

Recurrent Venous Thromboembolism in Patients with Cancer

Sam Schulman, MD, PhD

Disclosures

- I have received honoraria for work in study committees from
 - Boehringer Ingelheim
 - Bayer
 - Alnylam
 - Sanofi
 - Pfizer
- Research grants from
 - Boehringer Ingelheim
 - Octapharma
- Drugs that might not yet approved in some countries will be discussed – only for educational purposes



Agenda

- Management of patients with cancer and thrombosis
- Management of recurrent VTE in cancer



High VTE risk in cancer

Table 1. Effect of Malignancy on the Risk of Venous Thrombosis Depending on the Duration Between Diagnosis of Cancer and Venous Thrombosis

Duration Between Malignancy and Venous Thrombosis	No. of Individuals (%)		Odds Ratio (95% CI)	Adjusted Odds Ratio (95% CI)*
	Patients (n = 3220)	Control Participants (n = 2131)		
No malignancy	2831 (87.9)	2062 (96.8)	1.00	1.00
All malignancies	389 (12.1)	69 (3.2)	4.1 (3.2-5.3)	4.3 (3.3-5.6)
Time after index date (diagnosis)†				
0 to ≤3 mo	80 (20.6)	1 (1.5)	58.2 (8.1-419.1)	53.5 (8.6-334.3)
>3 mo to ≤1 y	92 (23.7)	5 (7.6)	13.4 (5.4-33.0)	14.3 (5.8-35.2)
>1 to ≤3 y	67 (17.2)	14 (21.2)	3.5 (2.0-6.2)	3.6 (2.0-6.5)
>3 to ≤5 y	43 (11.1)	11 (16.7)	2.8 (1.5-5.5)	3.0 (1.5-5.7)
>5 to ≤10 y	47 (12.1)	14 (21.2)	2.4 (1.3-4.5)	2.6 (1.4-4.7)
>10 to ≤15 y	19 (4.8)	6 (9.0)	2.3 (0.9-5.8)	2.3 (0.9-5.8)
>15 y	23 (5.9)	15 (22.7)	1.1 (0.6-2.1)	1.1 (0.6-2.2)

Abbreviation: CI, confidence interval.

*Adjusted for age and sex.

†Eighteen patients and 3 control participants did not report a date of diagnosis.

High mortality rate

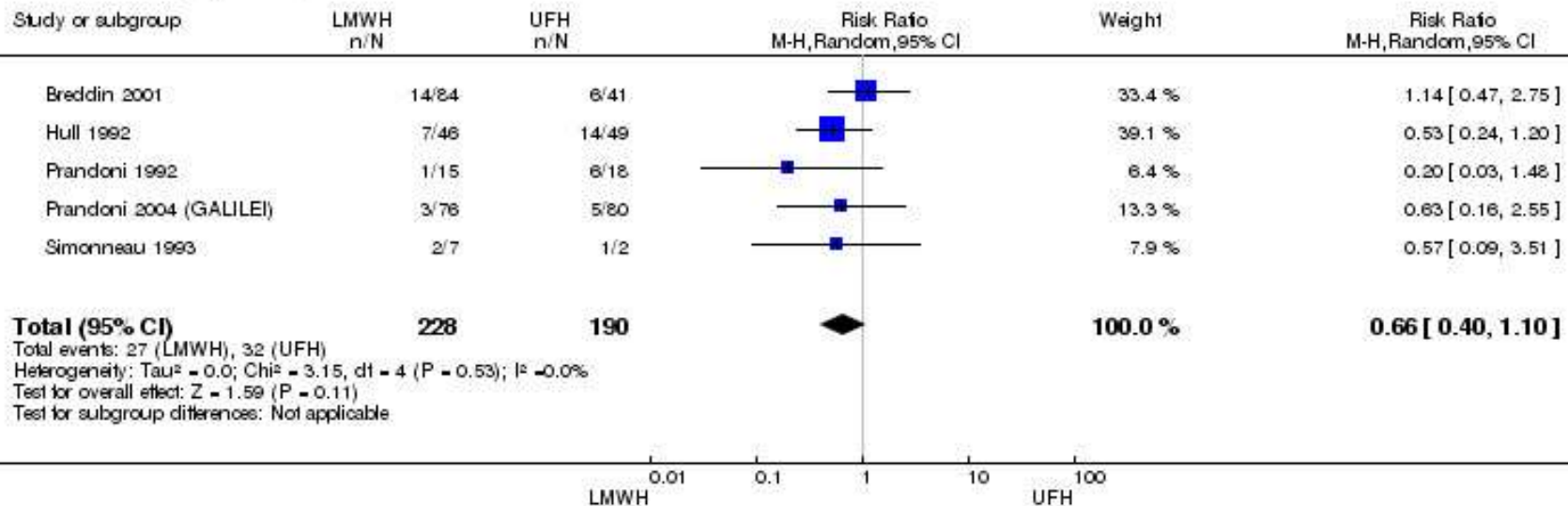
Exposure	PY	Deaths (n)	MR per 100 PY (95% CI)	HR (95% CI)
None	277 713	1750	0.63 (0.60-0.66)	1.0 (reference)
VT only	1317	67	5.1 (4.0-6.4)	2.6 (2.0-3.3)
Cancer only	5650	721	12.7 (11.9-13.7)	7.4 (6.8-8.2)
Cancer-related VT	131	72	55.0 (43.6-69.3)	31.2 (24.6-39.6)

Adjusted for age and sex. Based on the Tromsø study 1994-2007

Initial treatment – month 0-3

Mortality

Review: Anticoagulation for the initial treatment of venous thromboembolism in people with cancer
 Comparison: 1 Low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) versus unfractionated heparin (UFH)
 Outcome: 1 Mortality (3 months)



