

Thrombosis and Haemostasis

Assessment of DOAC in GERiatrics (ADAGE study): rivaroxaban/apixaban concentrations and thrombin generation profiles in NVAF very elderly patients

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Conflict of Interest: Virginie Siguret, Isabelle Gouin-Thibault, Eric Pautas, Etienne Puymirat, François Mullier, Maxime Delrue, Pascale Gaussem have received honoraria for participating in expert meetings on dabigatran (from Boehringer Ingelheim), rivaroxaban (from Bayer Healthcare AG) or apixaban (Bristol Myers Squibb-Pfizer).

The other authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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Abstract:

Background: Although a growing number of very elderly patients with atrial fibrillation (AF), multiple conditions and poly-pharmacy, receive direct oral anticoagulants (DOAC), few studies specifically investigated both apixaban/rivaroxaban pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics in such patients.

Aims: To investigate: i/DOAC concentration-time profiles; ii/thrombin generation (TG); and iii/clinical outcomes 6-months after inclusion in very elderly AF in-patients receiving rivaroxaban or apixaban.

Methods: ADAGE-NCT02464488 was an academic prospective exploratory multicenter study, enrolling AF in-patients aged ≥ 80 -years, receiving DOAC for at least 4 days. Each patient had 1-5 blood samples at different time-points over 20-days. DOAC concentrations were determined using chromogenic assays. TG was investigated using ST-Genesia (STG-ThromboScreen, STG-DrugScreen).

Results: We included 215 patients (women 71.1%, mean age 87 ± 4 -years), 104-rivaroxaban and 111-apixaban, 79.5% receiving reduced-dose regimen. We observed important inter-individual variabilities (CV) whatever the regimen, at C_{max} [49-46%] and C_{min} [75-61%] in 15mg-rivaroxaban and 2.5mg-apixaban patients, respectively. Dose regimen was associated with C_{max} and C_{min} plasma concentrations in apixaban ($p=0.0058$ and $p=0.0222$, respectively), but not in rivaroxaban samples (multivariate analysis). Moreover, substantial variability of thrombin peak-height (STG-Thromboscreen) was noticed at a given plasma concentration for both xabans, suggesting an impact of the underlying coagulation status on TG in elderly in-patients. After 6-month follow-up, major bleeding/thrombo-embolic event/death rates were 6.7%/1.0%/17.3% in rivaroxaban and 5.4%/3.6%/18.9% in apixaban patients, respectively.

Conclusion: Our study provides original data in very elderly patients receiving DOAC in real-life setting, showing great inter-individual variability in plasma concentrations and TG parameters. Further research is needed to understand the potential clinical impact of these findings.

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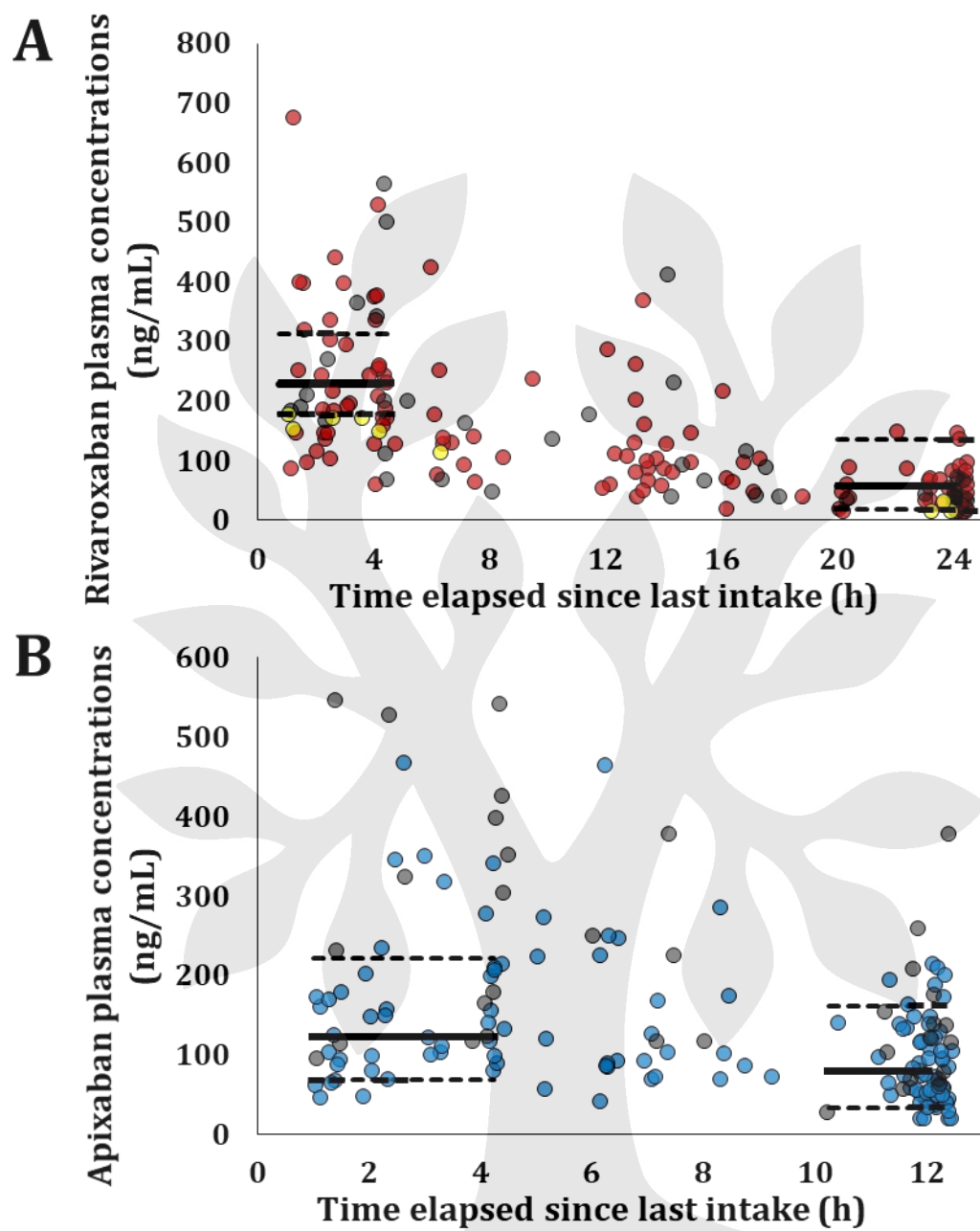
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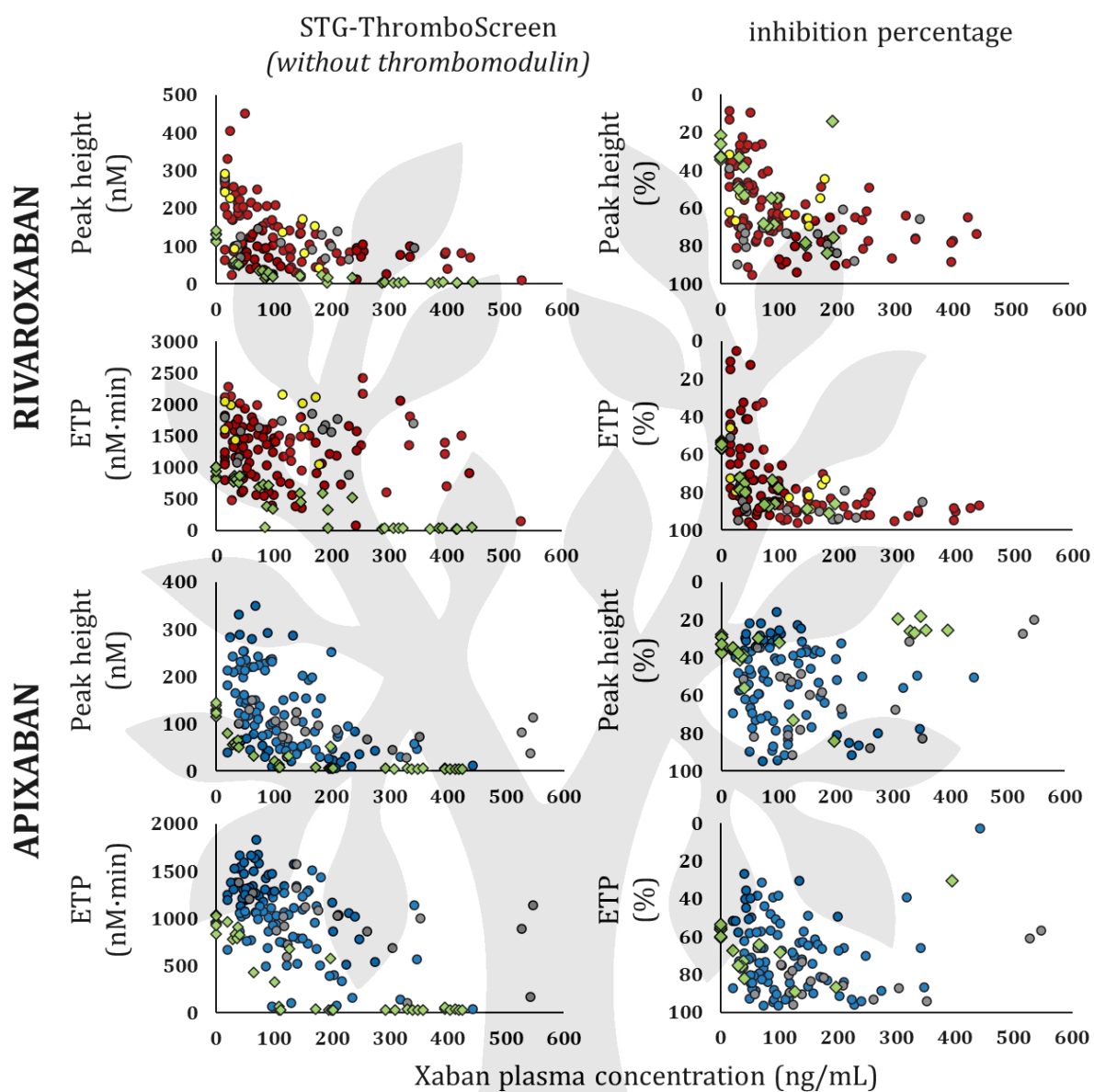
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Assessment of DOAC in GERiatrics (ADAGE study): rivaroxaban/apixaban concentrations and thrombin generation profiles in NVAf very elderly patients

