



ESRA Italian Chapter

XXVIII

CONGRESSO NAZIONALE





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PATIENTS ON ANTICOAGULATION

The vast majority of patients on anticoagulation suffer from atrial fibrillation

Older people with a burden of comorbidities







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ATRIAL FIBRILLATION (AF) AND ANTICOAGULATION

ATRIAL FIBRILLATION IS A RISK FACTOR FOR STROKE

WITH AGEING INCIDENCE OF A.F. INCREASES TO 39/1000 IN PEOPLE >80 YEARS

ORAL ANTICOAGULATION REDUCES THE RISK OF STROKE BY 65%







ORAL ANTICOAGULATION AND AF

FROM WARFARIN (1954) AND VITAMIN K ANTAGONISTS (AVK) TO NEW DIRECT ORAL ANTICOAGULANTS (2008) (DOACS)

AVKs REQUIRE FREQUENT MONITORING (INR) AND DOSE ADJUSTMENT

DOACS NOW REPRESENT THE MAJORITY OF ANTICOAGULATION PRESCRIPTION FOR AF

THE USE OF ANTICOAGULATION FOR AF HAS INCREASED FROM 2008 TO 2018 MOSTLY IN PEOPLE AGED OVER 85 YEARS

COMORBIDITIES INCREASE THE RISK OF BLEEDING COMPLICATIONS









Journal of the American Heart Association

Volume 11, Issue 22, 15 November 2022 https://doi.org/10.1161/JAHA.122.026723



ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Trends in Oral Anticoagulant Use Among 436 864 Patients With Atrial Fibrillation in Community Practice, 2011 to 2020

Ann Marie Navar, MD, PhD (); Ahmed A. Kolkailah, MD, MSc (); Robert Overton, MS; Nishant P. Shah, MD, MPH, MSc; Justin F. Rousseau, MD, MMSc (); Greg C. Flaker, MD; Michael P. Pignone, MD, MPH; Eric D. Peterson, MD, MPH ()

We identified 436 864 patients with AF at risk for stroke (median age, 78 years; 52.1% men). From 2011 to

2020, overall anticoagulation rates increased from 56.3% to 64.7%, as DOAC use increased steadily (from

4.7% to 47.9%), while warfarin use declined (from 52.4% to 17.7%)





GIORNALE ITALIANO DI **CARDIOLOGIA**

«the prevalence of AF in Italy is 1.7%, i.e. 1.036.448 cases.

Of these, 62.6%, i.e. 648.832 subjects, are estimated to have a CHADS2 ≥2 and therefore strongly eligible for anticoagulant treatment.

Prevalence of Af is:

- 5% between 65 and 75 years
- 9% between 76 and 85 years
- 10% > 85 years

The estimated percentage of eligible treated patients in 2015 was 43.7%, significantly greater compared to 2014 (31.3%), with local and regional variabilities.



traumatic procedure/epidural catheter

PROCEDURE – related

10-40% of haematoma with bloody tap



PATIENT- related:

- Age
- Sex female
- Congenital –acquired coagulopathies
- Spinal abnormalities
- Thrombocytopenia

DRUG – related

antiplatelet/anticoagulant/dual therapy

Regional Anesth Pain Med 2022 Antithrombotic drugs and the risk of bloody

Regional anesthesia safety recommendations update .Systematic review. Eur Anesthesiologia 2020





• Thrombocytopenia

PLATELET



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Neuraxial block

 In absence of other Additional risk Is acceptable without futher assessments 	≥ 80x10 ⁹ /L ≥ 100x10 ⁹ /L
Lumbar puncture	\geq 40x10 ⁹ /L
Major surgery	> 20x10 ⁹ /L
• Neurosurgery and Ophthalmic surgery posterior segment	> 100x10 ⁹ /L