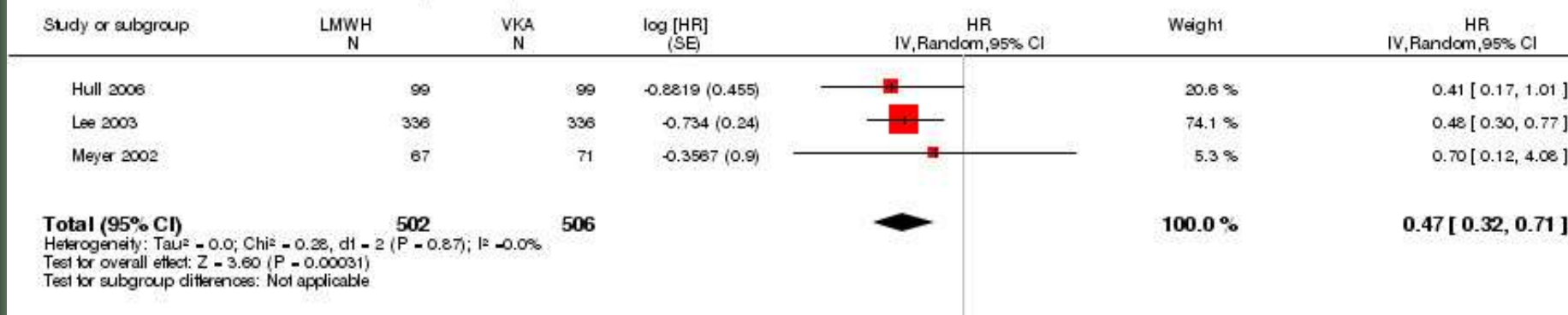
Recurrent VTE: RR 0.69 (0.27;1.76)

Hakoum MB et al. [Cochrane Database Syst Rev.](#) 2018 Jan 24;1:CD006649.

Long-term treatment – month 3-6

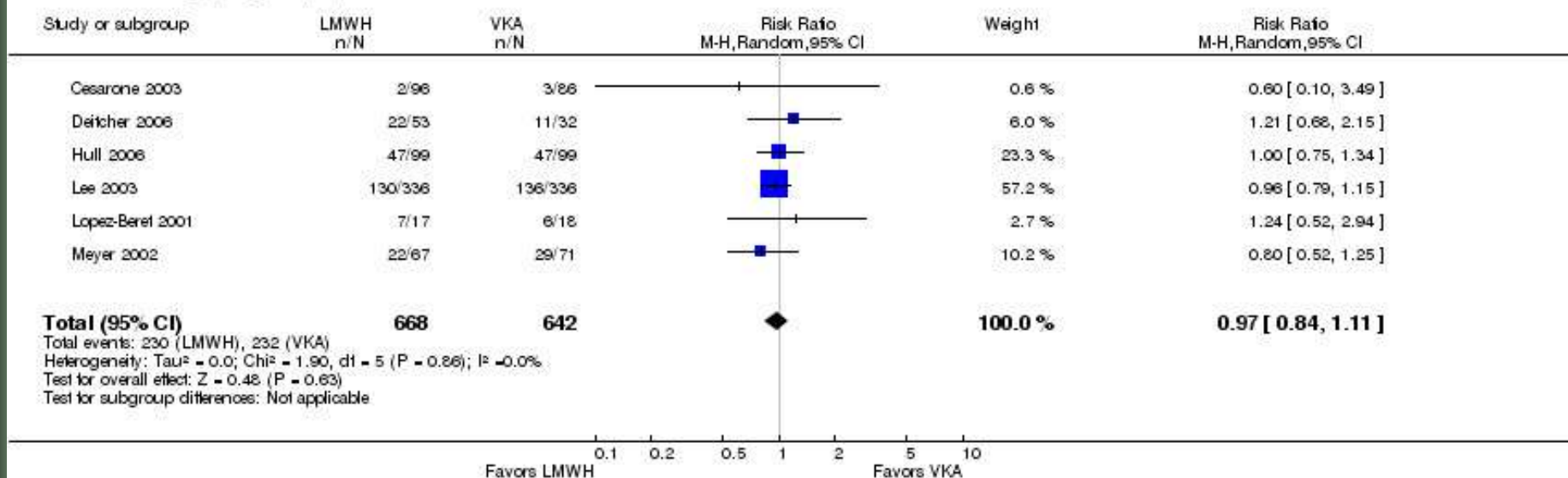
Recurrent VTE – time to event

Review: Anticoagulation for the long-term treatment of venous thromboembolism in patients with cancer
Comparison: 1 Low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) versus vitamin K antagonist (VKA)
Outcome: 5 Recurrent venous thromboembolism (time-to-event)



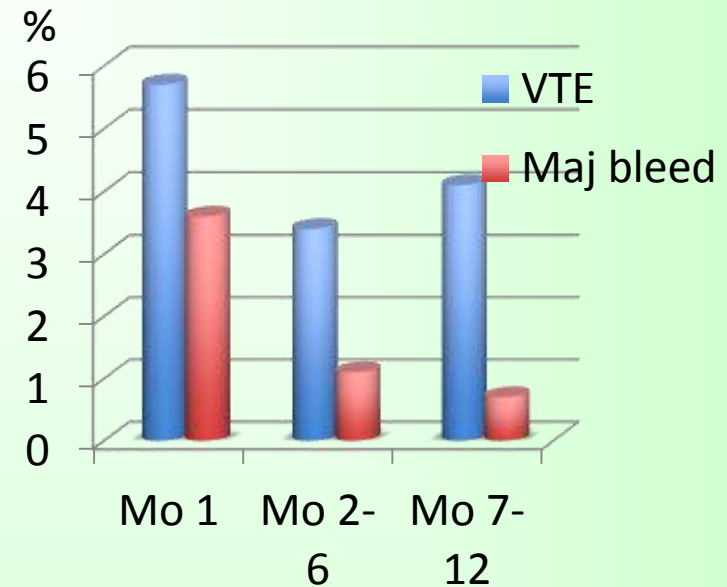
Mortality

Review: Anticoagulation for the long-term treatment of venous thromboembolism in patients with cancer
Comparison: 1 Low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) versus vitamin K antagonist (VKA)
Outcome: 4 Mortality (at any time point)