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ABSTRACT

Background: Although a growing number of very elderly patients with atrial fibrillation (AF), multiple conditions and polypharmacy, receive direct oral anticoagulants (DOAC), few studies specifically investigated both apixaban/rivaroxaban pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics in such patients.

Aims: To investigate: i/DOAC concentration-time profiles; ii/thrombin generation (TG); and iii/clinical outcomes 6-months after inclusion in very elderly AF in-patients receiving rivaroxaban or apixaban.

Methods: ADAGE-NCT02464488 was an academic prospective exploratory multicenter study, enrolling AF in-patients aged ≥ 80 -years, receiving DOAC for at least 4 days. Each patient had 1-5 blood samples at different time-points over 20-days. DOAC concentrations were determined using chromogenic assays. TG was investigated using ST-Genesia (STG-ThromboScreen, STG-DrugScreen).

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Conclusion: Our study provides original data in very elderly patients receiving DOAC in real-life setting, showing great inter-individual variability in plasma concentrations and TG parameters. Further research is needed to understand the potential clinical impact of these findings.

Keywords

apixaban
atrial fibrillation
frail elderly
rivaroxaban
thrombin generation

INTRODUCTION

Non-valvular atrial fibrillation (NVAf) is the most common heart rhythm disorder with a prevalence exceeding 10% in octogenarians [1]. Current guidelines recommend the use of direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) targeting either factor Xa (such as rivaroxaban or apixaban), or thrombin (dabigatran) as first-line treatment for the prevention of stroke and systemic thromboembolism in patients NVAf [2-3]. DOACs are characterized by predictable pharmacokinetics (PK) and pharmacodynamics (PD) with a wide therapeutic index: therefore, they are administered at fixed doses without laboratory monitoring [4-11]. However, the management of very elderly

patients receiving anticoagulant treatment may be challenging because they are at both high risk of thrombotic and bleeding complications even though meta-analysis and real-life studies provided reassuring data regarding the clinical benefit-risk balance of DOACs [12-15]. Phase II/III clinical trials and phase IV studies evaluating the PK/PD profiles of DOACs in healthy volunteers and NVAF patients have provided consistent PK and PD data with substantial inter-individual variability [16-26]. However, little is known regarding specific concentration-time profiles of rivaroxaban and apixaban in polymedicated NVAF-patients aged ≥ 80 years [27-29]. This age group is characterized by the presence of multiple comorbidities (including renal impairment) and polypharmacy, potentially altering both drug exposure and effect. Both xabans are metabolized via cytochrome P450 (CYP) 3A4/5 and CYP2J2, and substrates of the drug-efflux transporter P-glycoprotein (P-gp). Several studies have evaluated the effect of moderate CYP3A4/P-gp inhibitor concomitant use on rivaroxaban or apixaban exposure, especially in healthy volunteers [4,20]. One question is whether drug-drug interactions could influence PK response variability in the very elderly.

Regarding the assessment of DOAC PD, the study of thrombin generation (TG) has been shown as a suitable and reliable assay to assess *in vitro* or *ex vivo* anticoagulant effect of direct FXa inhibitors in contrast to prothrombin time [30-36]. Nevertheless, to the best of our knowledge, no specific TG data regarding elderly patients aged 80 years and over receiving rivaroxaban or apixaban have been published yet.

Hence, we conducted an academic prospective exploratory study in a cohort of NVAF hospitalized patients aged ≥ 80 years receiving rivaroxaban or apixaban. The primary objectives were to characterize rivaroxaban and apixaban concentration-

time profiles and determine the potential impact of demographic, clinical, therapeutic and pharmacogenetic factors on their peak and trough concentrations. The secondary objectives were to perform TG assays in a subset of patients under several experimental conditions and evaluate the potential influence of individual characteristics on TG parameter variability at peak and trough level. The tertiary objectives were to report clinical outcomes (bleeding and thromboembolic complications, death) at 6-months.

METHODS

ADAGE study design and inclusion criteria

The *Assessment-of-Direct-oral-Anticoagulants-in-GEriiatrics* (ADAGE) study is an academic multicentre prospective observational study (www.clinicaltrials.gov NCT02464488). We recruited hospitalized patients in university hospital geriatric departments (Assistance-Publique-Hôpitaux-de-Paris-AP-HP, France, CHU-UCL Namur-site-Godinne, Belgium)(2015-01 - 2019-06). Patients aged ≥ 80 years and receiving rivaroxaban or apixaban for NVAf since at least four days were eligible. The DOAC dose regimen was at the discretion of the physician. Exclusion criteria included any acute unstable comorbid condition or an estimated life expectancy of a few weeks. The study was approved by the local Ethics Committee (Comité consultatif de protection des personnes pour la recherche biomédicale – Île-de-France-6). All participants gave their written informed consent to participate in the study.

Physicians prospectively collected demographic data, laboratory data (including creatinine clearance (CrCl) calculated with Cockcroft-Gault formula), comorbid conditions allowing the calculation of the CHA₂DS₂VASc, HEMORR₂HAGES and the

13-item Cumulative-Illness-Rating-Scale-Geriatrics (CIRS-G) scores [37]. We recorded DOAC regimen and concomitant medications (excluding vitamins). None of the patients had received heparin derivatives in the last five days prior the first sampling. Drugs were considered as modulators (substrate or moderate/strong inhibitors) of P-gp/CYP3A4/5 according to Geneva-University-Hospitals classification [38]. Finally, geriatricians were responsible for the clinical follow-up of the patients at six months through a phone call and/or the use of medical records, and recorded bleedings (site, severity), thrombo-embolic events (site) and deaths. Two geriatricians (F.K., L.R.) blinded to the PK/PD study results adjudicated bleeding events as major or non-major clinically relevant bleedings according to the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) criteria [39]; minor bleedings were not systematically recorded.