ANTIPLATELET AND ANTICOAGULANT THERAPY

time before time after catheter



SISTEMA SANITARIO REGIONALE













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Head, neck	Stellate ganglion	Deep	Occipital Rechultur	Superficial	
	Cervical paravertebral	nerve block	Sub-Tenon's Superficial cervical plexus	nerve block	
Upper limb	Infraclavicular	=	Interscalene Supraclavicular Atiliary Supracapular		
Thurse	Friday	neuraxial	Ulnar, radial, medial (forearm or wrist level) Receptored intersectal plane (door, constituint)		
100rda	Thoracic paravertebral	block	Serratus anterior (deep, superficial) Erector spinae plane Intercostal Interpectoral plane and pecto-serratus plane		
Abdomen, pelvic			llioinguinal lliohypogastric Transversus abdominis plane (TAP) Rectus sheath Genital branch of genitolemoral nerve Pudendal nerve		
Lower limb, back	Lumbar plexus Pseas compartment Lumbar sympathectomy Lumbar peravertebral Quadratus lumborum		Femoral Femoral triangla Adductor canal Sciatic (subgluteal, popliteal level) Fascia iliaca		
	Fascia transversalis Sacral plexus Pericapsular nerve group (PENG) Sciatic (proximal approaches) Spinal Epidural		Lateral cutaneous nerve of the thigh Femoral branch of genitofemoral nerve Sural, saphencus, tibial, peroneal (deep, superficial)		

Distance between the region of interest (nerves) and the body surface is not a criterion to differentiate between deep and superficial blocks. Distance varies depending on anatomy and BMI. The list is neither definitive nor absolute. Institutional or individual block categorisation may vary according to the specific technique applied and to operators' experience and skills. Individual risk-benefit analysis must be made before any block. This is particularly important if the only reason the drug is being withheld is to facilitate regional anaesthesia. Anaesthesiological alternatives (e.g. general anaesthesia) should be considered in patients with high thromboembolic or ischaemic risk where it may be preferable to continue antithrombotic drugs peri-operatively without withdrawal, and in cases wherein the bleeding risk due to the block itself is high and potentially catastrophic.







LEVEL OF ACTIVITY DRUG

- Anti Xa activity (< 0,1UI/ml) for DXA, LMWH, Fondaparinux
- aPTT or ACT for UFH
- INR < 1,5 for VKA

Drug blood level Dabigatran/DXA < 30ng/ml⁻¹







La gestione anestesiologica della frattura di femore nel paziente anziano

Autori Aut. Bahr (K. Facchin), M. Bagel -; A. Corrisola 1

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ç	ONTENUTI
1	SCOPO E CAMPI DI APPLICAZIONE
2	DESTINATARI
3	CONTENUTI
14	HBUOGRAFIA

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li presento docarrento è disponibile por il dovrienti e la stampo all'indritto sovocianti il standantici il si XXVIII CONGRESSO NAZIONALE



PER L'OPERABILITÀ E PER L'ANESTESIA NEUROASSIALE (12, 72-37)				
Farmaco	Considerazioni per l'operabilità	Conditionationi per l'a sincuroassiale	Test di laboratorio	
Warfarin	operabile con INR <2. Se INR>1,5, consigliabile sommini- strazione di 1-3 mg di vitamina K ev PCC indicato nel caso non si riesca ad ottenere INR<1,5 dopo reverse con vitamina k	INR 2 5	INR	
Xabani* dose profilattica Rivaroxaban (Xarelto) Apixaban (Eliquis) Edoxaban (Lixiana)	dopo 12-48h dall'ultima dose	dopo 24-72h, → attendere 40-75h, se dosaggi maggiori, creatinina > 1,5 mg/dl, età > 80 anni, peso <60 Kg	attività anti-Xa farmaco specifica	
Dabigratan* (Pradaxa) a dose profilattica	dopo 24-48h dall'ultima dose considerare idarucizumab (Praxbind) 5 g ev come reverse rapido	incompatibile con chirurgia < 48h o solo dopo Praxbind; se CrCl z80 ml/min attendere 72h se 50 < CrCl<79 → 96h se 30 < CrCl<49 → 120h se CrCl < 30 sconsigliato	TT, dTT (aPTT) Hemoclot thrombin inhibitor assay	
UFHs ev	sospendere infusione 2-4h prima dell'intervento	dopo 4h	aPTT	
LMWH dose profilattica	uttima dose pre-operatoria 12h prima	dopo 12h		
LMWH dose terapeutica	ultima dose preoperatoria 24h prima (monitorare il sanguinamento)	dopo 24h		
Clopidogrel Ticlopidina Prasurgrel Ticagrelor	non ritardare l'intervento monitorare il sanguinamento	incompatibile con chirurgia < 48h considerare AG + blocco periferico (sempre in caso di DAPT)	aggregometria POC	
Aspirina	non controindicato	non controindicata		







