

Low-intensity warfarin not noninferior in hip, knee surgery

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found that the rate of the primary composite outcome of deep vein thrombosis or death was 5.1 percent (41 of 804) in the low-intensity warfarin group (INR target, 1.8) versus 3.8 percent (30 of 793) in the standard-treatment-warfarin group (INR target, 2.5), for a difference of 1.3 percent (one-sided 95 percent confidence interval [CI], ?? to 3.05 percent, $P = 0.06$ for noninferiority). Major bleeding occurred in 0.4 percent of patients in the low-intensity group and 0.9 percent of patients in the standard-intensity group (difference of ?0.5 percent; 95 percent CI, ?1.6 to 0.4 percent). INR values of four or more occurred in 4.5 percent of patients in the low-intensity group and 12.2 percent in the standard-intensity group (difference of ?7.8 percent; 95 percent CI, ?10.5 to ?5.1 percent).

"Future research could help address which patients at high risk of bleeding might benefit from low-intensity warfarin," the authors write.

(HealthDay)—Among older patients undergoing hip or knee replacement, low-intensity compared with standard-intensity warfarin prophylaxis did not meet the noninferiority criterion for the composite outcome of risk of venous thromboembolism or death, according to a study recently published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to orthopedic equipment and [pharmaceutical companies](#), including Stryker and Bristol-Myers Squibb.

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Within six different medical centers throughout the United States, Brian F. Gage, M.D., of Washington University in St. Louis, and colleagues initiated [warfarin](#) therapy in 1,650 patients ages 65 and older who were undergoing elective knee or hip replacement. Using a two-by-two factorial design, study participants were randomly assigned to a target international normalized ratio (INR) of either 1.8 (low-intensity warfarin group, 823 patients) or 2.5 (standard-intensity warfarin group, 827 patients) and to either genotype-guided or clinically-guided dosing.

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Among the patients, 1,597 (98.6 percent) received at least one dose of warfarin. The researchers

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