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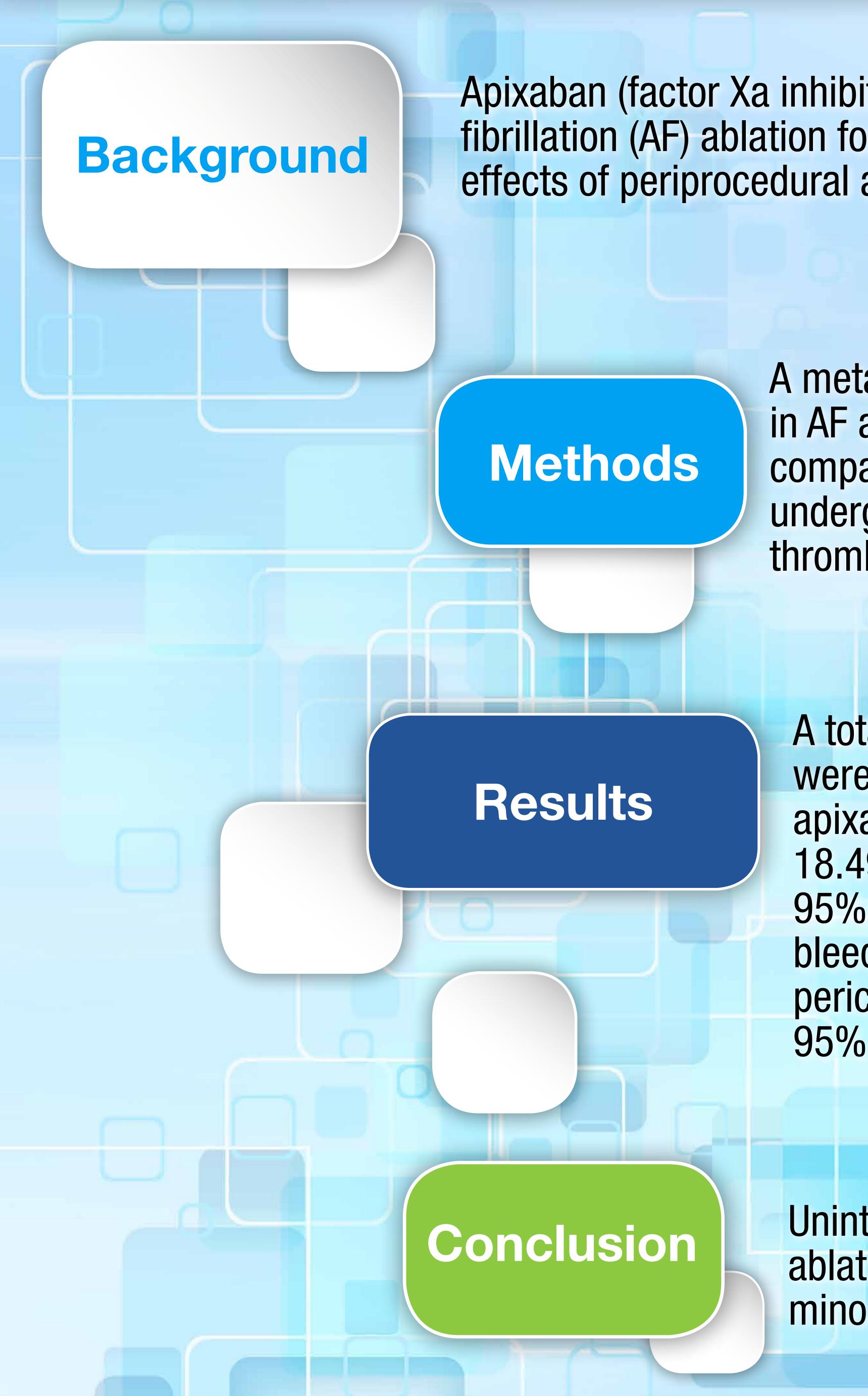
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Safety Of Uninterrupted Periprocedural Apixaban In Patients Undergoing Atrial Fibrillation Catheter Ablation: A Metaanalysis Of 1,057 Patients

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Apixaban (factor Xa inhibitor) is a novel anticoagulant and may be beneficial during atrial fibrillation (AF) ablation for prevention of thromboembolic events. However, the adverse effects of periprocedural apixaban therapy have not been thoroughly evaluated.

