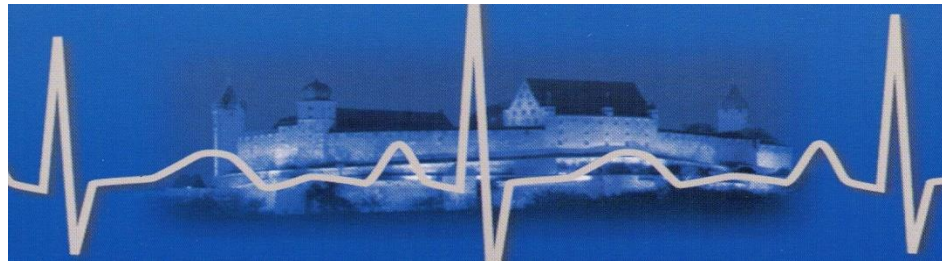


## Klinikum Coburg



### **Device-detected Vorhofflimmern: Wann muss antikoaguliert werden?**

# Disclosures

Speakers bureau, consultant, and/or research support:

- Biotronik, Medtronic, SJM, BSC, Sorin
- Boehringer Ingelheim, Bayer
- Pfizer/Bristol Myers Squibb
- Daiichi Sankyo
- Siemens

# Prävalenz von Vorhofflimmern: hoch und zunehmend!

Die am häufigsten anhaltend auftretende kardiale Arrhythmie <sup>1</sup>

## 1,8 Millionen

Menschen in Deutschland leiden an AF<sup>2</sup>

Konsequenzen für die Patienten: <sup>3,4</sup>

- Verringerte Lebensqualität
- Erhöhtes Schlaganfallrisiko
- Erhöhtes Risiko für Herzinsuffizienz



<https://www.medtronicacademy.com/pdf/could-atrial-fibrillation-be-cause-your-stroke>

## Behandlung

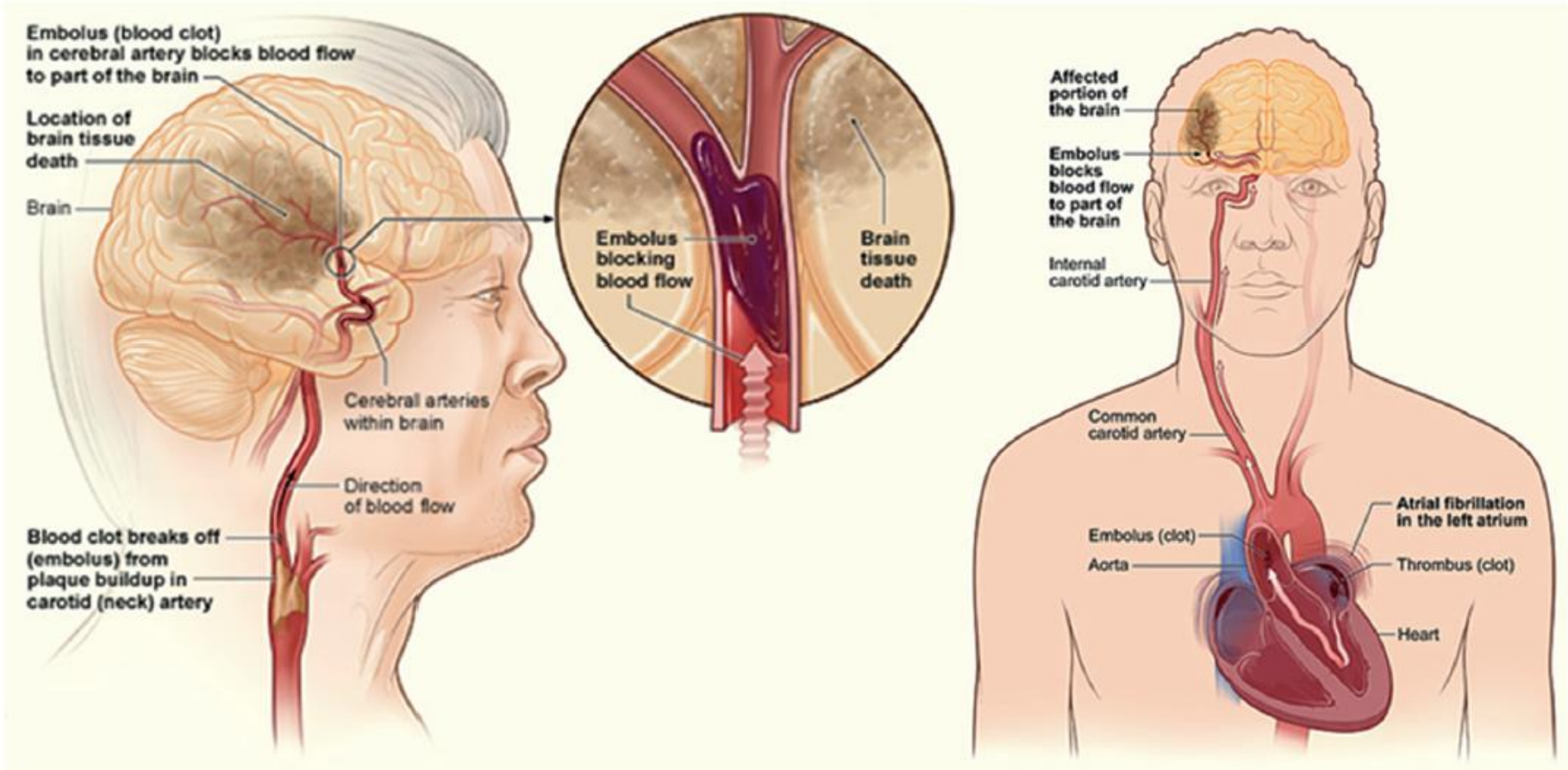
Bei Patienten mit Vorhofflimmern reduzieren Antikoagulantien das Risiko eines Schlaganfalles um 80% und somit ist deren Einnahme unbedingt empfohlen.<sup>5,6,7</sup>

Nach einem nicht-kardioembolischen ischämischen Stroke oder TIA ist Aspirin empfohlen<sup>5,6</sup>

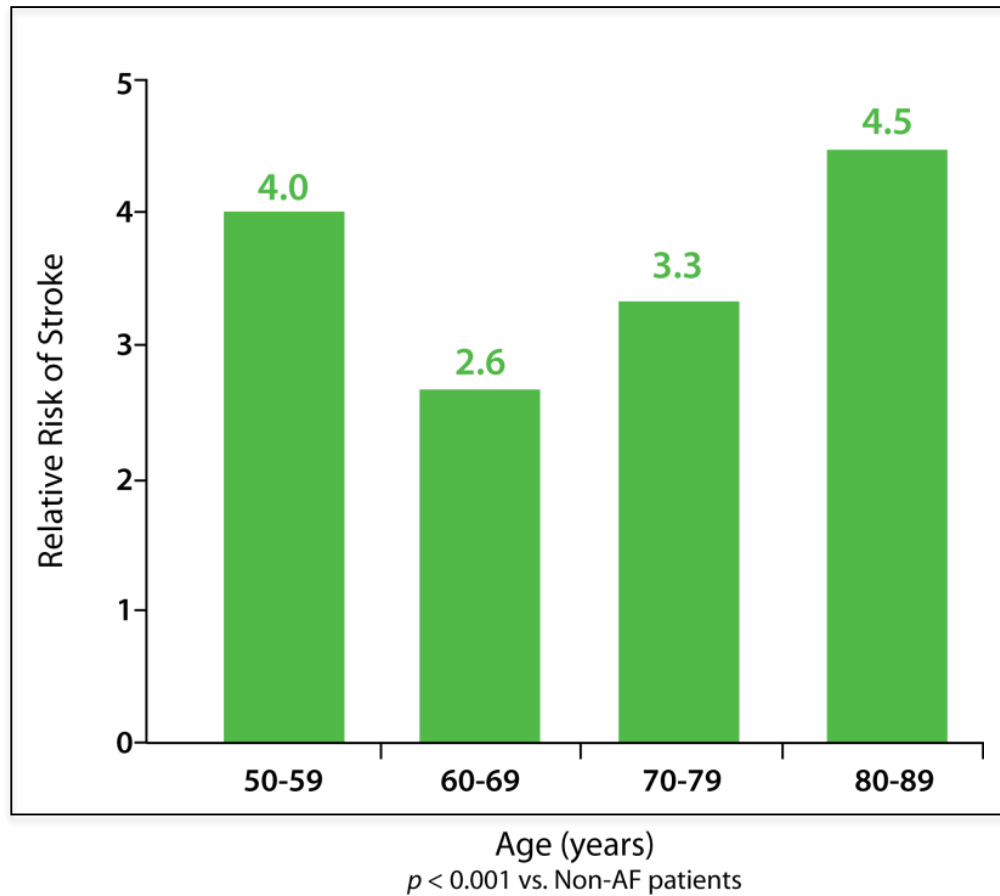
# Left Atrial Thrombus in Atrial Fibrillation and Stroke



# Mechanismus von Schlaganfällen bei Vorhofflimmern



## Patienten mit Vorhofflimmern haben ein fast 5-fach erhöhtes Schlaganfallrisiko



# Atrial Fibrillation and Stroke

**Atrial Fibrillation increases considerably with age**

Age Range	Patients with AF
18-64	9.4%
65-74	20.1%
75-84	28.9%
≥ 85	41.3%

**AF is associated with a 5-fold increase risk of stroke**

**In AF-related strokes:**

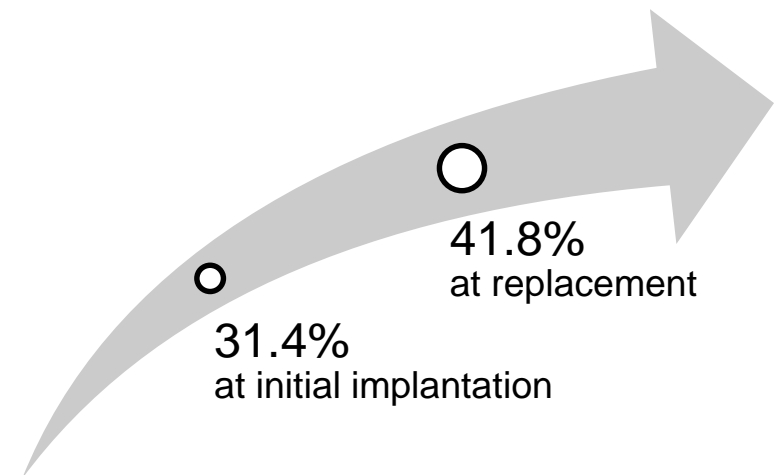
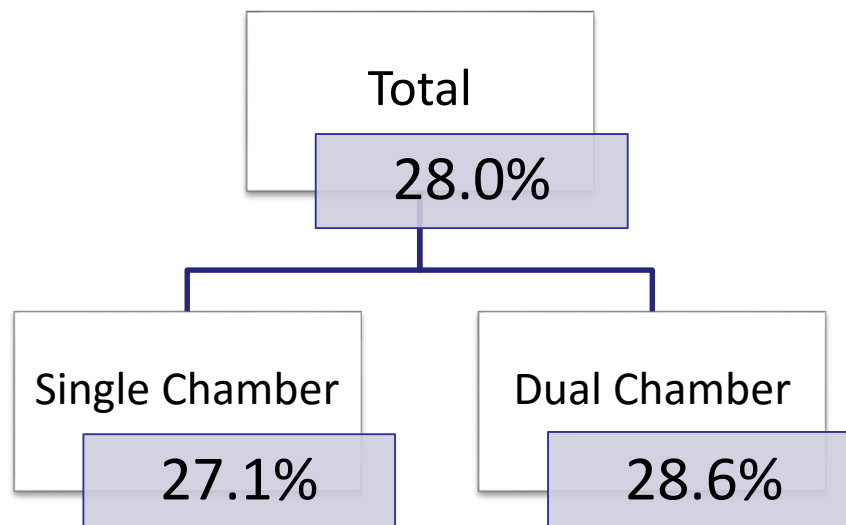
- **>50% of survivors have severe deficit**
- **Secondary strokes are common and occur at a rate of 12% per year**

Asberg.S. Stroke. June. 2010. Swedish Stroke Register  
Lip GYH, Edwards SJ. Thrombosis Res 2006; 118: 321-33  
Wolff P et al. Stroke 1991; 22(8):983-988  
Mattle HP. Cerebrovasc Dis. 2003;16:3-8



# Prävalenz von Vorhofflimmern bei Patienten mit ICD

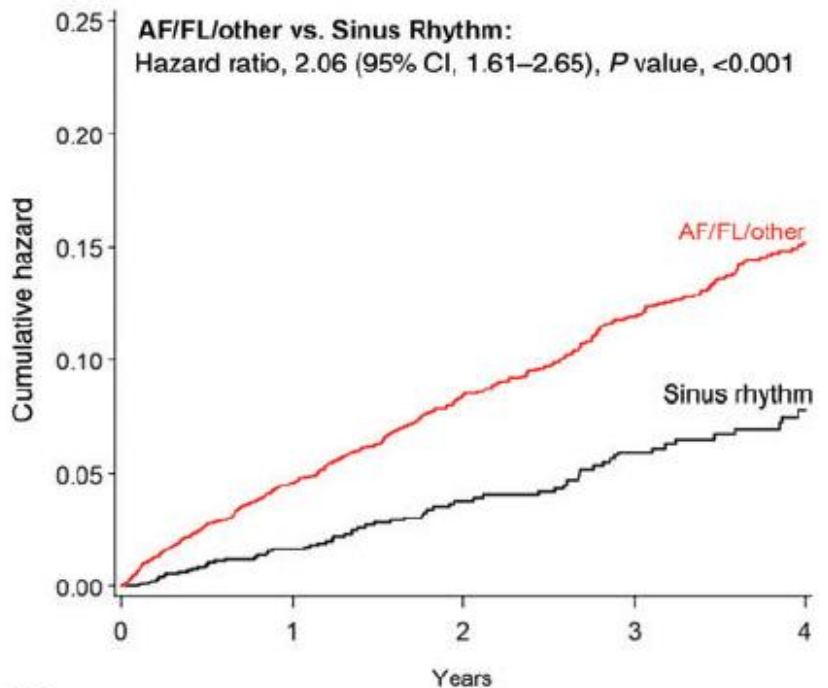
- Mehr als ein Viertel bei jedem Aggregattyp zum Zeitpunkt der Implantation
- BIS zu 42 % zum Zeitpunkt eines Aggregatwechsels



