

LAA Closure is Here: Now What?

Craig S. Cameron, MD, FACC, FHRS

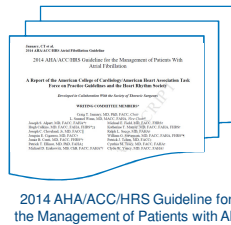


No Disclosures Relevant to This Talk



Stroke Prevention

- Assess stroke risk with CHA₂DS₂-VASc score
 - Score 1: Annual stroke risk 1%, oral anticoagulants or aspirin may be considered
 - Score ≥2: Annual stroke risk 2%-15%, **oral anticoagulants are recommended**
- Balance benefit vs. bleeding risk



2014 AHA/ACC/HRS Guideline for the Management of Patients with AF

January, CT, et al. 2014 AHA/ACC/HRS Guideline for the Management of Patients With Atrial Fibrillation. JACC. 2014; doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2014.03.022

OKLAHOMA HEART RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION PRESENTS

CHA₂DS₂-VASc

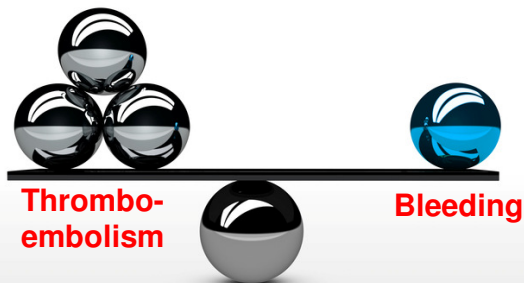
	Risk Factor	Score
C	Congestive Heart Failure	1
H	Hypertension	1
A	Age > 75 years	2
D	Diabetes Mellitus	1
S	Stroke/TIA/TE	2
V	Vascular Disease	1
A	Age 65 – 74 years	1
Sc	Female	1
	Maximum Score	9

HAS-BLED

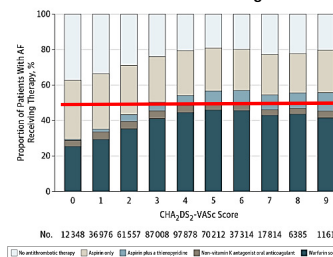
	Risk Factor	Score
H	Hypertension	1
A	Abnormal renal or liver function (1 each)	1 or 2
S	Stroke	1
B	Bleeding	1
L	Labile INR	1
E	Elderly Age (>65 years)	1
D	Drugs or alcohol (1 each) (antiplatelet, NSAIDs)	1 or 2
	Maximum Score	9

Camm AJ, et al. Eur Heart J. 2010;31:2369-2429

Pisters R, et al. Chest, 2010;138:1093-100



Use of OACs in AF Patients peaks at ~50%, use declines with increasing risk



Warfarin

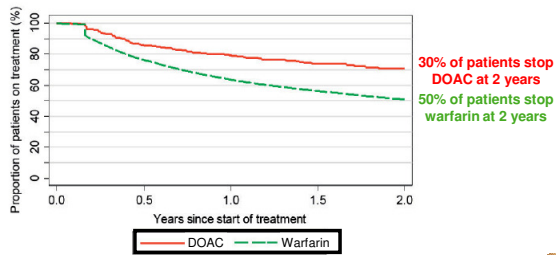
- Bleeding risk
- Daily regimen
- High non-adherence rates
- Regular INR monitoring
- Food and drug interaction issues
- Complicates surgical procedures

Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs)

- Bleeding risk
- Daily regimen
- High non-adherence rates
- Complicates surgical procedures
- Lack of reversal agents
- High cost

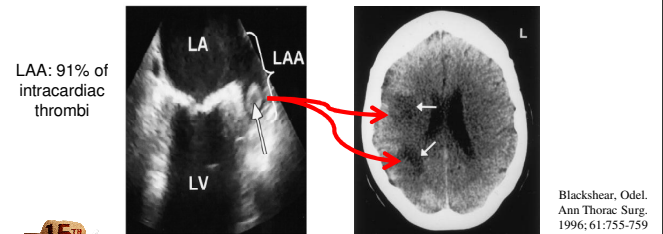
Hsu, J et al. JAMA Cardiol. Published online March 16, 2016. doi:10.1001/jamacardio.2015.0374

