

# ***ABLAZIONI E CHIUSURA AURICOLA***

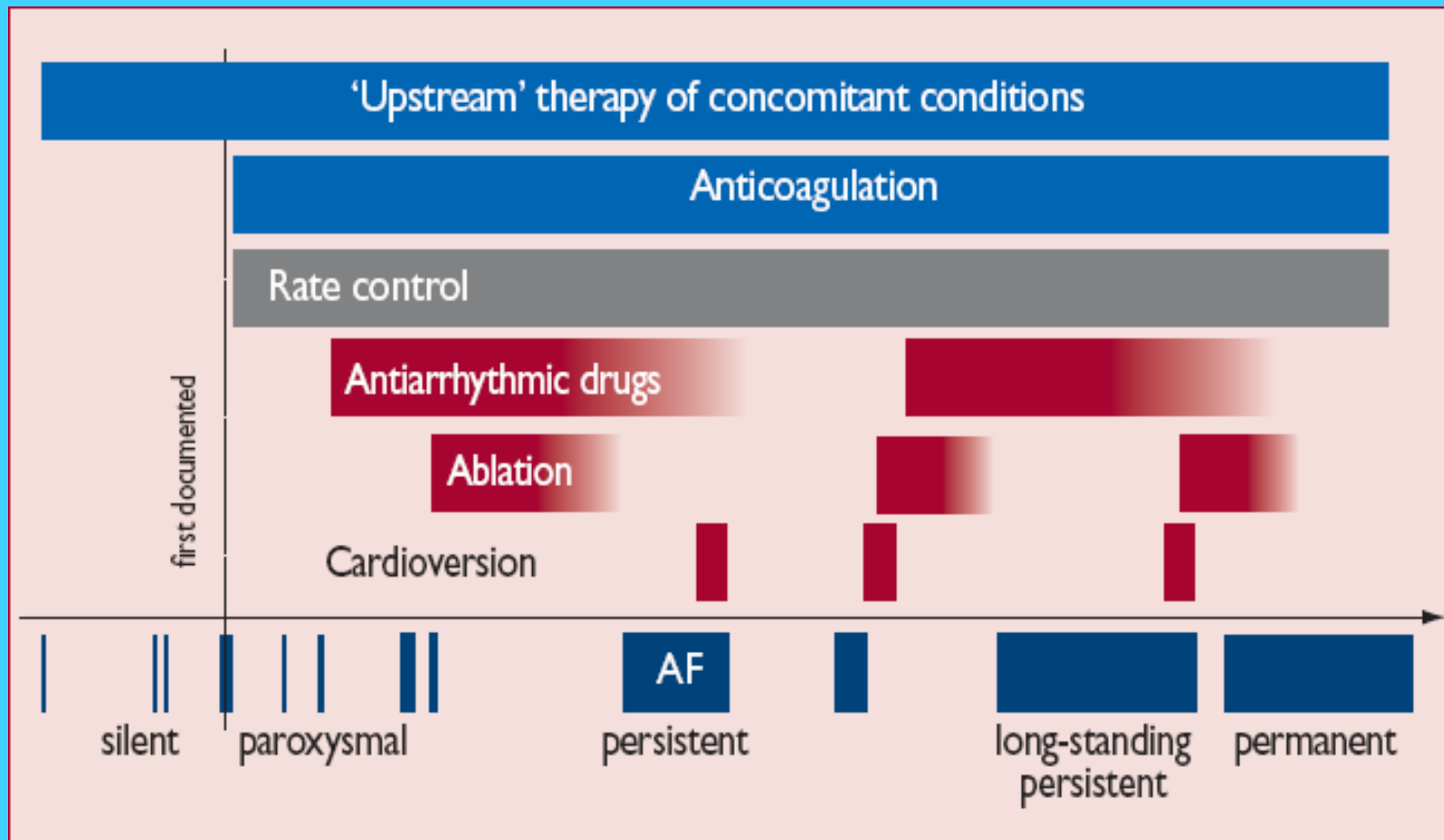
Gaetano Senatore

CARDIOLOGIA  
CIRIE'

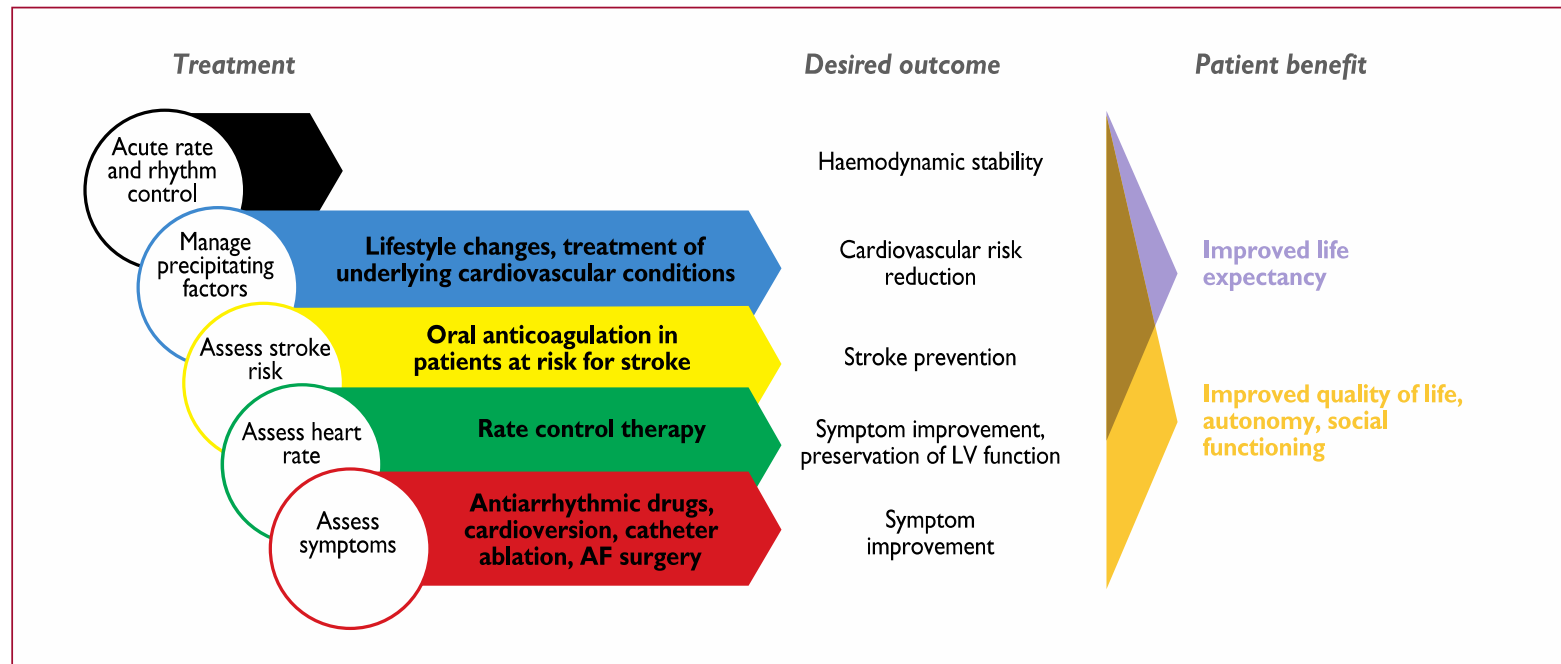
CIRIE' CARDIOLOGY



ASL 6 Ospedale di Cirié



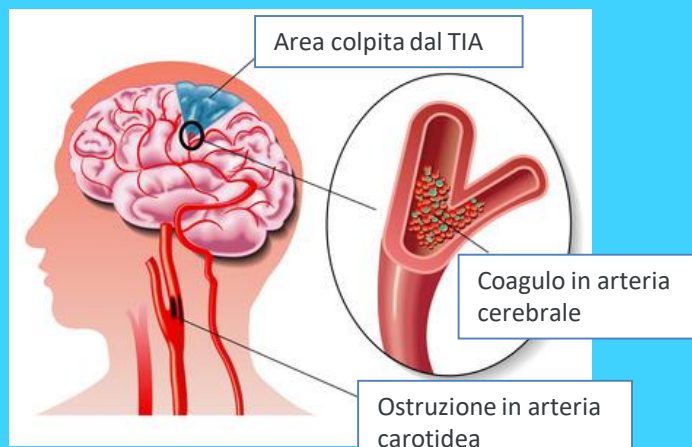
# 2016 ESC Guidelines for the management of atrial fibrillation developed in collaboration with EACTS



AF = atrial fibrillation; LV = left ventricular.