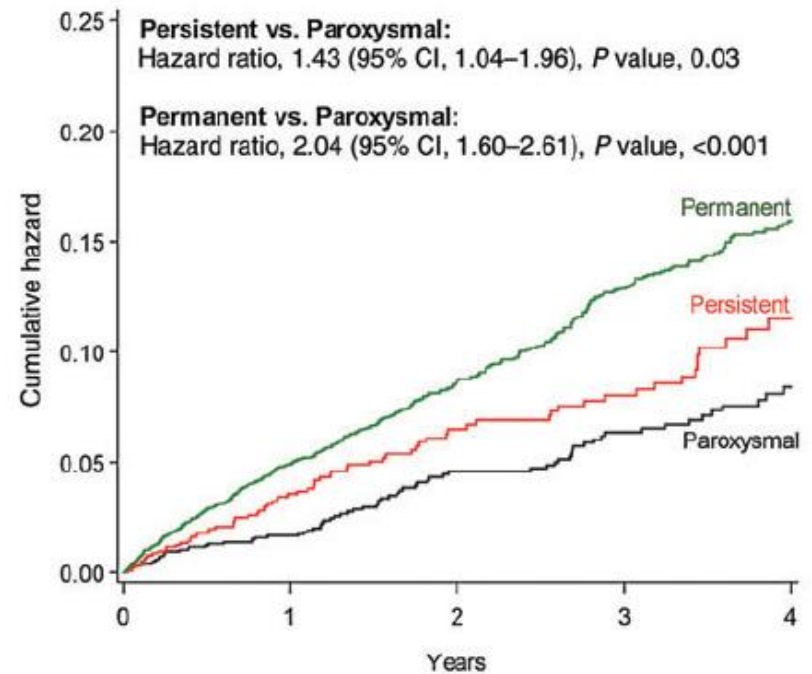


# Risk of ischaemic stroke according to pattern of atrial fibrillation: analysis of 6563 aspirin-treated patients in ACTIVE-A and AVERROES

Thomas Vanassche<sup>1\*</sup>, Mandy N. Lauw<sup>1</sup>, John W. Eikelboom<sup>1</sup>, Jeff S. Healey<sup>1</sup>, Robert G. Hart<sup>1</sup>, Marco Alings<sup>2</sup>, Alvaro Avezum<sup>3</sup>, Rafael Díaz<sup>4</sup>, Stefan H. Hohnloser<sup>5</sup>, Basil S. Lewis<sup>6</sup>, Olga Shestakovska<sup>1</sup>, Jia Wang<sup>1</sup>, and Stuart J. Connolly<sup>1</sup>



No. at risk	0	1	2	3	4
Sinus Rhythm	1539	1214	765	600	303
AF/FL/other	5024	3769	2482	1899	869



No. at risk	0	1	2	3	4
Paroxysmal	1576	1226	766	604	310
Persistent	1136	846	502	386	174
Permanent	3854	2909	1975	1505	685

Vanassche et al; European Heart Journal;2015

# Punktwerte der einzelnen Risikokategorien

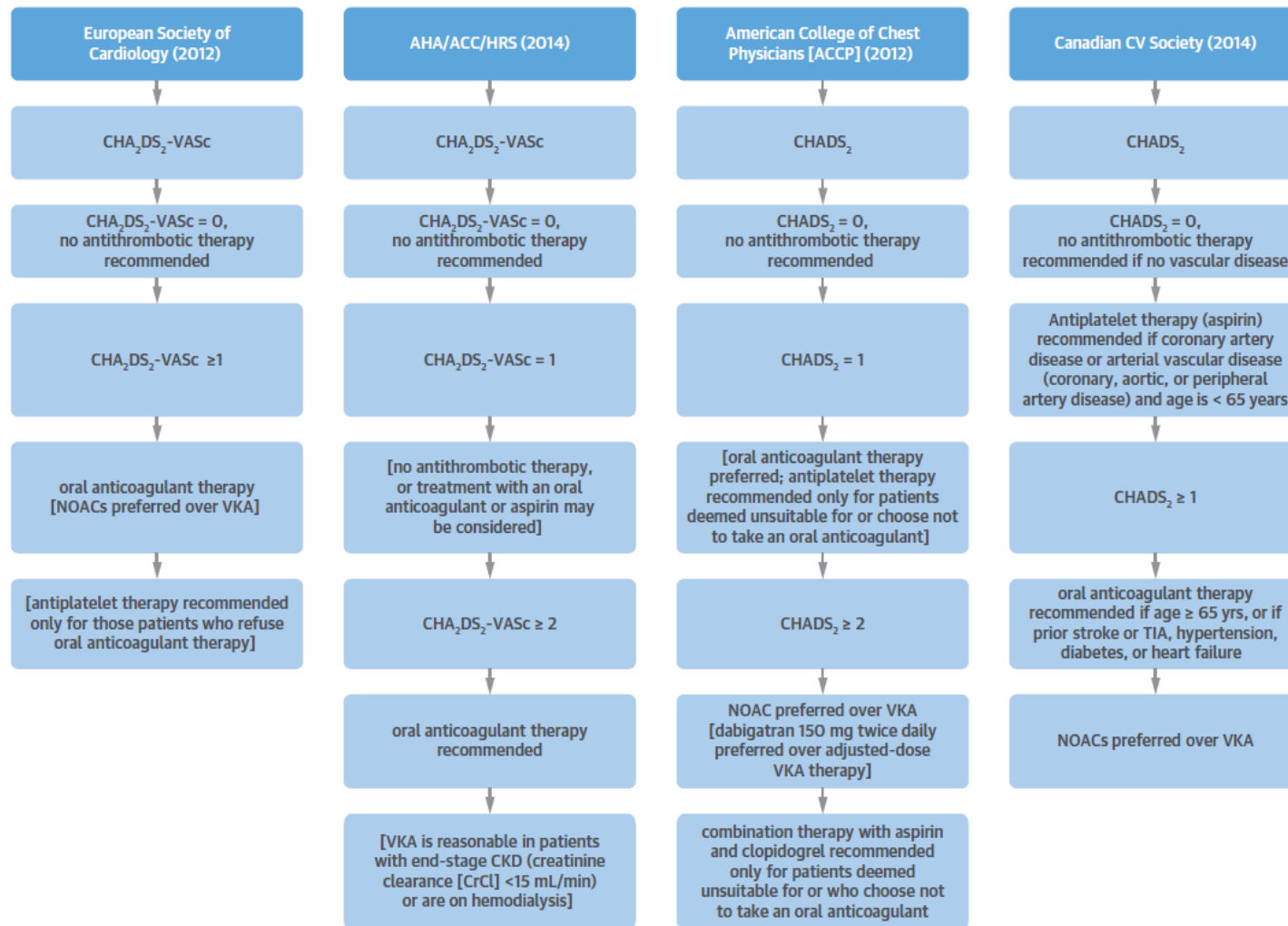
## CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>VASc-SCORE

Merkmal	Engl. Bezeichnung	Punkte
Herzinsuffizienz	Congestive heart failure	1
Bluthochdruck	Hypertension	1
Alter > 75 Jahre	Age	2
Diabetes mellitus	Diabetes mellitus	1
Vorausgegangener Schlaganfall/TIA*	Stroke/TIA	2
Gefäßerkrankung (z. B. Herzinfarkt)	Vascular disease	1
Alter 65 – 74 Jahre	Age	1
Weibl. Geschlecht (> 65 Jahre)	Sex category	1

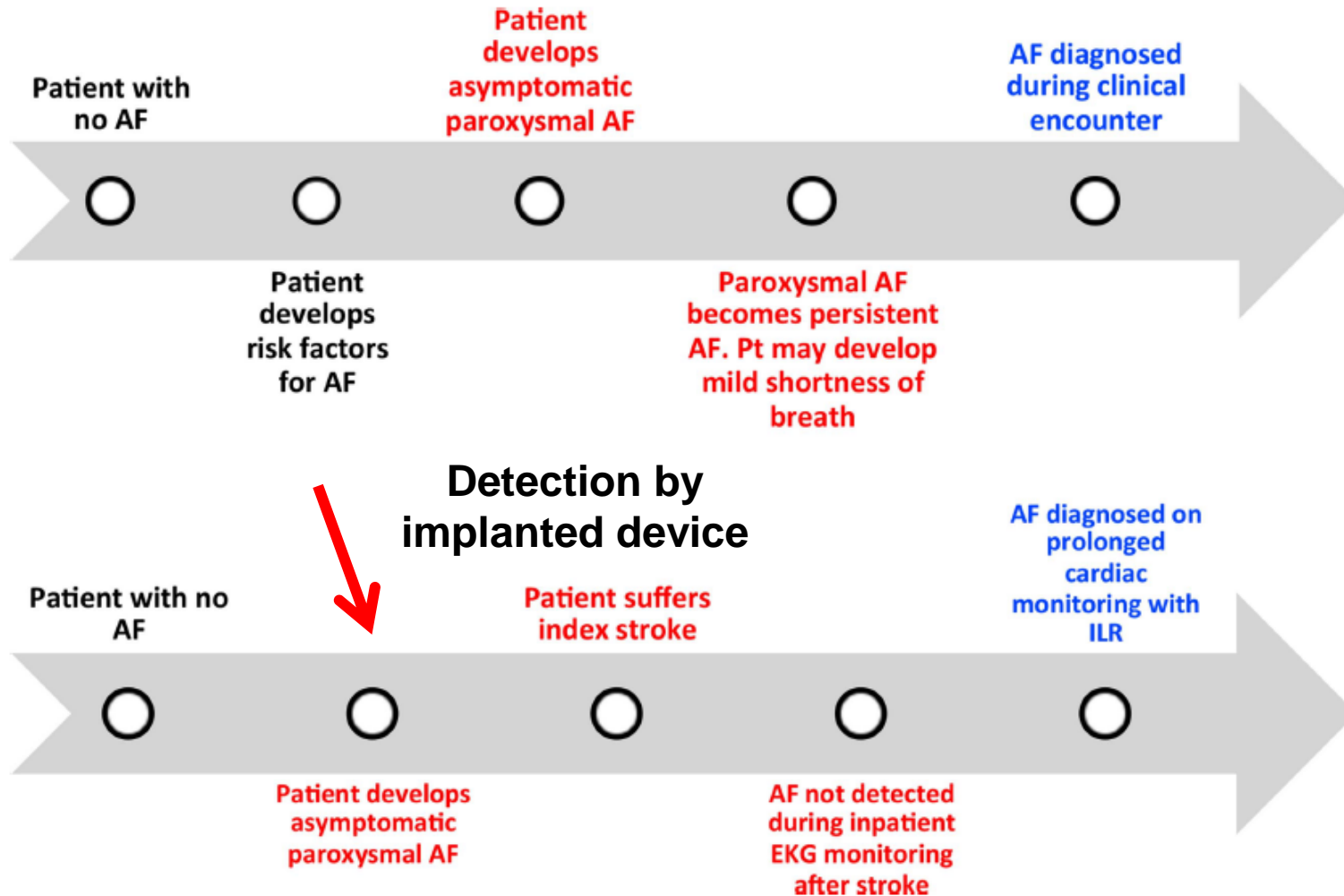
Geringes Risiko	Mittleres Risiko	Hohes Risiko
0–1 Punkt	2 Punkte	3–6 Punkte

\*TIA = Transitorisch ischämische Attacke

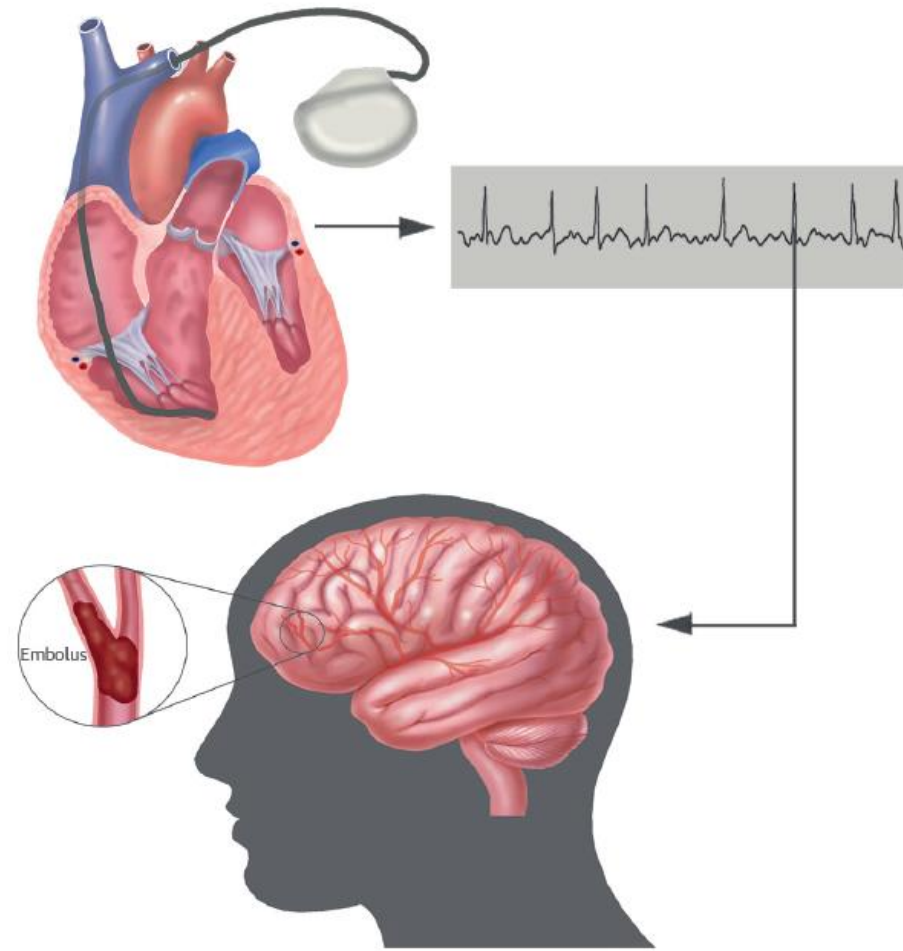
# Comparison of Cardiovascular Society Guidelines for OAK in Nonvalvular Atrial Fibrillation



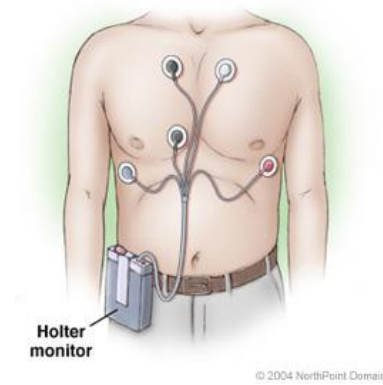
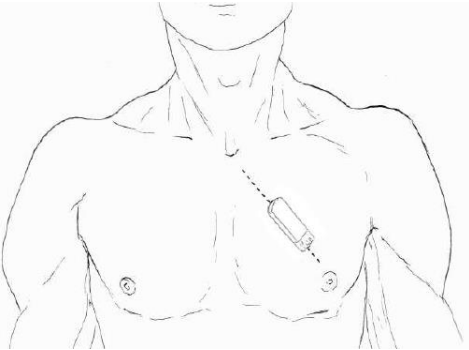
# Unterschiedliche Zeitlinien bei okkultem Vorhofflimmern