VKA REVERSAL

EMERGENCY

Recommendation 31

From a pharmacological point of view, neuraxial or deep nerve procedures may be performed in emergency situations following an individual risk-benefit evaluation once the anticoagulant activity of VKA is fully reversed by prothrombin complex concentrate (PCC), INR-dependent dose adjusted and combined with vitamin K (10 mg). 2C

VKA MANAGEMENT

- Discontinue VKA at least 5days before elective surgery
- Assess INR 1-2d prior to surgery, if > 1.5 consider 1-2mg oral vit K
- Urgent Surgery consider 2.5-5mg oral or IV 10mg
- **EMERGENCY** for immediate reversal consider:
 - PCC 20UI/Kg for INR < 2; 30UI/Kg for INR 2.1-3.9; 40UI/Kg for INR 4-5.9; 50UI/Kg for INR > 6
 - Fresh Frozen Plasma 15ml/Kg









DOACS REVERSAL

EMERGENCY









RECOMMEND POST INTERVENIONAL VIGILANCE BY MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM

FOR SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS RELATE NEW OR PROGRESSIVE NEUROLOGICAL DEFECT: NEW/INCREASING BACK PAIN, NUMBNESS OR WEAKNESS OF THE LEGS, BLADDER DYSFUNCTION, DURATION /EXTENSION OF MOTOR OR SENSORY BLOCK

REGULAR PATIENT ASSESSMENTS BY TRAINED PERSONNEL FOR MINIMUM OF **24** H AND LONGER IN HIGT.RISK PATIENTS

IMMEDIATE IMMAGING RMN

IF INDICATED SURGICAL DECOMPRESSION SHOULD BE PERFORMED WITHIN 6 H











Take home message

FOR PATIENTS RECEIVING ANTICOAGULANT / ANTIPLATELETS DRUGS

- BE AWARE OF THE RISK OF SERIOUS CLINICAL CONSEQUENCES FROM BLEEDING BEFORE AND THE AFTER HIGH RISK BLOCKS AND DURING INSERTION/REMOVAL OF A CATHETER
- BE COMPETENT IN DETECTING AN MANAGING A POSSIBLE COMPLICATION AND MANTEIN A POSTPROCEDURAL VIGILANCE FOR HIGH RISK PATIENTS









- INFORM THE PATIENTS ABOUT SIGN AND SYMPTOMS OF NEUROLOGICAL DEFICITS
- MULTIDISCIPLINARY ASSESSMENT FOR PATIENTS WITH HIGH THROMBOTIC/HAEMORRAGIC RISK









5-7 Ottobre 2023 **PALERMO**



ESRA Italian Chapter

XXVIII CONGRESSO NAZIONALE

Uno sguardo verso il Mediterraneo Il Rischio Clinico

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NEURAXIAL BLOCKS AND DEEP NERVE BLOCKS

- CONSEQUENCE OF BLEEDING IS SIGNIFICANT, AND MAY BE CATASTROPHIC
- MANAGEMENT IS DIFFICULT BECAUSE SITE IS DEEP AND NON COMPRESSIBLE.
- SURGICAL CONTROL MAY BE REQUIRED
- Withdrawal of antithrombotic drugs is recommended











SUPERFICIAL NERVE BLOCKs

- Consequence of block induced bleeding is of less clinical significance
- Management is easy, at compressible site, less likely to require invasive intervention
- Withdrawal of antithrombotic drug is not compulsory







The guidelines recommend observing specific time intervals:

BEFORE and AFTER neuraxial blockade

Before and after peripheral nerve blockade (deep nerve blocks)

Before and after catheter removal

to reduce the risk of bleeding and of haematoma formation

(Adult surgical patients >16 years, Obstetric patients, Anaesthetic and analgesic blocks)



Eur J Anaesthesiol 2022; 39:100-132

GUIDELINES

Regional anaesthesia in patients on antithrombotic drugs Joint ESAIC/ESRA guidelines







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MANAGEMENT OF ANTICOAGULANT THERAPY: VKA