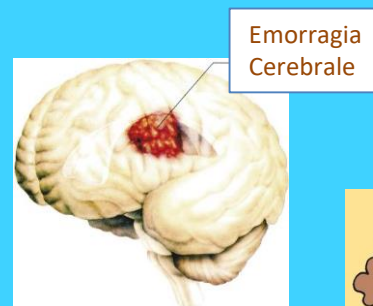
**Figure 5** Acute and chronic management of atrial fibrillation patients, desired cardiovascular outcomes, and patient benefits. Adapted from the report on the 4th AFNET/EHRA consensus conference.<sup>76</sup>

# Thromboembolism



CHA <sub>2</sub> DS <sub>2</sub> -VASc risk factor	Points
<b>Congestive heart failure</b> Signs/symptoms of heart failure or objective evidence of reduced left ventricular ejection fraction	+1
<b>Hypertension</b> Resting blood pressure >140/90 mmHg on at least two occasions or current antihypertensive treatment	+1
<b>Age 75 years or older</b>	+2
<b>Diabetes mellitus</b> Fasting glucose >125 mg/dL (7 mmol/L) or treatment with oral hypoglycaemic agent and/or insulin	+1
<b>Previous stroke, transient ischaemic attack, or thromboembolism</b>	+2
<b>Vascular disease</b> Previous myocardial infarction, peripheral artery disease, or aortic plaque	+1
<b>Age 65–74 years</b>	+1
<b>Sex category (female)</b>	+1

# Bleeding risk



Modifiable bleeding risk factors:	Non-modifiable bleeding risk factors:
Hypertension (especially when systolic blood pressure is >160 mmHg)	Age (>65 years) (≥75 years)
Labile INR or time in therapeutic range <60% in patients on vitamin K antagonists	History of major bleeding
Medication predisposing to bleeding, such as antiplatelet drugs and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs	Previous stroke
Excess alcohol (≥8 drinks/week)	Dialysis-dependent kidney disease or renal transplant
<b>Potentially modifiable bleeding risk factors:</b>	Cirrhotic liver disease
Anaemia	Malignancy
Impaired renal function	Genetic factors
Impaired liver function	<b>Biomarker-based bleeding risk factors:</b>
Reduced platelet count or function	High-sensitivity troponin
	Growth differentiation factor-15
	Serum creatinine/estimated CrCl

# CASE PRESENTATION

*76yrs man*

*Hypertension*

*SSS with atrial fibrillation recurrences*

*Thrombocytopenia*

*Thyroid disorder*

*PM in 2008*

*Beta-blockers*

# CASE PRESENTATION

*Thrombocytopenia*

*Contraindication for VKA*

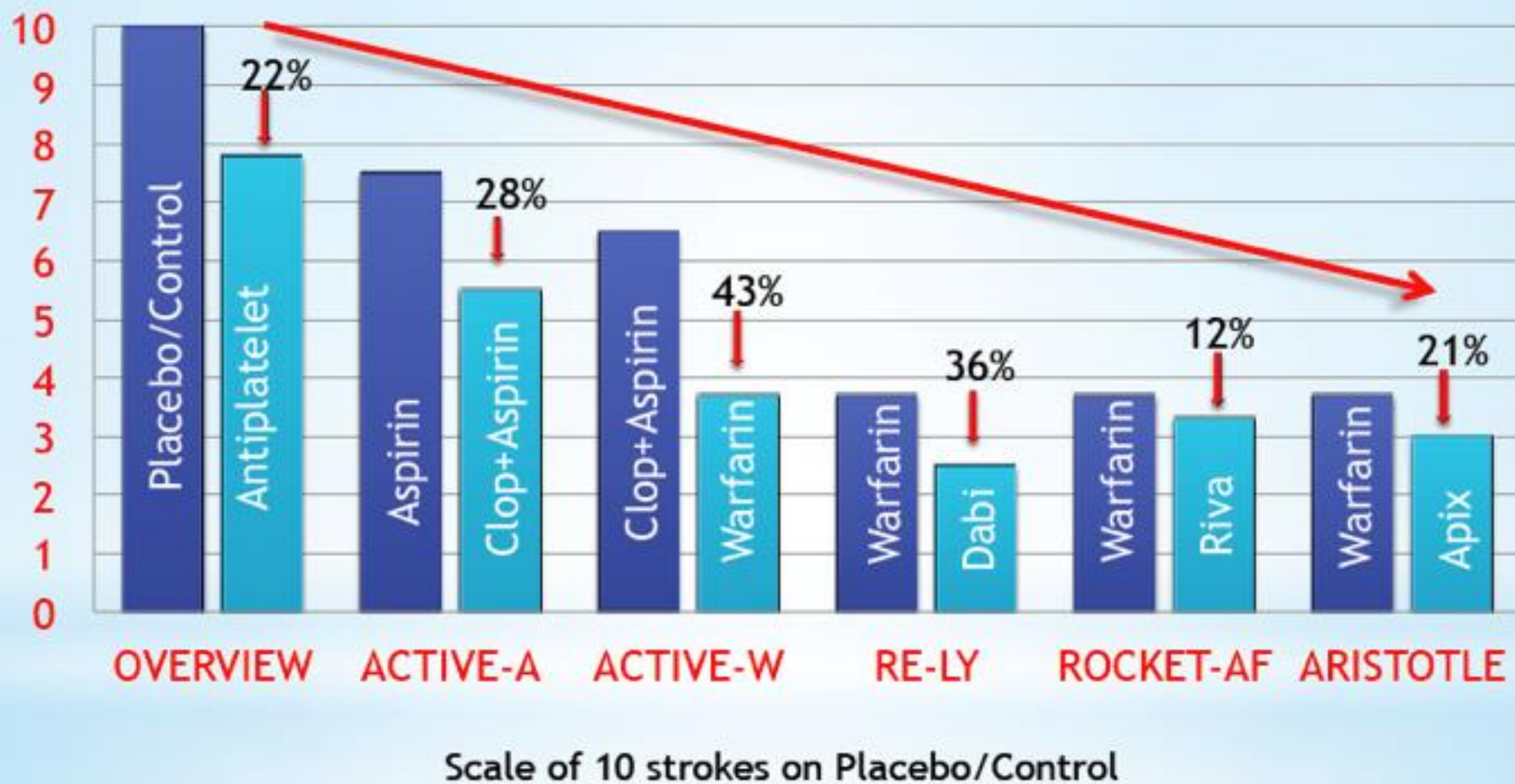
*Flecainide 100 mg/die*

# G.P.

- Paroxysmal AF
- Controindication to anticoagulation



## Evoluzione della Riduzione del rischio stroke con la terapia medica (Granger, Circ. 2012)





## Recommendations for Selecting an Anticoagulant Regimen—Balancing Risks and Benefits

Referenced studies that support new or modified recommendations are summarized in [Online Data Supplements 1 and 2](#).

COR	LOE	RECOMMENDATIONS
I	A	<p>1. For patients with AF and an elevated CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc score of 2 or greater in men or 3 or greater in women, oral anticoagulants are recommended.</p> <p>Options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Warfarin (LOE: A) (<a href="#">S4.1.1-5-S4.1.1-7</a>)</li> <li>■ Dabigatran (LOE: B) (<a href="#">S4.1.1-8</a>)</li> <li>■ Rivaroxaban (LOE: B) (<a href="#">S4.1.1-9</a>)</li> <li>■ Apixaban (LOE: B) (<a href="#">S4.1.1-10</a>), or</li> <li>■ Edoxaban (LOE: B-R) (<a href="#">S4.1.1-11</a>)</li> </ul> <p><b>MODIFIED:</b> This recommendation has been updated in response to the approval of edoxaban, a new factor Xa inhibitor. More precision in the use of CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc scores is specified in subsequent recommendations. The LOEs for warfarin, dabigatran, rivaroxaban, and apixaban have not been updated for greater granularity as per the new LOE system. (<a href="#">Section 4.1</a> in the 2014 AF Guideline) The original text can be found in <a href="#">Section 4.1</a> of the 2014 AF guideline. Additional information about the comparative effectiveness and bleeding risk of NOACs can be found in <a href="#">Section 4.2.2.2</a>.</p>
	B	
	B	
	B	
	B-R	

## 2019 AHA/ACC/HRS Focused Update of the 2014 AHA/ACC/HRS Guideline for the Management of Patients With Atrial Fibrillation

A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines and the Heart Rhythm Society

Developed in Collaboration With the Society of Thoracic Surgeons

(Continued)

I

C

10. Reevaluation of the need for and choice of anticoagulant therapy at periodic intervals is recommended to reassess stroke and bleeding risks.