Anticoagulant Discontinuation Rates



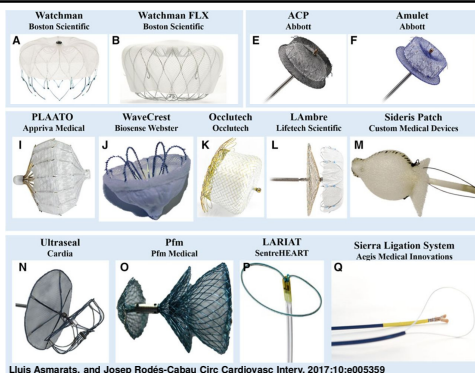
Marínz C, et al. Therapy Persistence in Newly Diagnosed Non-Valvular Atrial Fibrillation Treated with Warfarin or NOAC. A Cohort Study. Thromb Haemost. 2015 Dec 22;115(1):31-9. doi: 10.1160/TH15-04-

Mechanism of Stroke in AF



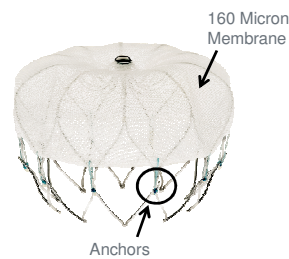
Two Basic Approaches for Percutaneous LAA Closure

“Plug” External Suture



Lluís Asmarats, and Josep Rodes-Cabau Circ Cardiovasc Interv. 2017;10:e005359

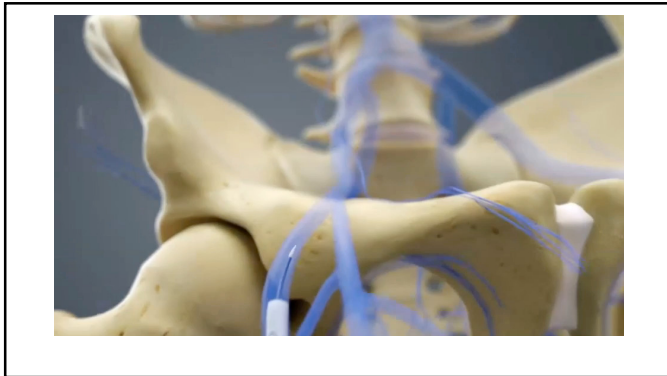
Watchman LAA Closure Device



- Available sizes: 21, 24, 27, 30, 33 mm diameter
- Self-expanding Nitinol frame
- 10 active fixation anchors - designed to engage tissue for stability
- 160 micron membrane PET cap designed to block emboli and promote healing

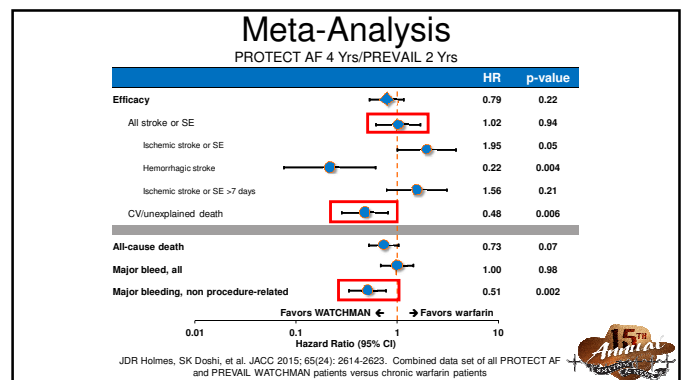
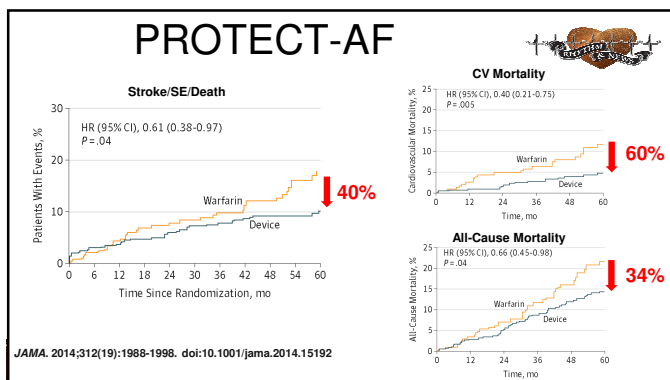