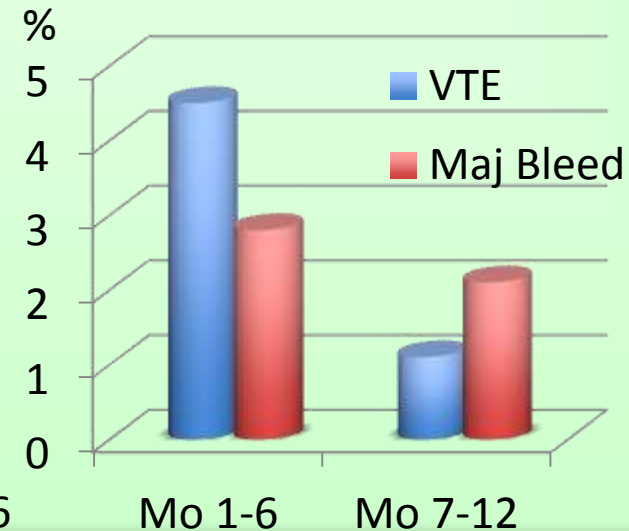


Extended treatment

- DALTECAN, n=334



- TiCAT, n=247

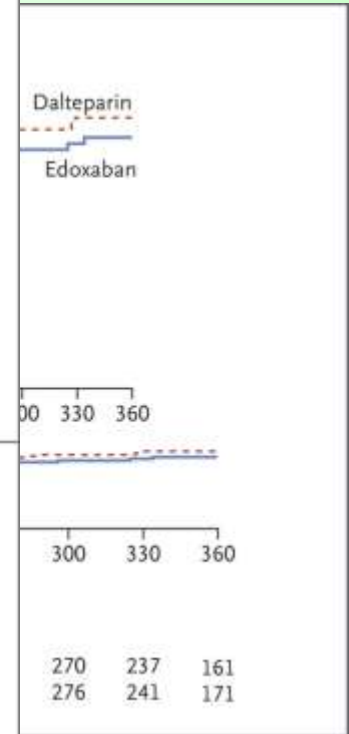
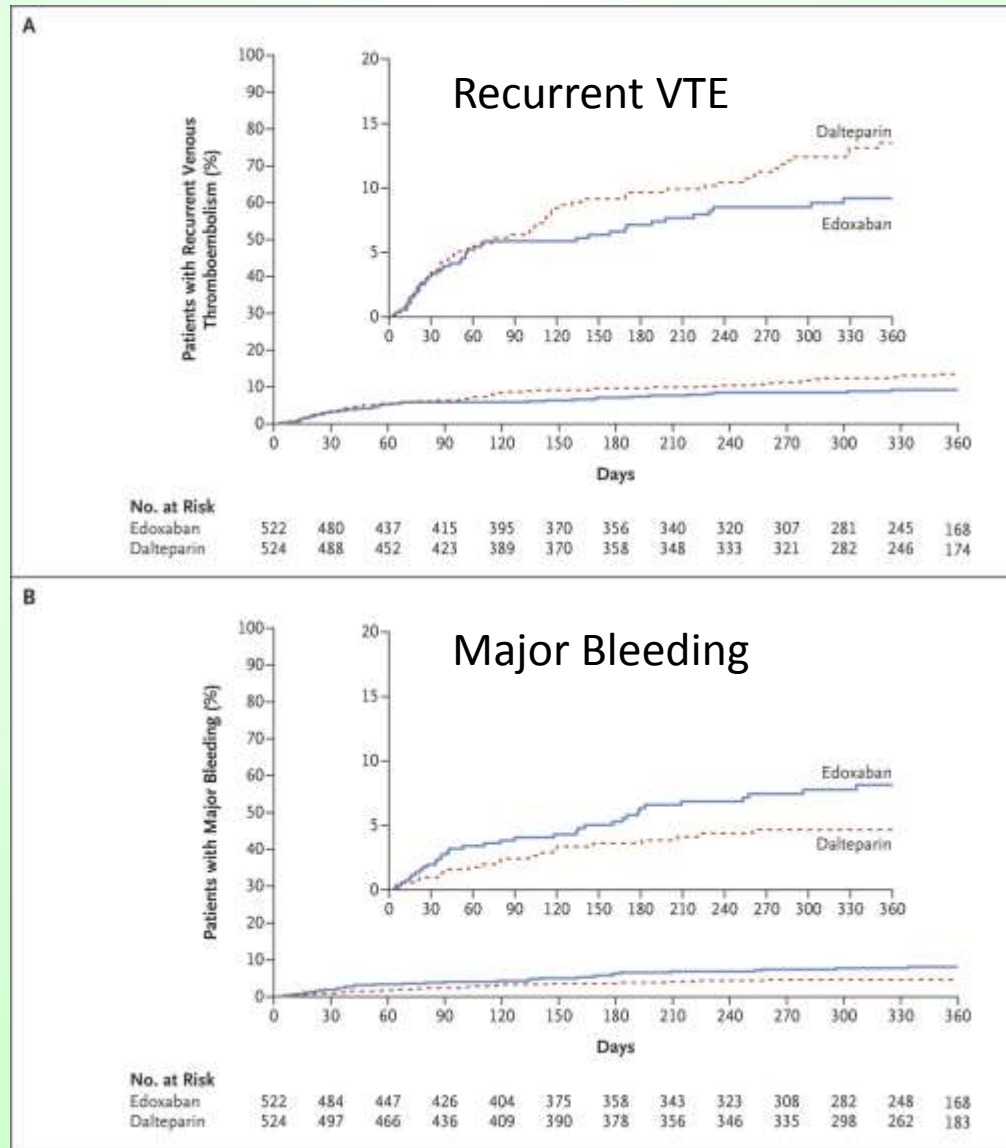