Recommendation 1

Irrespective of the target International Normalised Ratio (INR), *neuraxial procedures should be*

performed when VKA treatment has been withheld and the INR has returned to the normal range of

the local laboratory (e.g. 1.1). 1C

	High risk o	High risk of bleeding block (neuraxial and deep nerve blocks) ^a		
Drug and dose	Time from last drug intake to intervention ^e	Target laboratory value at inter- vention	Time from intervention to next drug dose	
VKA	Until target lab value: (about 3 days acenocoumarol; 5 days warfarin, fluindione; 7 days phenprocoumon)	INR normal		

Table 3 Management in high bleeding risk blocks (neuraxial and deep nerve blocks)







An INR less than 1.5 may be acceptable in individual patients, if after a careful risk-benefit analysis a

general anaesthetic is best avoided and a neuraxial anaesthetic technique should be used. 2C

A last VKA intake of 3 days (acenocoumarol), 5 days (warfarin), before the procedure is proposed. 2C

Table 3 Management in high bleeding risk blocks (neuraxial and deep nerve blocks)

Drug and dose	High risk of bleeding block (neuraxial and deep nerve blocks) ^a			
	Time from last drug intake to intervention ^c	Target laboratory value at inter- vention	Time from intervention to next drug dose	
VKA	Until target lab value: (about 3 days acenocoumarol; 5 days warfarin, fluindione; 7 days	INR normal		







Following neuraxial procedures, the next dose of VKA should be administered according to guidelines on postoperative VTE prophylaxis or therapeutic anticoagulation. **1C**

In the presence of an indwelling neuraxial catheter, the next dose of VKA should be administered only after its withdrawal. 1C

In the interim, a low dose of LMWH may be used whilst a neuraxial catheter remains in place. 2C





AVK: ACTIVE REVERSAL STRATEGIES

No specific guidelines

Vitamin K (oral administration has slower effect than intravenous infusion) Prothrombin complex concentrates (PCCs) Fresh frozen plasma (FFP)



SIGN RECOMMENDATION, BSH RECOMMENDATION TO REVERSE ANTICOAGULATION IN PATIENTS WITH HIP FRACTURE to reduce the time to surgery.







Recommendation 3

Superficial nerve procedures may be performed in the presence of VKA, irrespective of the target INR. 2C

Following superficial nerve procedures, the next dose may be administered at the routinely prescribed next time point. 2C

Deep nerve procedures should be performed according to the recommendations for neuraxial procedures (R1). 1C







MANAGEMENT OF DOACs

ACCORDING TO CLINICAL INDICATIONS, DOACS ARE USED AT HIGH OR LOW DOSAGES WITH SPECIFIC TIME INTERVALS BEFORE THE BLOCKADE





MANAGEMENT OF DOACs: DABIGATRAN

Table 3 Management in high bleeding risk blocks (neuraxial and deep nerve blocks)

	High risk of bleeding block (neuraxial and deep nerve blocks)"			
Drug and dose	Time from last drug intake to	Target laboratory value at inter-	Time from intervention to next drug	
	intervention ^c	vention	dose	
Dabigatran low ^b	48 h	No testing		
Dabigatran high	72 h or until target laboratory value	DTI level < 30 ng ml ⁻¹	High doses: according to guidelines on	
	(until target laboratory value if CrCl	(alternative: thrombin time in normal	therapeutic anticoagulation ^f (about	
	<50 ml min ⁻¹)	range of local laboratory)	24 h postop)	

DABIGATRAN HIGH DOSES : 72 h

- Prevention of stroke in atrial fibrillation
- Treatment of acute venous thromboembolism
 - Dosage : 150mg BID
- Dosage adjustments : 110mg BID
- If age >80 years, or concomitant use of verapamil, or CrCl 30-50 ml/min





MANAGEMENT OF DOACs: DABIGATRAN

Table 3 Management in high bleeding risk blocks (neuraxial and deep nerve blocks)

	High risk of bleeding block (neuraxial and deep nerve blocks)"			
Drug and dose	Time from last drug intake to	Target laboratory value at inter-	Time from intervention to next drug	
	intervention ^c	vention	dose	
Dabigatran low ^b	48 h	No testing		
Dabigatran high	72 h or until target laboratory value	DTI level < 30 ng ml ⁻¹	High doses: according to guidelines on	
	(until target laboratory value if CrCl	(alternative: thrombin time in normal	therapeutic anticoagulation ^f (about	
	<50 ml min ⁻¹)	range of local laboratory)	24 h postop)	

