - Need to demonstrate APLA persists over time (same test)

# **Burn Point #3**

- **Direct Oral Anticoagulants**
  - **All will mess up lupus inhibitors!**
  - **Many labs do not screen for!**
  - **Increasing cause of false positive APLA**

# **What I Talked About**

- **Therapy of VTE**
- **Duration of anticoagulation**
- **Thrombophilia work-ups**

