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1 **Outcomes of elderly patients on direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) versus warfarin after**
2 **traumatic brain injury**

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28 **Abstract**

29

30 **Background**

31 Although evidence supports the improved safety profile of direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs)
32 over warfarin, outcomes among elderly traumatic brain injury (TBI) patients on this regimen
33 remain unclear. This study describes the association of anticoagulation status (DOAC versus
34 warfarin use) and the rates of occurrence of intracranial hemorrhage (ICH), hematoma
35 progression, need for surgical intervention, and mortality in elderly TBI cases.

36

37 **Methods**

38 This retrospective cohort study from 2014-2019 included all trauma patients >65 years on either
39 warfarin or DOACs at the time of injury. The primary outcome was the rate of ICH after TBI.
40 Multivariable regression analysis identified independent predictors of functional dependency and
41 mortality.

42

43 **Results**

44 A total of 501 elderly TBI patients (mean age = 82 years old) were included. Warfarin users had
45 higher CT Marshall scores ($p=0.007$), more severe TBI (GCS<8) ($p=0.003$), and higher rates of
46 subdural hematomas compared to the DOAC group ($p=0.003$). Patients on DOACs had lower
47 rates of ICH (42% vs 57%, $p=0.001$) and hospitalization (30% vs 41%, $p=0.013$), and better
48 GOS-E scores at hospital discharge (mean 6.98 vs 6.41, $p=0.005$). Multicompartment ICH (OR
49 2.30, $p=0.027$) and longer hospitalization (OR 0.04, $p<0.001$) were associated with higher
50 functional dependency rates, while higher CT Marshall scores (OR 1.09, $p<0.001$) and poorer
51 baseline frailty status (OR 0.62, $p=0.026$) predicted increased mortality risk.

52

53 **Conclusion**

54 Elderly TBI patients on DOACs have lower rates of ICH, lower need for hospitalization, and
55 better functional outcome at discharge compared to those taking warfarin. These findings need
56 further confirmation using prospective multicentre studies.

57

58

59 Article Highlights:

60

61 DOAC vs warfarin in elderly population with TBI: DOAC led to:

- 62 • Lower rate of intracranial hemorrhage
- 63 • reduced hospitalization needs
- 64 • higher GOS-E score at discharge

65 INTRODUCTION

66 A significant portion of the population, especially older adults, is on anticoagulation or
67 antiplatelet agents for various medical indications. In 2013 alone, US Medicare claims estimated
68 that approximately two-thirds of patients with atrial fibrillation (AF) were on oral
69 anticoagulation primarily in the form of warfarin.¹ The prevalent use of these drugs has
70 consequently led to an increase in incidence of traumas involving the chronically anticoagulated
71 patient.² As a result, numerous neurotrauma centers around the world are now facing the
72 ramifications of this epidemiologic shift and are increasingly burdened with the care of elderly
73 patients on anticoagulation.

74

75 Age-related changes in the brain (e.g., cerebral atrophy, dural adherence to skull, cerebrovascular
76 atherosclerosis and bridging vein fragility) in combination with anticoagulant therapy put older
77 adults not only at high risk of developing intracranial bleeding but also predisposes them to
78 poorer outcomes after traumatic brain injury (TBI).^{3,4} The management of geriatric TBI
79 therefore requires a nuanced approach and must be guided by meticulous consideration of their
80 complex comorbidities, higher frailty status, and increased use of multiple medications,
81 including anticoagulant use, in order to optimize post-injury neurological and functional
82 outcomes. As emerging studies reveal a trend towards more widespread use of anticoagulation in
83 TBI patients with radiological evidence of traumatic intracranial lesions than the general
84 population, new evidence to support improved management and clinical prediction in the high
85 risk, anticoagulated elderly TBI patients is highly necessary.⁵

86

87 The most recent CHEST (American College of Chest Physicians) guidelines recommend the use
88 of direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) over warfarin in patients with atrial fibrillation, including
89 those with advanced age.⁶ DOACs like dabigatran, rivaroxaban, and apixaban are increasingly