	Lariat	Watchman	Amulet
FDA Approval	Initial 510(k) approval in Feb 2009 for soft tissue approximation and/or ligation. Lariat XT – 510(k) approval May 5, 2016	March 13, 2015	IDE Trial Currently Enrolling (CE Mark: Jan 18, 2013)



Most Studied LAAC Device

	PROTECT AF	CAP Registry	PREVAIL	CAP2 Registry	Totals
Enrollment	2005-2008	2008-2010	2010-2012	2012-2014	
Enrolled	800	566	461	579	2406
Randomized	707	---	407	---	1114
WATCHMAN: warfarin (2:1)	463 : 244	566	269 : 138	579	1877 : 382
Mean Follow-up (years)	4.0	3.7	2.2	0.58	N/A
Patient-years	2717	2022	860	332	5931



WATCHMAN Therapy

Indications for Use

FDA Approval: March 13, 2015

The WATCHMAN Device is indicated to reduce the risk of thromboembolism from the left atrial appendage in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation who:

- Are at increased risk for stroke and systemic embolism based on CHADS₂ or CHA₂DS₂-VASc scores and are recommended for anticoagulation therapy;
- Are deemed by their physicians to be suitable for warfarin
- Have an appropriate rationale to seek a non-pharmacologic alternative to warfarin, taking into account the safety and effectiveness of the device compared to warfarin.



WATCHMAN Therapy

National Coverage Determination Effective Feb. 8, 2016

CMS will cover percutaneous LAAC implants when specific criteria are met:

Documented in medical record

- Eligible patients must have a CHADS₂ score ≥ 2 or a CHA₂DS₂-VASc score ≥ 3
- Patients must be suitable for short-term warfarin, but deemed unable to take long-term oral anticoagulation
- Documented evidence of a formal shared decision interaction between the patient and an independent non-interventional physician using an OAC evidence-based decision tool
- LAA Registry: Patients must be enrolled in a prospective national registry



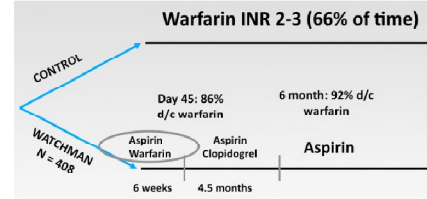
What do you mean,
“Watchman patients
must be suitable for
warfarin?!?!?”



“...suitable for warfarin...”



PROTECT-AF TRIAL DESIGN



TEE criteria for warfarin discontinuation: complete closure LAA or residual peri-device flow (jet < 5 mm)
Lancet 2009 Aug 15;374(9689):534-42



ASAP Registry

- Patients had a history of hemorrhagic & bleeding tendencies or a hypersensitivity to warfarin
- 150 patients received Watchman at 4 European Centers
- Post procedure antiplatelet regimen (Clopidogrel through 6 months, Aspirin indefinitely)

Reasons for warfarin ineligibility	
History of hemorrhagic/bleeding tendencies	140 (93.0%)
Blood dyscrasia	11 (7.3%)
Unsupervised senility/high fall risk	6 (4.0%)
Other	8 (5.3%)
CHA2DS2-VASc	4.4
CHA2DS2 (avg)	2.6

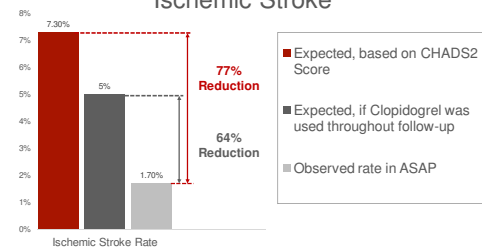


OKLAHOMA HEART RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION PRESENTS

Reddy et al. JACC 2013;61(25):551-6.