**MODIFIED:** "Antithrombotic" was changed to "anticoagulant."

**2019 AHA/ACC/HRS Focused Update  
of the 2014 AHA/ACC/HRS Guideline  
for the Management of Patients With  
Atrial Fibrillation**

A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association  
Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines and the Heart Rhythm Society

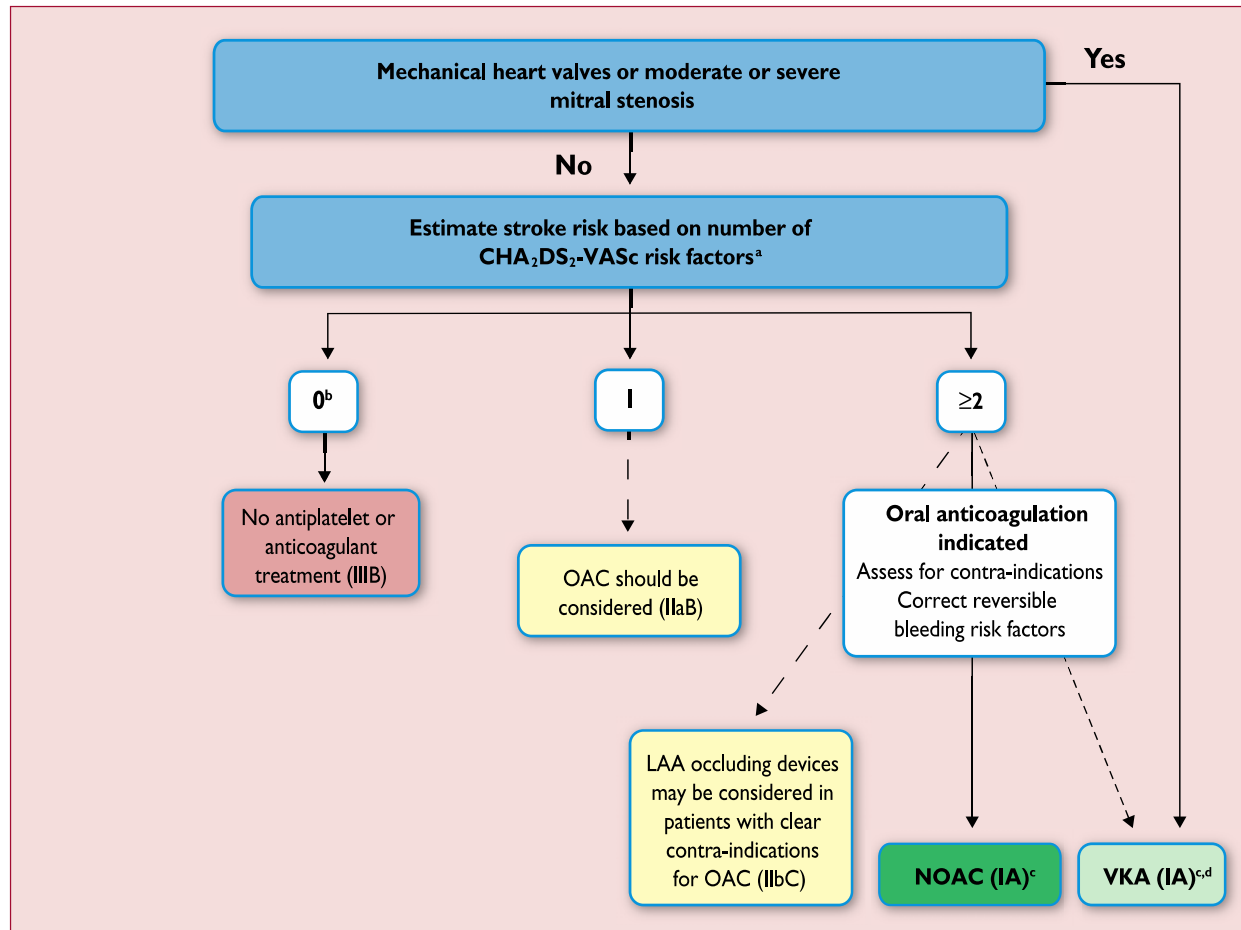
Developed in Collaboration With the Society of Thoracic Surgeons

**CIRIE' CARDIOLOGY**



ASL 6 Ospedale di Cirié

# 2016 ESC Guidelines for the management of atrial fibrillation developed in collaboration with EACTS



AF = atrial fibrillation; LAA = left atrial appendage; NOAC = non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulant; OAC = oral anticoagulation; VKA = vitamin K antagonist.

<sup>a</sup>Congestive heart failure, Hypertension, Age  $\geq 75$  years (2 points), Diabetes, prior Stroke/TIA/embolus (2 points), Vascular disease, age 65–74 years, female Sex.

<sup>b</sup>Includes women without other stroke risk factors.

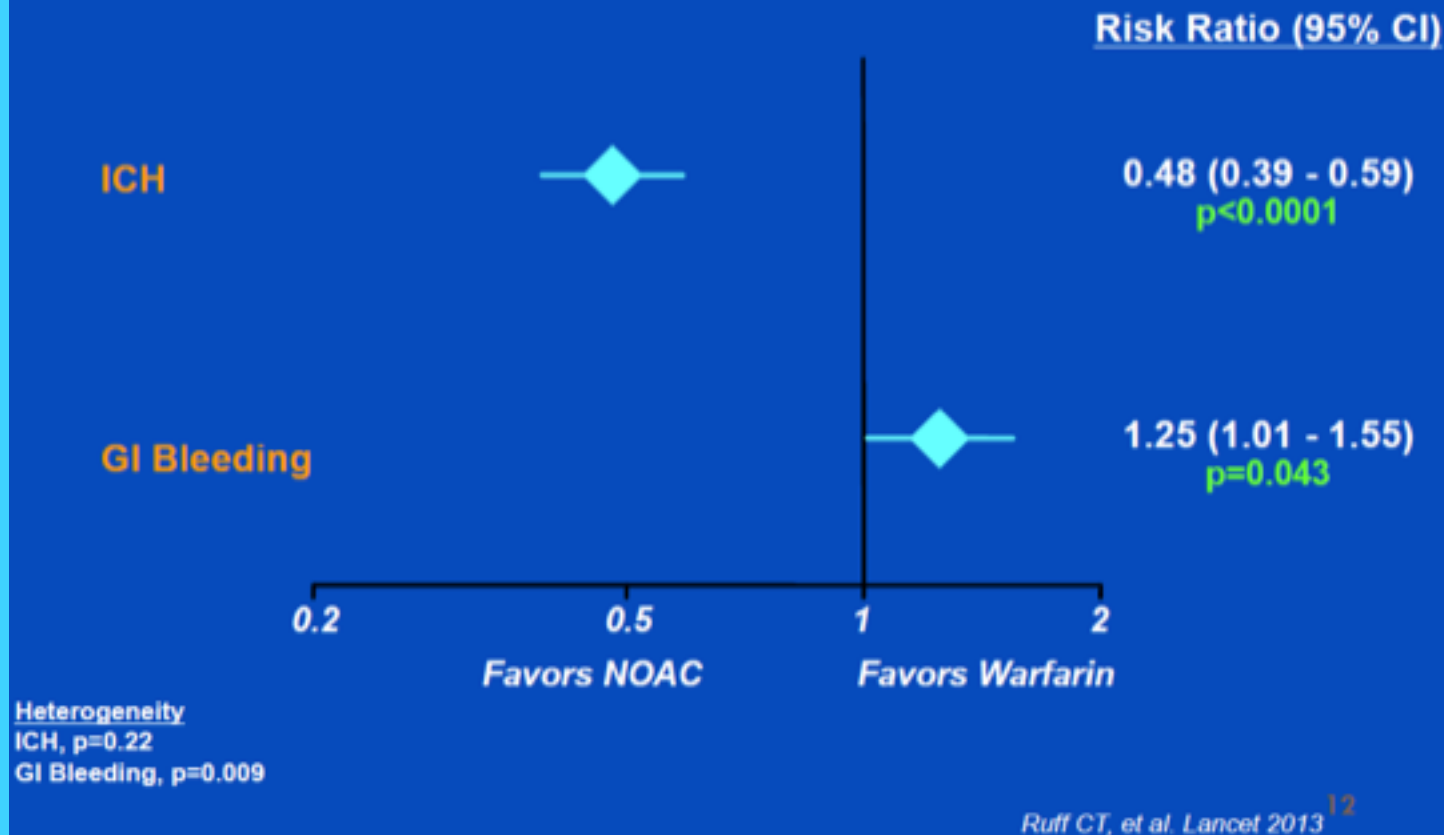
<sup>c</sup>IIaB for women with only one additional stroke risk factor.