Sample collection in ADAGE patients

Blood samples were collected by venipuncture into a citrate tube (buffered trisodium citrate 0.109 M, 9 vol/1vol) in addition to other samples taken as part of usual care between 7.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. No additional venipuncture was specifically performed for our study purpose. Sampling and last DOAC intake times were systematically recorded on a standardized request form. Sampling time-points were at the discretion of the physicians. At most five samples per patient were collected over a maximal 20-day period following inclusion. Time-points were classified according to the time elapsed from the last oral intake (T, hours). Especially, for rivaroxaban patients, T1 to T4 samples corresponded to time to peak level (namely T_{max}) and T20 to T24 corresponded to time to trough level (T_{min}); for patients receiving apixaban (b.i.d.), T1 and T4 samples corresponded to T_{max}, and T10 to T12 samples to T_{min}.

Tubes were sent to each centre's laboratory within two hours after sampling. They were immediately double-centrifuged for 15 min at 2000 *g* at 15-22 °C to obtain platelet-poor plasma (PPP) distributed in 500 µL aliquots; pellets were kept for genotyping. All samples were stored at -80°C, prior to onward shipment on dry ice for central analysis (Haematology laboratory, Hôpital Lariboisière-AP-HP, Paris, France). PPP samples were thawed for 3-5 min in a 37°C water-bath just before use.

Rivaroxaban and apixaban concentrations and thrombin generation assessment

Anti-Xa chromogenic assays (STA[®]-Liquid-Anti-Xa, Stago, Asnières-sur-Seine, France) were used to determine rivaroxaban and apixaban plasma concentrations using dedicated calibrators and controls on STA-R-Evolution[®] (Stago) (lower limit of quantification: 20 ng/mL). The maximal observed plasma DOAC concentration (C_{max}) was defined as the level measured at T_{max} (T1-T4), whereas the minimal one (C_{min}) was defined as the level measured at T_{min} (*i.e.* T20-T24 for rivaroxaban, T10-T12 for apixaban).

TG was studied using the ST-Genesia[®] system (Stago) whenever sufficient plasma was available. ST-Genesia[®] is a fully automated system enabling quantitative standardized assessment of TG derived from Hemker's fluorescence method, using dedicated reagents, calibrator and quality controls [35]. Three experimental conditions (as a function of the reagent used) were tested: STG-DrugScreen and STG-ThromboScreen, the latter in presence/ absence of thrombomodulin (+TM/-TM) according to the manufacturer's instructions. STG-DrugScreen contains a mixture of phospholipids and recombinant human tissue factor (TF) at a high pM concentration; STG-ThromboScreen contains TF at a lower, intermediate, pM concentration [35]. TM is contained in the reagent at a concentration chosen to

inhibit 50% of the endogenous thrombin potential (ETP) assessed in normal pooled plasma. Four parameters were analyzed: lag time (in minutes, time from test triggering to signal detection), time to peak (in minutes, time necessary for thrombin concentration to reach its maximal value), peak height (PH; in nM: maximal thrombin concentration), and ETP (in nM·min: area under the thrombin time-concentration curve) [35]. Results are presented as absolute values and inhibition percentages in presence of TM.

TG in plasma samples spiked with xabans

Frozen normal pooled plasma samples (Cryocheck®, Montpellier, France) were spiked with increasing concentrations of rivaroxaban or apixaban ranging from 0 to 450 ng/mL as previously described [35]. We measured effective plasma concentrations in each sample with specific anti-Xa assays.

ABCB1, CYP3A5 and CYP2J2 genotyping

DNA was extracted from peripheral blood leukocytes using the kits E.Z.N.A.®SQ (Omega Bio-tek, Norcross, GA, US). We analysed four loss of function variants in three genes potentially involved in the DOAC metabolism (*CYP2J2*, *CYP3A5*) or transport (*ABCB1* encoding P-gp) variability: *CYP2J2* -76G>T (rs890293;*7), *CYP3A5* 6981A>G (rs776746;*3), *ABCB1* rs2032582 (2677G>T/A), and *ABCB1* rs1045642 (3435C>T) (PharmGKB www.pharmvar.org). They were analysed using real-time PCR with TaqMan® Assay-Reagents for allelic discrimination (Applied Biosystems, Courtabœuf, France).

Statistical analysis

All statistical analyses were run on R-software (version 3.5.1) using the nlme package [40-41]. Quantitative data were described as median (interquartile range) or mean values ($\pm$ standard deviation), and minimal and maximal values. Genetic

variants were coded as 0 (wild type), 1 (heterozygous), or 2 (homozygous) to model additive allelic effects. Frequencies of genotypes were compared to the Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium expected frequencies using the χ^2 -test. The association between concentrations (at Tmax and Tmin) or PD parameters and each covariate was tested using either Spearman's rank correlation (quantitative covariate), or Kruskal-Wallis test (qualitative covariate). We prespecified that PH measured using STG-ThromboScreen without TM would be chosen as the PD parameter for statistical analyses (given its optimal sensitivity to a wide range of DOAC concentrations according to previous data of our group) [35]. Multivariate analysis was done using multiple linear regression, after log-transformation of the predicted parameter (concentrations or PH). Predictors included in this analysis were selected based on either their association with the studied parameter (p -value less than 0.10 in the univariate analysis) or their clinical pertinence. Results are given as 95% confidence interval (CI) of the parameters in the model. Model quality and assumptions were graphically checked. A p -value less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant. All p -values are given uncorrected.

RESULTS

Patient characteristics

From November 2015 to July 2019, 215 in-patients (153 females, 62 males) with NVAf were included in the ADAGE study, with a mean age of 86.6 ± 4.3 years (min-max 80-100). Patient characteristics are summarized in Table 1. Rivaroxaban group comprised 104 patients: 18 (17.3%) received the 20-mg full dose o.d., 83 (79.8%) the 15-mg dose and 3 (2.9%) the 10-mg dose. Apixaban group comprised 111 patients: 26 (23.4%) received the 5-mg full dose b.i.d. and 85 (76.6%) the 2.5-mg dose b.i.d.; 72 (33.5%) patients did not receive the dose recommended according to

the summary of product characteristics [10-11] (i.e. 15-mg rivaroxaban in patients with $\text{CrCl} \leq 50$ mL/min, and 2.5-mg apixaban in patients ≥ 80 years with creatinine level ≥ 133 μM or body-weight ≤ 60 kg): 62 patients received a lower dose regimen than recommended (28 on rivaroxaban and 34 on apixaban), whereas 10 patients received a higher one (8 on rivaroxaban and 2 on apixaban).

Most patients had multiple comorbidities (mean CIRS-G score 10.4 ± 4.5); 68.8% had moderate renal impairment (CrCl 30-59 mL/min). Most patients were polymedicated (mean number of comedications: 6.2 ± 2.7 per patient). Overall, patient characteristics did not significantly differ between the two DOAC groups, except for CIRS-G and HEMORR₂HAGE scores which were higher in the apixaban group ($p=0.0023$ and $p=0.0218$, respectively). *ABCB1* 2677G>T/A, *ABCB1* 3435C>T, *CYP2J2**7, *CYP3A5**3 allelic frequencies in ADAGE patients are shown in Suppl Table 1.

Concentration-time profiles of rivaroxaban and apixaban in ADAGE patients

A total of 456 blood samples were collected (average 2.1 samples per patient): 232 from 104 rivaroxaban patients and 224 from 111 apixaban patients. Figure 1 shows DOAC plasma concentration-time profiles. Among ADAGE patients receiving 15-mg rivaroxaban o.d., median C_{max} was 251 ng/mL (IQR 176–377; range 64-676); median C_{min} was 42 ng/mL (IQR 28–70, range <20–241). Among patients receiving 2.5-mg apixaban b.i.d., the median C_{max} was 180 ng/mL (IQR 130–227; range 69–469) and the median C_{min} was 74 ng/mL (IQR 49–116; range <20–251). At T_{max} , 30.6% of patients on rivaroxaban 15-mg o.d. and 31.8% of patients on 2.5-mg apixaban b.i.d. had plasma concentrations above the 95th percentile of values reported in the Summary of Product Characteristics obtained in younger patients included in pivotal clinical trials [10,11,21]. At T_{min} , only 3.1% and 9.7% were above

the 95th percentile, whereas 21.5% and 9.7% were below the 5th percentile, respectively.