90 preferred over warfarin, as they do not require monthly monitoring, have shorter half-lives, lower
91 risks of fatal bleeding, and fewer drug and food interactions.⁷ Its use has been associated with
92 decreased mortality compared with warfarin in the context of spontaneous intracranial
93 hemorrhage (ICH),⁸ however, the benefit of DOACs in the setting of traumatic ICH remains
94 unknown.^{9 10} Although large-scale randomized controlled trials (RCTs) demonstrate superior
95 pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic profile of DOACs over warfarin, these studies tend to
96 focus largely on younger patients with fewer comorbidities and medications.¹¹⁻¹³ Hence, the true
97 risk of major life-threatening bleeding in elderly users, including those resulting from head
98 trauma, remains underestimated. To address these issues, a retrospective review was performed
99 to describe the pragmatic, real-world outcomes of geriatric trauma patients taking warfarin or
100 DOAC using data from a large supraregional trauma center.

101

102 **METHODS**

103 Study Design, Setting, and Ethics

104 This is a retrospective observational study of elderly patients who presented to the ED
105 (Emergency Department) of a supraregional tertiary (level 1) trauma center between April 1,
106 2014 to March 31, 2019. The study was approved by the Research Ethics Board of the McGill
107 University Health Centre and conducted in accordance with the standard operation procedure of
108 the McGill University Health Centre Research Institute. Patient informed consent was waived for
109 this retrospective epidemiologic study, but confidentiality of patient data was ensured throughout
110 the process of data collection and analysis.

111

112 Data source

113 Information regarding emergency department (ED) visits were obtained using MedUrge, an
114 emergency department information and database system of the Montreal General Hospital and
115 the DSQ (Dossier Sante Quebec), a provincial database containing up-to-date information on the
116 medication taken by patients. To ensure comprehensive data collection, an additional query was
117 made from the TBI Program database, a local data bank for all admitted TBI patients and the
118 Trauma Registry of the hospital, a prospectively maintained provincial-wide mandated injury
119 surveillance system that contains information about all patients sustaining traumatic injuries.
120 These registries are internally validated and checked by a Trauma Administrative Technician.

121 Study Population/ Data Collection

122 To find all potential patients, we first used TBI-related search terms to generate a list of patients
123 with at least one of these terms in their presenting story or diagnosis. From the generated list, we
124 kept all those aged 65 and above, then looked at their home medication at the time of
125 presentation as listed in the ED documentation, medical chart and DSQ listed medication. All
126 those on oral anticoagulants at the time of trauma were included. Only the first ED visit during
127 the study period was included for data analysis. Urgent visits due to medical emergencies or
128 other non-traumatic intracranial hemorrhage were not included. Trauma patients who were on
129 heparin or antiplatelet therapy alone and those without any cranial imaging during admission
130 were additionally excluded.

131
132 A standard set of data was obtained from an electronic database search including the medical
133 identification number, age, gender, mechanism of injury, post resuscitation GCS and
134 comorbidities. All imaging details from cranial CT scan performed during admission were
135 evaluated and findings were cross checked with official radiology reports. Morphological brain
136 changes were assessed using the Marshall CT scoring while overall injury severity was graded
137 using the ISS (Injury Severity Score) system. The modified frailty index-5 (mFI-5) score was
138 used to quantify the frailty status of the study population.¹⁴ This index is based on assessment of
139 5 domains (i.e presence of diabetes mellitus, hypertension, congestive heart failure,
140 COPD/pneumonia, and functional dependency) and patients were given 1 point for each factor.
141 The total cumulative score serves as the mFI index with a score of 0 signifying a non-frail state
142 and 5 as severely frail status.

143

144 Exposure

145 The exposure variable of interest was anticoagulation status. The two levels of this dichotomous
146 variable were either warfarin or DOACs (i.e apixaban, dabigatran, or rivaroxaban, etc). To be
147 classified as active user, patients must have these medications included in their current
148 prescription covering the period before the index ED consultation. This information was
149 ascertained from history taking, medication list entered in the triage, and DSQ. The INR values
150 upon ED admission were also noted when available. Data on any concurrent antiplatelet and/or

151 use of reversal agent (i.e prothrombin complex concentrate, vitamin K) in the ED was extracted
152 from in-patient medication and resuscitation records.