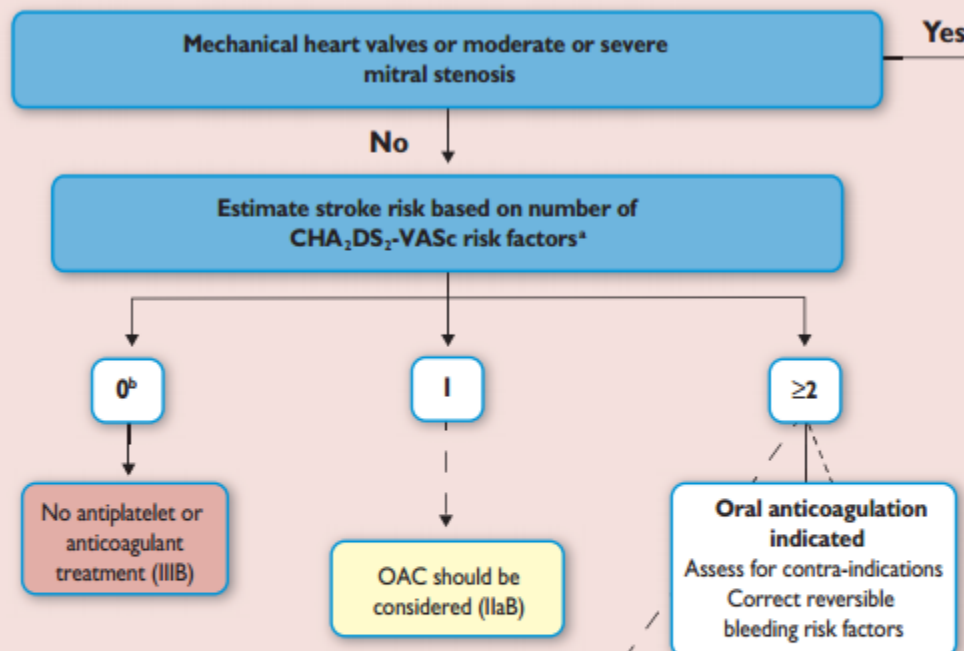
<sup>d</sup>IIb for patients with mechanical heart valves or mitral stenosis.

**Figure 8** Stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation.

	<b>Discontinuation Rate: Study Drug</b>	<b>Discontinuation Rate: Warfarin</b>
<b>RELY: Dabigatran</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>ROCKET AF: Rivaroxaban</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>ARISTOTLE: Apixaban</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>28%</b>

# Secondary Safety Outcomes





CHA <sub>2</sub> DS <sub>2</sub> -VASc risk factor	Points
<b>Congestive heart failure</b> Signs/symptoms of heart failure or objective evidence of reduced left ventricular ejection fraction	+1
<b>Hypertension</b> Resting blood pressure >140/90 mmHg on at least two occasions or current antihypertensive treatment	+1
<b>Age 75 years or older</b>	+2
<b>Diabetes mellitus</b> Fasting glucose >125 mg/dL (7 mmol/L) or treatment with oral hypoglycaemic agent and/or insulin	+1
<b>Previous stroke, transient ischaemic attack, or thromboembolism</b>	+2
<b>Vascular disease</b> Previous myocardial infarction, peripheral artery disease, or aortic plaque	+1
<b>Age 65–74 years</b>	+1
<b>Sex category (female)</b>	+1

LAA occlusion may be considered for stroke prevention in patients with AF and contra-indications for long-term anticoagulant treatment (e.g. those with a previous life-threatening bleed without a reversible cause).

**IIb**

**B**

Benussi et al. 2016 ESC Guidelines for the management of atrial fibrillation developed in collaboration with EACTS The Task Force for the management of atrial fibrillation of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Developed with the special contribution of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) of the ESC. European Heart Journal (2016) 37, 2893–2962

## Recommendation for Percutaneous Approaches to Occlude the LAA

Referenced studies that support the new recommendation are summarized in [Online Data Supplement 4](#).

COR	LOE	RECOMMENDATION
IIB	B-NR	<p>1. Percutaneous LAA occlusion may be considered in patients with AF at increased risk of stroke who have contraindications to long-term anticoagulation (S4.4.1-1-S4.4.1-5).</p> <p><b>NEW:</b> Clinical trial data and FDA approval of the Watchman device necessitated this recommendation.</p>

## 2019 AHA/ACC/HRS Focused Update of the 2014 AHA/ACC/HRS Guideline for the Management of Patients With Atrial Fibrillation

A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association  
Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines and the Heart Rhythm Society

Developed in Collaboration With the Society of Thoracic Surgeons

# THE RATIONALE FOR THE QUEST TO CLOSE THE LEFT ATRIAL APPENDAGE

- the concept that atrial fibrillation causes strokes
- the concept that strokes are associated with thrombus formation in the LAA,
- these thrombi cause strokes by embolisation to the cerebral circulation

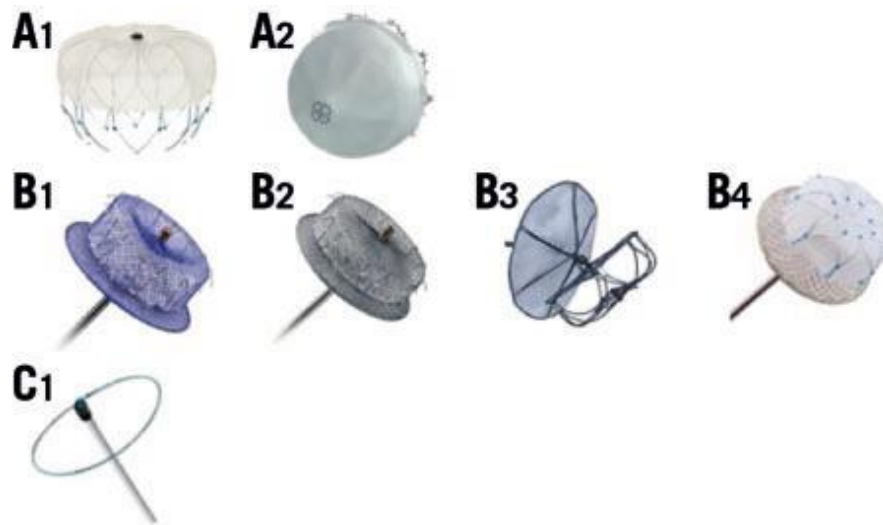
**EHRA/EAPCI expert consensus statement  
on catheter-based left atrial appendage  
occlusion – an update**



# VIRCHOW TRIAD

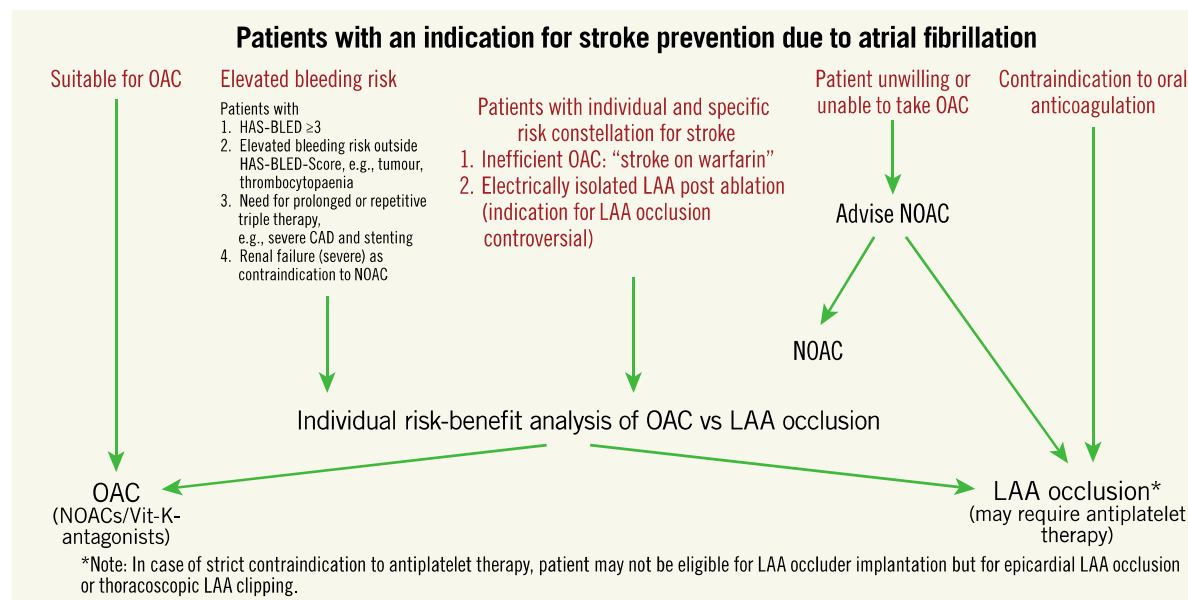
- flow abnormalities or stasis
- changes in the inner layer of the atrium and LAA
- abnormalities in haemostasis

