Timing of Anticoagulation Therapy in Atrial Fibrillation Status Post Cardioembolic Stroke

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Introduction

- Atrial fibrillation is responsible for half of all cardioembolic strokes, and patients with a history of prior stroke are at an even greater risk of recurrent stroke.
- Anticoagulation therapy is indicated for secondary prevention of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation.
- Because patients are at an increased risk of both recurrent stroke and hemorrhagic conversion immediately following an acute stroke, it is difficult to determine the appropriate time to initiate anticoagulation therapy.

Methods

**Study Design**

- **Study population:** Patients 18 years of age or older with a history of atrial fibrillation treated at Princeton Baptist Medical Center for new onset cardioembolic stroke between May 2013 and September 2015.
- **Exclusion criteria:** Noncardioembolic stroke.
- **Data collection:** Data will be retrospectively collected on a de-identified data collection sheet.
- **Statistical analysis:** Statistical analysis will include descriptive statistics, as well as the Chi-square test which will be used for nominal data and the student t-test which will be used for continuous data.

- **Objective:** To assess timing of initiation of anticoagulation therapy in patients with atrial fibrillation post cardioembolic stroke and the incidence of hemorrhagic conversion with early initiation.

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