

# Better Together: A multi-site drug use evaluation of anticoagulant prescribing in Queensland public hospitals

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## Aim

To determine the agents used as therapeutic anticoagulation or venous thromboembolism (VTE) chemoprophylaxis in different patient types across multiple hospitals.

## Methods

A point prevalence audit of prescribed anticoagulants or VTE chemoprophylaxis agents was undertaken in June 2018 across 8 Queensland hospitals. Anticoagulant agent, dose and patient type were recorded.

## Results

There were 2603 patient charts audited. Patients residing in general wards made up 69.3% (n=1805), followed by subacute wards (13.7%, n=357), psychiatry wards (11.9%, n=310), intensive care units (2.88%, n=75) and high dependency units (2.15%, n=56).

Figure 1 – Proportion of patients therapeutically anticoagulated (n=2603)

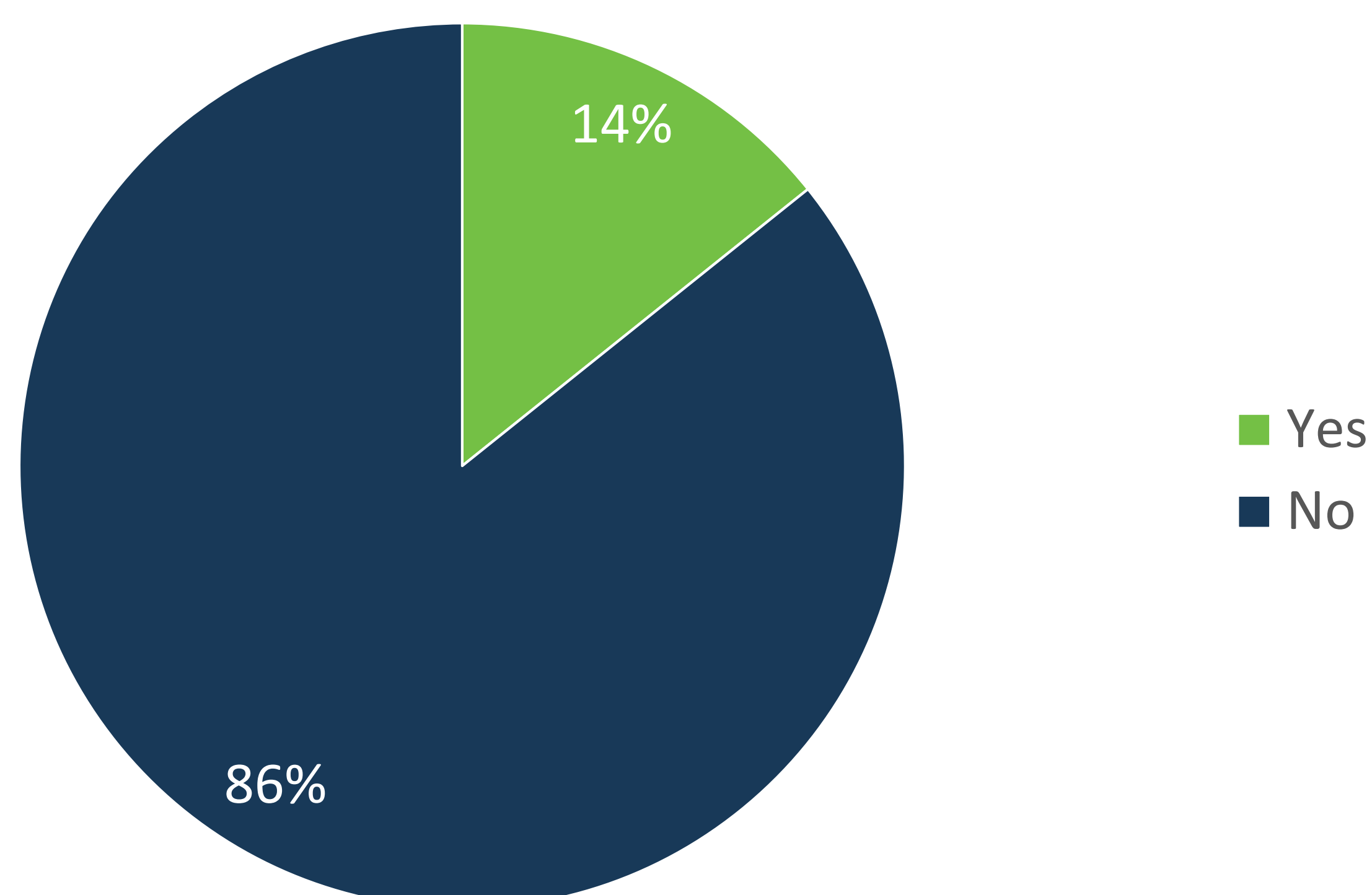


Figure 2 – Proportion of therapeutic anticoagulants prescribed (n=371)