**EHRA/EAPCI expert consensus statement  
on catheter-based left atrial appendage  
occlusion – an update**



**Figure 2** Commercially available, CE-mark approved devices. A1) WATCHMAN (Boston Scientific). A2) WaveCrest (Biosense Webster). B1) Amulet (Abbott Vascular). B2) AMPLATZER Cardiac Plug (Abbott Vascular). B3) Ultraseal LAA Occluder (Cardia). B4) LAmBRE (Lifetech). C1) LARIAT (SentreHEART).

**EHRA/EAPCI expert consensus statement  
on catheter-based left atrial appendage  
occlusion – an update**



**Figure 22** Decision tree for LAA closure.

**EHRA/EAPCI expert consensus statement  
on catheter-based left atrial appendage  
occlusion – an update**

# CASE PRESENTATION

*Incremental flecainide (daily atrial  
fibrillation recurrences) 200mg/die*

*Syncope due to VT episodes cardioverted*

# G.P.

- Paroxysmal AF
- Contraindication to anticoagulation
- Contraindication to antiarrhythmic therapy



# CASE PRESENTATION

***-rate-control ?***

## *AFib : rhythm vs rate control*

**Rate- and rhythm-control strategies seem to be equally effective, but:**

✎ sinus rhythm is achieved in only 40-60% of pts in the rhythm control arm of randomized CTs

✎ sinus rhythm maintenance can be associated with:

- less atrial enlargement
- QoL improvement
- better exercise tolerance
- reduced risk of LV dysfunction progression or appearance
- lower mortality

# 2016 ESC Guidelines for the management of atrial fibrillation developed in collaboration with EACTS

## Recommendations for rhythm control therapy

Recommendations	Class <sup>a</sup>	Level <sup>b</sup>	Ref <sup>c</sup>
<b>General recommendations</b>			
Rhythm control therapy is indicated for symptom improvement in patients with AF.	<b>I</b>	<b>B</b>	120, 586, 601
Management of cardiovascular risk factors and avoidance of AF triggers should be pursued in patients on rhythm control therapy to facilitate maintenance of sinus rhythm.	<b>IIa</b>	<b>B</b>	203, 204, 296, 312
With the exception of AF associated with haemodynamic instability, the choice between electrical and pharmacological cardioversion should be guided by patient and physician preferences.	<b>IIa</b>	<b>C</b>	



# 2016 ESC Guidelines for the management of atrial fibrillation developed in collaboration with EACTS

## Recommendations for catheter ablation of atrial fibrillation and atrial fibrillation surgery

Recommendations	Class <sup>a</sup>	Level <sup>b</sup>	Ref <sup>c</sup>
Catheter ablation of symptomatic paroxysmal AF is recommended to improve AF symptoms in patients who have symptomatic recurrences of AF on antiarrhythmic drug therapy (amiodarone, dronedarone, flecainide, propafenone, sotalol) and who prefer further rhythm control therapy, when performed by an electrophysiologist who has received appropriate training and is performing the procedure in an experienced centre.	I	A	585–587, 713, 727
Ablation of common atrial flutter should be considered to prevent recurrent flutter as part of an AF ablation procedure if documented or occurring during the AF ablation.	IIa	B	827
Catheter ablation of AF should be considered as first-line therapy to prevent recurrent AF and to improve symptoms in selected patients with symptomatic paroxysmal AF as an alternative to antiarrhythmic drug therapy, considering patient choice, benefit, and risk.	IIa	B	585
All patients should receive oral anticoagulation for at least 8 weeks after catheter (IIaB) or surgical (IIaC) ablation.	IIa	B C	727
Anticoagulation for stroke prevention should be continued indefinitely after apparently successful catheter or surgical ablation of AF in patients at high-risk of stroke.	IIa	C	
When catheter ablation of AF is planned, continuation of oral anticoagulation with a VKA (IIaB) or NOAC (IIaC) should be considered during the procedure, maintaining effective anticoagulation.	IIa	B C	760, 768
Catheter ablation should target isolation of the pulmonary veins using radiofrequency ablation or cryotherapy balloon catheters.	IIa	B	585, 715, 716, 734, 735
AF ablation should be considered in symptomatic patients with AF and heart failure with reduced ejection fraction to improve symptoms and cardiac function when tachycardiomyopathy is suspected.	IIa	C	185, 226–228, 720, 777–779, 828

## Atrial fibrillation : therapeutic strategies

### Catheter ablation vs AAD success rate in RCTs

Reference	Pts treated with RFCA (n/N)	Success (%)	Pts treated with AAD s (n/N)	Success (%)
Krittayaphong et al., 2003	12/15	79	6/15	40
Oral et al., 2006	57/77	74	40/69	58
Wazni et al., 2005	28/32	87.5	13/35	37
Stabile et al., 2006	38/68	56	6/69	9
Jais et al., 2008	46/53	89	13/55	23
Pappone et al., 2006	85/99	86	22/99	22
Forleo et al., 2009	28/35	80	15/35	43
Wilber et al., 2010	70/106	66	10/61	16
<b>Overall</b>	<b>364/485</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>125/ 438</b>	<b>28%</b>

# Ablation vs AAD

**Table 5. Safety Outcomes for Patients With AF Undergoing Catheter Ablation**

Outcomes	t	n/N	%
<b>Mortality</b>			
Death overall	65	42/5781	0.7
Procedure-related	64	0/5192	0.0
<b>Vascular access complications</b>			
Arteriovenous fistula	32	1/2885	0.0
Bleeding	33	1/2960	0.0
Hematoma	38	17/3719	0.5
Pneumothorax	34	0/2974	0.0
Femoral artery pseudoaneurysm	34	15/3032	0.5
<b>Periprocedure events</b>			
Stroke, ischemic	62	17/5665	0.3
TIA	60	13/5467	0.2
Cardiac tamponade	63	45/5723	0.8
PE	60	3/5496	0.1
DVT	56	1/4758	0.0
Other embolism	57	10/5347	0.2
LA-esophageal fistula	60	0/5496	0.0
Other fistula	58	3/5407	0.1
Pericardial effusion	64	36/5719	0.6
PV stenosis*	65	91/5831	1.6
AV block	60	1/5496	0.0
CHF exacerbation	60	0/5496	0.0
Need for a pacemaker	46	4/3902	0.1
Total No. of patients with events	28	97/1964	4.9

t indicates No. of treatment groups; n, No. of patients with this adverse event; N, No. of patients evaluated in studies reporting this adverse event; %, %

**Table 6. Safety Outcomes for Patients With AF Receiving AAD Therapy**

Safety Outcomes	t	n/N	%
<b>Mortality</b>			
Death overall	33	120/4291	2.8
Sudden death	21	18/2900	0.6
Treatment-related death	22	15/3179	0.5
Not treatment-related death	20	40/3023	1.3
<b>Adverse events</b>			
CV events	10	58/1572	3.7
Bradycardia	19	44/2349	1.9
GI	16	97/1499	6.5
Neuropathy	4	48/969	5.0
Thyroid dysfunction	5	19/576	3.3
Torsades	12	16/2238	0.7
Q-T* prolongation	12	5/2034	0.2
Total No. of patients with events	24	989/3318	29.8
<b>Discontinuations</b>			
Total	32	1035/4347	23.8
Due to AE	32	384/3682	10.4
Due to inefficacy	12	229/1694	13.5
Due to noncompliance	4	19/457	4.2

t indicates No. of treatment groups; n, No. of patients with this adverse event; N, No. of patients evaluated in studies reporting this adverse event; %, %