# Mögliche Prävention von Schlaganfällen durch Früherkennung von Vorhofflimmern



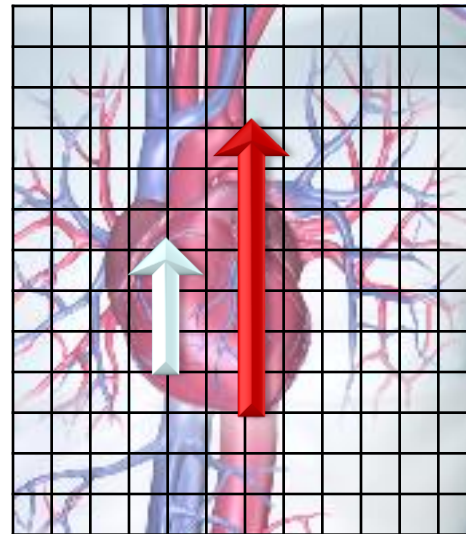
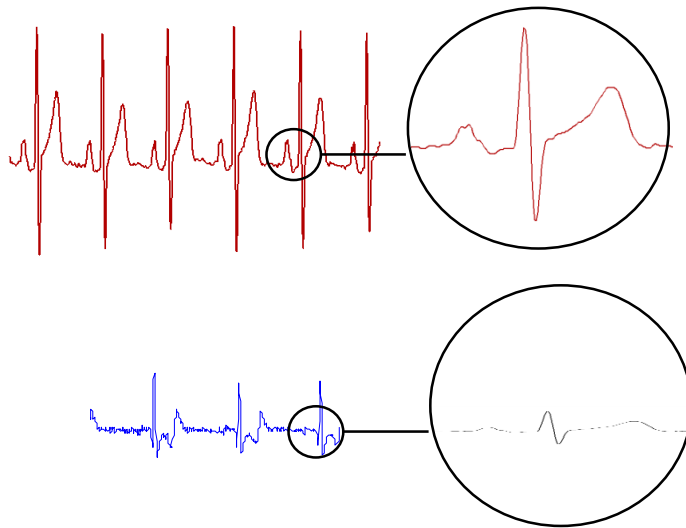
# Vergleich der Monitoring-Strategien für Vorhofflimmern



## Neuer implantierbarer kardialer Monitor

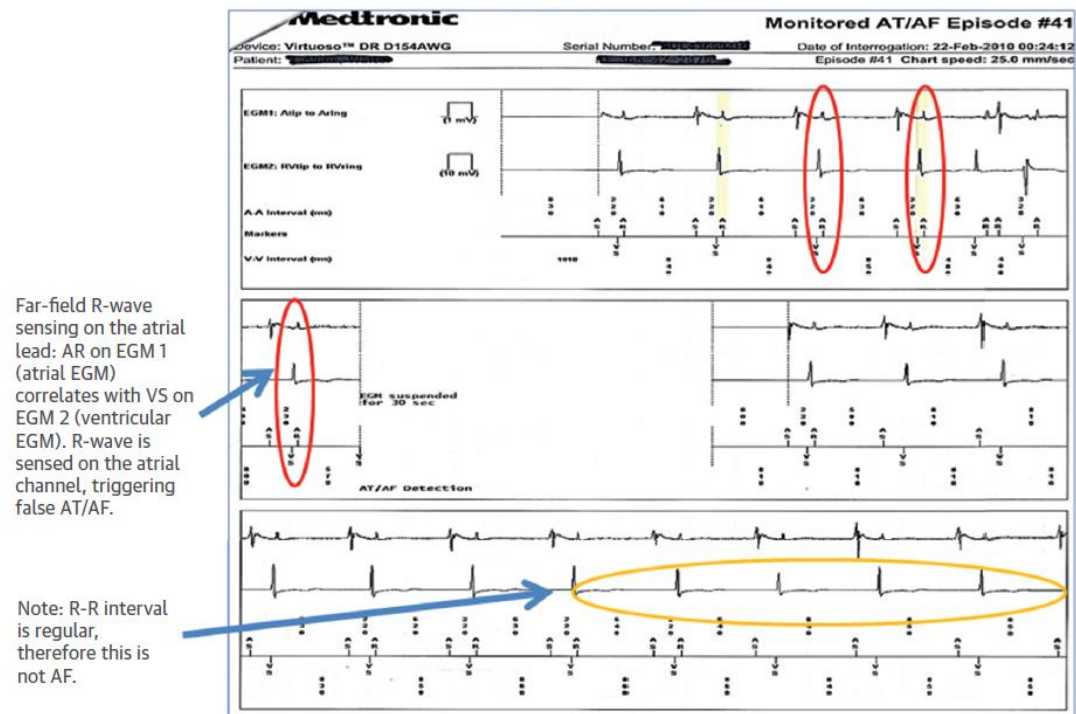
- Präzise Arrhythmiediagnostik mittels optimierter Signalqualität
- Ein längerer Wahrnehmungsvektor kann aufgrund der höheren Potentialdifferenz zu einer größeren Signalamplitude und einem günstigeren Signal-Rausch-Verhältnis führen.

Geben Sie hier eine Formel ein.





# EGM Representative of AT/AF Due to Far-Field R-Wave Sensing



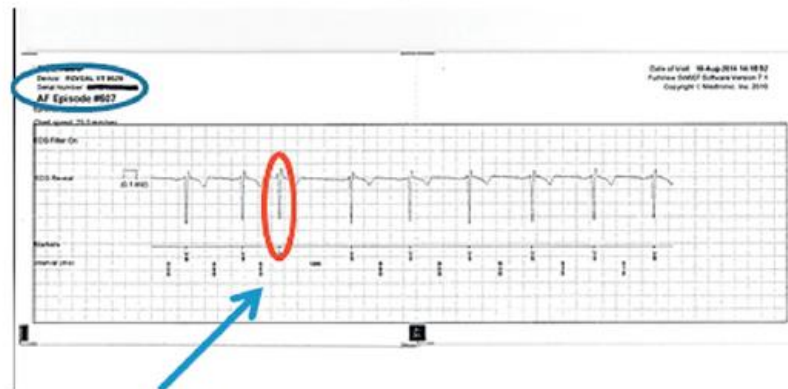
Far-field R-wave sensing on the atrial lead: AR on EGM 1 (atrial EGM) correlates with VS on EGM 2 (ventricular EGM). R-wave is sensed on the atrial channel, triggering false AT/AF.

Note: R-R interval is regular, therefore this is not AF.

Intracardiac electrogram (EGM) demonstrating sensing of the R-wave on the atrial lead, resulting in false detection of atrial tachycardia (AT)/atrial fibrillation (AF). AR = atrial refractory event.

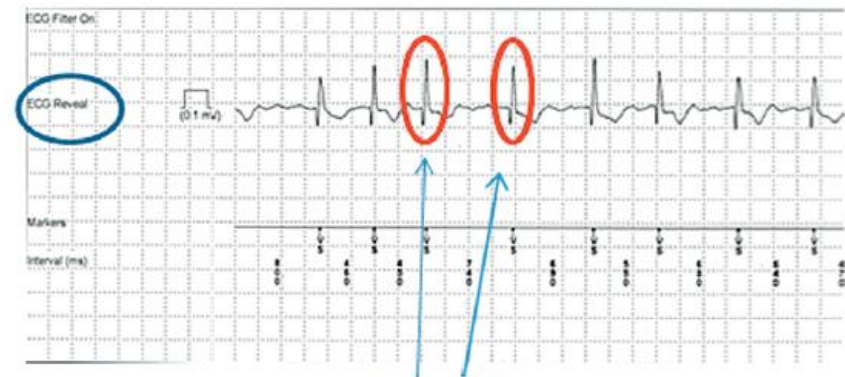
# Implantable Cardiac Monitor Strips Exemplifying True and False AT/AF

False AT/AF



False AT/AF triggered  
 due to PVC

True AT/AF



Note: irregular  
 R-R intervals.

Examples of true and false detection of atrial tachycardia (AT)/atrial fibrillation (AF) by implantable cardiac monitors. False AT/AF detection due to irregular R-R intervals in a patient with frequent premature ventricular contractions (PVC).

*The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE*

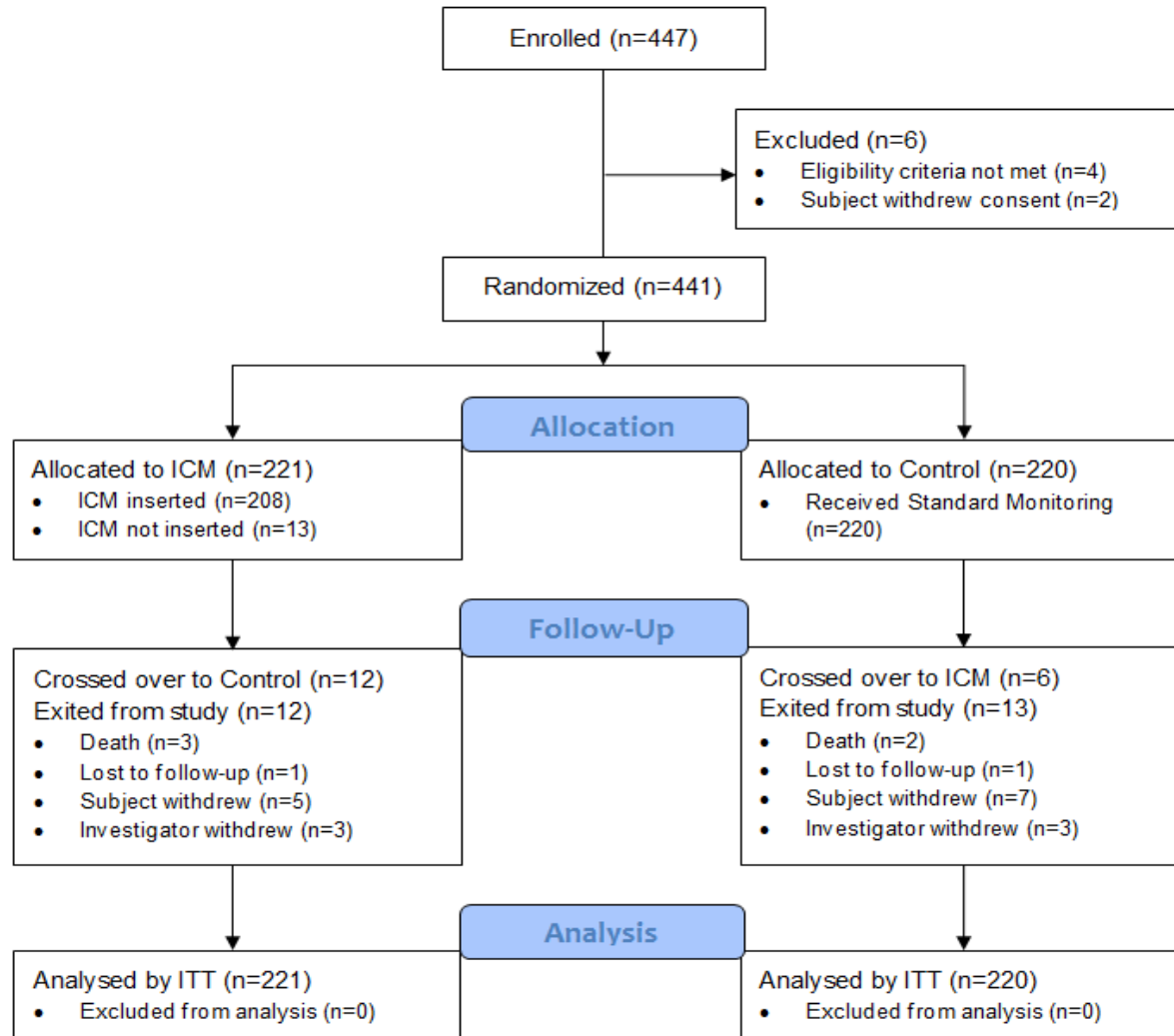
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Cryptogenic Stroke and Underlying Atrial Fibrillation

Tommaso Sanna, M.D., Hans-Christoph Diener, M.D., Ph.D.,  
Rod S. Passman, M.D., M.S.C.E., Vincenzo Di Lazzaro, M.D.,  
Richard A. Bernstein, M.D., Ph.D., Carlos A. Morillo, M.D.,  
Marilyn Mollman Rymer, M.D., Vincent Thijs, M.D., Ph.D.,  
Tyson Rogers, M.S., Frank Beckers, Ph.D., Kate Lindborg, Ph.D.,  
and Johannes Brachmann, M.D., for the CRYSTAL AF Investigators\*

T. Sanna, ... J. Brachmann *N Engl J Med*;370:2478-86, 2014.

# Patient Flow in der CRYSTAL-AF Studie

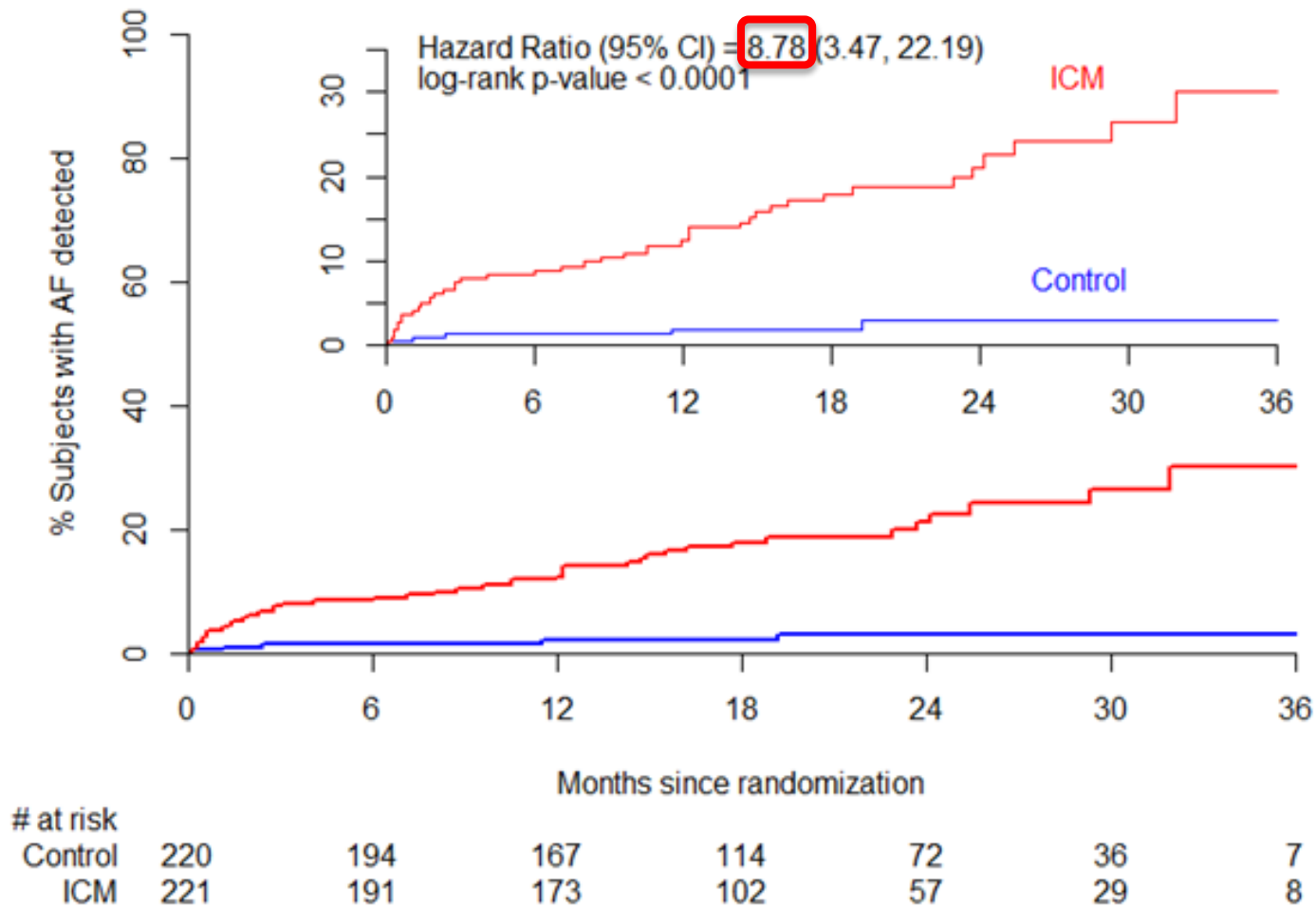


## Methods

AF defined as an episode of irregular heart rhythm, without detectable p waves, greater than 30 seconds

