

**Atrial Fibrillation: Treatment Options to Lower Stroke Risk**

**Atrial fibrillation is an irregular heartbeat. It can make your heart beat too fast or too slow. It limits how well your heart pumps blood and increases the risk of blood clots and strokes.**

*This decision aid is not for people who have atrial fibrillation because of heart valve problems.*

**CUSTOMIZED FOR:** Under 65 Years; Female; Hypertension

Patient Questions	Warfarin	Dabigatran	Aspirin
<b>What does the treatment involve?</b>	Warfarin is a strong blood thinner that makes it less likely for blood clots to form. You will take a pill once a day. You will need to avoid some food and limit alcohol use. You will need regular blood tests to check how thin your blood is.	Dabigatran is a strong blood thinner that makes it less likely for blood clots to form. You will take a pill twice a day. You may need blood tests if you have kidney problems.	Aspirin is a weak blood thinner that makes it less likely that clots will form. You will take a pill once a day. You will not need blood tests.
<b>My risk of stroke due to blood clots?</b>	1 out of 100 people (1%) may have a stroke due to blood clots each year.	1 out of 100 people (1%) may have a stroke due to blood clots each year.	3 out of 100 people (3%) may have a stroke due to blood clots each year.
<b>My risk of major bleeding needing treatment?</b>	3 out of 100 people (3%) may have major bleeding each year.	3 out of 100 people (3%) may have major bleeding each year.	1 out of 100 people (1%) may have major bleeding each year.
<b>Other risks and side effects?</b>	Side effects are not common. 1 out of 100 people (1%) may have a fracture related to weak bones.	Out of 100 people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• About 11 (11%) get upset stomach</li> <li>• About 6 (6%) get acid reflux</li> <li>• Fewer than 1 (less than 1%) might have a heart attack due to the drug, but this is not a confirmed problem</li> </ul>	Up to 18 out of 100 people (18%) may have upset stomach or pain.
<b>Can blood thinning effect of the drug be reversed?</b>	Yes	Yes	No
<b>What is the cost?</b>	Warfarin is available at low cost in non-brand-name form.	Dabigatran is only available as brand name. Discuss cost, but it will depend on your insurance and may cost more than non-brand drugs.	Aspirin is available at low cost in non-brand name form.

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NOTE: The following options were available but not selected when this decision aid was generated:

**No treatment, Rivaroxaban, Apixaban, Edoxaban, Left Atrial Appendage Closure**

*Option Grid offers frequent content updates to reflect the latest evidence.*

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