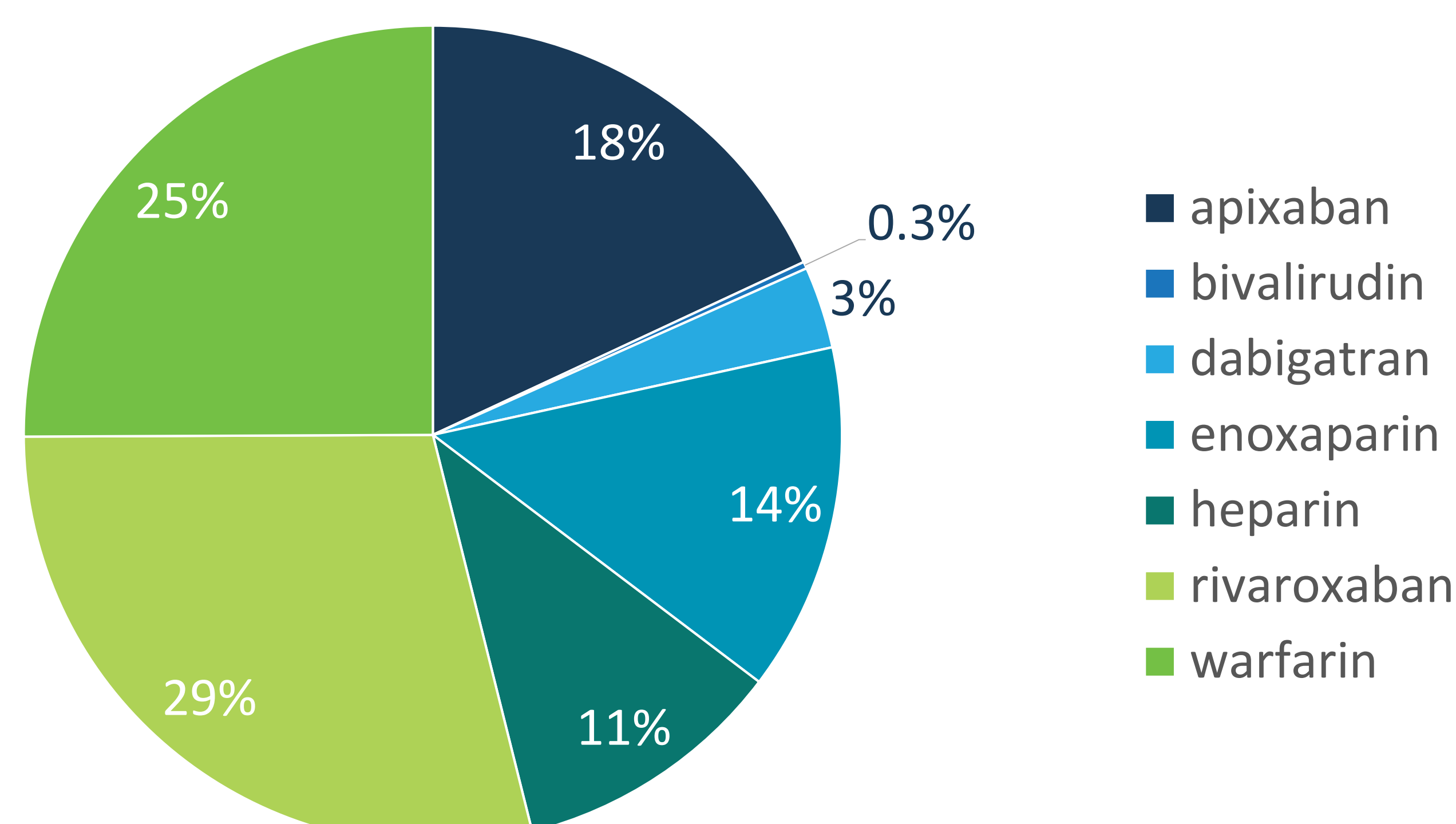


Figure 3 – Proportion of agents used for VTE prophylaxis (n=1144)