153

154 Outcomes

155 The primary outcome of interest was intracranial hemorrhage (ICH) developing during the index
156 admission for trauma. Any pattern of traumatic intracranial bleed (i.e subdural, subarachnoid,
157 epidural, intraparenchymal or intraventricular hematoma) identified from CT scan was
158 considered a positive event. Secondary outcomes included in-hospital mortality, need for
159 operative intervention (craniotomy or craniectomy) for a growing hematoma, need for
160 hospitalization, hematoma progression (all patients had at least one follow up CT done, and more
161 were done until stability of the hemorrhagic lesions) and hospital length of stay. Finally, to assess
162 functional outcomes, we compared the GOS-E score (Glasgow outcome scale-extended) between
163 DOAC and Warfarin groups with particular attention to the rates of functional dependency
164 defined as GOS-E ≤ 4 at discharge.

165

166 Statistical Analysis

167 Baseline patient characteristics, grouped according to anticoagulation status, were compared
168 using chi-square test of independence for categorical variables and two-sample Student's t-test
169 for continuous data. A multivariable logistic regression was performed to investigate the
170 association between anticoagulation status and ICH development, functional dependency (GOS-
171 E ≤ 4) and death (GOS-E = 1) while controlling for multiple covariates. A two-sided p-value
172 < 0.05 was considered significant. All statistical analyses were carried out using R Statistical
173 Software (version 4.2.1; R foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria).

174

175 **RESULTS**

176

177 Clinical Characteristics

178 From April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2019, 2,100 trauma patients aged over 65 years were treated at
179 our Level 1 trauma center. After excluding 1,575 patients who were either non-anticoagulated or
180 on antiplatelet monotherapy only, we identified 525 patients who were on either warfarin or
181 DOACs for anticoagulation. Twenty-four patients were additionally excluded from final analysis

182 due to incomplete data and imaging information (Figure 1). From the final study population of
183 501 subjects, 268 (53%) were documented to be taking warfarin (*WF*), while 233 (47%) were on
184 DOAC prior to the index injury. Atrial fibrillation was the most common indication for
185 anticoagulant therapy. Among patients using DOAC, Apixaban was the most frequently used
186 drug, and none were taking the newer DOAC agents such as Edoxaban or Betrixaban.

187

188 The mean age of the study cohort was 82.27 years and 51% (256/501) were males. The vast
189 majority of traumas were due to falls as the primary mechanism of injury [93% (468/501)],
190 followed by motor vehicular collisions [5% (25/501)]. Hypertension was the most common
191 comorbidity reported in the study population (Table 1).

192

193 Overall, the warfarin group suffered more severe head injury than the DOAC group as
194 demonstrated by a lower mean GCS score (*WF* 13.6 ± 2.85 versus *DOAC* 14.3 ± 1.72 , $p=0.001$)
195 and higher proportion of severe TBI cases (GCS 3-8) [*WF* 9% (23/268) versus *DOAC* 2%
196 (5/233), $p=0.003$]. The two groups were similar in terms of age, sex, comorbidities and frailty
197 status. The extent of both intracranial and extracranial injuries sustained from trauma, as
198 reflected in the overall ISS score, was not significantly different between the two groups. (*WF*
199 22.1 ± 9.36 versus *DOAC* 24.9 ± 8.39 , $p=0.054$). As expected, the admission INR was higher
200 (mean INR 2.36) among Warfarin users and consequently received reversal agents more
201 frequently than DOAC patients [*WF* 42% (113/268) versus *DOAC* 6% (13/233), $p<0.001$] There
202 was no significant difference in aspirin intake between the two groups [*WF* 15% (39/268) versus
203 *DOAC* 12% (28/233), $p=0.484$].