Francis CW et al. JTH 2015;13:1028-35

Jara-Palomares L et al. Thromb Res 2017;157:90-6

NOACs vs. LMWH

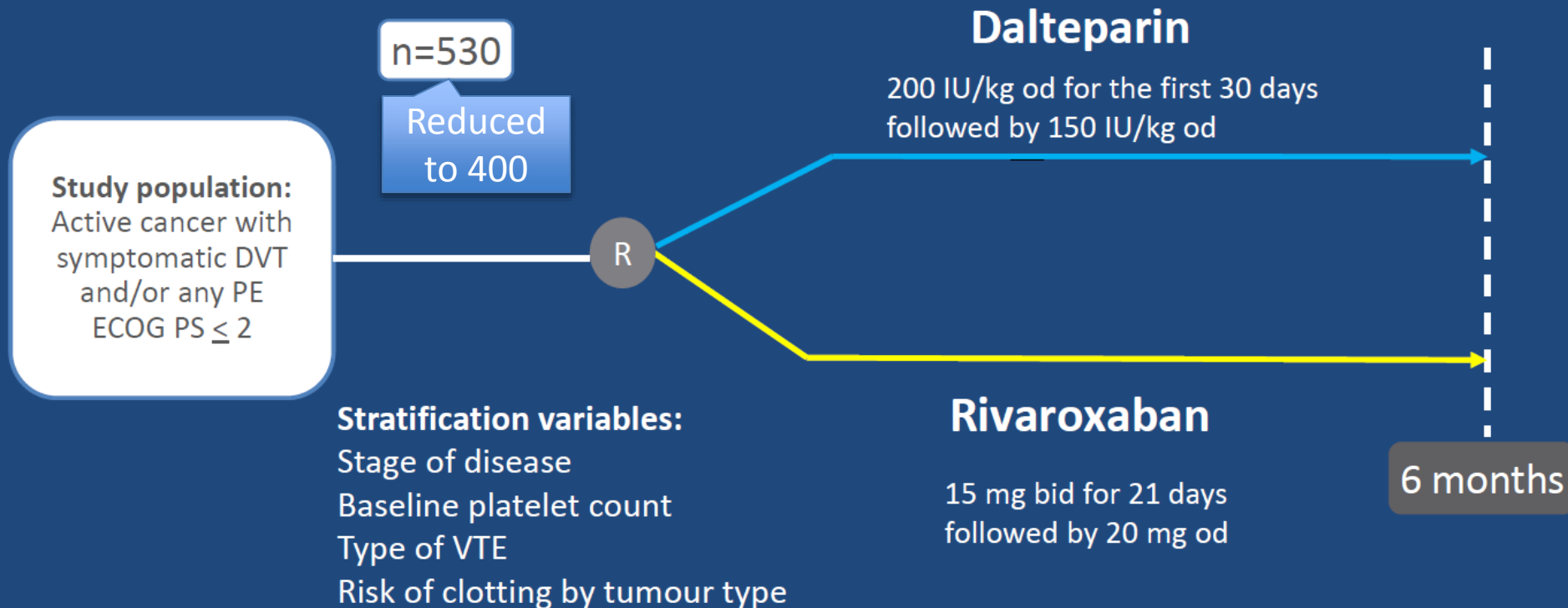
- N=1046



Rivaroxaban vs. LMWH

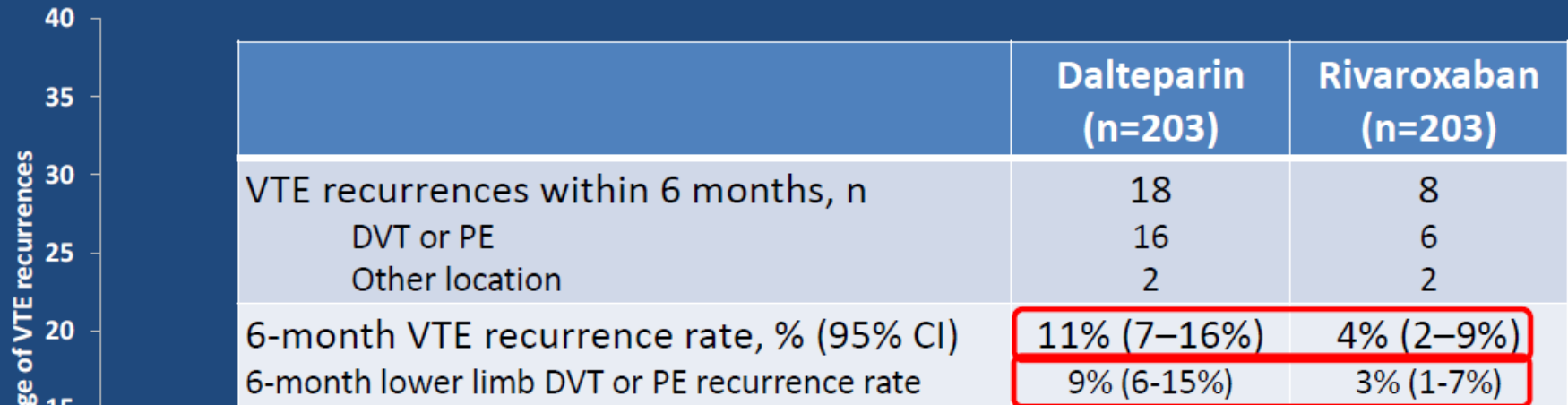
- SELECTeD, started in Oct 2013

Prospective, randomised, open-label, multicentre pilot phase III



SELECTeD interim data

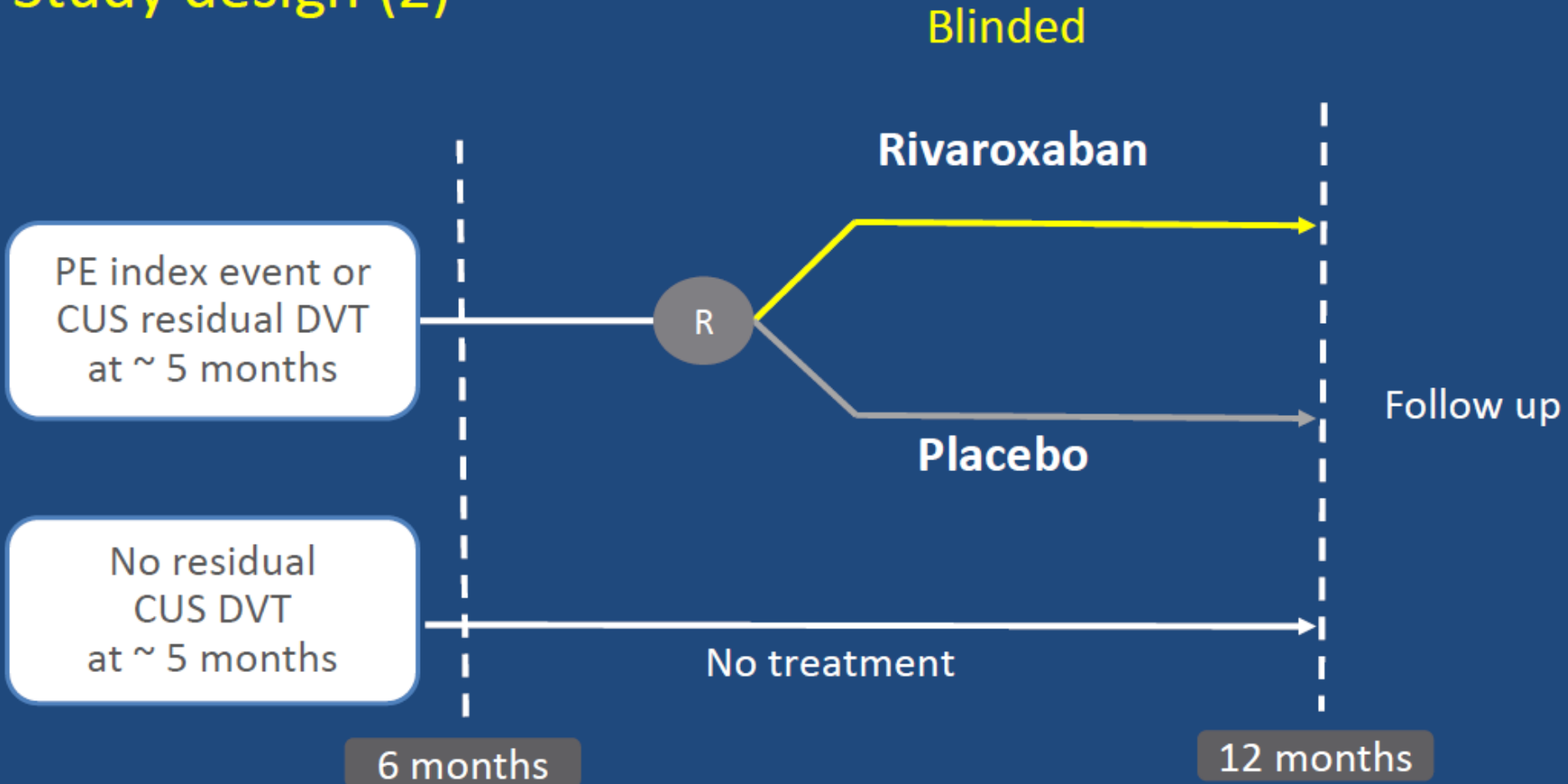
VTE recurrence



Category of bleeding	Dalteparin (n=203)	Rivaroxaban (n=203)
Major*	6 (3%)	11 (5%)
