**STROKE PREVENTION IN ATRIAL FIBRILLATION IN SAUDI**

**(SPAF-SAUDI): A PHASE IV TRIAL**

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Background: Dabigatran has recently been approved for prevention of stroke in atrial fibrillation (AF) patients. It may replace warfarin in various clinical settings due to various advantages like avoidance of frequent drug monitoring that is required with warfarin and less food and drug interactions.

Objectives: This is a post-marketing surveillance study aimed to investigate the efficacy and safety of Dabigatran in prevention of stoke in AF patients.

Methods: We enrolled consecutive patients with AF 18 years old or more who are regularly followed in our anticoagulation, cardiology, and Internal Medicine clinics or admitted to the hospital with AF. During the period of November 2010 to November 2011. Patients were followed up in one week then (1,3 and 6) months later.

Results: Out of 251 patients (55%) were females and (44.4 %) were males with a mean age of 66 years. Sixty five percent were recruited from anticoagulation clinics. Only (27%) of which were in sinus rhythm at time of recruitment. Twenty five percent of patients were known to have ischemic heart disease and (17.2%) had heart failure of which (62%) were non-ischemic, (48.7%) had NYHA class of III-IV. Discontinuation rate was 10.3% of which 3.5% was due to dyspepsia and 1.5% was due to patient preference. Major bleeding was encountered in 2 patients (0.8%). Embolic stroke was documented in only one patient (0.4%).

Conclusion: This is the first study that looked into the efficacy and safety of Dabigatran in real-life setting. These results thus far support that Dabigatran is effective, and safe in unselected population with AF.