204

205 Injury Patterns

206 Although the total rates of multicompartiment intracranial hemorrhage between warfarin and
207 DOAC group did not differ significantly, a higher CT Marshall score was observed in those
208 taking warfarin (*WF* 2.40 ± 1.74 versus *DOAC* 2.0 ± 1.54 , $p = 0.007$) (Table 1). Additionally,
209 subdural hematomas (both focal and holohemispheric) occurred more frequently in the warfarin
210 group, seen in as many as 1/3 of all newcomers with a history of warfarin intake [*WF* 35%
211 (95/268) versus *DOAC* 23% (53/233), $p=0.003$]. The same pattern is seen for intraparenchymal

212 and subarachnoid hemorrhage with higher rates seen in Warfarin users, albeit not statistically
213 significant on univariate analysis.

214

215 Primary and Secondary Outcomes

216 The overall crude ICH rate in our study population composed of anticoagulated elderly TBI
217 patients was 50.50% (253/501). Compared to the DOAC group, patients taking warfarin during
218 the period of index trauma had a higher predisposition to develop intracranial hemorrhage [*WF*
219 *57% (154/268) versus DOAC 42% (99/233), $p=0.001$*] (Table 2). Despite this, however, the two
220 groups did not differ significantly in the rates of hematoma progression on repeat cranial
221 imaging.

222

223 For those requiring hospitalisation, the crude in-hospital mortality rate for the entire cohort was
224 11% (53/501). Although there was no statistically significant difference in mortality rates
225 observed between the two groups [*WF 13% (35/268) versus DOAC 8% (18/233), $p=0.073$*],
226 patients taking DOAC had higher mean GOS-E score, indicating better functional outcomes at
227 time of discharge compared to warfarin users (*WF 6.41 ± 2.48 versus DOAC 6.98 ± 2.00 , p*
228 *$=0.005$*) (Figure 2).

229

230 The need for hospitalization was significantly higher when a trauma patient was on warfarin at
231 time of ED consultation [*WF 41% (109/268) versus DOAC 30% (69/233), $p=0.013$*]. The overall
232 mean length of stay in the hospital was 6 days. Fourteen percent (69/501) of the entire combined
233 cohort required surgical intervention in the form of craniotomy or craniectomy for evacuation of
234 hematoma and/or decompressive hemicraniectomy. When comparing the two groups, patients on
235 warfarin did not have longer duration of hospital stay nor required more surgical intervention
236 than those using DOAC for anticoagulation.

237

238 Predictors of Outcomes

239 Based on our multivariable regression model, we found no significant association of
240 anticoagulation status with rates of ICH development when the estimated effect of other
241 covariates is considered (*OR 0.27, CI: -2.92-0.25, $p=0.113$*) (Table 3). The factors demonstrated
242 by logistic regression to have an association with ICH rates were fall history (*OR 1.58, CI: 0.29-*

243 3.20, $p=0.031$), use of reversal agent ($OR\ 3.05$, $CI: 2.25-3.96$, $p<0.001$), moderate- severe TBI
244 scores ($OR\ 1.44$, $CI: 0.47-2.53$, $p=0.005$), and length of stay ($OR\ 0.07$, $CI: 0.04-0.12$, $p<0.001$).

245
246 Additional association of multiple covariates to functional dependency ($GOS-E \leq 4$) and
247 mortality ($GOS-E = 1$) were investigated. We found that multicompartment hemorrhage (OR
248 2.30 , $CI: 0.24-4.34$, $p=0.027$) and length of stay ($OR\ 0.04$, $CI: 0.02-0.06$, $p<0.001$) were
249 significant predictors of functional dependency after trauma. The presence of moderate-severe
250 TBI scores was a consistent predictor of higher odds of both functional dependency and
251 mortality. Interestingly, the Marshall scores ($OR\ 1.09$, $CI: 0.78-1.44$, $p<0.001$) and modified
252 frailty index ($OR\ 0.62$, $CI: 0.08-1.17$, $p=0.026$) were strong predictors of death even after
253 adjusting for other covariates.

254

255

256 **DISCUSSION**

257 Our study reveals significant differences in clinical outcomes among elderly TBI patients (>65
258 years old) based on their pre-injury anticoagulation status. Elderly patients taking warfarin
259 before injury showed a higher incidence of intracranial hemorrhage and required hospitalization,
260 despite receiving a reversal agent at nearly seven times the rate compared to patients on DOACs.
261 Conversely, those on DOAC demonstrated greater functional independence at discharge, as
262 evidenced by higher GOS-E scores. Interestingly, among anticoagulated elderly TBI patients,
263 factors such as Marshall score, GCS, and frailty status, but not the type of anticoagulation used,
264 emerged as robust independent predictors of mortality.