Clinically relevant non-major	6 (3%)	25 (12%)
Total	12 (6%)	36 (17%)

SELECTeD randomization #2

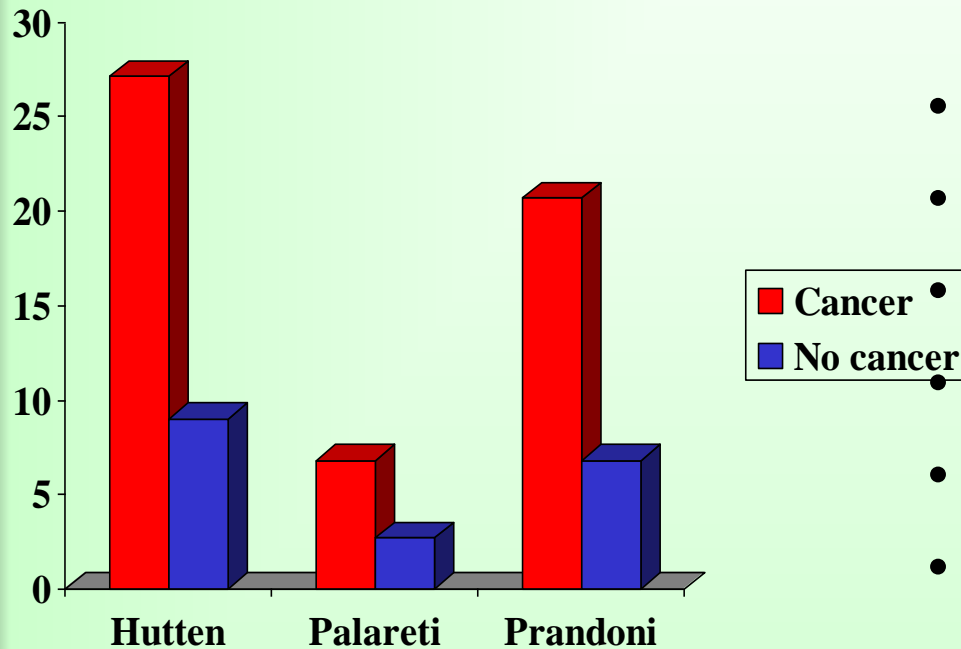
Study design (2)



Stopped after 90 patients – too slow recruitment

Recurrent VTE on therapy

Recurrent VTE



Risk factors for recurrence

- Age <65
- PE at study entry
- Ca diagnosis <3 months
- Cancer site
- Cancer stage
- Adenocarcinoma

Hutten BA et al. J Clin Oncol 2000;18:3078-83.
Palareti G et al. Thromb Haemost 2000;84:805.
Prandoni P et al. Blood 2002;100:3484-8.

