

Comparison of The Efficacy and Safety of Apixaban versus Warfarin in Patients with Tissue Valve Prostheses and Atrial Fibrillation: Literature Review

Salman Khan, Ahmad K. Alaboud, Luis Acosta Zerpa, Eisa Sanai, Jose Andres Fernandez, Mahmoud Alukayli, Ayesha Khan
King Faisal Cardiac Center, King Abdul Aziz Medical City, National Guards Health Affairs, Jeddah, KSA



References



1.Anticoagulation Challenges in AF with Tissue Valve Prostheses:

- 1.Patients with AF and tissue valve prostheses have a high risk of stroke and thromboembolism.
- 2.Warfarin has been the standard treatment but requires regular monitoring and has many interactions, making management challenging.

2.Apixaban as a Safer Alternative:

- 1.Apixaban, a direct oral anticoagulant (DOAC), offers predictable effects with fewer interactions and no need for routine blood monitoring.
- 2.It is being explored as an alternative to warfarin due to its ease of use and lower bleeding risks.

3.Findings from Key Studies:

- 1.ARISTOTLE and AUGUSTUS Trials: Showed that apixaban reduces the risk of bleeding compared to warfarin, while effectively preventing strokes.
- 2.Ongoing Research: New trials like VALVE-AF aim to confirm apixaban’s role in patients with tissue valve prostheses, potentially expanding its use.
- 3.Apixaban shows promise as a safer, effective alternative to warfarin, but more data is needed to establish its role in this patient group.

Comparative efficacy:

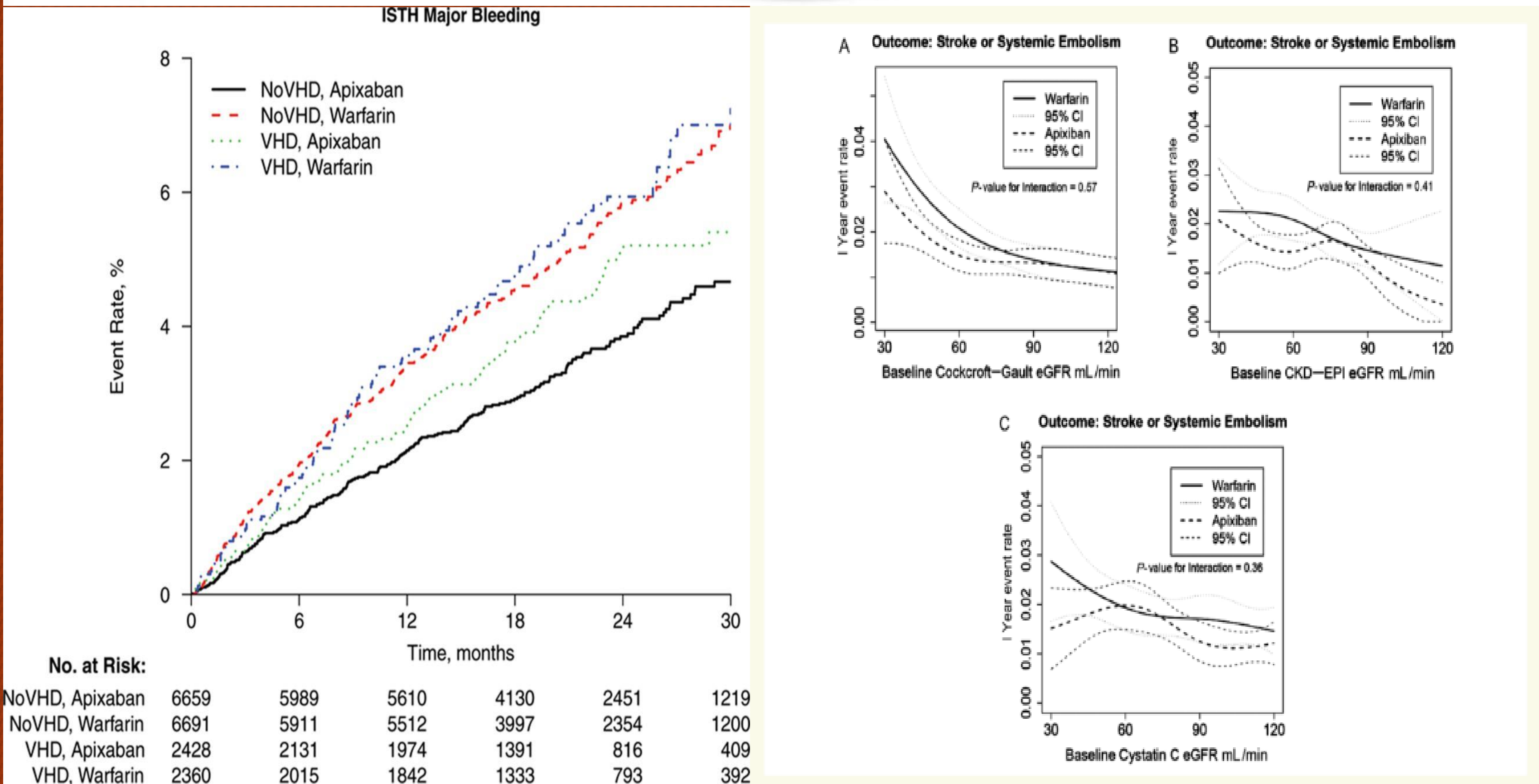
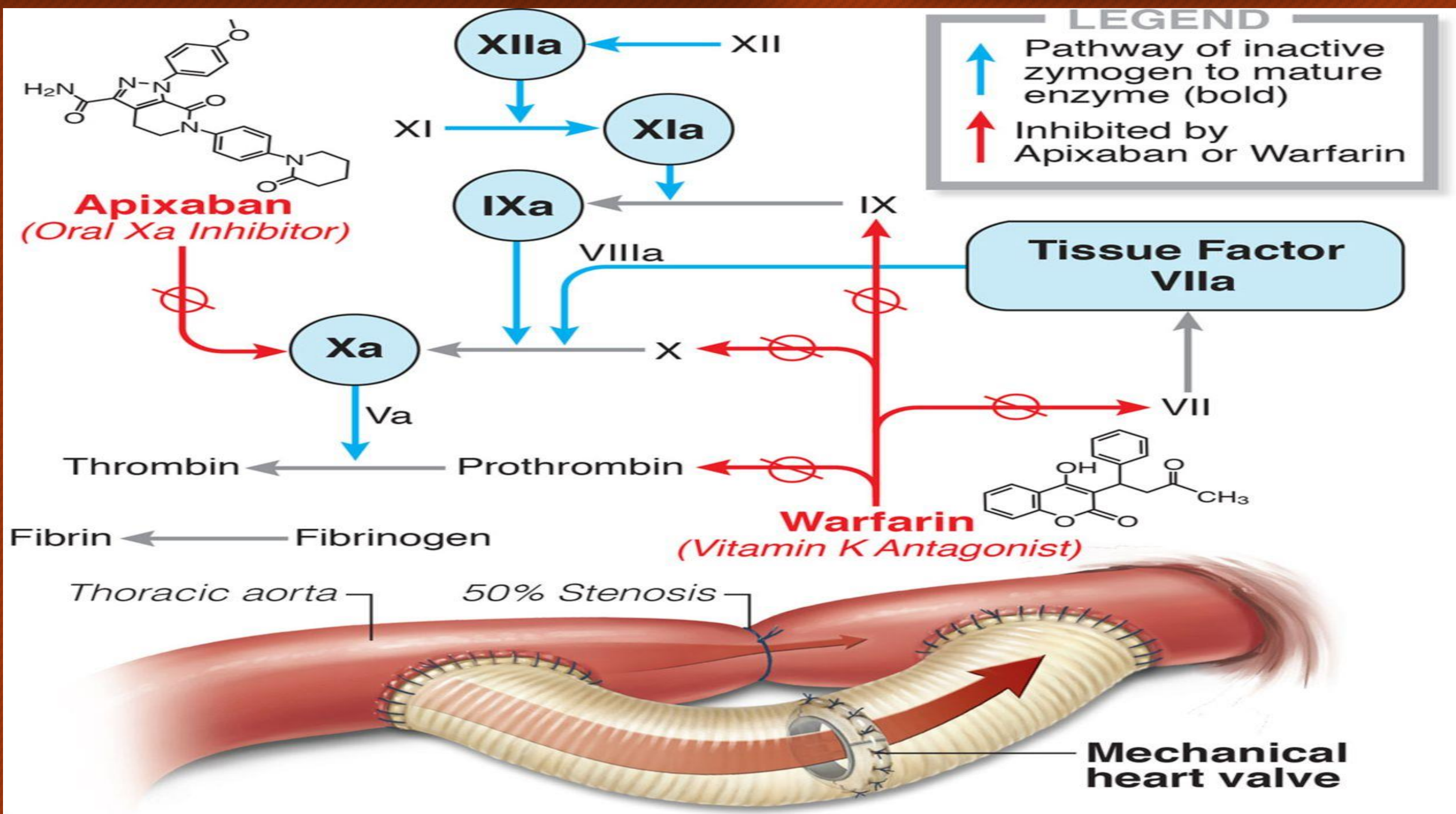
ARISTOTLE Trial