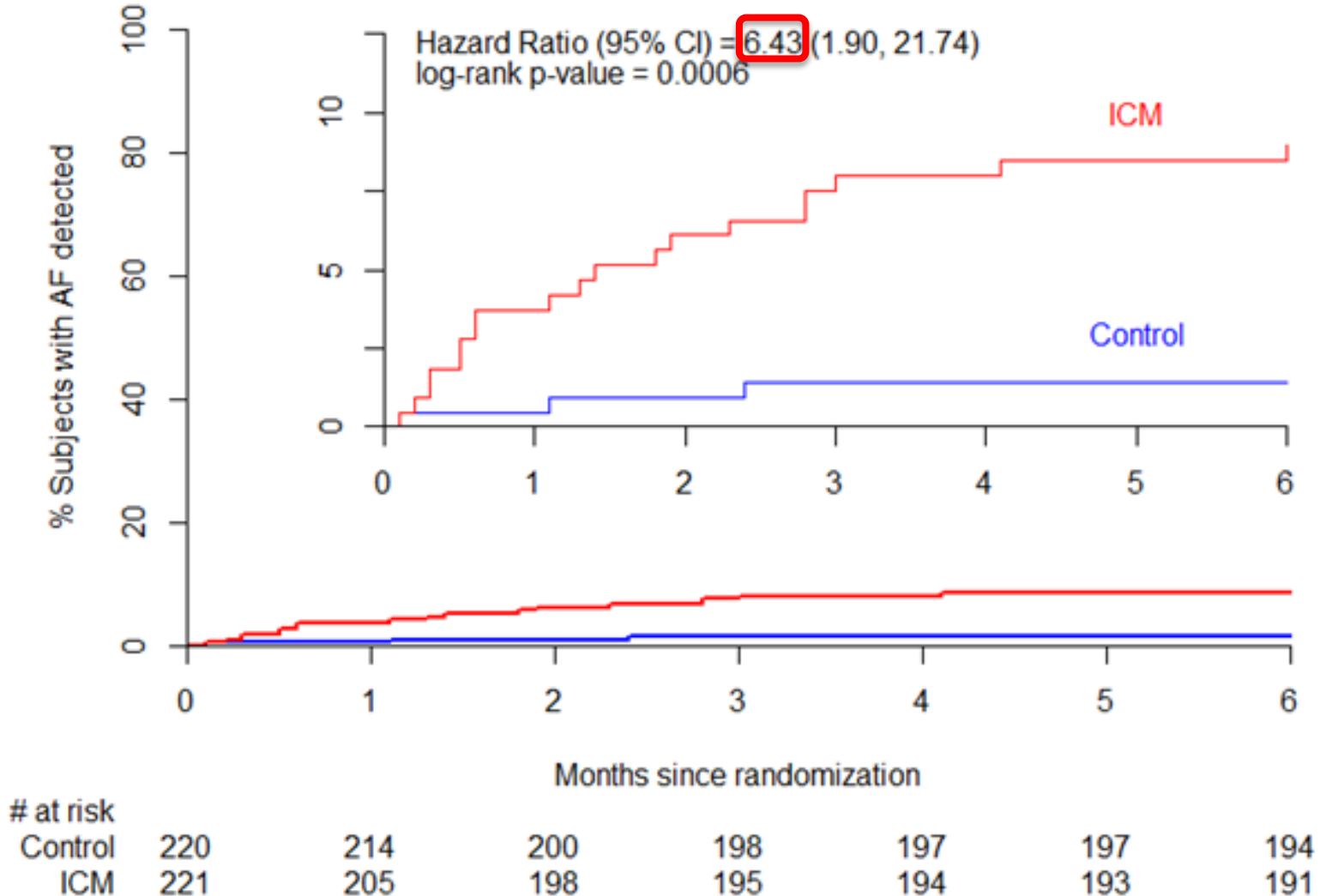
AF episodes were identified by patient's physician and adjudicated by an independent committee

# Detektion von Vorhofflimmern nach kryptogenem Schlaganfall mittels implantierbarem Ereignisrekorder



T. Sanna...J.Brachmann; N Engl J Med;370:2478-86, 2014

# Primary Endpoint CRYSTAL-AF Study: Detection of AF at 6 months

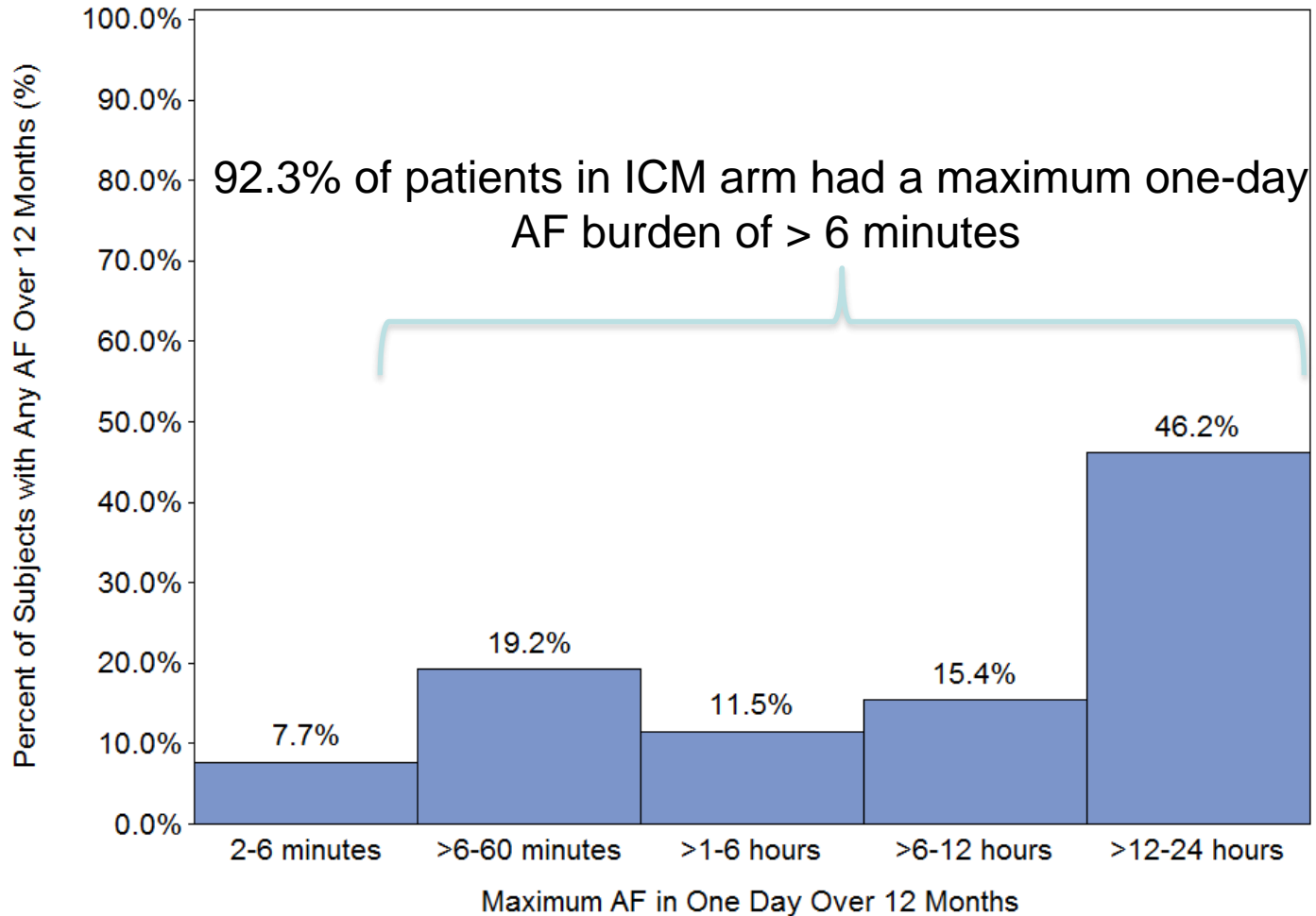


Sanna, ..Brachmann et al NEJM 2014

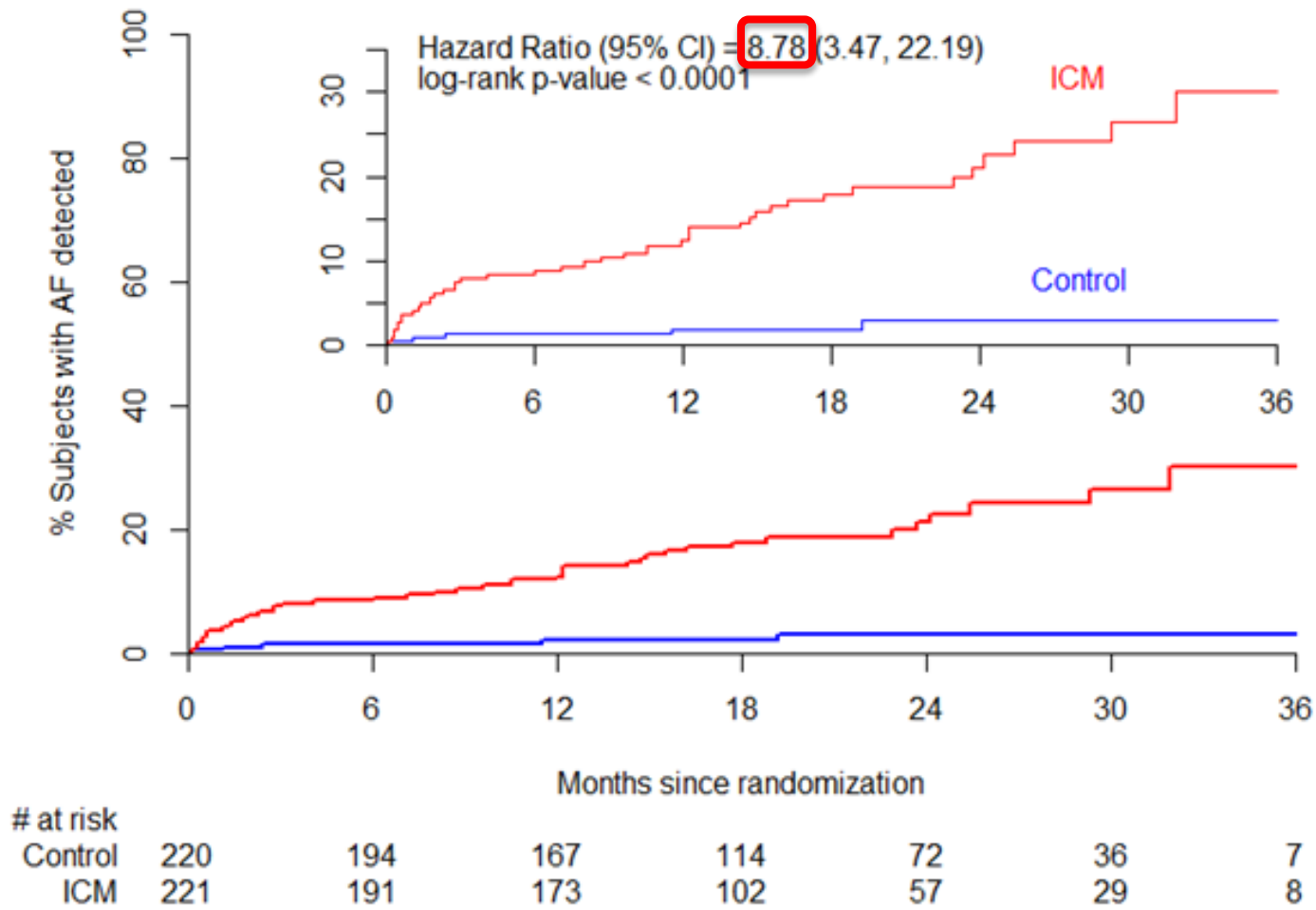
Rate of detection in ICM arm was 8.9% vs 1.4% in control arm