Calkins Het al, Circ Arrhythmia 2009

CIRIE' CARDIOLOGY



ASL 6 Ospedale di Cirié

## Recommendations for occlusion or exclusion of the left atrial appendage

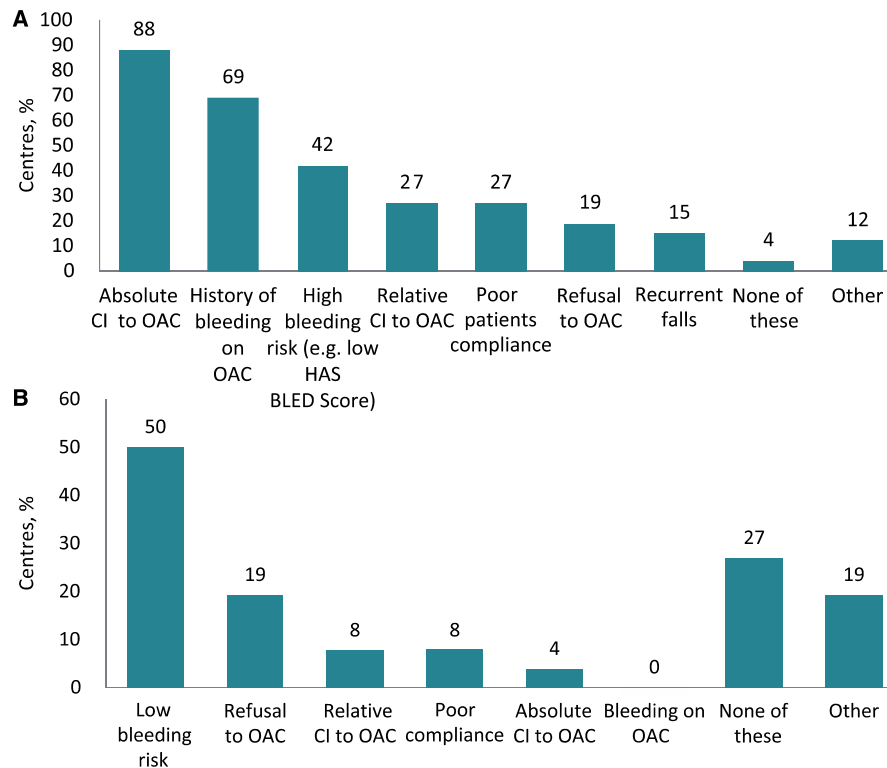
Recommendations	Class <sup>a</sup>	Level <sup>b</sup>	Ref <sup>c</sup>
After surgical occlusion or exclusion of the LAA, it is recommended to continue anticoagulation in at-risk patients with AF for stroke prevention.	<b>I</b>	<b>B</b>	461, 462
LAA occlusion may be considered for stroke prevention in patients with AF and contra-indications for long-term anticoagulant treatment (e.g. those with a previous life-threatening bleed without a reversible cause).	<b>IIb</b>	<b>B</b>	449, 453, 454
Surgical occlusion or exclusion of the LAA may be considered for stroke prevention in patients with AF undergoing cardiac surgery.	<b>IIb</b>	<b>B</b>	463
Surgical occlusion or exclusion of the LAA may be considered for stroke prevention in patients undergoing thoracoscopic AF surgery.	<b>IIb</b>	<b>B</b>	468

AF = atrial fibrillation; LAA = left atrial appendage.

<sup>a</sup>Class of recommendation.

<sup>b</sup>Level of evidence.

<sup>c</sup>Reference(s) supporting recommendations.



**Figure 1** In patients with atrial fibrillation and a CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc score  $\geq 2$ , indications for LAAO (A) and contraindications for LAAO (B) at your institutions are (multiple answers). “Other” included thrombus in the left atrial appendage (n=1), contraindications for general anaesthesia (n=1) and other reasons. LAAO, left atrial appendage occluder; NOAC, non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulant; OAC, oral anticoagulation.

	Watchman	Amulet
Patients	89	33
M	59	16
CHADSVASC	$3,5 \pm 1,47$	$3,2 \pm 1,8$
HASBLED	$3 \pm 1,08$	$3 \pm 0,9$

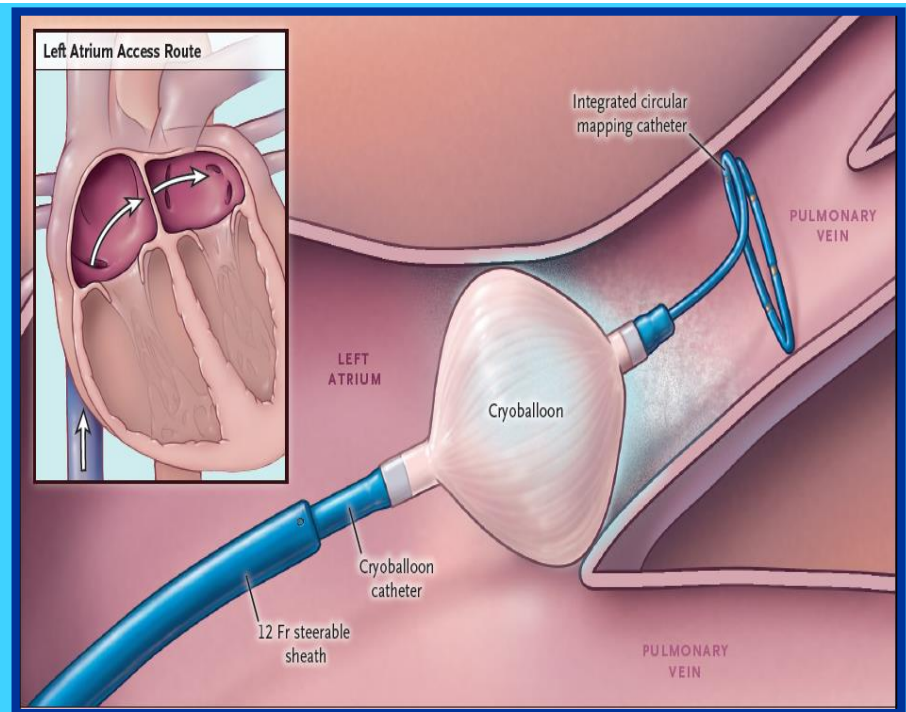
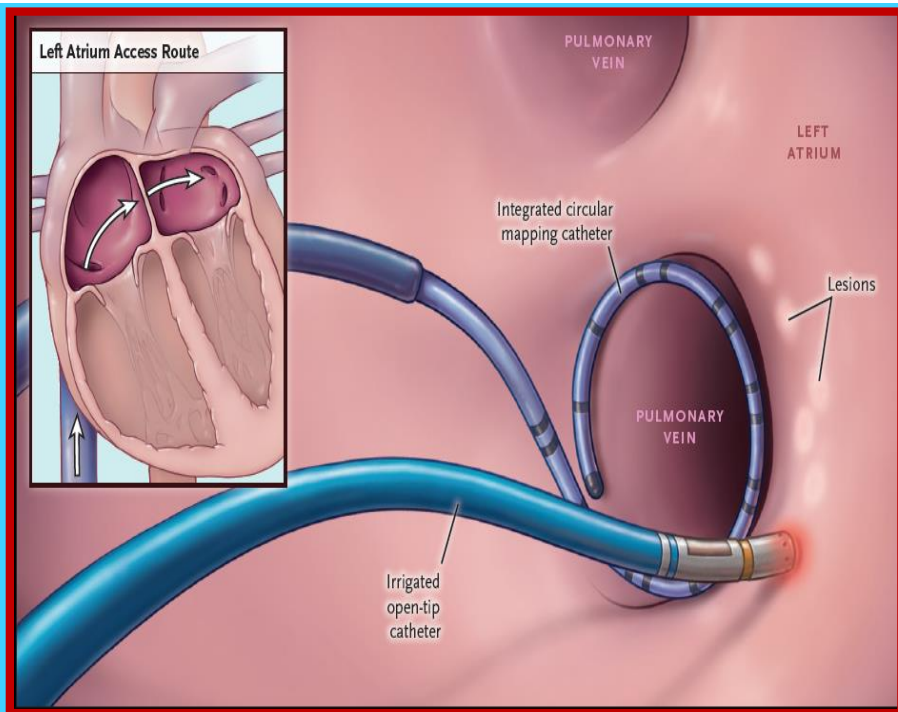
# G.P.