DABIGATRAN low DOSES : 48 h

- Prophylaxis of venous thromboembolism after major orthopaedic surgey
 - Dosage: 220mg/die
- Dosage adjustments : 150 mg/die



Rivaroxaban Apixaban Edoxaban

Table 3 Management in high bleeding risk blocks (neuraxial and deep nerve blocks)





Table 3 Management in high bleeding risk blocks (neuraxial and deep nerve blocks)





Rivaroxaban Apixaban Edoxaban

Table 3 Management in high bleeding risk blocks (neuraxial and deep nerve blocks)



EDOXABAN HIGH DOSES: 72 h

- Stroke prevention in AF
- Acute venous thromboembolism treatment
 - Dosage: 60 mg/die
 - Dosage adjustement: 30 mg/die if CrCl < 50ml/min



EDOXABAN LOW DOSES NOT APPLICABLE







DOACS : SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

In low doses of DOACs^a the last intake should be a minimum of 24 h for rivaroxaban and edoxaban, 36 h for apixaban, and 48 h for dabigatran before neuraxial procedures. 1C

If CrCl is < 30 ml min⁻¹, the last low-dose rivaroxaban, edoxaban intake should be at least 30 h before neuraxial procedures. 1C

In high doses of DOACs^a the last intake should be a minimum of 72h before neuraxial procedures. 1C

If CrCl is < 50 ml min⁻¹ with high-dose dabigatran treatment or if CrCl is < 30 ml min⁻¹ with high dose DXA treatment, neuraxial procedures may be performed if the appropriate laboratory assay is within the normal range of the local laboratory. 2C

Following neuraxial procedures, the next low dose of DOAC should be administered according to guidelines on postoperative VTE prophylaxis or therapeutic anticoagulation. 1C

In the presence of an indwelling neuraxial catheter the next dose of DOAC should be administered only after its withdrawal;1C in the interim a low dose of LMWH or low dose UFH may be used whilst a neuraxial catheter remains in place. 2C





DOACs REVERSAL STRATEGIES: NO SPECIFIC GUIDELINES





LOW MOLECULAR WEIGHT HEPARIN : MANAGEMENT

LMWH low ≤50 IU anti-Xa kg ⁻¹ day ⁻¹ enoxaparin ≤40 mg day ⁻¹	12 h (24 h if CrCl <30 ml min ⁻¹)	No testing	
LMWH high	24 h (48 h if CrCl <30 ml min ⁻¹) or until target lab value (especially if CrCl <30 ml min ⁻¹)	anti-Xa \leq 0.1 lU ml ⁻¹	VKA, DOAC, LMWH high, UFH high; should not be administered with a catheter in situ

IN LOW DOSES LMWH THE LAST ADMINISTRATION SHOULD BE A MINIMUM OF 12 HOURS BEFORE NEUROAXIAL PROCEDURES. IN HIGH DOSES LMWH THE LAST ADMINISTRATION SHOULD BE A MINIMUM OF 24 HOURS. IF CrCl <30 ml/min THE DOSE OF LMWH SHOULD BE HALVED OR THE INTERVAL TO NEUROAXIAL PRECEDURES SHOULD BE DOUBLED







ANTIPLATELET THERAPY

ANTIPLATELET MEDICATIONS ARE A CORNERSTONE OF THERAPY FOR ATHEROSCLEROTIC CARDIAC AND VASCULAR DISEASES.

THEY ARE USED IN PRIMARY OR SECONDARY PREVENTION

IN ACUTE CORONARY SINDROME DUAL ANTIPLATELET THERAPY (DAPT) WITH ASPIRIN AND A P2Y12 INHIBITOR (CLOPIDOGREL, TICAGRELOR, PRASUGREL) CONFERS GREATER PROTECTION





Table 3 Management in high bleeding risk blocks (neuraxial and deep nerve blocks)

