Top Things To Know
Oral Antithrombotic Agents for the Prevention of Stroke in Atrial Fibrillation

1. Stroke rates vary widely in adults, with atrial fibrillation ranging between 1% and 20% per year (mean 4.5%/yr) depending on comorbidities.

2. Stratification of risk is important because the major risk of taking antithrombotics for persons with atrial fibrillation is bleeding.

3. Warfarin use, involves balancing bleeding risk of roughly 1-12% per year to the potential of an ischemic event (usually its use is in persons with thromboembolic risk).

4. New antithrombotic agents offer alternatives to warfarin.

5. These new agents include factor Xa inhibitors (rivaroxaban and apixaban) and direct thrombin inhibitors (dabigatran).

6. Risk stratification schemes have been developed to help anticipate bleeding risk in persons who need prophylaxis against thromboembolism in atrial fibrillation.

7. The clinical trials evidence is discussed for each of the new agents.

8. The cost-effectiveness of these drugs is discussed.