265

266 Our findings are consistent with a recently reported population-based survey which showed an
267 overall increased rate of intracranial hemorrhage among warfarin users compared to those taking
268 DOAC.¹⁵ Grewal et al reported a 1.43-fold higher risk of ICH among elderly TBI patients on
269 warfarin compared to matched patients on DOAC. Similar findings are supported by various
270 investigations in general trauma and TBI population.¹⁶⁻¹⁸ In contrast, Zeeshan et al, in their three-
271 year analysis of a local TBI database from 2014-2016 found a higher risk of bleeding associated
272 with the use of DOAC compared to warfarin using a propensity-score matched analysis.¹⁹
273 Several striking differences however must be noted between the two studies. Patients enrolled in

274 the latter study comprised of younger patients (mean age of 59 and 60 years old) with relatively
275 milder form of injury (median ISS of 15). Falls contributed only to 42% of TBI in the study of
276 Zeeshan et al. which is generally lower compared to estimates from large-scale epidemiologic
277 research identifying falls as the predominant mechanism of injury in at least half of the TBI
278 patients >65 years old.²⁰ Nevertheless, a recent synthesis of evidence by Wu et al. supports an
279 overwhelmingly higher rates of spontaneous ICH associated with warfarin intake compared to
280 DOAC.²¹ In our cohort, we observed a 1.36-fold increased risk of traumatic ICH in elderly TBI
281 patients using warfarin, further supporting the hemorrhagic risk profile differences between
282 anticoagulant types.

283

284 The in-hospital mortality rate for DOAC patients found in our study (8%) falls within the
285 previously reported ranges (6-40%) comparing TBI outcomes between DOAC and warfarin.²²⁻²⁶
286 Although our findings suggest a higher mortality trend in the warfarin group, it did not reach
287 statistical significance. Our results suggest that other significant factors, aside from
288 anticoagulation, are more important determinants of death in this population. Indeed, as shown
289 by our multivariable model, the traditional early indicators of poor prognosis in severe TBI based
290 on the Brain Trauma Foundation guideline such as CT findings (as reflected in Marshall score)
291 and TBI severity (as measured by GCS) are more reliable predictors than type of oral
292 anticoagulant used.²⁷ Currently, the evidence on the mortality risk associated with DOACs after
293 trauma remains varied. The Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) analysis by Feeney
294 et al. indicates a lower mortality rates and fewer neurosurgical intervention among DOAC
295 patients compared to warfarin users.²⁸ In contrast, other studies report higher rates of adverse
296 outcomes, including mortality and need for surgery, among DOAC users during the acute phase
297 of injury.^{29 30} On the other hand, a recent meta-analysis of 11 studies found no significant
298 difference in morbidity and mortality outcomes between DOAC and Vitamin K antagonist
299 (VKA) users post-TBI.³¹ We hypothesize that the variable study population, uncontrolled
300 confounders, and differences in the anticoagulation management practices contribute to these
301 inconsistent findings. The routine use of reversal agents, for example, varies widely among
302 neurotrauma centers with no standardized guidelines currently in place. FDA-approved reversal
303 agents like Idarucizumab and Andexanet alfa for DOACs are costly and not universally
304 available, leading to the use of alternative agents such as Prothrombin Complex Concentrate

305 (PCCs) in some settings.³²⁻³⁴ Our institution did not have access to Idarucizumab or Andexanet.
306 Ongoing drug development initiatives and increasing demand for specific reversal agents are
307 expected to clarify survival advantages and mortality benefit of DOAC compared to warfarin in
308 future studies.

