

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Cardiology

**Manuscript NO:** 42949

**Title:** Prevalence and clinical characteristics associated with left atrial thrombus detection: Apixaban

**Reviewer's code:** 03846820

**Reviewer's country:** Netherlands

**Science editor:** Fang-Fang Ji

**Date sent for review:** 2018-10-24

**Date reviewed:** 2018-10-25

**Review time:** 1 Day

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Dear author, The paper represents results of the retrospective bedside study which is aiming to evaluate the prevalence of left atrial appendage (LAA) thrombus detection by transesophageal echocardiogram (TEE) in patients continuously anticoagulated with



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apixaban for  $\geq 4$  weeks and examine for any cardiac risk factors or echocardiographic characteristics which may serve as predictors of thrombus formation. The article is written with the good English-speaking adduction of the arguments. The article is sufficiently novel and very interesting to warrant publication. All the key elements are presented and described clearly. The most discussable options in the article are: 1) There in Discussion must be mentioned some clinical cases of the successful treatment of AF with apixaban sometimes after switching from another NOAC (doi: 10.2169/internalmedicine.8893-17, doi: 10.1002/ccr3.933, ). 2) Methods: please, provide a reader with your sample size calculation and some info to estimate the statistical power of the study. It must be clarified in your Limitations either. How the definitions of the clinical conditions were unified. Did you proceed with the expert analysis of your imaging data either? If not, this all must be mentioned and elaborated. 3) I would generally suggest to upgrade the paper with the plots.

## INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

### *Google Search:*

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

### *BPG Search:*

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Cardiology

**Manuscript NO:** 42949

**Title:** Prevalence and clinical characteristics associated with left atrial thrombus detection: Apixaban

**Reviewer's code:** 03652653

**Reviewer's country:** Germany

**Science editor:** Fang-Fang Ji

**Date sent for review:** 2018-10-24

**Date reviewed:** 2018-10-31

**Review time:** 6 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This study evaluated the prevalence and clinical course of patients with left atrial appendage thrombus treated with apixaban. The manuscript is well written, the results are clear, and the conclusions appear reasonable – and reflect clinical experience of many



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cardiologists. Strong items are the clinical relevant rationale, the comprehensive presentation of data, and the presentation of follow-up data. Limitations are the single center setting, the limited sample size/limited number of endpoints, and the analysis of only one NOAC. Actually, I do not have any major further comments since this manuscript reads very well. If the authors want to improve their manuscript, I would consider including one comparison of the study cohort and the cohort of patients receiving any other NOAC or patients receiving warfarin (key question: different incidence of thrombus formation and resolution over time) – only if these data are available.

#### **INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

##### ***Google Search:***

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- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ [Y] No

##### ***BPG Search:***

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ [Y] No