- Paroxysmal AF
- Contraindication to anticoagulation
- Contraindication to antiarrhythmic therapy



- RFC Ablation (“**FIRE**”)
  - Power was not to exceed
    - 40 W at A/I aspect
    - 30 W at P/S aspect
  - 3D electroanatomical mapping

- Cryoballoon Ablation (“**ICE**”)
  - Max. freeze duration of 240s recommended
  - Bonus freeze after isolation recommended
  - Phrenic nerve pacing required



The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Cryoballoon or Radiofrequency Ablation for Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation

Karl-Heinz Kuck, M.D., Josep Brugada, M.D., Alexander Fürnkranz, M.D., Andreas Metzner, M.D., Feifan Ouyang, M.D., K.R. Julian Chun, M.D., Arif Elvan, M.D., Ph.D., Thomas Arentz, M.D., Kurt Bestehorn, M.D., Stuart J. Pocock, Ph.D., Jean-Paul Albenque, M.D., Ph.D., and Claudio Tondo, M.D., Ph.D., for the FIRE AND ICE Investigators\*

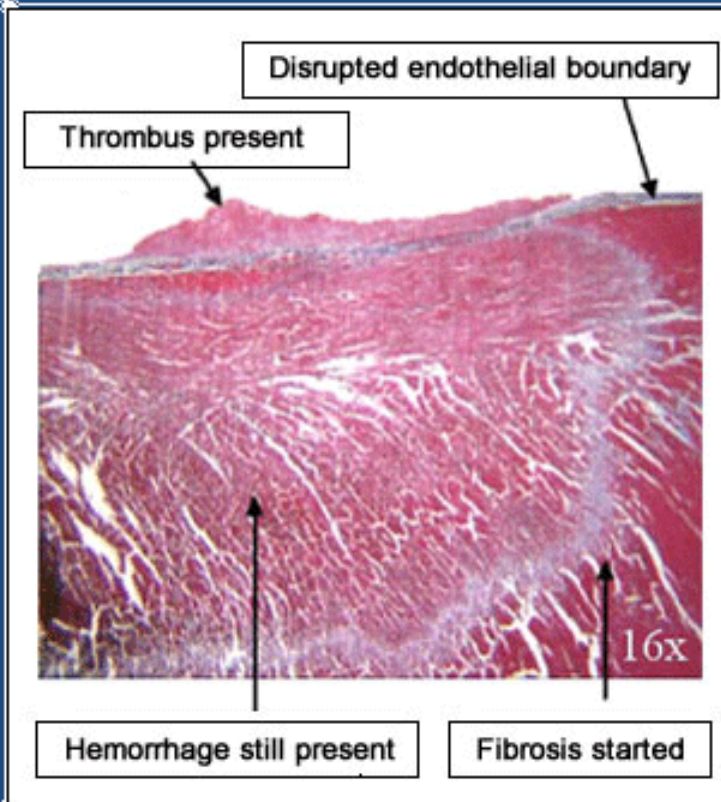
CIRIE' CARDIOLOGY



ASL 6 Ospedale di Cirié

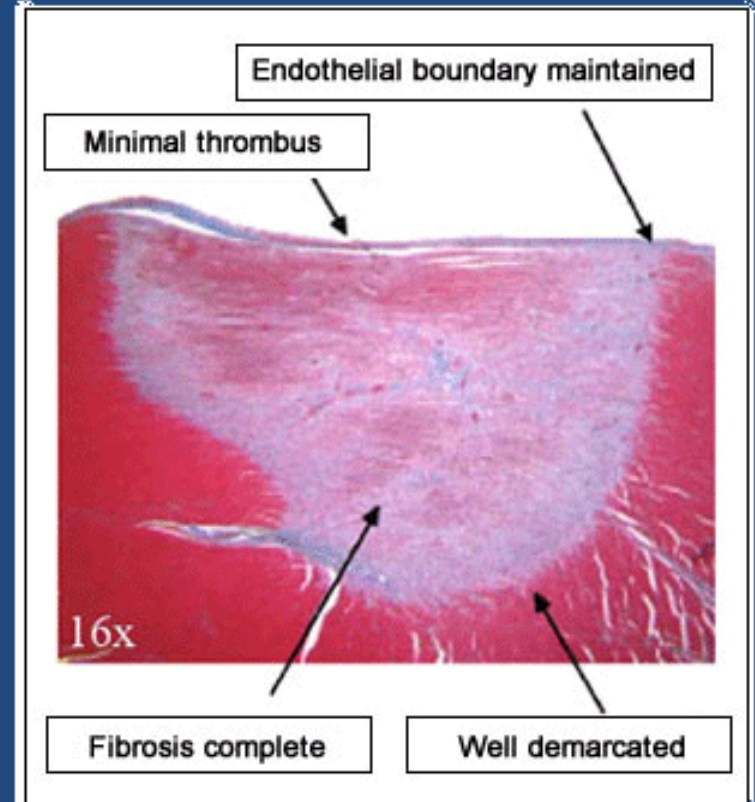


### RF-Scar



RF-lesion at 1 week (Canine model)

### Cryo-Intact



Cryo-lesion at 1 week (Canine model)