Association of covariates with rivaroxaban plasma concentration at C_{max} and C_{min}

In the rivaroxaban group, we observed an important inter-individual variability of C_{max} (CV 49 and 47%) and C_{min} (75 and 37%) for 15-mg and 20-mg regimens, respectively. No covariates were found significantly ($p < 0.05$) associated with C_{max} in univariate analysis (Table 2).

Rivaroxaban concentrations slightly increased with the daily dose (+20.3% in 20-mg patients compared to 15-mg, $p = 0.346$). At T_{min}, patients on amiodarone displayed significantly higher rivaroxaban levels compared to the other patients (60 vs 41 ng/mL; +47.8%; $p = 0.0315$). The intake of a CYP3A4/5 modulator other than amiodarone also contributed to increase C_{min} ($p = 0.0361$). C_{min} increased when renal function worsened (+8.1% by 10 mL/min CrCl decrease, $p = 0.093$). Finally, there was a trend to higher concentrations in *ABCB1*3435C>T carriers, without reaching significance (+16.9% *per* mutated allele, $p = 0.0788$). The multivariate analysis included gender, amiodarone intake, CYP3A4/5- or P-gp-modulator intake in addition to amiodarone, DOAC daily-dose (20-mg vs 15-mg), CrCl, and *ABCB1*3435C>T genotype. The model also included interaction terms between amiodarone and other modulators intake. This analysis showed significantly higher C_{min} in patients receiving either amiodarone ($p = 0.0232$) or a CYP3A4/5 modulator other than amiodarone ($p = 0.0228$).

Association of covariates with apixaban plasma concentrations at C_{max} and C_{min}

We observed a substantial inter-individual variability in ADAGE patients on apixaban with CVs of 46 and 47% at T_{max} and 61 and 68% at T_{min} for 2.5 and 5.0 mg bid

regimen, respectively. In univariate analysis, the apixaban dose regimen was significantly associated with apixaban concentrations, which were 44.9% higher ($p=0.0247$) at T_{max} and 45.6% higher at T_{min} ($p=0.0317$) in patients receiving the full dose (Table 2). Two other variables were associated with higher apixaban C_{max} : amiodarone therapy (mean C_{max} 251 vs 175 ng/mL, +43.5%, $p=0.0098$) and female gender (mean C_{max} 208 ng/mL vs 145, +44.0% in women, $p=0.0165$). At T_{min} , higher concentrations were observed in *ABCB1* 3435C>T carriers, without reaching statistical significance (+14.8% *per* mutated allele, $p=0.0867$). No other variables apparently explained the apixaban concentration variability at T_{max} or T_{min} . The multivariate analysis included the same predictors than for rivaroxaban. The dose regimen was significantly associated with apixaban concentrations at both T_{max} (+64.8%, $p=0.0058$) and T_{min} (+54.8%, $p=0.0222$). Amiodarone might also contribute to higher concentrations at T_{max} ($p=0.0319$).

Thrombin generation profiles of rivaroxaban and apixaban in ADAGE patients

TG parameters were measured in 250 plasma samples from 128 ADAGE patients: 128 samples from 62 rivaroxaban patients and 122 from 66 apixaban patients. Patient characteristics did not differ significantly between both groups (not shown). Temporal parameters (LT and TTP) were prolonged and PH were decreased in a DOAC concentration dependent manner ($p<10^{-4}$), using either STG-DrugScreen (suppl Figure 1) or intermediate pM TF concentration (STG-ThromboScreen without TM (Figure 2), LT and TTP not shown); ETP was associated with apixaban concentrations under these both experimental conditions ($p=0.0102$ and $p<10^{-4}$, respectively), but not with rivaroxaban concentrations ($p=0.1028$ and 0.1846, respectively).

Interestingly, ADAGE patient PH and ETP values presented substantial variability with both xabans for a given plasma concentration, independently of the dose regimen and the experimental conditions (Suppl Figure 1 and Figure 2). Adding TM to TG triggered with intermediate TF concentration markedly reduced ETP and PH, with strong associations with rivaroxaban and apixaban concentrations ($p < 10^{-4}$) (Figure 2). A marked variability in ETP and PH percentages of inhibition was also observed, reflecting the important variability in the protein C-based negative feed-back in very elderly patients.

Association of covariates with DOAC TG peak height / ETP at Tmax and Tmin

Supplementary Table 2 summarizes TG results focused on patient variability at Tmax and at Tmin. PH coefficients of variation (CV) confirmed the substantial variability, both at Tmax and Tmin. We sought to identify covariates, namely DOAC plasma concentrations together with individual characteristics, potentially associated with PH and ETP measured using STG-ThromboScreen in the absence of TM at Tmax and Tmin (Table 3). In the univariate analysis performed in the rivaroxaban group at Tmax, two variables were significantly associated with PH decrease: renal failure assessed using CrCl (-16.5% per 10 mL/min decrease, $p=0.0016$) and heart failure (-36.6% , $p=0.0414$). In multivariate analysis, CrCl was the only variable associated with PH at Tmax ($p=0.0085$). At Tmin, amiodarone intake was associated with PH decrease (-52.2% , $p=0.0116$) as well as rivaroxaban concentrations ($p=0.0005$), the latter explaining 18.1% of PH variance in univariate analysis.

The univariate analysis performed in the apixaban group showed a PH decrease significantly associated with increasing concentrations of apixaban, both at Tmax and Tmin ($p=0.0224$ and $p=0.0005$) (Table 3), accounting for 12.4% and 16.6% of

the observed variance, respectively. In addition, patients receiving amiodarone had a lower PH at T_{min} than those without amiodarone intake (−37.2%, $p=0.0426$). The multivariate analysis confirmed that apixaban concentrations were the only determinant of the PH variability at T_{min} ($p=0.0074$) and T_{max} ($p=0.0516$) (Table 3).

Six-month follow-up

We could not obtain data on bleedings and thrombosis in 11 patients (5 on rivaroxaban, 6 on apixaban). The overall rate of major bleedings was 6.0% (rivaroxaban: $n=7$ [6.7%]; apixaban: $n=6$ [5.4%]); the rate of clinically relevant non-major bleeding was 3.3% (rivaroxaban: $n=2$ [1.9%]; apixaban: $n=5$ [4.5%]). The main bleeding sites were gastro-intestinal ($n=7$), intra-cranial ($n=3$) and genito-urinary tract ($n=3$). Five patients (2.3%) (rivaroxaban: $n=1$ [1.0%], apixaban: $n=4$ [3.6%]) had a thrombo-embolic event. Finally, 39 patients died (18.1%), 18 on rivaroxaban (17.3%) and 21 on apixaban (18.9%), with a median 3.4-month delay (1.8-4.6) after inclusion. No relationships were found between clinical events and PK/PD parameters.

DISCUSSION

ADAGE is, to the best of our knowledge, the first study specifically focused on the assessment of both rivaroxaban/apixaban concentrations and effects evaluated by TG in a real-life cohort of very elderly NVAF patients. Patients were very old (mean age, 87 years), had substantial comorbidities and polypharmacy, frequently including the intake of amiodarone and/or another CYP3A4/5 or P-gp inhibitor. Thus, we believe that the characteristics of the participants in ADAGE study are representative of the complex medical issues associated with anticoagulant treatment in NVAF patients of 80 years and over.

One strength of the ADAGE study was to provide DOAC PK data which are scarce in this specific setting of hospitalized very elderly patients [28-29]. Indeed, knowing the extent of DOAC concentrations in octo- and nonagenarians should facilitate the interpretation of DOAC concentrations when monitoring such patients in specific situations. Mean C_{max} and C_{min} of ADAGE patients receiving rivaroxaban 15-mg were remarkably close to those reported in ROCKET-AF patients (mean age 73 years) receiving 20-mg [7], whereas mean concentrations of ADAGE patients receiving 20-mg o.d. were higher, especially at T_{max}. Moreover, we observed a larger inter-individual variability of C_{max} and C_{min} for both regimens compared to Mueck's data, *i.e.* around 30% [7]. Our data show similar or even greater CVs compared to those of previous observational studies conducted in patients rather younger than ours [21-23, 25-26, 27, 42-43].

