

Oral anticoagulants as double-edged swords

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Propositions

Belonging to the thesis: “*Oral anticoagulants as double-edged swords: balancing between coagulation and calcification*”

by Rick van Gorp

1. Vascular smooth muscle cell calcification increases thrombin potential and subsequently cardiovascular risk – *This thesis*
2. Besides its beneficial effect on vascular calcification, vitamin K supplementation improves atherosclerotic plaque environment – *This thesis*
3. Personalized anticoagulation is the next step to impact both thrombosis risk and cardiovascular health – *This thesis*
4. Nox5 is a novel regulator of vascular smooth muscle cell phenotype switching, thereby increasing extracellular vesicle secretion and calcification – *This thesis*
5. Clinical confirmation of findings obtained by experimental *in vitro* and pre-clinical *in vivo* models is a prerequisite before implementing in clinical guidelines – *Valorisation of this thesis*
6. The lack of vascular calcification treatment should encourage researchers to unravel the molecular pathways leading to vascular calcification.
7. Published data display only the tip of the iceberg, obscuring most of the diligent work
8. Early atherosclerotic lesions require a different therapeutic approach than advanced atherosclerotic lesions
9. We travel not to escape life, but for life not to escape us
10. Riding a race bike is an art - a thing that you do because you feel something inside – *Valentino Rossi*
11. Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall - *Confucius*