# Atrial Fibrillation Duration in ICM Arm at 12 months (N=29)

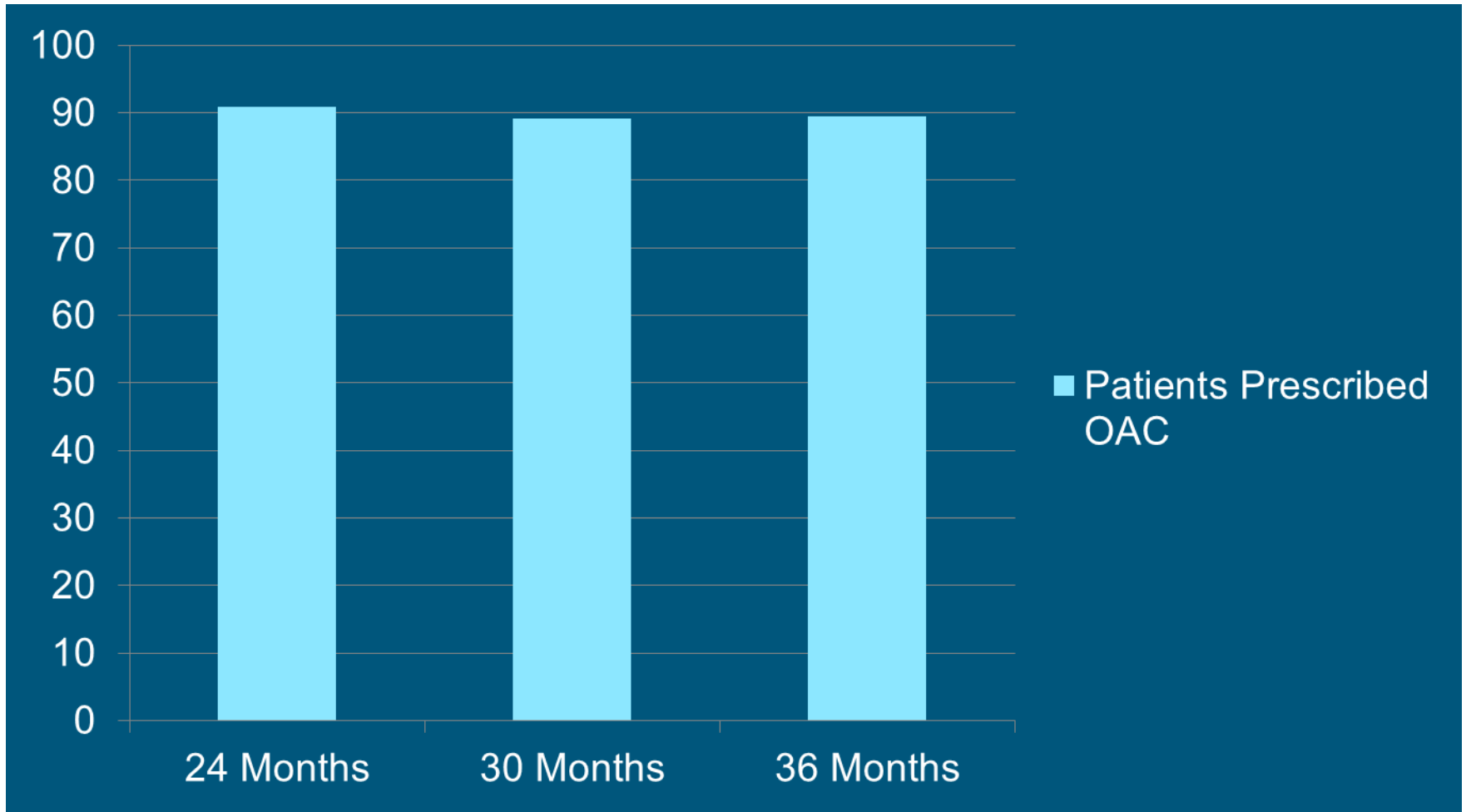


# Detektion von AF nach 3 Jahren



# Clinical Decisions

## OAC Usage in AF Patients: Both Arms



Approximately 90% of patients with AF were prescribed OAC

Brachmann et al Circ AE 2016

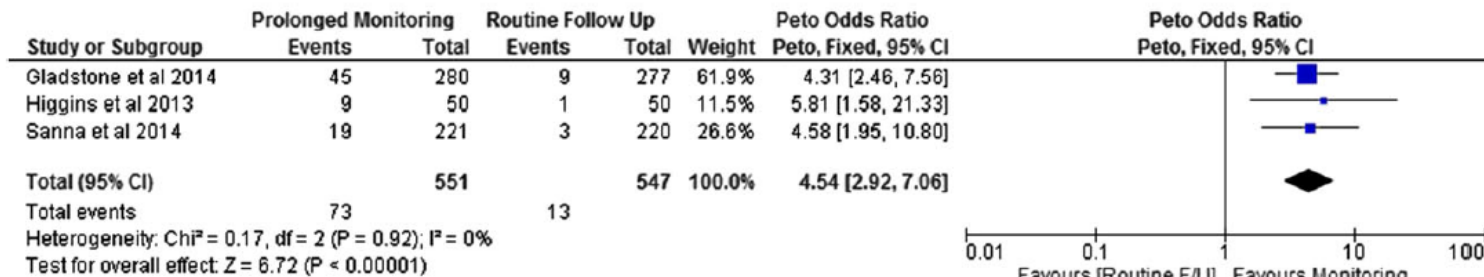
# Metaanalysis of Outpatient Monitoring in Patients with Cryptogenic Stroke

Table III.

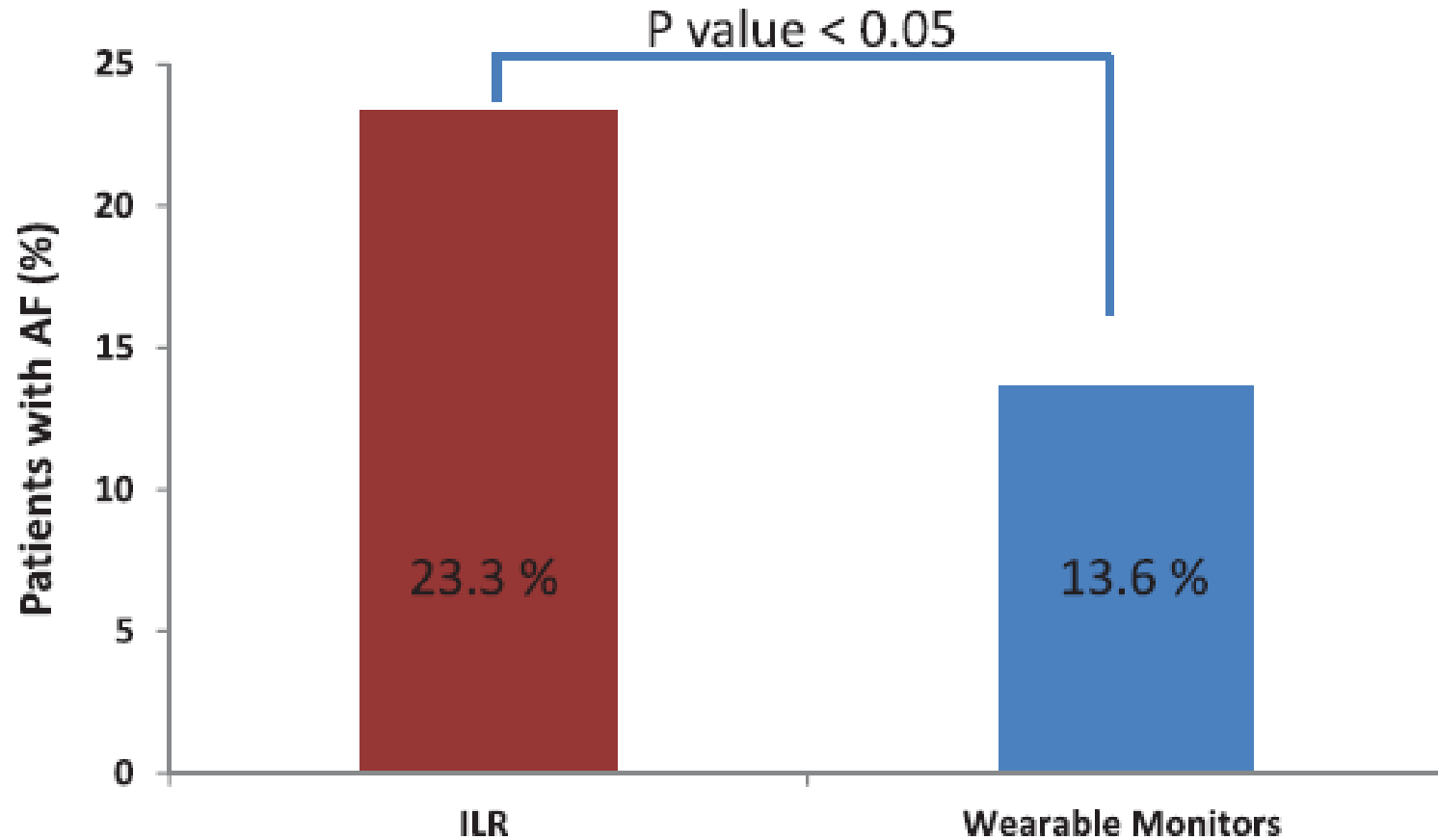
Quality Assessment Scale for the Randomized Controlled Trials Included in the Meta-analysis

	Selection		Performance		Detection	Attrition	
	Was Allocation Adequate?*	Was an Adequate Method of Randomization Described?	Were Groups Similar at the Start of the Study?	Were the Patients/ Caregivers Blinded to the Intervention?	Was the Outcome Ascertained Blindly?	What Percent was Lost to Follow-Up?	Were All Patients Analyzed in the Group to Which They Assigned?
Gladstone et al. 2014	Y	Y	Y	N	N	2.27%	Y
Higgins et al. 2013	Y	N	Y	N	N	0	Y
Sanna et al. 2014	Y	Y	Y	N	N	0.45%	Y

\*"Adequate" means the use of central site, numeric code, opaque envelopes, and other appropriate procedures as described by Juni et al.



# Detection of AF by ILR compared to Wearable Monitors in Patients with Cryptogenic Stroke



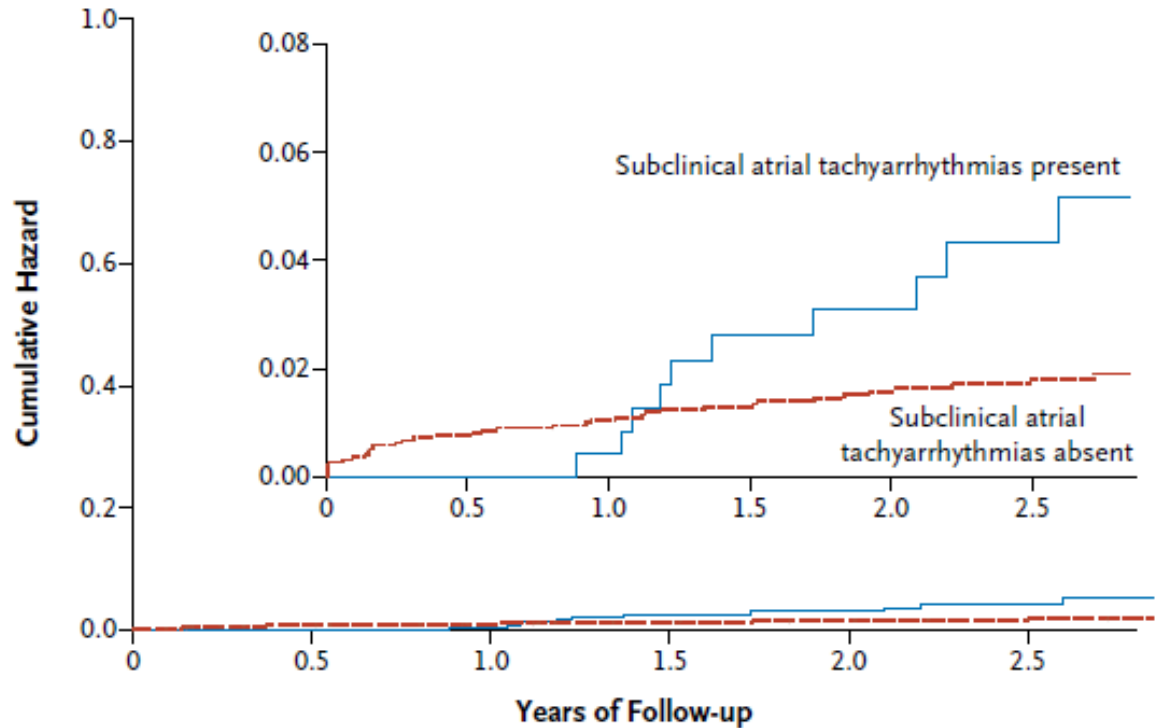
## Comparison of Risk Factors between Patients with or without AF during Prolonged Monitoring

Risk Factor	Mean $\pm$ SD		P Value
	Patients with AF	Patients Without AF	
Age (years)	67.5 $\pm$ 4 (106)	59.5 $\pm$ 6 (580)	0.01
Hypertension (%)	63.7 $\pm$ 11 (132)	60.9 $\pm$ 19.6 (653)	0.72
Diabetes mellitus (%)	17.3 $\pm$ 11.8 (127)	15.3 $\pm$ 11 (576)	0.72

# ASSERT-Studie

## Significance of Asymptomatic Episodes of AF

**B Risk of Ischemic Stroke or Systemic Embolism**



**No. at Risk**

Subclinical atrial tachyarrhythmias present	261	249	238	218	178	122
Subclinical atrial tachyarrhythmias absent	2319	2145	2070	1922	1556	1197





European Heart Journal (2014) 35, 508–516  
doi:10.1093/eurheartj/eh491

**CLINICAL RESEARCH**

*Atrial fibrillation*

## Device-detected atrial fibrillation and risk for stroke: an analysis of >10 000 patients from the SOS AF project (Stroke preventiOn Strategies based on Atrial Fibrillation information from implanted devices)

**Giuseppe Boriani<sup>1\*</sup>, Taya V. Glotzer<sup>2</sup>, Massimo Santini<sup>3</sup>, Teena M. West<sup>4</sup>,  
Mirko De Melis<sup>4</sup>, Milan Sepsi<sup>5</sup>, Maurizio Gasparini<sup>6</sup>, Thorsten Lewalter<sup>7</sup>,  
John A. Camm<sup>8</sup>, and Daniel E. Singer<sup>9</sup>**