309
310 While numerous studies have compared hemorrhage and mortality risks between DOAC and
311 warfarin users, few have described the functional outcomes of these patients following TBI. Our
312 results indicate that at discharge, patients on DOACs exhibit higher GOS-E scores, with a greater
313 proportion achieving good recovery compared to those on chronic warfarin therapy. This finding
314 aligns with earlier studies by Scotti et al, who assessed 724 patients on antithrombotic agents,
315 including a subset of patients on DOAC and warfarin, and Shin et al., who compared smaller
316 cohorts on DOACs and VKA. Both studies demonstrated that DOAC users achieved greater
317 functional independence post-TBI.^{23 35} These collective findings highlight an additional benefit
318 of DOACs over warfarin, translating clinically into reduced impairment and enhanced
319 independent functioning in elderly population. The exact mechanism underlying this benefit
320 remains unclear; however, the association of DOACs with lower ICH risk suggest potential
321 mitigation of secondary brain injury. Furthermore, emerging evidence hints at a neuroprotective
322 effect of DOAC, indicated by lower rates of dementia and cognitive impairment among elderly
323 atrial fibrillation patients compared to those on warfarin.^{36 37} Whether this nascent property
324 contributed to our findings warrant prospective investigation. If validated, this could
325 significantly influence clinical decision-making, aiding physicians in better patient and family
326 counseling, managing expectations, and directing appropriate treatment strategies, particularly in
327 selecting oral anticoagulant agents.

328
329 The major strength of this study is the large sample size of uniformly elderly (>65 years old)
330 anticoagulated TBI patients (n=501). Moreover, we were able to perform risk adjustments by
331 incorporating measures of trauma severity (i.e ISS) and frailty status (i.e mFI-5) in our
332 multivariable model to assess the possible contribution of these factors. Frailty, which is defined
333 as decline in functioning across multiple physiologic systems accompanied by increased
334 vulnerability to stressors is becoming increasingly advocated in TBI research and is a more
335 reliable indicator of poor outcome.³⁸ In a recent systematic review by Zhao and colleagues,

336 frailty, rather than age, has significantly predicted both in-hospital and 30-day mortality, adverse
337 discharge, and readmission in elderly trauma patients.³⁹ The result of our study showing frailty
338 index as a significant predictor of mortality gives further credence to this claim. Additionally, the
339 higher subdural rates in the warfarin group compared to DOAC warrant further investigation.
340 The challenge of maintaining warfarin within its therapeutic range, in contrast to DOACs, likely
341 contributes to this difference. Furthermore, emerging molecular insights suggest that variations
342 in tissue factor (TF) levels between brain and extracerebral tissue may also play a role.⁴⁰

343

344 This current study must be interpreted in the context of its limitations. Due to the retrospective
345 nature of this research, ascertainment of accuracy and completeness of record as well as
346 determination of long-term outcomes beyond hospitalization period was not possible. There may
347 be selection bias in our sample given the highly specialized nature of our institution providing
348 advanced and comprehensive trauma intensive care in the province. It is likely that the TBI
349 population referred to our center represent the more severe polytrauma cases and hence might
350 not adequately reflect the entire spectrum of TBI cases. While examining the prevalence of renal
351 insufficiency in the DOAC and warfarin groups would be valuable, limitations in data
352 availability and completeness prevented its inclusion in this study. As we intended primarily to
353 compare the outcomes of DOAC and warfarin, we did not include a control group of non-
354 anticoagulated patients in our sample. Lastly, stratification based on specific DOAC agent was
355 not performed and may potentially be an avenue of improvement in future research. A more
356 comprehensive assessment of anticoagulation status based on determination of time of last intake
357 along with agent-specific testing (e.g Thrombin Time for direct thrombin inhibitors for
358 Dabigatran or Anti-factor Xa activity for Apixaban and Rivaroxaban) will all be helpful
359 additions for future studies to fully elucidate the systemic effect of these drugs.

360

361 Conclusions

362

363 In an elderly population of TBI patients with predominantly fall-related traumas, DOACS were
364 associated with lower ICH rates, reduced hospitalization needs, and higher GOS-E score at
365 discharge compared to warfarin. Mortality was significantly associated with established
366 prognostic factors such as Marshall grade, GCS score, and frailty status. Given the decreased risk

367 of bleeding and improved outcomes associated with DOACs, their routine use over warfarin
368 would be favored in high-risk elderly patients. Further validation through longer-term follow-up
369 and multicenter studies is essential to confirm these findings and guide clinical practice.