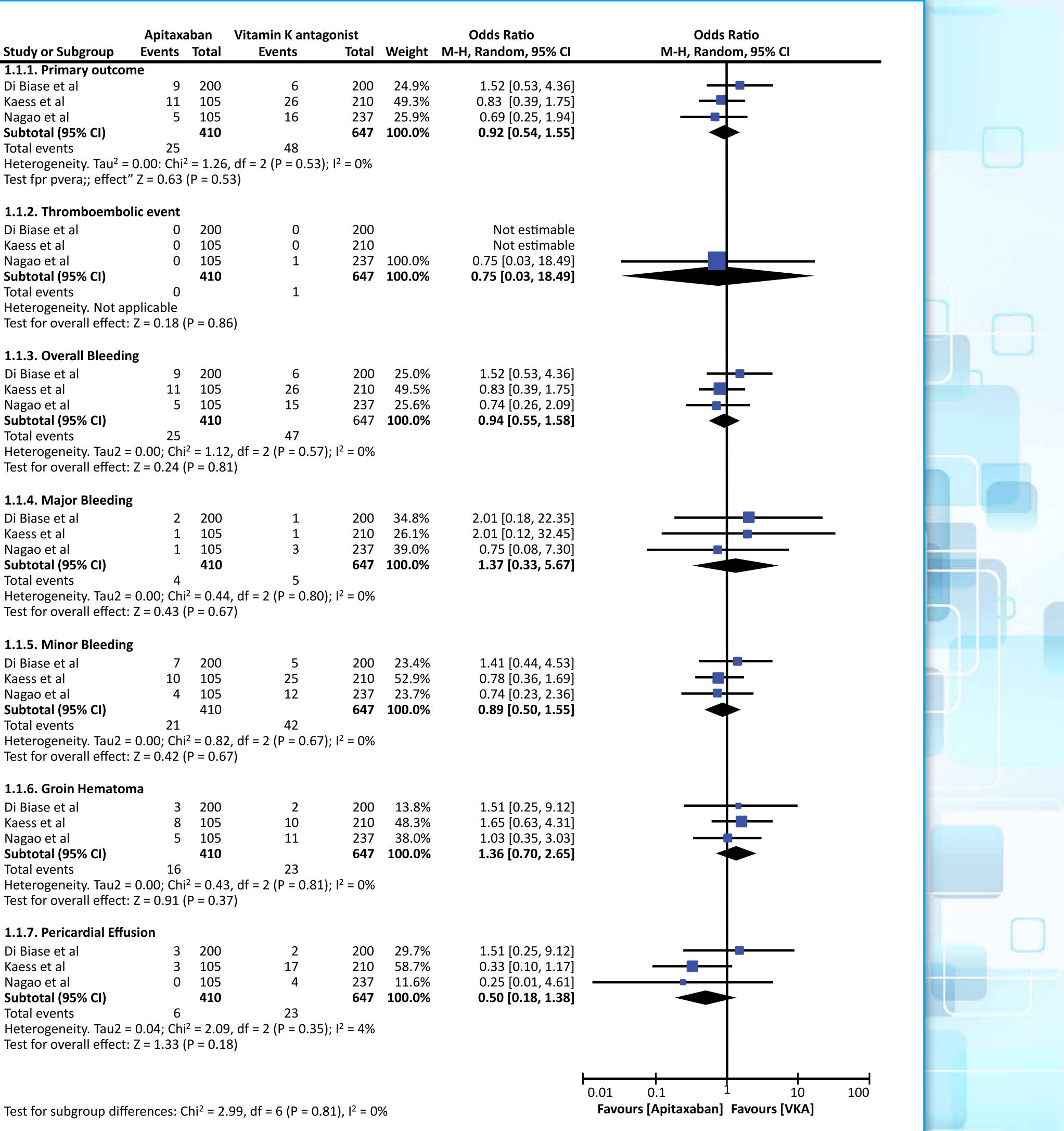
> A meta-analysis was performed to evaluate the safety of apixaban for anticoagulation in AF ablation. We searched the online databases till September 2015 for studies comparing Apixaban with Vitamin K antagonists in atrial fibrillation patients undergoing catheter ablation. Primary outcome of our study was composite of thromboembolic event and bleeding (includes major and minor bleeding).

A total of 1,057 atrial fibrillation patients in 3 studies undergoing catheter ablation were included in this analysis. Zero thromboembolic events were reported in the apixaban group and 1 in the VKA group with no statistical difference (95% CI 0.03-18.49). No major differences were observed for the primary outcome (OR 0.92; 95% CI 0.54-1.55), risk of overall bleeding (OR 0.94, 95% CI 0.55-1.58), major bleeding (OR1.37; 95% CI 0.33-5.67), minor bleeding (OR 0.89; 95% CI 0.50-1.55), pericardial effusion (OR 0.50; 95% CI 0.18-1.38) and groin hematoma (OR 1.36; 95% CI 0.70-2.65).

Uninterrupted apixaban administration in patients undergoing AF catheter ablation was non-inferior to VKA without increasing the risk of major and minor bleeding.

Figure 1: Forest plot of primary outcome, thromboembolic events, overall bleeding events, groin hematoma, pericardial effusion in patients undergoing ablation of atrial fibrillation with uninterrupted apixaban compared to uninterrupted vitamin K antagonist.

Study or Subgroup	Apita: Events
 1.1.1. Primary outcom Di Biase et al Kaess et al Nagao et al Subtotal (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity. Tau² = Test fpr pvera;; effect" 	ne 9 11 5 25 0.00: Ch
 1.1.2. Thromboembol Di Biase et al Kaess et al Nagao et al Subtotal (95% CI) Total events Heterogeneity. Not ap Test for overall effect: 	C C C plicable
 1.1.3. Overall Bleedin Di Biase et al Kaess et al Nagao et al Subtotal (95% CI) Total events Heterogeneity. Tau2 = Test for overall effect: 	9 11 5 25 0.00; Cł
 1.1.4. Major Bleeding Di Biase et al Kaess et al Nagao et al Subtotal (95% CI) Total events Heterogeneity. Tau2 = Test for overall effect: 	2 1 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
 1.1.5. Minor Bleeding Di Biase et al Kaess et al Nagao et al Subtotal (95% CI) Total events Heterogeneity. Tau2 = Test for overall effect: 	7 10 4 21 0.00; Cł
 1.1.6. Groin Hematon Di Biase et al Kaess et al Nagao et al Subtotal (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity. Tau2 = Test for overall effect: 	3 8 5 16 0.00; Cł
 1.1.7. Pericardial Effus Di Biase et al Kaess et al Nagao et al Subtotal (95% CI) Total events Heterogeneity. Tau2 = Test for overall effect: 	3 3 0 0 0.04; Cł



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