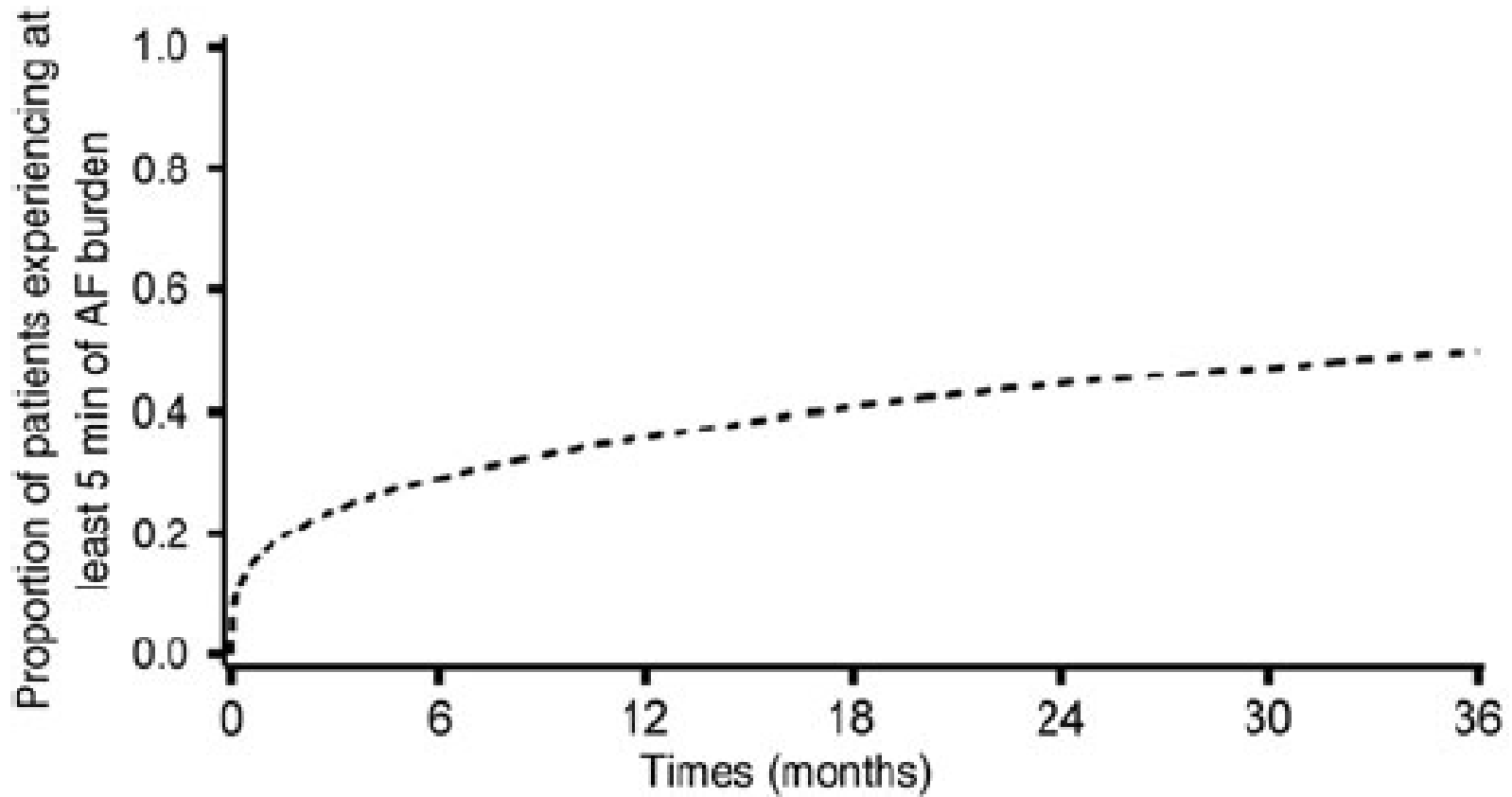
<sup>1</sup>Department of Experimental, Diagnostic and Specialty Medicine, Institute of Cardiology, University of Bologna, S.Orsola-Malpighi University Hospital, Via Massarenti 9, Bologna 40138, Italy; <sup>2</sup>Hackensack University Medical Center, Hackensack, NJ, USA; <sup>3</sup>Cardiology Department, San Filippo Neri Hospital, Rome, Italy; <sup>4</sup>Medtronic Bakken Research Center, Maastricht, The Netherlands; <sup>5</sup>Department of Internal Medicine – Cardiology, University Hospital Brno, Brno, Czech Republic; <sup>6</sup>Department of Cardiology, Humanitas Clinical and Research Center, Rozzano-Milano, Italy; <sup>7</sup>Isar Heart Center Munich, Munich, Germany; <sup>8</sup>Cardiac and Vascular Sciences, St George's Hospital Medical School, London, UK; and <sup>9</sup>General Medicine Division, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA

Received 22 March 2013; revised 26 September 2013; accepted 7 November 2013; online publish-ahead-of-print 11 December 2013

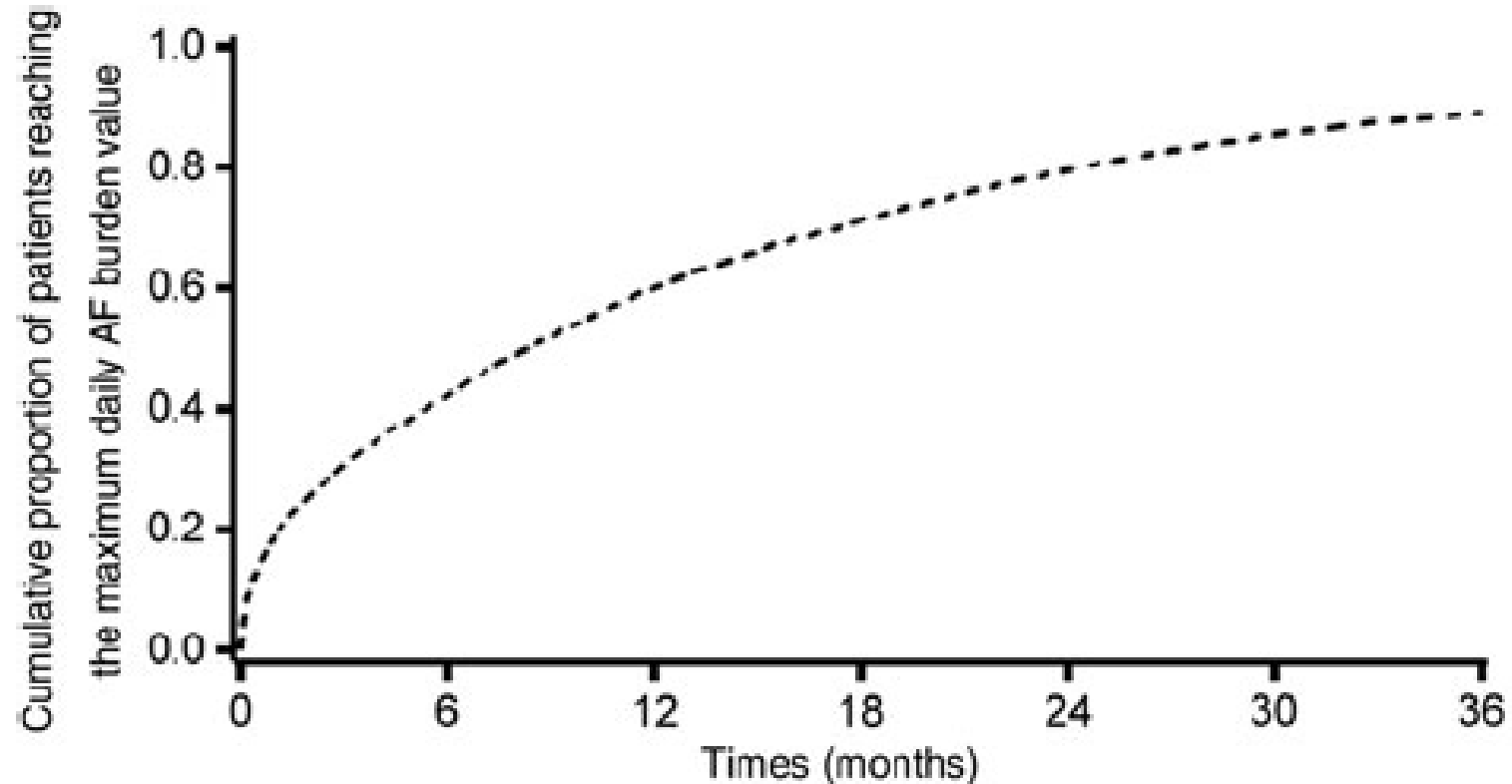
# Baseline characteristics by study

	Total (n = 10 016)	PANORAMA (n = 3556)	TRENDS (n = 2553)	ClinicalService (n = 3907)
Age, median years (IQR)	70 (61, 76)	69 (60, 76)	73 (64, 79)	68 (60, 74)
Male, n (%)	6859 (69)	2096 (59)	1694 (66)	3069 (79)
Diabetes mellitus, n (%)	2537 (25)	896 (25)	817 (32)	824 (21)
Hypertension, n (%)	5896 (59)	2116 (60)	1940 (76)	1840 (47)
Atrial fibrillation, n (%)				
Paroxysmal	1923 (19)	784 (22)	678 (27)	461 (12)
Persistent	478 (5)	91 (3)	48 (2)	339 (9)
Oral anticoagulation, n (%)	1822 (18)	631 (18)	526 (21)	665 (17)
CHADS <sub>2</sub> group, n (%)				
CHADS <sub>2</sub> 0–1	4133 (41)	1684 (47)	722 (28)	1727 (44)
CHADS <sub>2</sub> 2–6	5883 (59)	1872 (53)	1831 (72)	2180 (56)
Prior stroke, n (%)	589 (6)	89 (3)	345 (14)	155 (4)
Device type				
PM	4277 (43)	2726 (77)	1238 (49)	313 (8)
ICD	2004 (20)	404 (11)	822 (32)	778 (20)
CRT	3735 (37)	426 (12)	493 (19)	2816 (72)

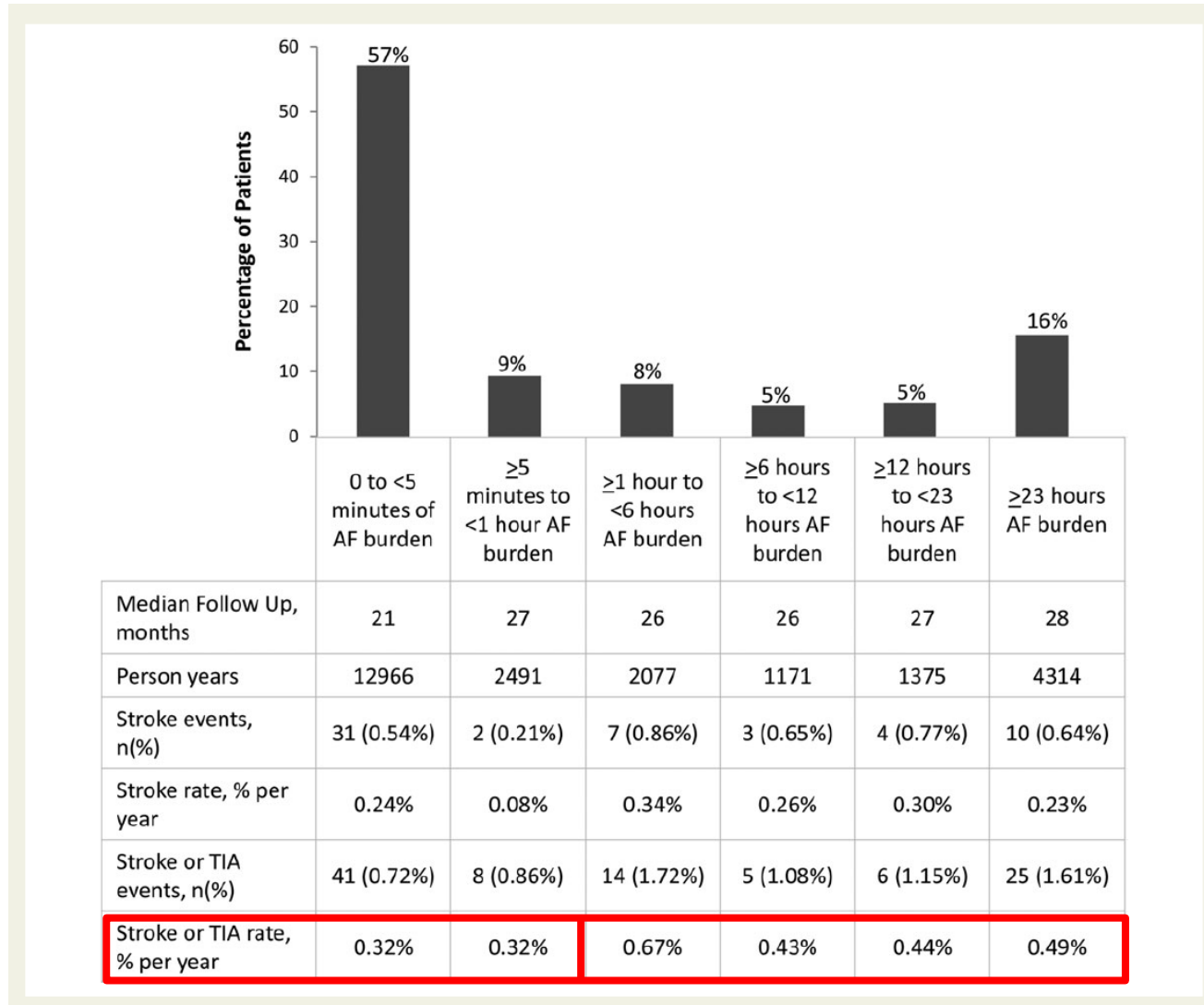
# Zeitabhängige Detektion von Vorhofflimmern mit einer Dauer von mindestens 5 Minuten



# Kumulativer zeitabhängiger Anteil von Patienten mit Detektion von mindestens 1 Stunde Vorhofflimmern



# Verteilung der Patienten nach Dauer der Vorhofflimmerlast und cerebrales Ischämierisiko



## Patienten ohne OAK am Studienbeginn adjustiert für den CHADS<sub>2</sub> score

	Total	Events	HR for AF burden $\geq 1$ h vs. <1 h (95% CI)	P-value
Stroke	8122	44	2.09 (1.10, 3.96)	0.0239
Stroke + TIA	8122	69	2.05 (1.24, 3.39)	0.0051
Adjusting for CHADS <sub>2</sub> score				
Stroke	8122	44	1.90 (1.00, 3.61)	0.0487
Stroke + TIA	8122	69	1.89 (1.14, 3.12)	0.0135

# CHADS<sub>2</sub> and Associated Stroke Risk in the NRAF and ASSERT Trials

	NRAF			ASSERT		
	n = 1,733	Number of CVAs (94)	Adjusted Stroke Risk	n = 259	Number of CVAs (11)	Adjusted Stroke Risk
CHADS <sub>2</sub> = 0	120	2	1.9 (1.2-3.0)	—	—	—
CHADS <sub>2</sub> = 1	463	17	2.8 (2-3.8)	68	1	2.11 (0.23-18.9)
CHADS <sub>2</sub> = 2	523	23	4.0 (3.1-5.1)	119	4	1.83 (0.62-5.4)