Trujillo-Santos J et al. Thromb Haemost 2008; 100:435-9.
Louzada ML et al. Blood Coagul Fibrinolysis 2011;22:86-91

DACUS-Cancer

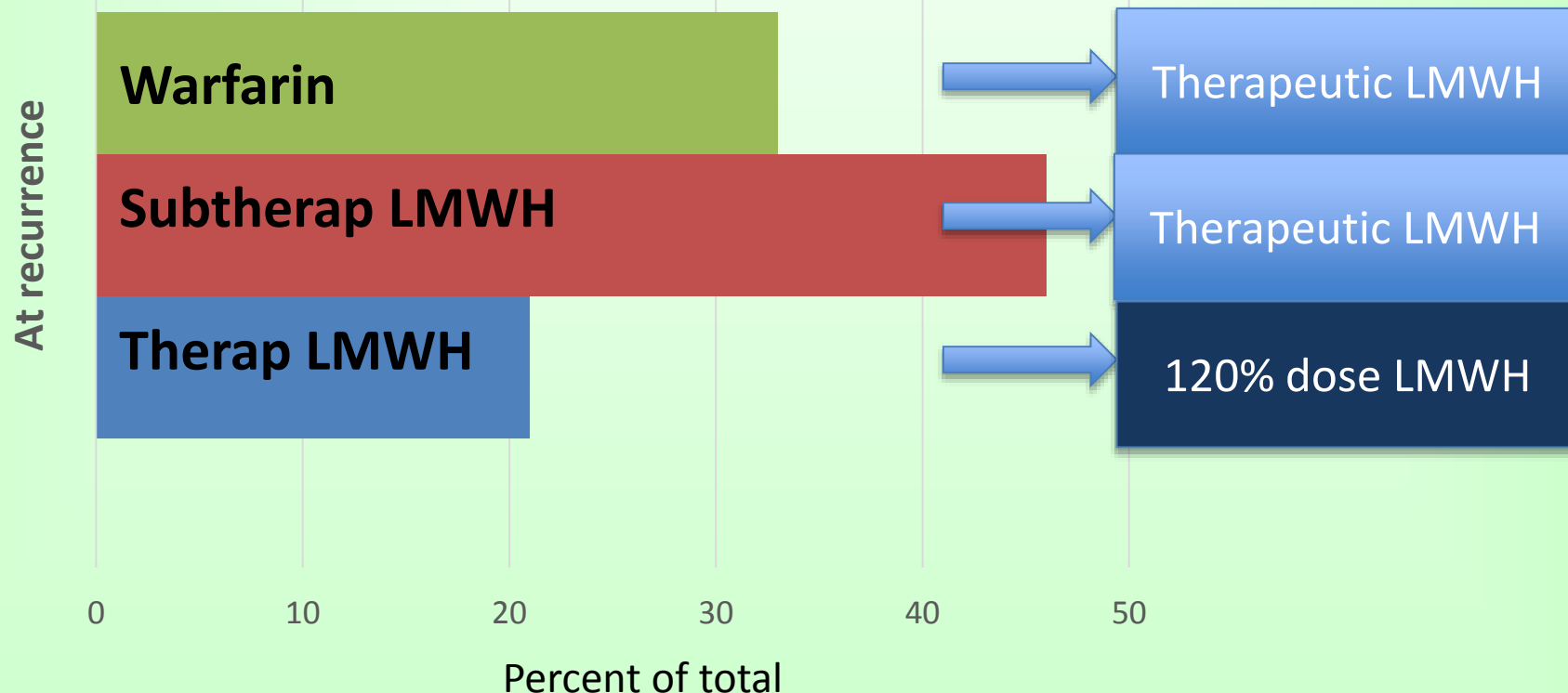
- 347 patients treated for 6 m with LMWH
- Higher risk of recurrence if residual vein thrombosis on US – off anticoagulation (21.9% vs. 2.8%)
- Extended LMWH to 12 months did not reduce risk significantly

Reasons for recurrence

- Cancer related (progression)
- Anticoagulation stopped
 - Hemorrhage
 - Thrombocytopenia
 - Poor compliance
- HIT
- Catheter-related or tumor obstruction