Interestingly, we found that the intake of amiodarone, which is both a CYP3A4/5 and a P-gp inhibitor, as well as the additional intake of another CYP3A4/5 modulator significantly contributed to the increase of rivaroxaban trough levels, explaining part of the concentration variability consistently with data from pivotal trials [20]. Besides, renal function is known to influence the clearance of rivaroxaban, justifying dose adjustment in case of moderate renal impairment: we only observed a trend towards higher concentrations at T_{min} with low CrCl, suggesting that the 25%-rivaroxaban dose reduction was appropriate in our patients.

Regarding apixaban, ADAGE patients receiving 2.5-mg b.i.d. had a median concentration at T_{max} close to that of patients receiving 5-mg b.i.d., while the residual concentration in ADAGE patients was close to that reported in the Summary of Product Characteristics for 2.5-mg b.i.d.; patients receiving 5-mg b.i.d. had higher median C_{max} and C_{min} [11]. In addition, inter-individual variabilities were higher

than those reported in SmPC (*i.e.* around 30% from the ARISTOTLE data set, mean age 70 years) and in previous studies [11,18-19,23, 24,27-29, 42-43]. Interestingly, the apixaban dose regimen was the only covariate that was significantly associated with plasma C_{max} and C_{min} in multivariate analysis, in contrast to rivaroxaban; moreover, the apixaban regimen subsequently significantly impacted TG peak-height. If the apixaban dose regimen had been given according to the patient characteristics, one would have expected similar concentrations as for rivaroxaban. One explanation is that the apixaban reduced dose (2.5-mg b.i.d.) corresponds to half of the full dose (5-mg bid), while the rivaroxaban reduced dose (15-mg) corresponds to three-quarters of the full dose (20-mg). It is important to note that a substantial proportion of patients were theoretically underdosed for both xabans (31% of patients on apixaban, 27% on rivaroxaban). The fear of haemorrhagic complications probably explains the higher proportion of off-label reduced dose among ADAGE patients compared with those described in real-life registries [44-47]. Herein, we showed that the impact of the DOAC regimen choice, reduced vs full dose, on plasma concentrations and pharmacodynamics parameters was higher with apixaban than with rivaroxaban. However, our study was underpowered to conclude whether dose reduction impacts clinical outcomes: this deserves specific future investigations in geriatrics.

Among covariates, female sex was significantly associated with high apixaban C_{max} in univariate analysis, as already reported by Frost et al. in a PK study [19] and real-life studies [48]. Moreover, we also showed that the intake of amiodarone was a significant determinant of the DOAC variability of C_{max} in univariate analysis. However, although ADAGE patients were highly polymedicated with several co-prescribed CYP3A4/5 and/or P-gp inhibitors, no strong association was shown with

DOAC concentrations in multivariate analysis within the limits of the study. Our results reinforce the literature data suggesting that rivaroxaban and apixaban do not interact with those drugs to the extent of a clinically relevant impact justifying a subsequent dose reduction. It should be noted that no patients were taking strong CYP3A4/5/P-gp inhibitors or inducers, highlighting the compliance with DOAC contraindications in this cohort.

One of the original aims of our work was to explore the potential influence of pharmacogenetic factors on DOAC concentrations. We showed that the presence of *CYP3A5*3* and *CYP2J2*7* variants were not significantly associated with the variability of rivaroxaban or apixaban, in agreement with previous studies [48, 49-51]. We observed a trend to higher concentrations in *ABCB1-3435T* carriers: interestingly, this variant has been shown to be associated with a reduced risk of thromboembolic outcomes in a large Finnish cohort study [52]. Interestingly, an impact of an *ABCG2* variant coding breast resistance coding protein was reported in younger cohort and could be investigated in ADAGE patients [50,53].

Another strength of our study was to evaluate the TG profile of rivaroxaban and apixaban in a subset of ADAGE patients using a standardized TG analyser (ST-Genesia). We confirmed that both xabans exerted a concentration-dependent effect on TG parameters using both TF conditions; PH were consistently more affected than ETP in agreement with previous findings in various series of much younger patients [31,35, 54-57]. The optimal choice between intermediate (STG-ThromboScreen) and high (STG-DrugScreen) pM-TF concentration may depend on DOAC concentration, preferentially intermediate up to 300 ng/mL and high above 300 ng/mL [57]. Remarkably, we were able to evidence a high inter-individual variability of TG parameters among patients receiving both full and reduced dose

xaban. Spiking pooled normal plasma with increasing concentrations of xabans allowed a better understanding of the inter-individual variability and highlighted an underlying hypercoagulable state in some ADAGE patients, leading to shorter LT and TTP combined with higher PH and ETP. We had primarily checked that the pooled normal plasma contained normal procoagulant factors and natural coagulation inhibitors level [35]. Moreover, for a given concentration, we observed in the same conditions higher PH and ETP results in ADAGE rivaroxaban patients when compared to those obtained in DRIVING rivaroxaban healthy volunteers, aged 18-45 years, thus supporting this hypothesis [35,57]. It is well known that advancing age and chronic comorbid conditions lead to an imbalance between procoagulant factors and coagulation natural inhibitors, potentially causes of hypercoagulability [58]. This issue regarding TG variability deserves further studies in geriatric setting.

The overall major bleeding rate of 6.0% at 6-months was not surprisingly higher than that reported in phase III trials in patients > 75 years given the characteristics of ADAGE patients [8-9]. The predominance of gastro-intestinal bleedings could be expected in these patients, as shown in previous studies and meta-analysis [13-15,59]. The mortality rate (18.1%) was similar in patients treated with rivaroxaban and apixaban. The recruitment of ADAGE patients in geriatrics units probably reflects a high degree of frailty in ADAGE patients.

Our study has several limitations. Firstly, although one to five samples per patient were planned over a 20-day period with an average of three samples *per* patient, a smaller number of blood samples were drawn (*i.e.* 2.1) because of short hospital stays. Moreover, the sample size clearly limits analyses of associations of outcomes with measures. Secondly, the results regarding the influence of individual factors on concentrations at T_{max} and T_{min} and PD obtained in this exploratory study must be

confirmed in an external cohort of hospitalized patients. Thirdly, most patients were recruited during hospitalization: these results cannot be extrapolated to stable outpatients of similar age even though CIRS-scores took into account both chronic and acute comorbid conditions. Finally, our study was not designed to detect possible associations between PK/PD parameters measured only over a short period at inclusion and clinical events at six months.

In conclusion, our study provides new real-life data regarding DOAC concentrations and TG inter-individual variability in elderly in-patients with NVAf, multiple comorbidities and medications. The DOAC regimen choice (reduced versus full dose) was significantly associated with plasma concentrations and TG peak-heights for apixaban, but not for rivaroxaban. The underlying coagulation status of elderly patients could affect TG profiles. Further research is needed to better understand the substantial PK and PD variability and its potentially clinical impact in the rapidly growing population of very old patients with multiple conditions who need long-term anticoagulant treatment.

SUMMARY TABLE

What is known on this topic?

- Very elderly patients (≥ 80 years) are characterized by numerous comorbid conditions (e.g. renal impairment) and polypharmacy, potentially altering drug PK/PD
- Few specific DOAC pharmacokinetics (PK) and pharmacodynamics (PD) data are available in this age group with numerous comorbid conditions and polypharmacy.

What does this paper add?

- Our academic prospective study provides original data in very elderly patients receiving xaban in real-life setting, showing great inter-individual variability in plasma concentrations and PD parameters.
- Substantial variability of thrombin peak-heights was noticed at a given plasma concentration for both xabans, suggesting an impact of the underlying coagulation status of elderly patients.
- The dose regimen (reduced dose versus full dose) had a significant impact on plasma concentrations at Tmax and Tmin in apixaban, but not in rivaroxaban patients.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

G.F-P., V.S., G.J., and E.C. wrote the manuscript; C.L-L, V.S., E.P., I.G-T designed the research; C.L-L, J.L, E.P., M.D. were clinical investigators; G.F-P., V.S., G.J., F.T., F.K., L.R. performed the research; G.F-P., V.S., G.J., T.L. and E.C. analyzed the data; all authors reviewed the manuscript.