370

371 **DECLARATIONS**

372

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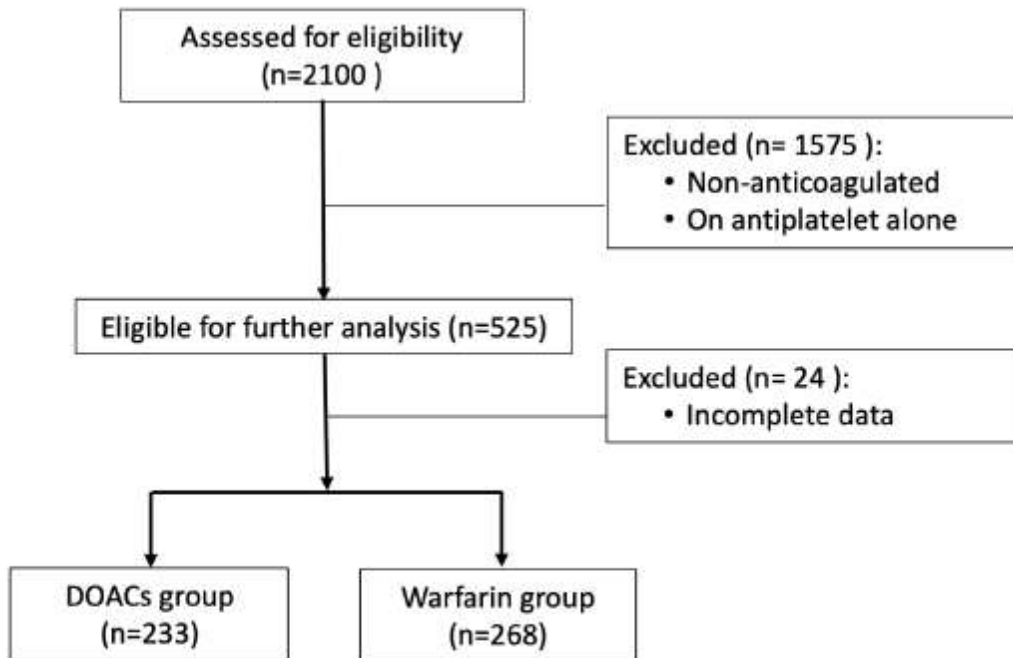
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376 **Author's Disclosure Statement:**

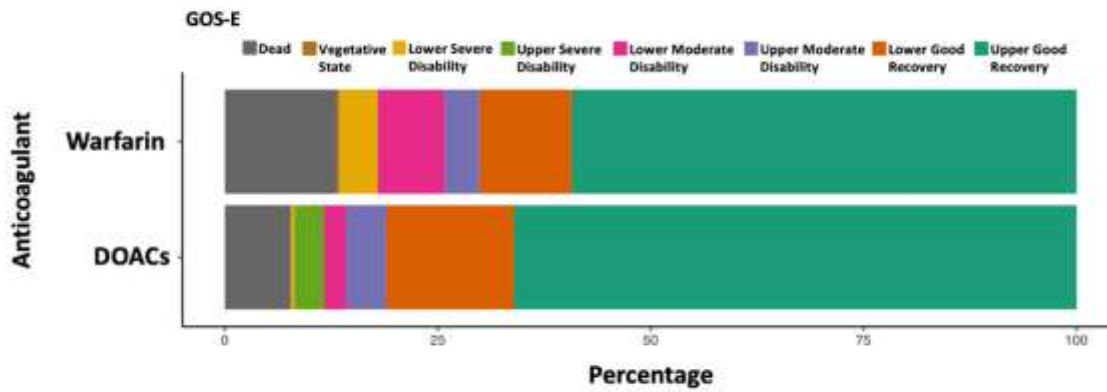
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378 The authors have no competing interest to disclose.