- Demonstrated that apixaban was *non-inferior* to warfarin in reducing stroke and systemic embolism in patients with AF
- Showed significantly *lower bleeding risks* with apixaban compared to warfarin
- Primarily included patients with *non-valvular* AF, but findings have influenced anticoagulant considerations in AF patients with tissue valve prostheses.

AUGUSTUS Trial

- Supported Apixaban’s *safety profile*, highlighting a reduction in major bleeding risks compared to warfarin
- Included patients with AF and recent acute coronary syndrome or percutaneous coronary intervention, underscoring apixaban’s efficacy and safety across diverse AF populations

Aspect	Apixaban	Warfarin
Pharmacokinetics	Predictable, fixed dosing, no regular monitoring needed	Variable; requires regular INR monitoring
Dietary Restrictions	Minimal dietary restrictions	Significant restrictions (e.g., vitamin K intake affects INR)
Bleeding Risk	Lower risk of major bleeding, particularly intracranial	Higher risk of major bleeding, including intracranial hemorrhage
Mechanism of Action	Direct Factor Xa inhibitor	Vitamin K antagonist, affecting multiple clotting factors
Reversal Agents	Available (Andexanet alfa)	Available (Vitamin K, Prothrombin Complex Concentrate)
Valve Type Suitability	Safe for tissue valve prostheses; not recommended for mechanical valves	Suitable for both tissue and mechanical valves
Key Studies	AMAZE Trial: Lower bleeding risk in AF with tissue valves	RE-ALIGN Trial: Higher bleeding and thromboembolic events in mechanical valves
INR Monitoring Requirement	Not required	Required regularly to maintain therapeutic range
Drug Interactions	Fewer drug interactions	Numerous interactions with other drugs and food
Onset of Action	Rapid (within hours)	Slower onset (requires days for full effect)
Dosing Adjustments	Based on renal function and age; fixed doses	Frequent adjustments based on INR results
Recommendation	Preferred for AF patients with tissue valves due to lower bleeding risk	Standard anticoagulant for mechanical valve patients



Conclusions

While warfarin remains the standard of care for these patients, clinicians may consider apixaban in specific cases, balancing individual patient needs and the current evidence until more conclusive data is available.