Dose escalation of LMWH

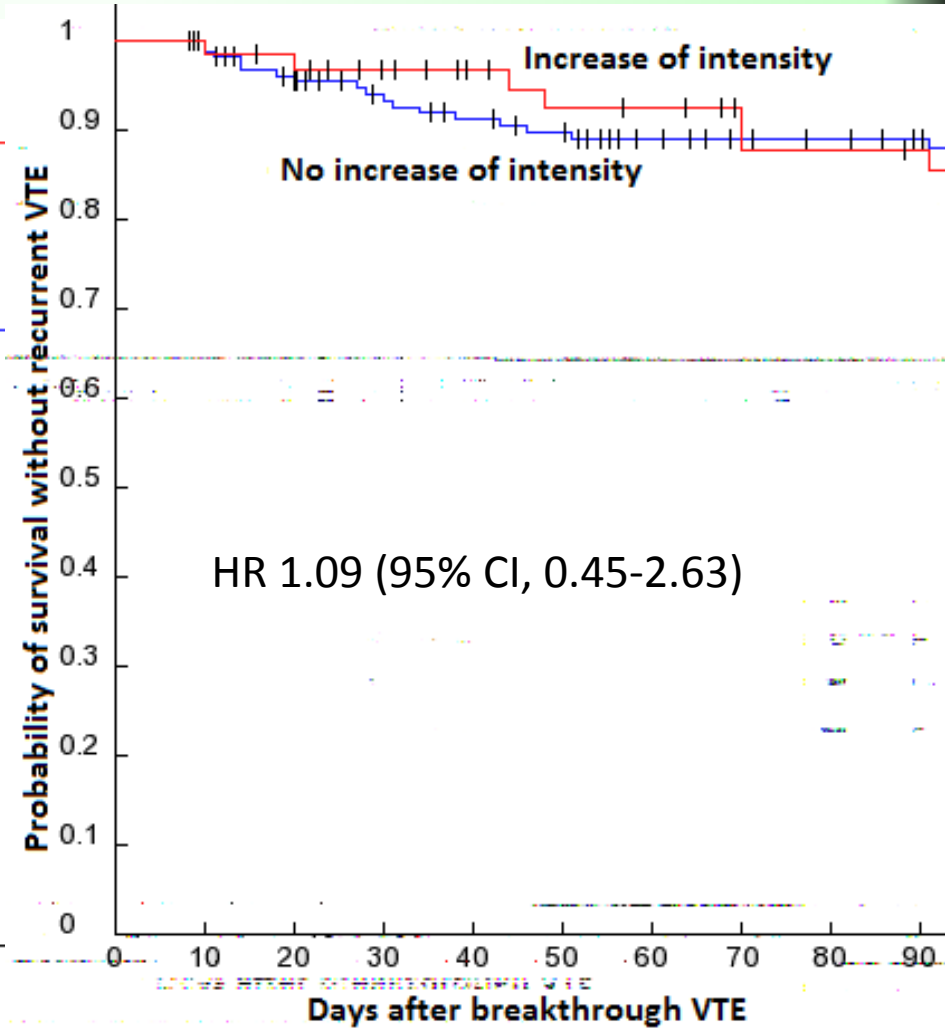
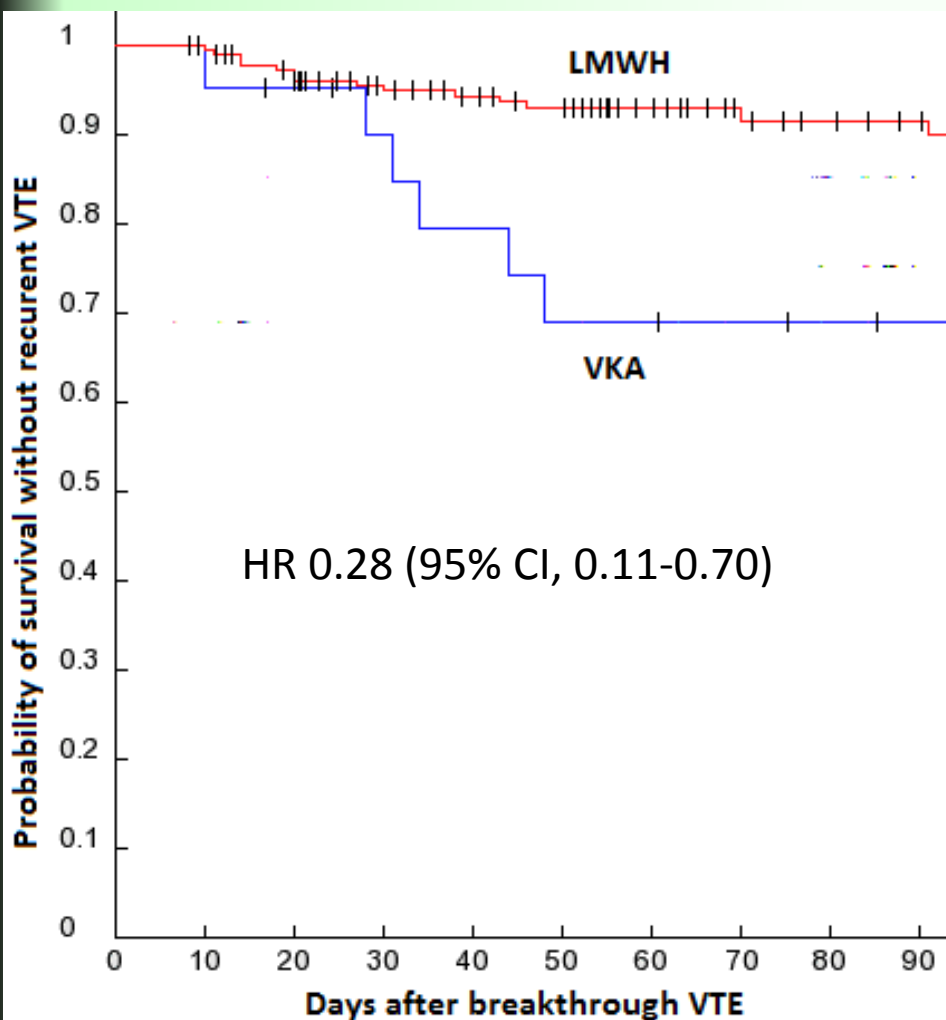
- Retrospective analysis, 70 patients with cancer & recurrent VTE on anticoagulation