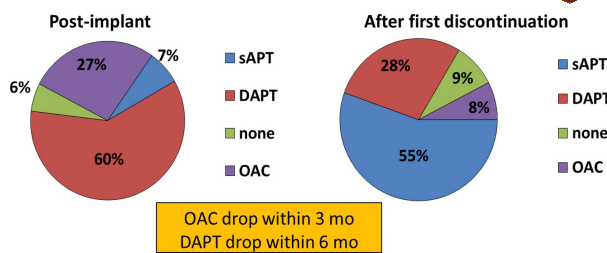
ASAP Registry

Efficacy Outcome vs. Expected Ischemic Stroke



Reddy et al. JACC 2013;61(25):551-6.

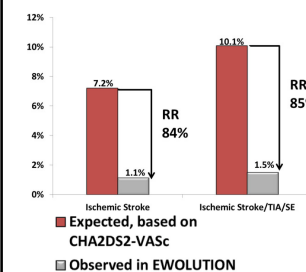
EWOLUTION



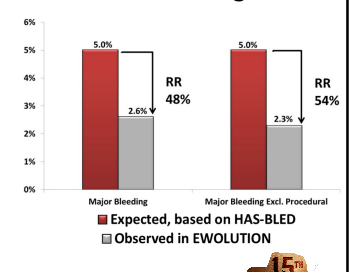
OKLAHOMA HEART RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION PRESENTS

Heart Rhythm 2017 14, 1302-1308DOI: (10.1016/j.hrthm.2017.05.038)

Stroke



Bleeding



Heart Rhythm 2017 14, 1302-1308DOI: (10.1016/j.hrthm.2017.05.038)



ASAP-TOO Trial

- Randomized 2:1 (WATCHMAN:Control) IDE trial in NVAF subjects deemed unsuitable for anticoagulation
- Control group: Single antiplatelet medication or no medication
- Up to 888 subjects
- Primary effectiveness endpoint: Time to first event of ischemic stroke or systemic embolism
- Primary safety endpoint: 7-day combined rate of death, ischemic stroke, systemic embolism and complications requiring major cardiovascular or endovascular intervention.

Adequately powered to address the fundamental question of benefit-risk in patients who would otherwise not be treated with anticoagulation



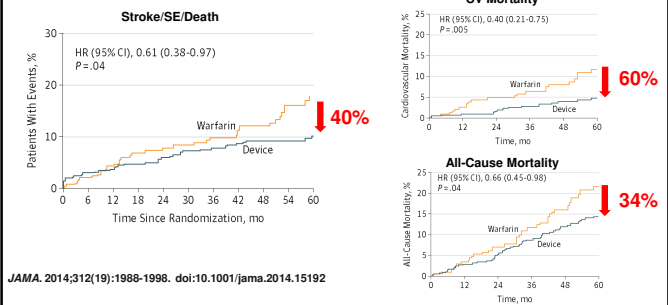
Which of the following patients is the BEST candidate for Watchman LAA Closure?

- 65 yo woman with persistent AF, HTN, prior TIA, and recurrent GI bleeding on apixaban (Eliquis).
- 80 yo man with permanent AF, HTN, DM, CHF, and frequent falls on chronic warfarin who lives in a nursing home.
- 50 yo man with HTN, DM, and paroxysmal AF tolerating apixaban (Eliquis) well who "wants to come off of his blood thinner."
- 65 yo woman with permanent AF, HTN, DM, prior CVA, and recurrent, spontaneous intracranial hemorrhage - deemed not to be a candidate for any anticoagulation (absolute contraindication per neurosurgery).

Which of the following patients is the BEST candidate for Watchman LAA Closure?