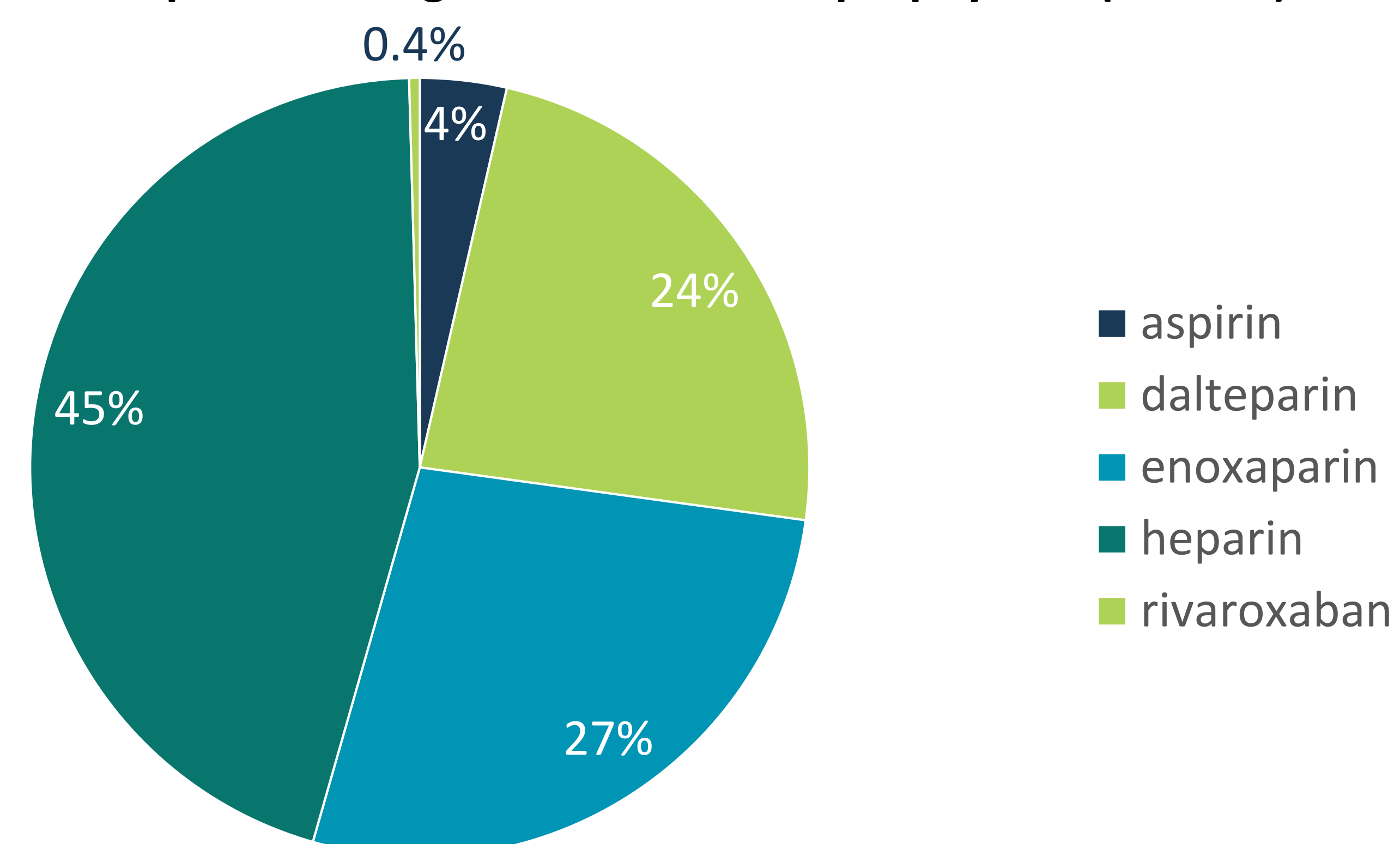


Table 1 - Proportion of patients therapeutically anticoagulated and on VTE chemoprophylaxis according to patient classification (n=371)

| Patient classification    | Proportion of patients prescribed VTE chemoprophylaxis | Proportion of patients therapeutically anticoagulated |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Medical Patients</b>   |  |   |
| - Acutely ill             | 48.02%   | 20.47%  |
| - Stroke                  | 47.06%   | 21.18%  |
| - Subacute                | 43.40%   | 26.89%  |
| - Cancer                  | 42.62%   | 19.67%  |
| <b>Surgical Patients</b>  |  |   |
| - Orthopaedic #NOF        | 86.00%   | 14.00%  |
| - Orthopaedic TKR or THR  | 85.00%   | 7.50%   |
| - Non-orthopaedic surgery | 58.73%   | 10.32%  |
| - Orthopaedic other       | 58.20%   | 9.02%   |
| <b>Maternity Patients</b> |  |   |
| - Post EMCS               | 95.24%   | 0.00%   |
| - Post ELCS               | 81.25%   | 0.00%   |
| - Antenatal               | 6.25%  | 0.00%   |
| - Post other              | 1.82%  | 0.00%   |
| <b>Other patients</b>     |  |   |
| - Intensive Care          | 61.54%   | 15.38%  |
| - Psychiatry              | 2.14%  | 1.53%   |
| - Other                   | 13.75%   | 6.25%   |

## Conclusion

Direct oral anticoagulants were the most commonly prescribed agents for therapeutic anticoagulation. Low molecular weight heparins were the most commonly used anticoagulants for VTE chemoprophylaxis. Subacute medical patients had the highest proportion of patients prescribed therapeutic anticoagulation.

## Contact Us

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