379



382 Figure 1. Study flowchart. DOACs -direct oral anticoagulants



383

384 Figure 2. Comparison of percentage of patients between warfarin and DOAC group achieving

385 outcomes based on GOS-E class at hospital discharge. DOACs -direct oral anticoagulants, GOS-

386 E – Glasgow outcome scale-extended

387 Table 1. Comparison of patient characteristics between DOAC and warfarin (WF) group

	DOAC (n= 233)	WF (n = 268)	<i>p-value</i>
Age in years, mean (SD)	82.1 (7.64)	82.4 (7.95)	0.746
Male gender, n (%)	114 (49%)	142 (53%)	0.414
History of falls, n (%)	217 (93%)	251 (94%)	0.956
GCS score, mean (SD)	14.3 (1.71)	13.6 (2.85)	0.001
TBI severity n (%)			
Mild TBI (13-15)	220 (94%)	228 (85%)	0.001
Moderate TBI (9-12)	8 (3%)	17 (6%)	0.198
Severe (3-8)	5 (2%)	23 (9%)	0.003
Hypertension, n (%)	170 (73%)	176 (66%)	0.096
Congestive heart failure, n (%)	32 (14%)	46 (17%)	0.351
Modified frailty score, mean (SD)	1.51 (0.906)	1.48 (0.973)	0.732
Severely frail, n (%)	25 (11%)	29 (11%)	1.000
CT Marshall Score, mean (SD)	2.00 (1.54)	2.40 (1.74)	0.007
Subdural hemorrhage, n (%)	53 (23%)	95 (35%)	0.003
Subarachnoid hemorrhage, n (%)	45 (19%)	55 (21%)	0.822
Multicompartment hemorrhage, n (%)	38 (16%)	58 (22%)	0.162
INR, mean (SD) ^a	1.22 (0.326)	2.36 (1.01)	<0.001
Aspirin use, n (%)	28 (12%)	39 (15%)	0.484
Use of reversal agent, n (%)	13 (6%)	113 (42%)	<0.001
ISS, mean (SD) ^b	24.9 (8.39)	22.1 (9.36)	0.054

388 ^aINR – international normalized ratio

389 ^bISS – injury severity score

390

391 Table 2. Primary and Secondary outcome comparison between DOAC and warfarin (WF) group
 392

	DOAC (n = 233)	WF (n = 268)	<i>p-value</i>
Intracranial hemorrhage, n (%)	99 (42%)	154 (57%)	0.001
Hematoma progression, n (%)	46 (20%)	59 (22%)	0.608
Mortality, n (%)	18 (8%)	35 (13%)	0.073
Need for surgical intervention, n (%)	29 (12%)	40 (15%)	0.501
Need for hospitalization, n (%)	69 (30%)	109 (41%)	0.013
Hospital length of stay, mean (SD)	5.83 (15.2)	6.21 (14.8)	0.779
GOS-E, mean (SD) ^a	6.98 (2.00)	6.41 (2.48)	0.005

393

394 ^aGOS-E – Glasgow outcome scale-extended

395
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Table 3. Multivariable Logistic Regression Analysis of Independent Predictors of Intracranial Hemorrhage, Functional Dependency, and Mortality

Independent Predictors	OR	95% confidence interval	p-value
<i>Intracranial Hemorrhage</i>			
History of Fall	1.58	0.29, 3.20	0.031
Use of reversal agent	3.05	2.25, 3.96	<0.001
Mod-Severe TBI	1.44	0.47, 2.53	0.005
Length of Stay	0.07	0.04, 0.12	<0.001
Anticoagulation	0.27	-2.92, 0.25	0.113
<i>Functional Dependency</i>			
Multicompartment hemorrhage			
Mod-Severe TBI	2.30	0.24, 4.34	0.027
Length of Stay	1.51	0.12, 2.89	0.031
Anticoagulation	0.04	0.02, 0.06	<0.001
	-1.27	-2.92, 0.25	0.113
<i>Mortality</i>			
Mod-Severe TBI	0.031	0.38, 2.37	0.007
Marshall score	1.09	0.78, 1.44	<0.001
Frailty score	0.62	0.08, 1.17	0.026
Anticoagulation	0.03	-1.15, 1.16	0.963

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