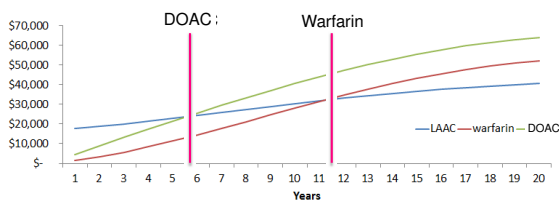
- 65 yo woman with persistent AF, HTN, prior TIA, and recurrent GI bleeding on apixaban (Eliquis).
- 80 yo man with permanent AF, HTN, DM, CHF, and frequent falls on chronic warfarin who lives in a nursing home.
- 50 yo man with HTN, DM, and paroxysmal AF tolerating apixaban (Eliquis) well who "wants to come off of his blood thinner."
- 65 yo woman with permanent AF, HTN, DM, prior CVA, and recurrent, spontaneous intracranial hemorrhage - deemed not to be a candidate for any anticoagulation (absolute contraindication per neurosurgery).

PROTECT-AF



COST EFFECTIVENESS

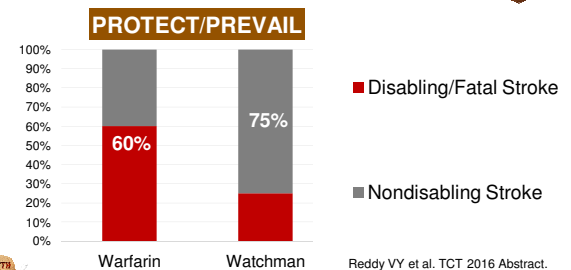
Total costs through 20 Years with Watchman versus warfarin & DOAC



OKLAHOMA HEART RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION PRESENTS

Reddy VV et al. TCT 2016 Abstract

Stroke Disability Rates



OKLAHOMA HEART RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION PRESENTS

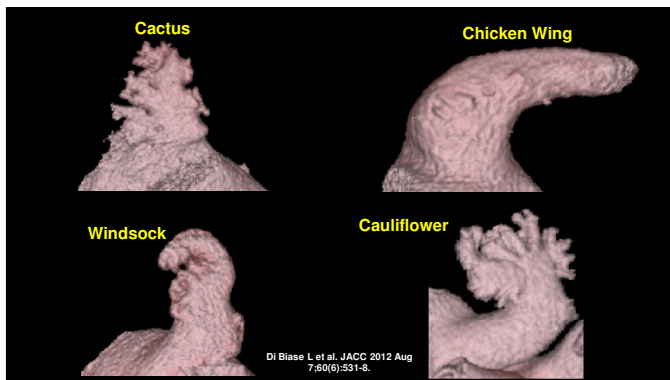


There are known knowns. These are things we know that we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are things that we know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns. There are things we don't know we don't know.

— Donald Rumsfeld —

Knowledge Gaps in LAAC "The Known Unknowns"

- Only prospective, randomized data for Watchman device.
- Is antiplatelet therapy sufficient?
 - ASAP-TOO
 - AMULET IDE
- No head-to-head comparisons:
 - device vs. DOAC
 - device vs. device
- Safety of cardioversion without anticoagulation post-LAAC?

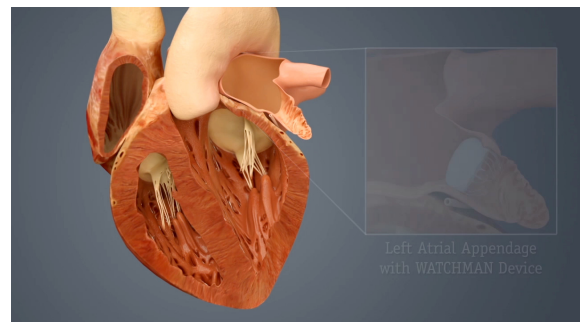


Summary

- Percutaneous left atrial appendage closure is here!
- Watchman device – only randomized prospective data
 - But stay tuned...
- Watchman LAAC candidates must be suitable for short-term anticoagulation.
 - Await ASAP-TOO and Amulet IDE studies
- The future looks bright...