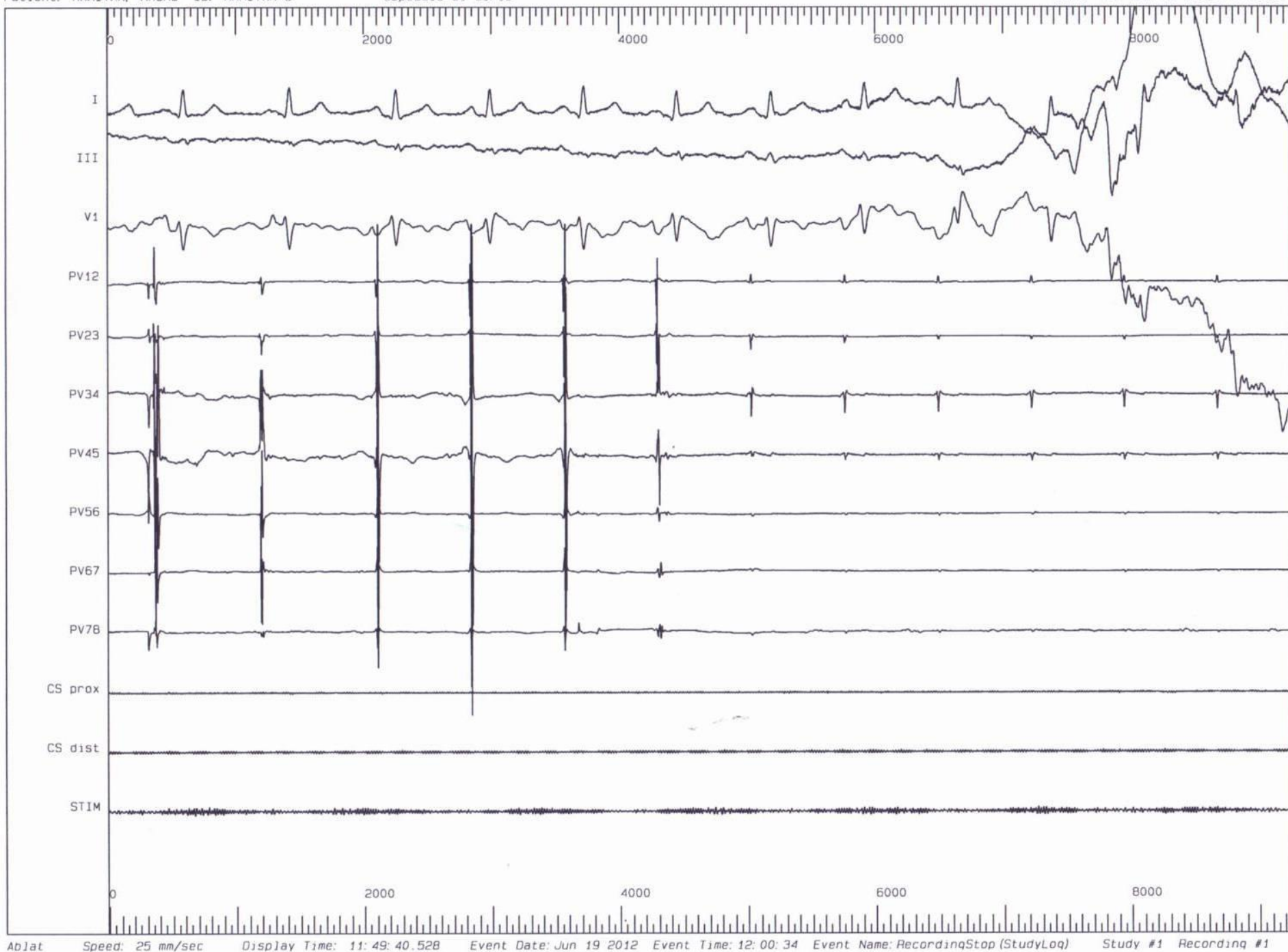
50 Watts, 43C, 60 sec

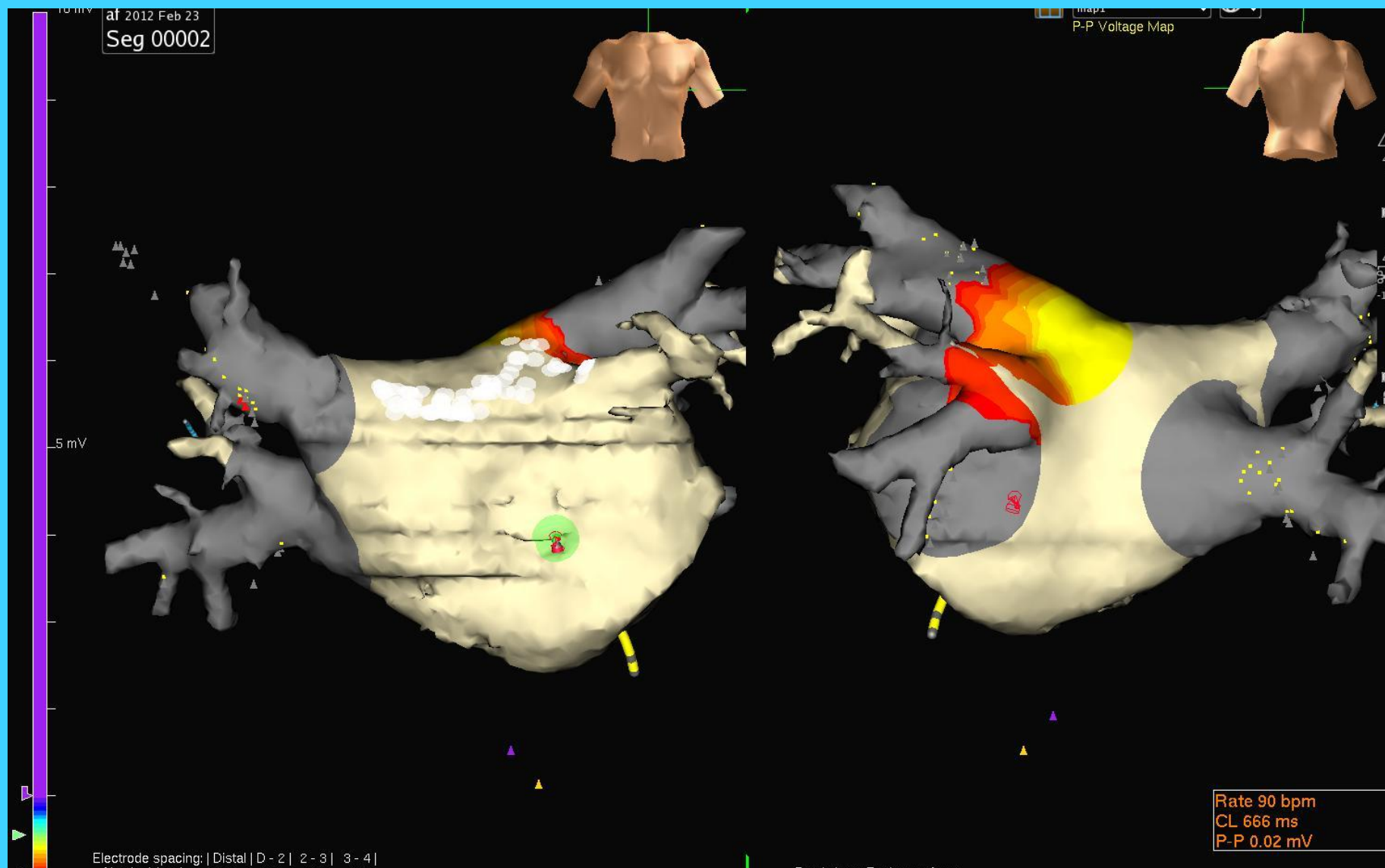
-75C, 240 seconds

CIRIE' CARDIOLOGY

# CASE PRESENTATION

- LAA closure & PVI with crio
- Dabigatran 110 mg bid 2 months
- TEE and ASA





# CASE PRESENTATION

*- 10 months follow-up no recurrences*

# Procedura combinata di chiusura percutanea di auricola sinistra e ablazione di fibrillazione atriale: esperienza di un singolo centro

Elisa Pelissero<sup>1</sup>, Marco Giuggia<sup>1</sup>, Maria Chiara Todaro<sup>2</sup>, Giuseppe Trapani<sup>1</sup>, Benedetta Giordano<sup>1</sup>, Gaetano Senatore<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dipartimento di Cardiologia, Ospedale Civile di Ciriè, Ciriè (TO)

<sup>2</sup>Dipartimento di Cardiologia, Ospedale Civile di Ivrea, Ivrea (TO)

G Ital Cardiol 2017;18 (11 Suppl 1):5S-11S

# Baseline

**Group 1 : ablation + LAAO N 21**

**Group 2 : ablation N 21**

	Group 1	Group 2	p
Eta'	66.86 ± 10.35	68.42 ± 10.61	n.s.
CHA2DS2Vasc	2.81 ± 1.22	2.01 ± 0.93	n.s.
HASBLED	3.2 ± 0.83	3,1 ± 0.95	n.s.
FA persistente	80%	85%	n.s.

# procedural data

**Group 1 : ablation + LAAO N 21**

**Group 2 : ablation N 21**

	Group 1	Group 2	p
Procedural time	68 ± 17	52 ± 15	< 0.05
Fluoroscopy	13 ± 5	5 ± 3	< 0.05
Device	14 Watchman 7 Amplatzer		
Type of ablation	19 PVI 8 Linear lesions 2 crio	18 PVI 6 Linear lesions 3 crio	



# Safety

	Group 1	Group 2
Tamponade	0	0
Pericardial effusion	1	0
Vascular complications	1 (AVF)	0
TIA	0	0
Stroke	0	0
Air embolism	0	0
Dislodgement	0	0
Thrombus device	0	0
Leaks > 5 mm	0	0

# Our experience

- 49 patients

LAA closure (Watchman or Amulet device under transesophageal and fluoroscopic guide in general anesthesia)

TC ablation (radiofrequency Carto 3 and NavX mapping, Cryo)

## **Atrial Fibrillation recurrence (loop recorder analysis)**

Number of cases at long term follow- up (6-49 months) success rate 74%

The LAA device successful implanted in all pts did not interfere with ablation

# LAAO & ABLATION

Ablation

Symptoms improvement  
QOL improvement  
CHF reduction

LAA closure

Thromboembolism reduction  
Bleedings reduction

# Conclusions

- LAA closure is safe and effective in patients with high risk for embolism and bleedings
- Stop Antiplatelet therapy will increase indications for LAAO
- LAAO & Ablation is safe & effective

# WATCHMAN Clinical Spectrum

## Expand Patient Population

### ASAP-TOO

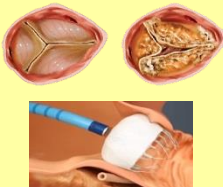


## Concomitant Procedures

### AF Ablation + LAAC



### TAVR + LAAC

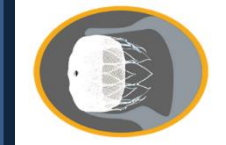


## First Line in Specific Patient Populations

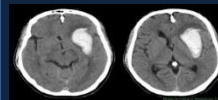
### GI Bleeds



### Renal Pts



### Prior ICH



## First Line Therapy

### WM vs NOAC ???





CIRIE' CARDIOLOGY



ASL 6 Ospedale di Cirio