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DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

VS, IGT, EPa, EPu, FM, MD, PG have received honoraria for participating in expert meetings on dabigatran (from Boehringer Ingelheim), rivaroxaban (from Bayer Healthcare AG) or apixaban (Bristol Myers Squibb-Pfizer). GF and EPu received a grant from Bayer. The other authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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Figure 1:

Plasma concentrations of rivaroxaban (A) and apixaban (B) in ADAGE patients as a function of time since the last oral intake. (A) Patients receiving rivaroxaban 10, 15 or 20-mg o.d. are represented with yellow, red and grey circles, respectively (noteworthy, 10-mg off-labeled in AF). In order to facilitate interpretation, we represented the geometric mean C_{max} and C_{min} and the 5th-95th percentiles, i.e. 229 ng/mL (5th-95th 178-313) and 57 ng/mL (5th-95th 18-136), as reported in ROCKET-AF patients (median age 73 years) receiving 15-mg according to Girgis et al [21] with solid and dashed lines, respectively. (B) Patients receiving apixaban 2.5- or 5-mg b.i.d. are represented with blue and grey circles, respectively. We represented the median C_{max} and C_{min} and 5th-95th percentiles, i.e. 123 ng/mL (5th-95th 69-221) and 79 ng/mL (5th-95th 34-162), as reported in patients receiving apixaban 2.5-mg b.i.d in ARISTOTLE trial [11] (median age 70 years), with solid and dashed lines, respectively.

Figure 2:

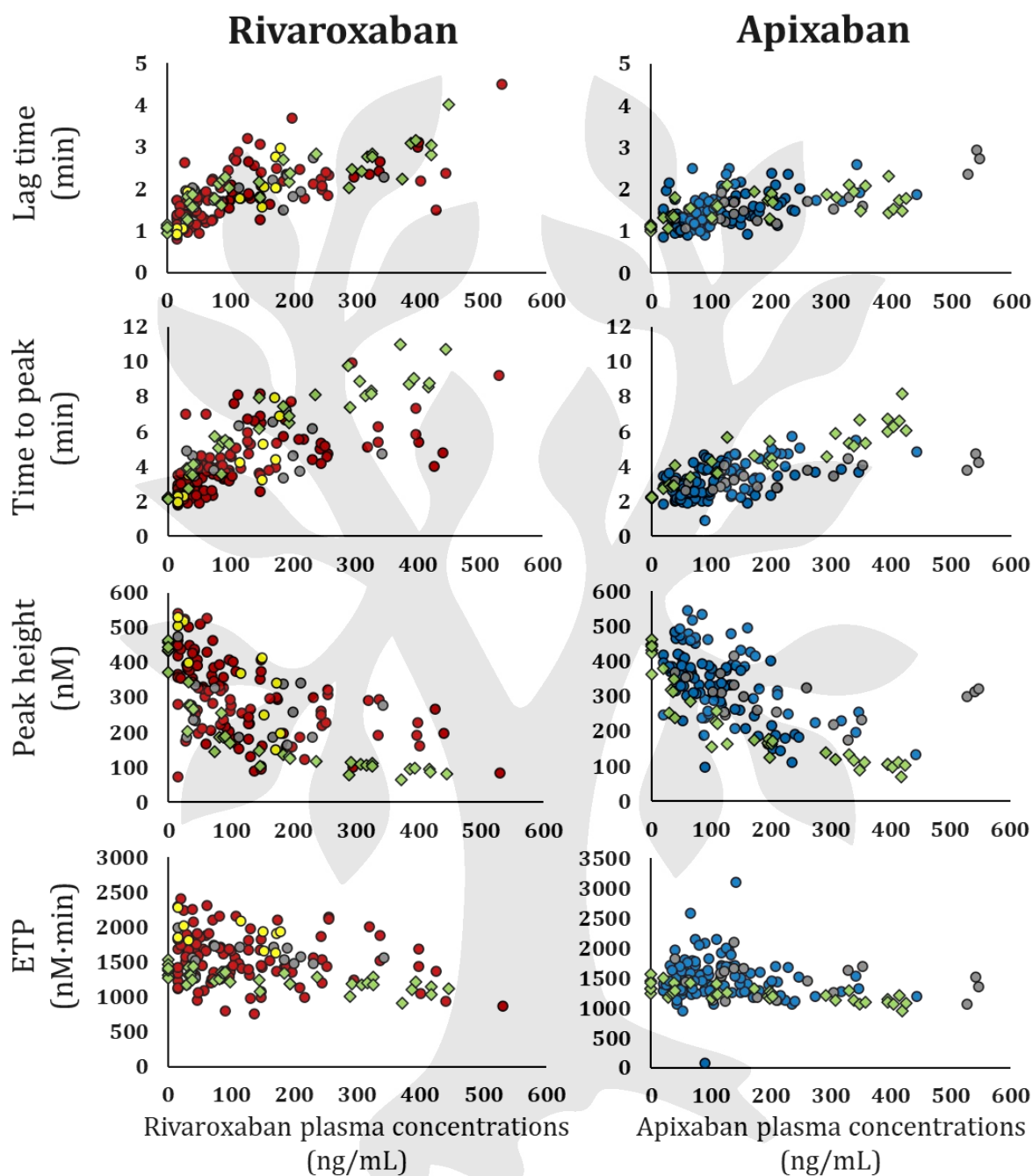
Peak height and endogenous thrombin potential as a function of DOAC concentrations in ADAGE patients and in normal pooled plasma samples spiked with DOAC, using STG-Thrombo-Screen reagent in the absence of thrombomodulin, and inhibition percentage in the presence of thrombomodulin

Absolute values of TG parameters in the absence of thrombomodulin (TM) (left), and percentage of inhibition in presence of TM (right). Samples from patients receiving 10, 15 or 20-mg of rivaroxaban o.d. are represented with yellow, red and grey circles, respectively. Samples from patients receiving 2.5 or 5-mg of apixaban b.i.d. are represented with blue and

grey circles, respectively. Samples from pooled normal plasma spiked with DOAC at varying concentrations are represented with green diamonds [35].

Suppl Figure 1 : Thrombin generation parameters as a function of DOAC concentrations in ADAGE patients and in normal pooled plasma samples spiked with DOAC using STG-DrugScreen reagent

Values from patients receiving 10-, 15- or 20-mg rivaroxaban o.d. are represented with yellow, red and grey circles, respectively. Values from patients receiving 2.5- or 5-mg apixaban b.i.d. are represented with blue and grey circles respectively. For comparison purpose, samples from pooled normal plasma spiked with xabans at varying concentrations (0-450 ng/mL) are represented with green diamonds [35].



Supplementary Table 1: Distribution of *ABCB1*, *CYP2J2* and *CYP3A5* variants among ADAGE patients.

Genotype	Frequency	Variant allele frequency *	P*
<i>ABCB1</i> c.2677G>A/T		0.454	0.416
GG	0.288		
GA / GT	0.515		
AA / AT / TT	0.197		
<i>ABCB1</i> c.3435C>T		0.503	0.977
CC	0.207		
CT	0.581		
TT	0.212		
<i>CYP2J2</i>(*7) c. 76G>T		0.083	0.439
GG	0.843		
GT	0.146		
TT	0.010		
<i>CYP3A5</i>(*3) c.6986A>G		0.094	0.168
AA	0.818		
AG	0.172		
GG	0.010		

* No significant deviation from the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium was observed for any genetic variant

Supplementary Table 2: Thrombin generation parameters measured at T_{max} and T_{min} in ADAGE patients