ISTH registry

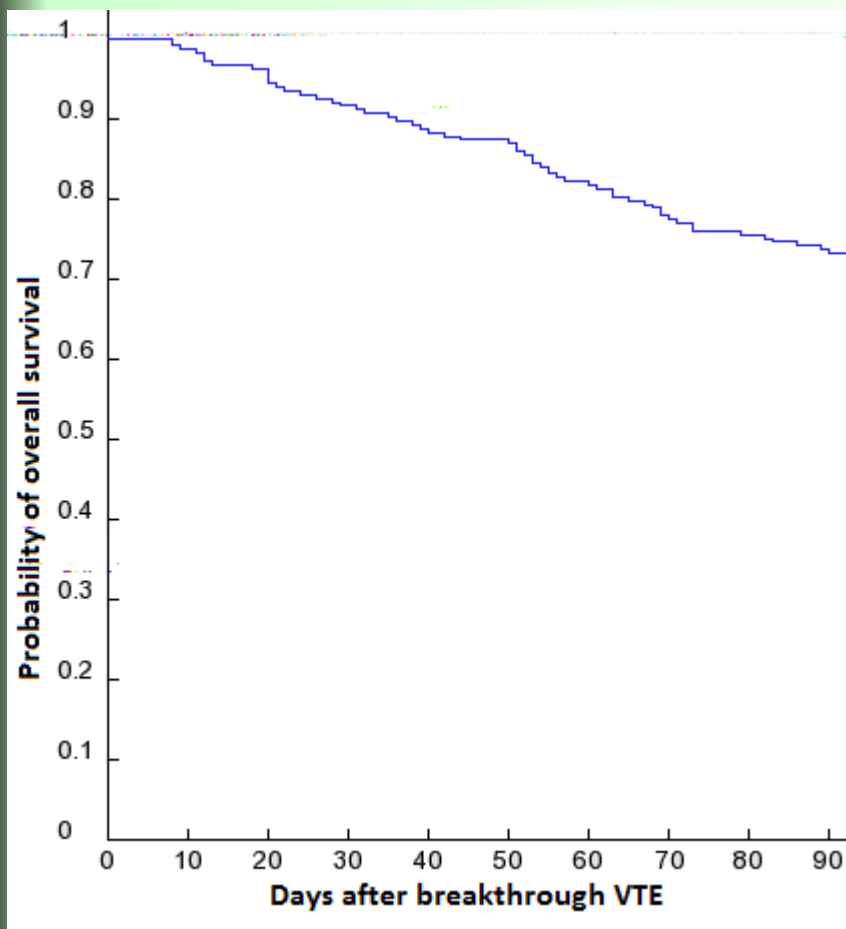
- 212 patients with break-through VTE
- 59% had adenocarcinoma
- 73% had known metastases
- 70% were on LMWH, 27% on a VKA
- 70% had therapeutic dose or higher
- Patients followed for 3 months after the event

New VTEs during 3 months

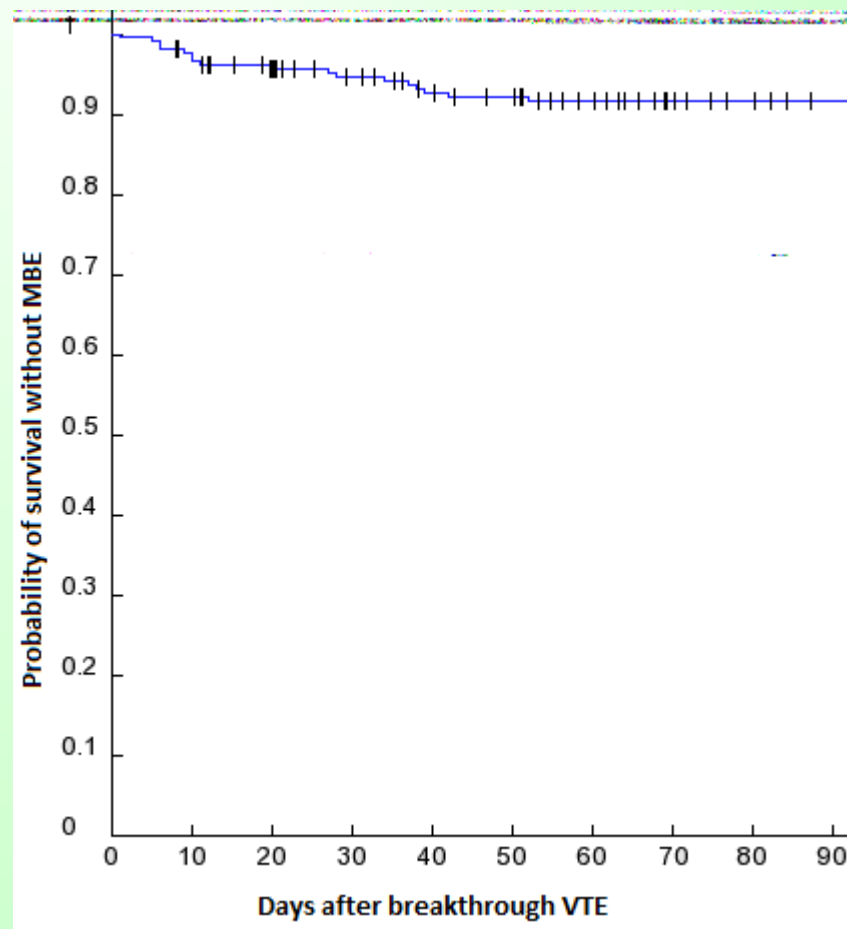


Other outcomes after 3 months

Mortality



Major bleeds

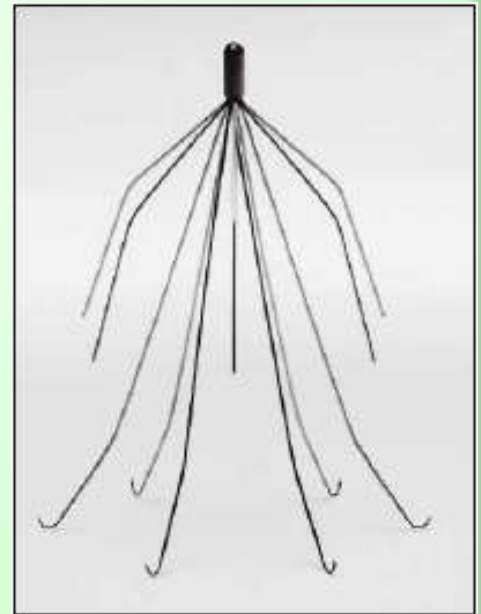


Guideline recommendations in case of recurrence

- On therapeutic VKA → LMWH
 - Or increase target INR to 3.5 (ESMO)
- On prophylactic LMWH → Therapeutic LMWH
- On therapeutic LMWH
 - → increase by $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ (ACCP)
 - → increase by 20-25% (ASCO)
 - Or guided by peak anti-Xa
 - LMWH q.d. – 1.6-2.0 U/mL
 - LMWH b.i.d. – 0.8-1.0 U/mL

IVC filter

- Possible option for recurrent VTE (ASCO, NCCN)
- Or as last resort (bleeding, severe thrombocytopenia) (ACCP, ESMO)



Conclusions

- VTE is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in cancer
- Anticoagulate as long as cancer is active
- For recurrence on warfarin – switch to LMWH
- If on LMWH – consider dose escalation.