Stroke Risk, Bleeding Risk and Anticoagulation in Hospital EHRs

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Facts & Figures

Start date: 01/03/2017
End date: 28/02/2022
IMI funding: 9 664 970 €
EFPIA in kind: 9 734 000 €
Other: 0 €
Total Cost: 19 398 970 €
Project website: bigdata-heart.eu
Social media: @BigDataHeart

Challenge

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is a heart condition characterised by an irregular heart rate which increases stroke risk 5-fold. Stroke risk in AF can be effectively managed by oral anticoagulation (OAC), but this is known to be underutilized in practice. 20% of stroke cases in England are linked to AF and these are more likely to be fatal. Understanding OAC prescribing is therefore a significant step to achieving a reduction in a cardiovascular cause of morbidity and mortality. We sought to understand stroke risk management for AF in routine secondary care data, and whether OAC prescribing decisions correlate with stroke and bleed risk scores.

Approach & Methodology

De-identified, free text EHR data was analysed with an NLP pipeline (Figure 1) for 10,030 AF patients at King’s College Hospital (KCH), London between 2011 and 2018. Corrected odds ratios calculated with multivariate logistic regression in R.

Value of IMI collaboration

Through the IMI collaboration there is unparalleled ability to validate these findings (with partner sites covering >16 million people) and translate them into patient benefit through clinical and industry partners. We also have a unique opportunity understand how real-world data can complement trial data generated by EFPIA partners.

Impact & take home message

Routine secondary care data can replicate findings from research cohorts but has much greater flexibility. The same pipeline can be used to deliver near-real-time risk scores to the bedside through IMI collaboration. OAC remain underutilised for stroke risk management in AF in secondary care but prescribing is increasing.

Figure 1. Overview of risk score pipeline. All data remains behind the NHS firewall.