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Thrombosis and COVID-19: inpatient management

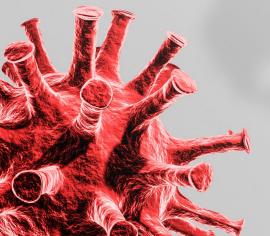
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Speaker bureau	Bayer, BMS, Sanofi	
Scientific advisory board	See consultant	



The problem

 What is the optimal thromboprophylaxis regimen for hospitalised patients with COVID-19?

• Is (full-dose) anticoagulation a treatment for COVID-19?



In hospitalised patients with coronavirus disease in 2019

Incidence of VTE

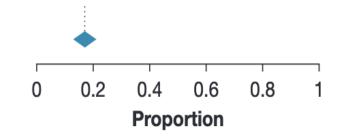
CI, confidence interval; VTE, venous thromboembolism

Total (95% CI)

18,093 100%

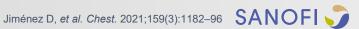
0.170 [0.134-0.209]

Heterogeneity: $Tau^2 = 0.0261; \chi^2 = 1,733.93, df = 46 (p=0); I^2 = 97\%$



In hospitalised patients with coronavirus disease in 2019

Group	Incidence (%)	Difference
VTE		
Screening	33.1	<0.0001
Clinical diagnosis	9.8	
Ward	7.1	<0.0001
ICU	27.9	
Prospective	25.5	<0.0001
Retrospective	12.4	



• In hospitalised patients with coronavirus disease in 2019

Incidence of bleeding

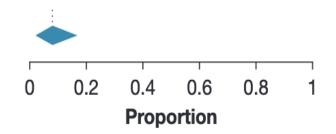
CI, confidence interval; VTE, venous thromboembolism

Total (95% CI)

1,411 100%

0.078 [0.026–0.153]

Heterogeneity: $Tau^2 = 0.0168; \chi^2 = 76.73, df = 4 (p<0.01); I^2 = 95\%$



In hospitalised patients with coronavirus disease in 2019

BLEEDING

Prospective	2.7	<0.001
Retrospective	9.4	
Standard dose prophylaxis	4.7	<0.001
Intermediate dose or full anticoagulation	21.4	



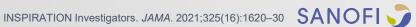
Trial designs

	INSPIRATION ¹	Multiplatform trials ²	ACTION ³
Population	Critically ill (562)	Non-critically ill (2,219) Critically ill (1,074)	Non-critically ill (575) Critically ill (39)
Intervention	Intermediate-dose thromboprophylaxis (LMWH)	Therapeutic anticoagulation (LMWH)	Therapeutic anticoagulation (rivaroxaban for stable and LMWH for unstable patients)
Comparator	Low-dose thromboprophylaxis	Usual care pharmacological thromboprophylaxis Low-dose: 72% Intermediate-dose: 27% Subtherapeutic: 1%	Standard of care with prophylactic dose anticoagulation
Primary outcome	Composite of adjudicated acute VTE, arterial thrombosis, undergoing ECMO or all-cause mortality	Survival to hospital discharge and days free of organ support	Hierarchical analysis of mortality, duration of hospitalisation and duration of oxygen use



INSPIRATION trial – mITT analyses (N=562)

	Intermediate-dose thromboprophylaxis n=276	Standard-dose thromboprophylaxis n=286
Primary outcome (%) Composite of adjudicated acute VTE, arterial thrombosis, undergoing extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, or all-cause mortality	45.7	44.1
VTE (%)	3.3	3.5
Major bleeding (%)	2.5	1.4
Severe thrombocytopenia (n)	6	0



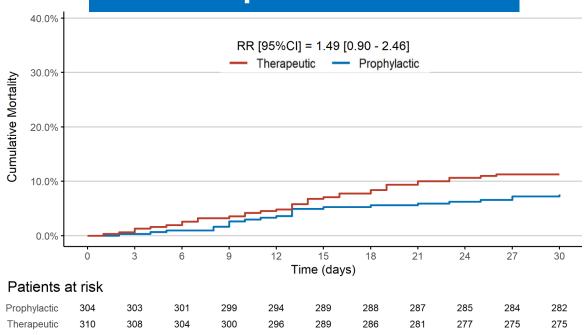
ATTACC, REMAP-CAP and ACTIV-4a mpRCT

State and D-dimer strata	Proportional odds ratio Median (95% Crl)	Trial statistical conclusion
Severe state	0.76 (0.60–0.97)	Futility [Probability of OR>1.2 < 0.001]



ACTION trial

Unstable patients: 23 vs 16





Clinical practice guidelines



7. In critically ill patients with COVID-19, we suggest current standard dose anticoagulant thromboprophylaxis over intermediate (LMWH BID or increased weight-based dosing) or full treatment dosing, per existing guidelines.

