

# Do Minor Cuts Lead to More Strokes & Heart Attacks?



For stroke & MI (myocardial infarction, aka heart attack) prevention, people are put on anticoagulation therapy (aka blood thinners)

Billions are spent every year on stroke & second MI (MI = heart attack) prevention. This can be derailed by something as simple as a minor cut. Can we improve stroke prevention and second MI prevention with a piece of gauze?

**800,000 strokes and 715,000 heart attacks in US annually**



People are put on blood thinners for stroke or heart attack prevention

**6 million people in US on anti-coagulation therapy**  
These are people that are at elevated risk for stroke or MI.



28% have bleeding, that is difficult to control, from a minor cut (Nuisance Bleeding)

**28% of patients on anti-coagulation therapy experience a minor or Nuisance Bleeding episode (American Journal of Cardiology, 2008)**



## 2 Negative Consequences from this Bleeding:

### 1 IMPACT ON ER/ED VISITS

- Estimated that there are **68,000 annual ER/ED** visits for hemorrhage-related AEs by patients receiving clopidogrel/aspirin or warfarin
- Most visits due to epistaxis, skin, or other minor hemorrhages (54% - 59%)
- Rate per **1000 outpatient Rxs** = 1.2 for clopidogrel/aspirin and 2.5 for warfarin
- Anticoagulants are among the top five drugs that cause AEs treated in the ER/ED
- Cost of one ER/ED visit for an open wound = **\$1,363**
- 11%** of people on a blood thinner stop taking their blood thinner due to this Nuisance Bleeding
  - 11%** of patients discontinue Plavix because of Nuisance Bleeding (American Journal of Cardiology, 2008)
- 81%** of the patients that discontinued warfarin during the first year cited concerns about bleeding
- Mayo Clinic cites nuisance bleeding as a significant factor in non-adherence, given the asymptomatic condition
- If people stop taking complications, such as a stroke, heart attack, hospitalization, etc.
- Premature discontinuation of anti-coagulation therapy has been shown to greatly increase the risk of stent thrombosis, MI, and death. (Circulation, 2007)

### 2 IMPACT ON OUTCOMES

- Discontinuation of anticoagulation therapy is the leading independent predictor for stent thrombosis
  - Premature discontinuation results in a 30x greater risk of stent thrombosis
  - Greater than **25%** of patients with premature discontinuation had the event within 30 days
- Mortality over the 11 months post-discontinuation is **7.5% vs. 0.7%** for those remaining on therapy

#### THESE COMPLICATIONS COST MONEY

“Recently, a case report was published of a patient who developed angina symptoms within 30 days of discharge after stent implantation and who admitted to stopping antiplatelet therapy (prasugrel and aspirin) because of repeated bleeding from cuts incurred while shaving”

**COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED BY A PIECE OF GAUZE: ALLAQUIX™**

## A SOLUTION



Inspiration Medical is proposing a solution to reduce the impact of Nuisance Bleeding on stroke and MI prevention. At-risk patients need to be equipped with the proper information and tools to understand and manage Nuisance Bleeding.

- Provide education to members on Nuisance Bleeding, anticoagulation therapy, stroke prevention, heart health, etc. through **NuisanceBleeding.com** and other channels
- Provide members a sample of AllaQuix™



AllaQuix™ is a sterile, topical, active hemostatic, wound dressing that works independent of the body's clotting mechanism. AllaQuix™ is FDA-cleared for OTC use.

AllaQuix™ is made from chitosan, which has shown many medical benefits, including rapid control of bleeding (hemostasis), antimicrobial activity, and stimulation of wound healing.

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