	High risk of bleeding block (neuraxial and deep nerve blocks) ^a			
Drug and dose	Time from last drug intake to intervention ^c	Target laboratory value at inter- vention	Time from intervention to next drug dose	
Aspirin low ≤ 200 mg day ⁻¹	0	No testing	Routinely prescribed next time point	
Aspirin high	3 days (in normal platelet counts) to 7 days	(consider specific platelet function tests in normal range of local laboratory)	6 h	
P2Y ₁₂ inhibitor	5 days ticagrelor 5 to 7 days clopidogrel 7 days prasugrel or until target laboratory value		0-h clopidogrel 75 mg 24 h prasugrel, ticagrelor 2 days clopidogrel 300 mg	
Aspirin low + anticoagulant	Aspirin: 0 + time interval of specific anticoagulant	specific laboratory test for combined anticoagulant	Aspirin low: routinely prescribed next time point Combined anticoagulant, antiplatelet drug: according to guidelines on therapeutic anticoagulation, platelet inhibition ^f (about 24 h postOP)	
Aspirin low and antiplatelet drug	Aspirin: 0 and time interval of specific antiplatelet drug	(consider specific laboratory test for combined antiplatelet drug)		







THE RISK OF BLEEDING AFTER NEURAXIAL OR DEEP NERVE BLOCKs IS INCREASED IN PATIENTS ON ANTICOAGULANT OR ANTIPLATELETS DRUGS

THE RISK OF DRUG-INDUCED HAEMATOMA IS A CONCERN **BEFORE AND AFTER THE BLOCK**

THE RISK IS ALSO A CONCERN FOR THE CATHETER REMOVAL







THE **BLEEDING** RISK IS **DETERMINED BY**:

- THE DOSE OF THE ANTITHROMBOTIC /ANTICOAGULANT DRUG
 - PATIENTS-RELATED FACTORS SUCH US :

AGE, BODY WEIGHT, RENAL FUNCTION (CrCI) HEPATIC FUNCTION CONCOMITANT USE OF OTHER DRUGS



Eur J Anaesthesiol 2022; 39:100-132

GUIDELINES

Regional anaesthesia in patients on antithrombotic drugs

Joint ESAIC/ESRA guidelines



Table 2 Categorisation of nerve blocks

Dee	ep nerve blocks / neuraxial blocks	Superficial nerve blocks
Examples for blocks		
Head, neck	Stellate ganglion Deep cervical plexus Cervical peravertebral	Occipital Peribulbar Sub-Tenon's Superficial cervical plexus
Upper limb	Infraclavicular	Interscalene Supraclavicular Axillary Suprascapular Ulnar, radial, medial (forearm or wrist level)
Thorax	Epidural Thoracie paravertebral	Parasternal intercostal plane (deep, superficial) Serratus anterior (deep, superficial) Erector spinae plane Intercostal Interpectoral plane and pecto-serratus plane
Abdomen, pelvic		llioinguinal lliohypogastric Transversus abdominis plane (TAP) Rectus sheath Glenital branch of genitofemoral nerve Pudendal nerve
Lower limb, back	Lumbar plexus Psoas compartment Lumbar sympatheotomy Lumbar paravertebrai Quadratus lumborum Fascia transversalis Sacral plexus Pericapsular nerve group (PENG) Sciatic (proximal approaches) Spinal Epidural	Femoral Femoral triangle Adductor canal Sciatic (subgluteal, popliteal level) Fastic (subgluteal, popliteal level) Lateral cutaneous nerve of the thigh Femoral branch of genitofemoral nerve Sural, saphenous, tibial, peroneal (deep, superficial)

Distance between the region of interest (nerves) and the body surface is not a criterion to differentiate between deep and superficial blocks. Distance varies depending on anatomy and BMI. The list is neither definitive nor absolute. Individual or individual block categorisation may vary according to the specific technique applied and to operators' experience and skills. Individual risk-benefit analysis must be made before any block. This is particularly important if the only reason the drug is being withheld is to facilitate regional anaesthesis. Anaesthesiological alternatives (e.g. general anaesthesia) should be considered in patients with high thromboembolic or ischaemic risk where it may be preferable to continue antithrombotic drugs peri-operatively without withdrawal, and in cases wherein the bleeding risk due to the block itself is high and potentially catastrophic.







THE CLINICAL CONSEQUENCE (Minor Or Severe Consequence, Management Of Complication, Need For Invasive Intervention) OF BLEEDING IS RELATED TO THE PROCEDURE

ACCORDINGLY NEURAXIAL BLOCKS AND DEEP PNBs (Peripheral Nerve Blocks) are *HIGH RISK BLOCKS*

SUPERFICIAL PNBs ARE LOW RISK BLOCKS