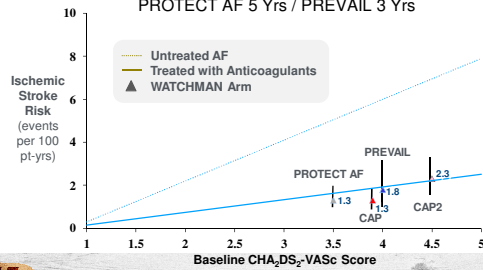


Rhythms of the HEARTLAND



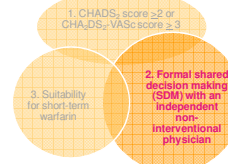
Ischemic Stroke Rate Aligns with Expected Rate Based on Risk Score

PROTECT AF 5 Yrs / PREVALE 3 Yrs



Friberg, Eur Heart J (2012); NICE UK (2014); WATCHMAN FDA Panel Sponsor Presentation, Oct 2014

NCD Criterion 2: Formal SDM interaction with an independent non-interventional physician using an evidenced-based decision tool on oral anticoagulant (OAC) in patients with NVAF prior to LAAC. This interaction must be documented.



Independent non-interventional physician:

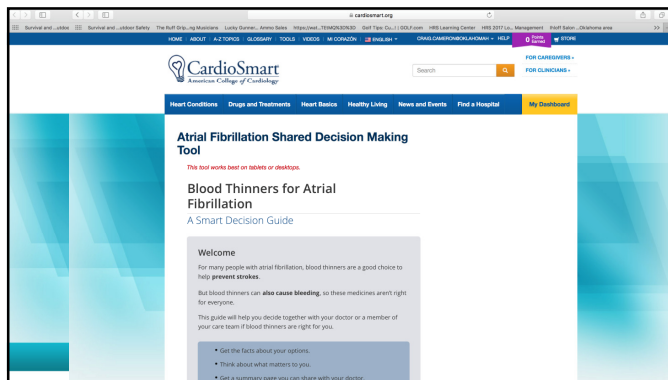
- Physician other than implanter
- CMS references primary care provider, a non-interventional cardiologist, neurologist or those who have experience caring for stroke patients (pg. 77 of decision memo)

OAC evidenced-based decision tool:^{*}

(Page 92 of decision memo)

- American College of Physician Foundation: AF Management Guide
- NICE Patient Decision Aid on AF Treatment Options
- ACC CardioSmart's AF Treatment Options

15th Annual
OKLAHOMA HEART RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION PRESENTS



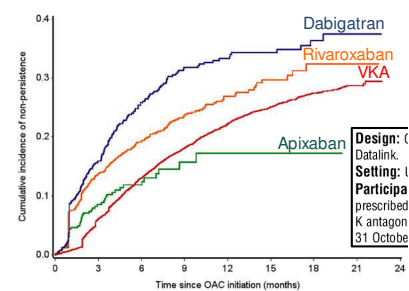
WATCHMAN™ Clinical Leadership

- Five studies, >2400 patients, nearly 6000 patient-years of follow-up
- WATCHMAN is a **safe alternative** to long-term warfarin therapy which offers **comparable stroke risk reduction** and enables patients to **stop taking warfarin**^{1,2}
- 95% implant success rate³
- >92% warfarin cessation after 45 days, >99% after 1 year¹
- WATCHMAN™ therapy demonstrated **comparable stroke risk reduction** and **statistically superior reductions in major non-procedure related bleeding and cardiovascular death** compared to warfarin⁴.

1. Holmes DR et al. JACC 2014; Vol. 54, No. 1. 2. Holmes DR et al. JACC 2015; Vol. 65, No. 2. 3. Reddy VY, Holmes DR et al. JACC 2016; Article in press. 4. Price M, J, V, Y. Reddy VY et al. JACC 2016; Vol. 57, No. 10: 1020-1029.



Real-World OAC Discontinuation Rate



Johnson ME, et al. BMJ Open 2016;6:e011471.