	Lag time (min)		Time to peak (min)		Peak height		ETP (nM·min)	
	T _{max}	T _{min}	T _{max}	T _{min}	T _{ma}	T _{mi}	T _{max}	T _{min}
rivaroxaban 15-mg o.d.								
STG-DrugScreen median	2.3	1.4	5.4	2.9	22	37	1431	1520
<i>IQR</i>	(2.0 –	(1.2 –	(4.5 –	(2.3 –	6	9	(1209 –	(1338 –
<i>CV (%)</i>	2.6)	1.7)	5.9)	3.6)	(16	(32	1687)	1759)
	29.3	26.0	28.9	29.6	2 –	6 –	27.7	21.7
					26	42		
					7)	8)		
					34.	23.		
					6	5		
STG-ThromboScreen - TM median	5.7	4.4	14.0	8.7	78	17	1214	1392
<i>IQR</i>	(5.1 –	(3.3 –	(12.2 –	(6.8 –	(45	7	(742 –	(1190 –
<i>CV (%)</i>	7.4)	5.2)	16.5)	10.7)	–	(92	1508)	1647)
	35.5	28.8	19.1	29.3	88)	–	44.8	30.4
					42.	24		
					7	1)		
						52.		
						2		
STG-ThromboScreen +TM median	8.7	5.4	12.7	8.5	18	70	148	377
<i>IQR</i>	(6.5 –	(3.9 –	(10.1 –	(6.4 –	(12	(34	(84.0 –	(207 –
<i>CV (%)</i>	9.8)	7.2)	15.1)	10.0)	–	–	180)	870)
	46.0	46.4	40.4	33.9	28)	15	47.0	79.5
					46.	3)		
					6	74.		
						1		
rivaroxaban 20-mg o.d.								
STG-DrugScreen median	2.3	1.7	4.7	3.8	25	32	1560	1518
<i>IQR</i>	(2.0 –	(1.6 –	(4.7 –	(3.4 –	9	7	(1520 –	(1370 –
<i>CV (%)</i>	2.3)	1.9)	5.9)	3.8)	(21	(27	1630)	1735)
	13.1	27.2	26.6	28.7	1 –	8 –	7,0	20.4
					26	33		
					8)	6)		
					26.	32.		
					4	9		
STG-ThromboScreen - TM median	4.8	5.4	13.3	10.7	95	12	1676	1578
<i>IQR</i>	(4.6 –	(4.0 –	(12.6 –	(10.1–	(81	6	(1616 –	(1069 –
<i>CV (%)</i>	4.9)	6.0)	14.9)	11.1)	–	(10	1689)	1627)
	6.3	32.6	17.2	31.3	97)	3–	4.8	30.3
					20.	14		
					6	7)		
						60.		
						3		
STG-ThromboScreen +TM median	6.2	8.6	10.2	11.6	16	34	93	189
<i>IQR</i>	(5.8 –	(4.7 –	(9.3 –	(7.7 –	(14	(30	(93 –	(167 –
<i>CV (%)</i>	6.3)	9.3)	10.5)	12.8)	–	–	173)	241)
	9.0	45.5	12.4	36.8	25)	44)	63.0	109.4
					55.	11		
					8	4.8		
apixaban 2.5-mg b.i.d.								

STG-DrugScreen median <i>IQR</i> <i>CV (%)</i>	1.6 (1.3 – 1.9) 26.5	1.4 (1.2 – 1.7) 27.7	3.7 (2.6 – 4.7) 31.6	3.0 (2.4 – 3.7) 27.7	29 5 (20 8 – 38 7) 38.6	36 0 (28 2 – 39 5) 26.1	1384 (1203 – 1684) 28.4	1529 (1316 – 1700) 16.5
STG-ThromboScreen - TM median <i>IQR</i> <i>CV (%)</i>	4.9 (3.7 – 6.3) 32.4	4.5 (3.5 – 5.7) 31.0	8.5 (7.2 – 11.8) 31.6	8.3 (6.3 – 9.3) 26.5	61 (39 – 15 5) 91.2	12 5 (63 – 21 4) 61.0	958 (568 – 1268) 54.2	1190 (860 – 1341) 35.5
STG-ThromboScreen - +TM median <i>IQR</i> <i>CV (%)</i>	7.2 (4.3 – 9.1) 48.4	6.4 (4.1 – 8.4) 43.2	10.7 (6.7 – 13.6) 40.8	8.7 (6.4 – 12.2) 36.0	30 (9 – 88) 12 2.6	65 (23 – 12 7) 75.3	195 (75 – 446) 105.0	306 (159 – 567) 69.1
apixaban 5.0-mg b.i.d.								
STG-DrugScreen median <i>IQR</i> <i>CV (%)</i>	1.7 (1.6 – 2.3) 28.9	1.4 (1.3 – 1.6) 15.2	4.2 (3.8 – 4.4) 10.8	3.2 (2.8 – 3.4) 12.2	22 5 (19 6 – 27 7) 26.4	32 8 (30 5 – 36 7) 13.1	1490 (1302 – 1659) 14.3	1522 (1436 – 1660) 18.6
STG-ThromboScreen - TM median <i>IQR</i> <i>CV (%)</i>	6.3 (5.8 – 6.9) 9.8	5.1 (4.3 – 5.4) 16.0	8.9 (8.7 – 9.3) 4.4	8.6 (7.8 – 9.8) 18.7	59 (37 – 93) 57.5	98 (81 – 10 6) 21.4	845 (397 – 1068) 62.6	1100 (1021 – 1319) 19.6
STG-ThromboScreen - +TM median <i>IQR</i> <i>CV (%)</i>	12.3 (10.5 – 12.9) 16.6	8.5 (6.3 – 10.8) 32.4	15.4 (13.0 – 15.8) 15.8	10.8 (9.0 – 13.6) 27.1	17 (14 – 55) 11 0.0	35 (23 – 49) 47.0	97 (73 – 301) 110.0	190 (124 – 222) 52.5

STG-Thromboscreen: intermediate concentration of TF in the absence (-TM) or presence (+TM) of thrombomodulin; STG-Drugscreen: high concentration of TF; IQR: interquartile range; CV coefficient of variation. Ten values were under the lower limit of quantification when using STG-Thromboscreen +TM (5 in rivaroxaban, 5 in apixaban patients)

Table 1 : Characteristics of ADAGE patients at inclusion.

	Total	Rivaroxaban	Apixaban	p-value
	n=215	n=104	n=111	
Demographic characteristics				
Age (yrs)	86.6 ± 4.3	86.4 ± 4.4	86.8 ± 4.3	0.491
Females (%)	71.2	68.3	73.9	0.371
Body-weight (kg)	65.6 ± 14.7	64.9 ± 12.6	66.4 ± 16.5	0.543
DOAC regimen				
Full dose (%)*	20.5	17.3	23.4	0.312
Reduced dose (%)**	79.5	82.7	76.6	0.312
Clinical characteristics				
Type of AF				
Persistent (%)	9.1	8.7	9.4	0.978
Paroxysmal (%)	34.0	35.0	33.0	0.978
Permanent (%)	56.9	56.3	57.6	0.978
Previous stroke or TIA (%)	24.9	21.4	28.2	0.250
Diabetes mellitus (%) ††	19.0	10.9	26.6	0.005
Hypertension (%)	76.1	72.8	79.1	0.336
Heart failure (%)	49.8	46.6	52.7	0.412
Dyslipidaemia (%)	26.4	24.3	28.4	0.535
Clinical scores				
CHA ₂ DS ₂ VASc	5.0 ± 1.4	4.9 ± 1.4	5.2 ± 1.4	0.122
HEMORR2HAGES †	2.3 ± 1.0	2.1 ± 1.0	2.5 ± 1.0	0.022
CIRS-G †	10.4 ± 4.5	9.3 ± 3.7	11.4 ± 4.8	0.007
Laboratory data				
Creatinine clearance (mL/min) ‡	49.1 ± 16.5	50.5 ± 17.1	47.9 ± 15.9	0.314
Albumin (g/L)	33.2 ± 5.2	33.4 ± 4.2	33.0 ± 5.9	0.756
C-reactive protein (mg/L)	28.8 ± 39.8	28.6 ± 41.9	28.9 ± 38.0	0.374
Haemoglobin (g/dL)	12.1 ± 1.7	12.2 ± 1.7	12.0 ± 1.8	0.400
Fibrinogen (g/L)	5.0 ± 1.5	4.9 ± 1.6	5.0 ± 1.4	0.309
Therapeutic data				
Number of comedications	6.2 ± 2.7	5.9 ± 2.5	6.5 ± 2.9	0.256
≥ 1 P-gp substrate/inhibitor including amio. (%)	48.3	44.6	51.8	0.292
≥ 1 CYP3A4/5 inhibitor including amio. (%)	22.3	17.8	26.4	0.136
Amiodarone (%)	21.8	17.8	25.5	0.187
Antiplatelet drugs (%)	15.0	10.0	20.0	0.055