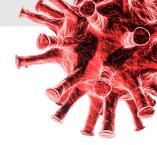


ATTACC, REMAP-CAP and ACTIV-4a mpRCT

State and D-dimer strata	Proportional odds ratio Median (95% Crl)	Trial statistical conclusion
Moderate state, low D-dimer	1.22 (0.93–1.57)	Superiority [Probability of OR>1= 0.929]
Moderate state, high D-dimer	1.31 (1.00–1.76)	Superiority [Probability of OR>1= 0.973]
Moderate state, missing D-dimer	1.32 (1.00–1.86)	Superiority [Probability of OR>1= 0.973]



ATTACC, REMAP-CAP and ACTIV-4a mpRCT: mortality



Therapeutic	Usual care venous
anticoagulation	thromboprophylaxis
N=1,171	N=1,048
86 (7.3%)	86 (8.2%)

Relative risk reduction 11%



ACTION trial



Stable patients: 288 vs 288

	Therapeutic N=310	Prophylactic N=304
Composite thromboembolic outcome	23 (7.4%)	30 (9.9%)
ISTH major bleeding or clinically relevant non-major bleeding	26 (8.4%)	7 (2.3%)



Anticoagulation as a treatment for COVID-19

• We need to see the data in a final, peer-reviewed publication

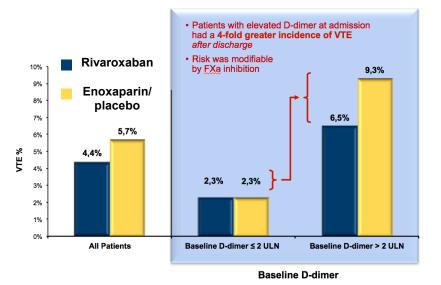
More questions than answers

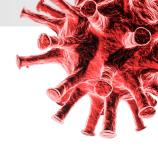
We also need confirmatory data



More questions than answers

- No benefit for the most severe patients
- Benefit for moderate patients with low D-dimer





ATTACC, REMAP-CAP and ACTIV-4a mpRCT

	Therapeutic anticoagulation N=1,180	Usual care venous thromboprophylaxis N=1,046
Venous thrombotic events	16 (1.4%)	26 (2.5%) MEDENOX trial 5.5%
Major bleeding	22 (1.9%)	9 (0.9%)
		MEDENOX trial 2.0%



More questions than answers

Intervention	Population	Mortality RRR (%)
Dexamethasone ¹	6,425 patients hospitalised with COVID-19	17
Remdesivir ²	1,062 patients hospitalised with COVID-19	25
Tocilizumab ³	389 patients hospitalised with COVID-19 who were not receiving mechanical ventilation	21
Full-dose anticoagulation ⁴	1,398 moderate patients with COVID-19	25



Anticoagulation as a treatment for COVID-19

We also need confirmatory data



Tocilizumab in Hospitalized Patients with Severe Covid-19 Pneumonia¹

COVACTA study

Double-blind, placebo-controlled trial Negative for mortality

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Interluekin-6 Receptor Antagonists in Critically III
Patients with Covid-19²

REMAP-CAP study

Open-label trial Positive for mortality



Anticoagulation as a treatment for COVID-19

Methodological issues with multiplatform trials

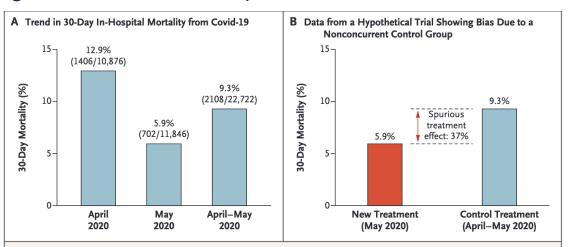


Figure 1. Hypothetical Example of How Nonconcurrent Randomization Could Bias the Results of a Trial.

Panel A shows the 30-day in-hospital mortality from Covid-19 in April 2020 (12.9% [SE, 0.3]), in May 2020 (5.9% [SE, 0.2]), and over both months (9.3 [SE, 0.2]) (data are from eFig. 2B in Asch et al.2). Panel B shows the data from a hypothetical trial for an ineffective new agent used in May 2020 as compared with a control treatment used in April and May 2020. The data show that mortality was lower by 37% with the ineffective new agent than with the control treatment.



Conclusions

 I still use standard-dose thromboprophylaxis for the vast majority of patients hospitalised with COVID-19

 Peer-reviewed data from RCTs will dictate whether anticoagulation is a treatment for COVID-19, and hopefully will identify patient subgroups who benefit most from this therapy