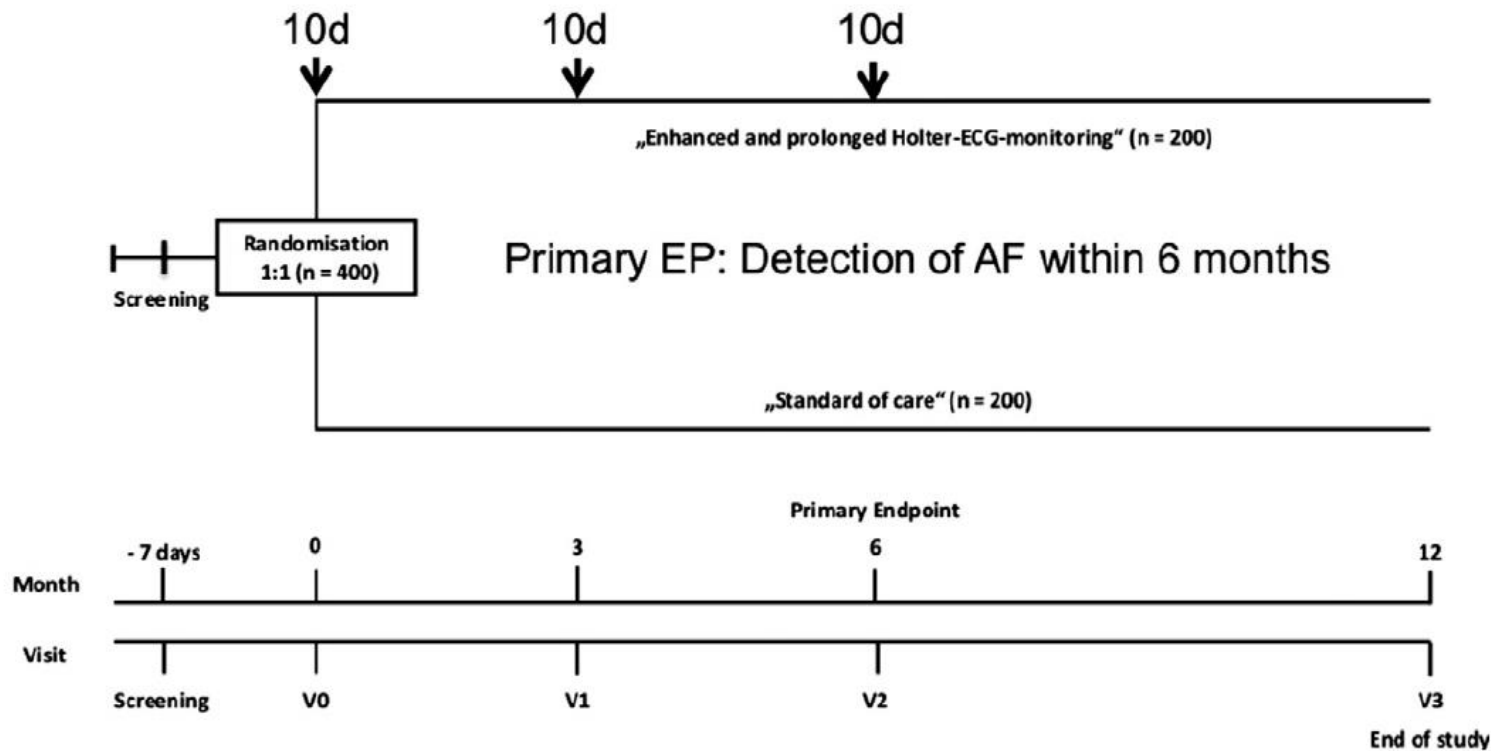


# Comparison of Patient Characteristics Between NRAF and ASSERT Trials

	<b>NRAF (N = 1,733)</b>	<b>ASSERT (N = 261 [With Subclinical AT])</b>	<b>Comparison of Proportions (p Value)</b>
Age, yrs	81	77 ± 7	
CHF	56%	14.9%	<0.0001
HTN	56%	—	
Male	42%	56.3%	<0.0001
Female	58%	43.7%	<0.0001
DM	23%	22.6%	0.9487
Prior CVA or TIA	25%	11.9%	<0.0001
ASA therapy	31%	61.3%	<0.0001
Mean CHADS <sub>2</sub> score	2.1 (without aspirin) 2.3 (with aspirin)	2.2 ± 1.1	0.1711

# Early detection of occult atrial fibrillation and stroke prevention

## Find-AF Study



Study design flowchart.

## Inclusion criteria

---

1. Recent cerebral ischemia defined as stroke (sudden focal neurologic deficit lasting  $>24$  h consistent with the territory of a major cerebral artery and categorized as ischemic) *and/or* a corresponding lesion on brain imaging
2. Stroke symptoms started  $\leq 7$  d ago
3. Age  $\geq 60$  y
4. mRS  $\leq 2$  (prior to index event)

## Exclusion criteria

---

1. History of AF/flutter or documented AF/flutter prior to randomization
  2. Indication for oral anticoagulation at randomization
  3. Absolute contraindication for oral anticoagulation at randomization
  4. Intracerebral bleeding in medical history
  5. Patient scheduled for Holter ECG or cardiac event-recording monitoring  $\geq 48$  h
  6. Carotid artery stenosis of  $>50\%$  (NASCET) needing revascularization and ipsilateral to ischemic territory
  7. Implanted pacemaker device or cardioverter/defibrillator
  8. Life expectancy  $< 1$  y for reasons other than stroke (eg, metastatic cancer disease)
  9. Concomitant participation in another randomized controlled trial
-

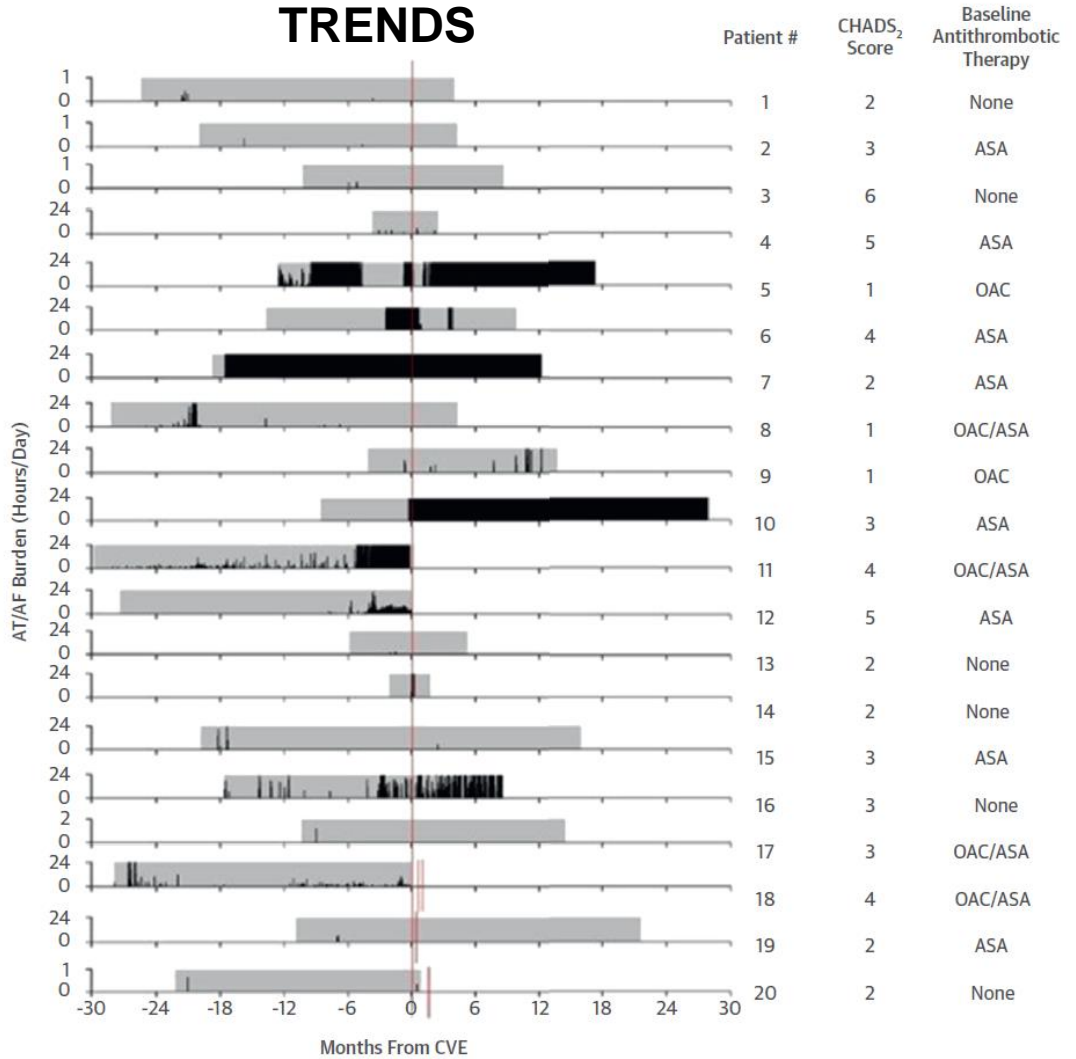
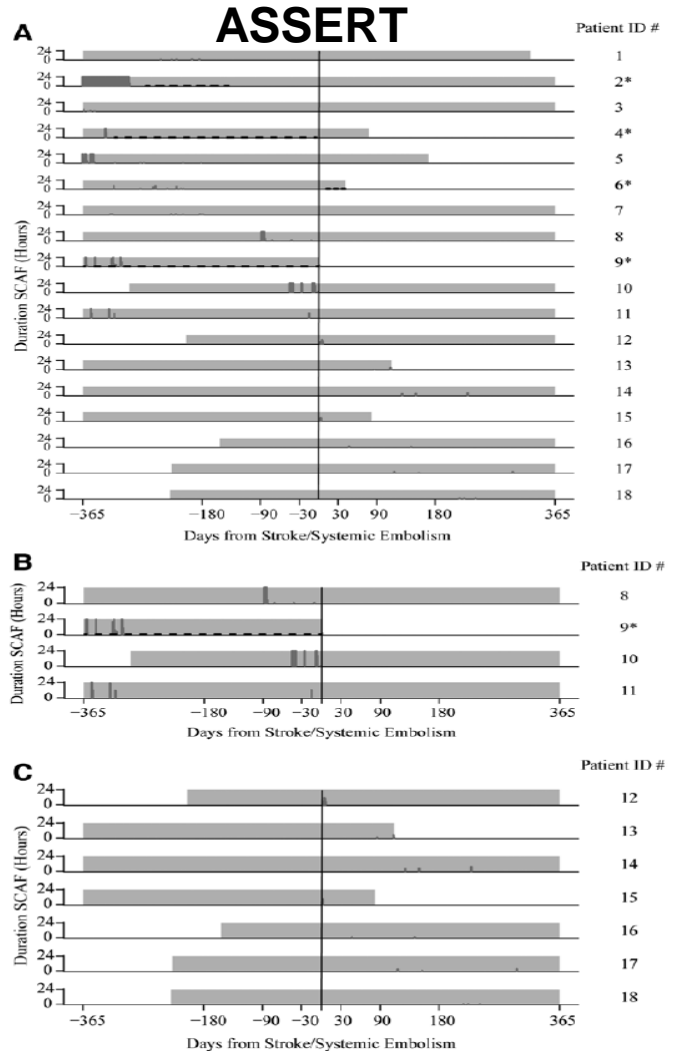
# Summary of ongoing trials investigating the safety/efficacy of OAC treatment of occult AF

	Population	Intervention	Primary outcomes	Impact on current understanding
ARTESiA	CHA2DS2-VASc $\geq 4$ with at least a single AHRE $\geq 175$ bpm lasting $\geq 6$ min detected by ILR or intracardiac device <i>No history or ECG evidence of clinical AF</i>	Randomised to either aspirin 81 mg daily (control) or apixaban 5 mg twice daily (intervention)	Incidence of stroke and major bleeding events	Will be the first trial directly investigating the risk/benefit of OAC treatment in the device-detected AHRE population.
STROKESTOP	All persons aged 75 years and 76 years in two Swedish provinces <i>No history of AF</i>	Twice-daily ECG screening+OAC treatment if AF detected (single episode duration $>30$ s, or 2 or more episodes $>10$ s)	Incidence of stroke and major bleeding events	Will be the first trial investigating population-based screening for occult AF and the effect on stroke prevention

	Population	Intervention	Primary outcomes	Impact on current understanding
REVEAL-AF	CHADS2 $\geq 3$ , or $\geq 2$ +CAD, CKD, OSA or COPD <i>No history of AF</i>	Insertion of ILR	AF episode $>6$ min, thromboembolism	Will further understanding of risk factors for occult AF, ILR for detection of AF $>6$ min, temporal relationship between AF episode and stroke
ASSERT-II	Age $\geq 65$ +CHA2DS2-VASc $\geq 2$ +LA enlargement or elevated p-BNP <i>No history of AF</i>	Insertion of ILR	AF episode $>5$ min, thromboembolism	Will further understanding of risk factors for occult AF, ILR for detection of AF $>5$ min, temporal relationship between AF episode and stroke