Data shown as percentage or mean ± standard deviation. Statistically significantly different values between the rivaroxaban and apixaban groups are indicated: † ($p < 0.05$) or †† ($p < 0.01$). TIA = Transient ischaemic attack. Amio = amiodarone; *20-mg o.d. (rivaroxaban) or 5mg b.i.d. (apixaban); ** 15-mg or 10-mg o.d. (rivaroxaban) or 2.5-mg b.i.d. (apixaban); ‡ Estimated using Cockcroft-Gault formula

Covariates	Univariate analysis						Multivariate analysis			
	<i>C_{max}</i>			<i>C_{min}</i>			<i>C_{max}</i>		<i>C_{min}</i>	
	Effect	% (explained variability)	<i>p</i>	Effect	% (explained variability)	<i>p</i>	Effect	<i>p</i>	Effect	<i>p</i>
Rivaroxaban										
Dose regimen	+20.3 % † [−16.7; +73.5]	2.23%	0.346	−3.8 % † [−35.1; +42.6]	0.72 %	0.974	29.4 % † [−14.2; 95.2]	0.210	−3.2 % † [−35.1; 44.6]	0.873
Female gender	+12.2 % [−17.7; 53.0]	4.09 %	0.28	−14.2 % [−36.0; 15.1]	3.34 %	0.424	+11.8 % [−20.8; 57.9]	0.515	−10.1 % [−35.2; 22.3]	0.466
Creatinine clearance	+1.89 % ‡ [−8.2; 13.1]	0.72 %	0.83	+8.1 % ‡ [−3.9; 15.8]	0.57 %	0.093	+3.4 % ‡ [−7.6; 15.6]	0.553	+5.0 % ‡ [−4.9; 16.0]	0.325
Amiodarone	+4.73 % ‡ [−31.5; 60.2]	0.07 %	0.99	+47.8 % [−2.8; 109.4]	2.23 %	0.0315	−26.1 % ‡ [−75.8; 125.5]	0.345	99.8 %** [10.3; 262.0]	0.023
P-gp inhibitor*	−9.95 % [−35.3; 25.4]	1.42 %	0.60	−15.9 % [−37.6; 13.5]	1.47 %	0.264	−6.31 % [−35.8; 36.6]	0.200	−8.7 % [−34.2; 26.8]	0.162
CYP3A4/5 modulator**	+9.5 % [−21.0; 51.6]	1.20 %	0.52	+31.1 % [−24.7; 72.2]	3.45 %	0.0361	+10.6 % [−23.1; 58.9]	0.417	+43.1 % [5.3; 94.3]	0.023
<i>ABCB1</i> 3435C>T	+18.3 % †† [−5.3; 36.6]	4.25 %	0.20	+16.9 % †† [−6.6; 31.0]	1.39 %	0.0788	+18.3 % †† [−10.9; 39.8]	0.188	+10.4 % †† [−14.9; 30.1]	0.381
Apixaban										
Dose regimen	+44.9 % †† [7.14; 96.1]	12.20 %	0.025	+45.6 % †† [4.7; 102.6]	7.45 %	0.0317	+64.8 % †† [16.6; 132.9]	0.006	+54.8 % †† [6.65; 124.6]	0.022
Female gender	+44.0 % [7.4; 93.1]	9.80 %	0.017	+15.7 % [−14.9; 57.1]	1.12 %	0.348	+28.7 % [−4.5; 73.4]	0.095	14.5 % [−17.3; 58.6]	0.410
Creatinine clearance	+3.3 % ‡ [−4.28; 10.31]	0.98 %	0.289	+4.6 % ‡ [−4.2; 12.7]	3.23 %	0.166	+4.5 % ‡ [−3.0; 11.4]	0.223	+4.5 % ‡ [−4.9; 13.1]	0.332
Amiodarone*	+43.5 % [7.9; 90.9]	10.25 %	0.0098	+14.4 % [−18.5; 60.5]	0.58 %	0.433	+79.3 % [5.5; 204.7]	0.032	+44.1 % [−31.3; 202.2]	0.492
P-gp inhibitor*	−12.7 % [−37.1; 21.0]	2.12 %	0.408	+5.7 % [−26.6; 52.1]	0.23 %	0.764	−4.0 % [−36.3; 44.8]	0.187	−10.7 % [−43.7; 41.6]	0.808
CYP3A4/5 modulator**	+4.0 % [−20.4; 35.9]	0.23 %	0.769	+20.8 % [−9.8; 61.7]	2.42 %	0.203	+12.1 % [−17.3; 51.9]	0.284	+23.4 % [−11.1; 71.3]	0.330
<i>ABCB1</i> 3435C>T	+2.1 % †† [−18.7; 19.3]	0.13 %	0.938	+14.8 % †† [−4.1; 30.3]	1.70 %	0.087	+10.1 % †† [−8.3; 25.3]	0.256	+15.2 % †† [−4.1; 30.9]	0.113

Table 2: Influence of ADAGE patients' characteristics on xaban plasma concentrations at Tmax and Tmin.

† 15-mg o.d. vs 20-mg o.d.; †† 2.5-mg b.i.d. vs 5-mg b.i.d; **patients who received a P-gp or CYP3A4/5 modulator in addition to amiodarone. ‡ *per* decrease of 10 mL/min. ‡‡ *per* mutated allele. The 3 patients received 10 mg o.d.were excluded from the statistical analysis



Table 3: Association of ADAGE patients' characteristics including xaban plasma concentration and peak height (using STG-ThromboScreen reagent without thrombomodulin)

Covariates	Univariate						Multivariate			
	T_{max}			T_{min}			T_{max}		T_{min}	
	Effect	%	<i>p</i>	Effect	%	<i>p</i>	Effect	<i>p</i>	Effect	<i>p</i>
Rivaroxaban										
Plasma concentrations	+23.9 % † [-11.4; 73.2]	8.4 %	0.537	+38.7 % † [12.4; 71.1]	22.1 %	0.0018	-5.0 % † [-27.9; 25.2]	0.700	+21.0 % † [-4.0; 52.4]	0.103
Creatinine clearance	-12.8 % ‡ [-26.3; 3.0]	22.9 %	0.027	-6.1 % ‡ [-16.2; 5.2]	3.2 %	0.184	-16.4 % ‡ [-26.3; -5.0]	0.0085	-6.76 % ‡ [-15.5; 2.8]	0.156
Heart failure	-37.5 % [-59.8; -2.7]	19.34 %	0.041	-31.4 % [-52.2; -1.7]	10.8 %	0.055	-22.3 % [-45.0; 9.8]	0.143	-12.7% [-37.7; 22.4]	0.422
Amiodarone*	N.A.*	N.A.*	N.A.	-51.5 % [-70.1; -21.2]	12.7 %	0.014	N.A.*	N.A.*	-44.6 %** [-75.1; 23.2]	0.228
Apixaban										
Plasma concentrations	+80.2 % † [10.0; 195.0]	22.6 %	0.022	37.1 % † [13.1; 66.2]	20.8 %	0.0005	+86.8 % † [-0.48; 250.5]	0.052	+32.7 % † [8.28; 62.59]	0.0074
Creatinine clearance	+0.42 % ‡ [4.70; 36.9]	0.08 %	0.903	1.7 % ‡ [-10.7; 15.8]	0.49 %	0.566	+2.4% ‡ [-17.9; 27.8]	0.825	-1.9 % ‡ [-13.4; 11.1]	0.753
Heart failure	-26.7 % [-66.7; 61.4]	1.8 %	0.426	3.2 % [-30.5; 53.3]	0.01 %	0.935	-9.2 % [-62.9; 122.6]	0.826	+0.84 % [-30.8; 46.9]	0.965
Amiodarone*	+3.7 % [-58.7; 160.1]	0.5 %	0.936	-37.2 % [-60.0; -1.5]	6.30 %	0.043	-26.0 % [-91.8; 564.1]	0.759	-57.47 % [-83.2; 7.9]	0.129

Significance threshold: $p < 0.05$. † for halved concentrations. N.A.* = not available (number of values from patients on amiodarone at $T_{max} < 5$); ‡ per decrease of 10 mL / min.