

Bleeding risk assessment in atrial fibrillation: observations on the use and misuse of bleeding risk scores.

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Patient with Atrial Fibrillation; Eligible for Oral Anticoagulation

Bleeding risk assessment

Identifies 'at risk' patients for more regular review and follow-up

EHR and 'electronic alerts'

Low risk=No action

High risk=Patient 'flagged up' for review

'High risk' is not a reason or excuse to withhold OAC

Review and address potentially reversible bleeding risk factors

- Uncontrolled hypertension
- Labile INRs (if on VKA)
- Concomitant use of aspirin and NSAIDs in anticoagulated patient
- Alcohol excess

For people with an increased risk of bleeding the benefit of OAC usually, but not always, outweighs the bleeding risk; thus careful monitoring of bleeding risk is important

Do not withhold OAC solely because the person is at risk of having a fall