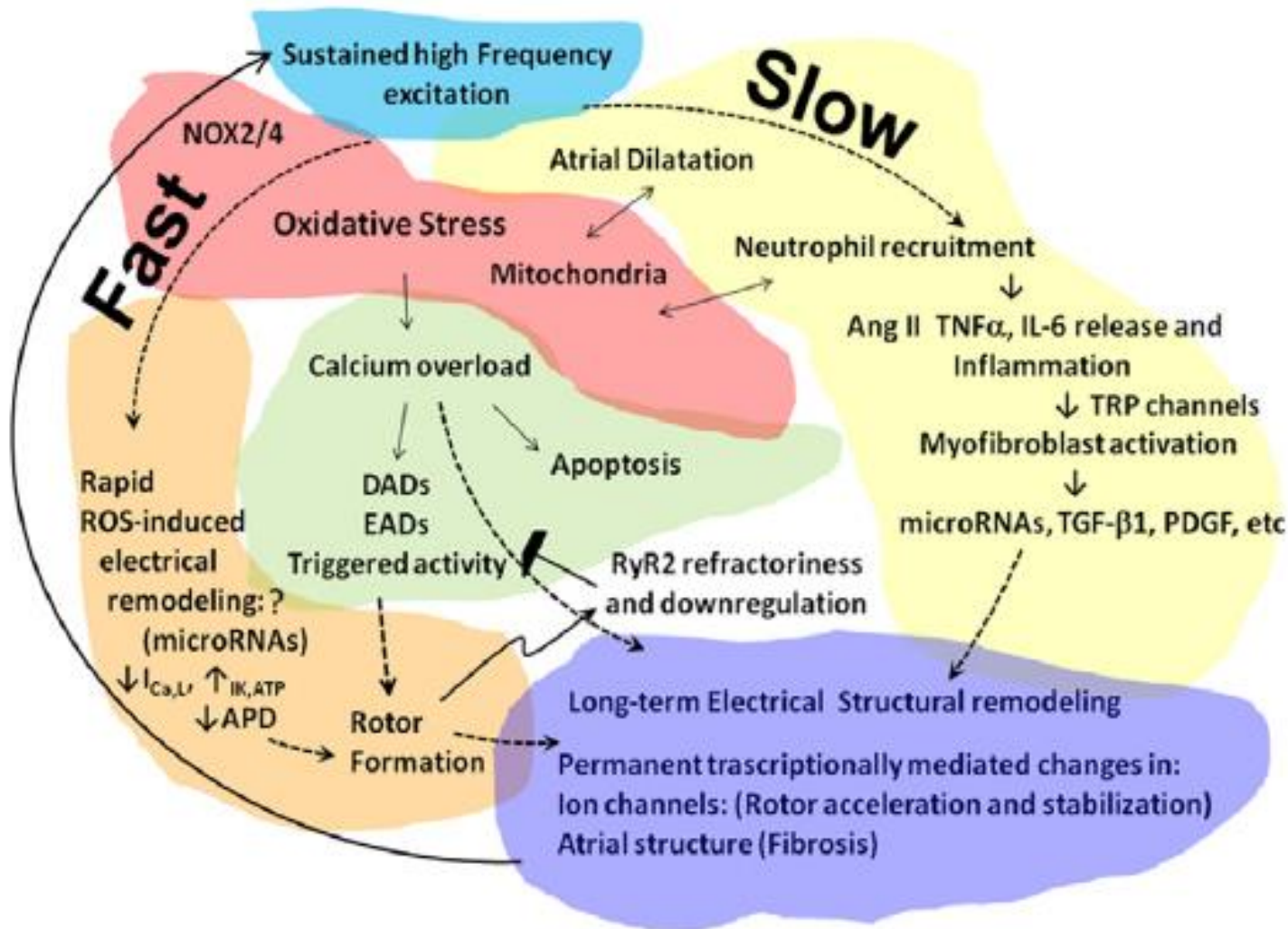
	Population	Intervention	Primary outcomes	Impact on current understanding
REACT COM	CHADS2 of 1 or 2, recently implanted Medtronic REVEAL XT loop recorder No permanent AF or recent AF episode lasting $>1$ h	Rapid initiation of 30 days of NOAC therapy following a remotely detected episode of AF	OAC utilisation, incidence of stroke, death and major bleeding events	Will demonstrate safety/efficacy of treating paroxysmal or persistent AF with NOAC only during times temporally related to AF episodes (other studies have demonstrated a weak temporal relationship between episodes of AF and stroke)
TACTIC-AF	History of paroxysmal or persistent AF currently taking NOAC+intracardiac device (St Jude) No permanent AF	Withdrawal/reinitiation of NOAC based on remote-monitoring of atrial activity (AT/AF)	Incidence of stroke, death, cardiovascular complications	Will demonstrate the safety of OAC cessation in patients with low AF burden, temporal relationship between stroke and AF, effect of weekly remote device interrogation

# AT/AF Burden Per Day Relative to Onset of Strokes/TIA/SE From the ASSERT and TRENDS Studies



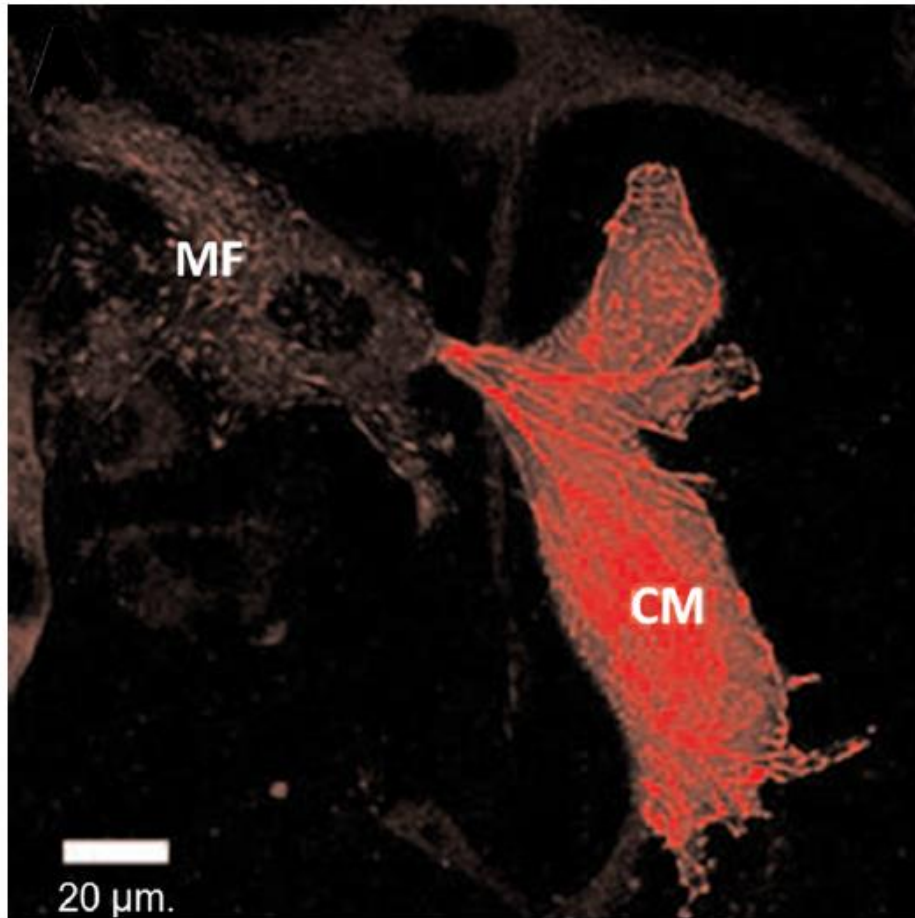
Chen-Scarabelli et al; J Am Coll Cardiol;65:281-94,2015

# AF-Induced Remodeling





# Myofibroblasts Induce Structural Remodeling of Cardiomyocytes

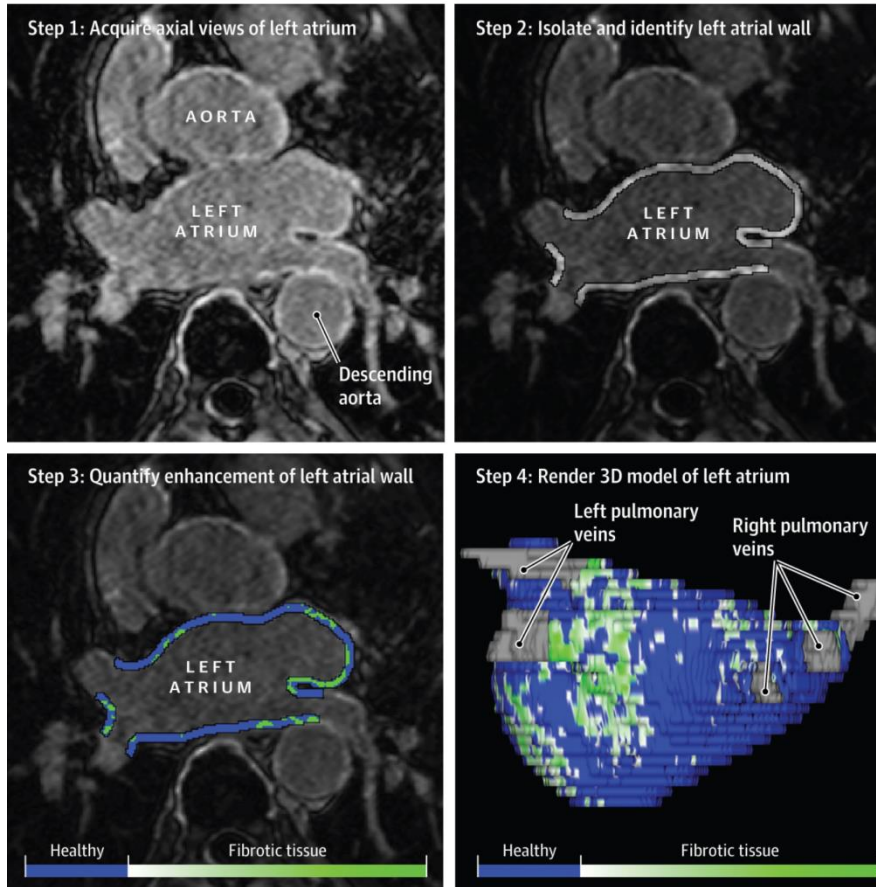


Protein organization at the myofibroblast (MF)-cardiomyocyte (CM) resulting in vinculin reorganization parallel to the direction of the strain induced by the MF

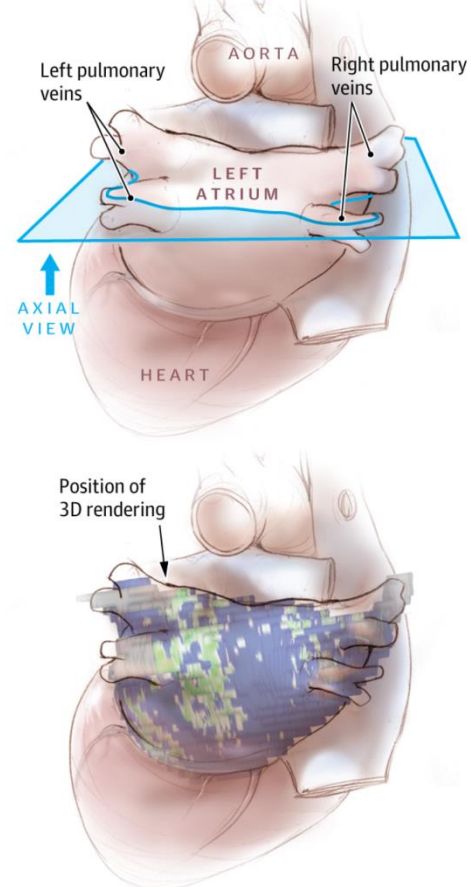
Jalife et al; Trends in Cardiovascular Medicine; 2015

# Detektion von linksatrialer Fibrose mittels Gadolinium DE-MRT

**A** Delayed enhancement magnetic resonance imaging analysis

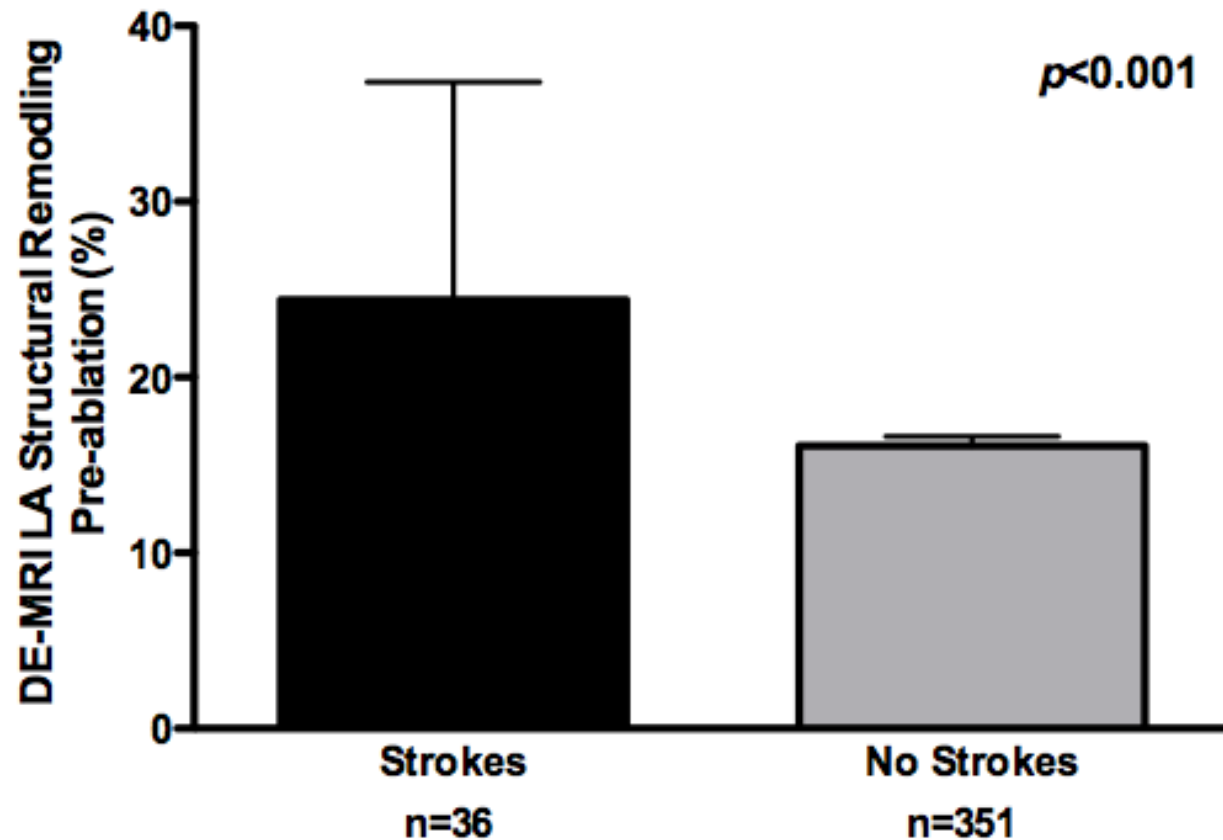


**B** Schematic posterior view of left atrium





# Left Atrial Struktural Remodeling (Fibrosis) by DE-MRT and Risk of Stroke in Patients with AF



Univ of Utah and  
Klinikum Coburg

Dacarrett M et al JACC 2011

Screening für Vorhofflimmern in Devices erbringt eine signifikante Detektionsrate von Vorhofflimmern. In den aktuellen Leitlinien wird eine Dauer von mindestens 30 s gefordert.

Detektion von Vorhofflimmern ist mit einem erhöhten Risiko für Schlaganfälle/TIA verbunden, das von der Dauer des Vorhofflimmerns, aber auch dem zugrundeliegenden Risikoprofil beeinflusst wird.

Retrospektive Analysen zeigen einen deutlichen Anstieg des Schlaganfallrisikos nach Detektion von mindestens 1 h Vorhofflimmern.

Nach kryptogenem Schlaganfall haben Patienten nach 3 Jahren eine Vorhofflimmerinzidenz von 30%, von denen 90% über 6 Minuten und 65% über 6 Stunden lag. Bei Nachweis von Vorhofflimmern wurde zu 90% mit einer oralen Antikoagulation begonnen.

Bisher konnte kein zuverlässiger Nachweis einer Korrelation zwischen dem Auftreten von Vorhofflimmern und dem konsekutiven zeitnahen Eintreten eines thrombembolischen Ereignisses nachgewiesen werden.

In der Praxis wird die Entscheidung zur oralen Antikoagulation nicht nur von der Dauer, sondern auch von dem Risikoprofil im CHADS-Vasc Score abhängen, vor allem vom Alter und der Anamnese eines Schlaganfalls.

Laufende prospektive Studien werden die Indikationsstellung zur OAK bei Vorhofflimmern präzisieren.