

BRIDGE TRIAL

Effectiveness of Bridging Anticoagulation for Surgery (The BRIDGE STUDY)

Study Phase III

Purpose

Blood thinners, such as warfarin, prevent blood clots from forming, thereby reducing the risk of a stroke or heart attack. When people undergo surgery or certain procedures, they must stop using warfarin to prevent too much bleeding during and after the surgery or procedure. Some doctors prescribe a different blood thinner, one that works more quickly and wears off more quickly, to bridge the gap between starting and stopping warfarin. However, this short-term treatment is expensive, may increase the risk of bleeding, and has not been proven effective. This study will determine whether a bridging blood thinner called dalteparin is helpful or harmful for people with atrial fibrillation who stop taking warfarin in preparation for surgery or a procedure.

The study population will include those who meet the following inclusion/exclusion criteria, some of which are:

Inclusion Criteria

- Presence of at least one of the following major stroke risk factors: >75 yrs old, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, congestive heart failure or left ventricular dysfunction, previous ischemic stroke, systemic embolism or (TIA),
- Presence of one of the following conditions: Chronic (permanent or paroxysmal) nonvalvular atrial fibrillation, confirmed by at least one prior electrocardiography recording or pacemaker or ACD interrogation. Chronic (permanent or paroxysmal) valvular atrial fibrillation with evidence of mitral valvular heart disease, confirmed by the same criteria as nonvalvular atrial fibrillation.
- Receiving warfarin therapy for at least 3 months, administered to achieve an INR range of 2.0 to 3.0.
- Requiring temporary interruption of warfarin for pre-specified elective procedure or surgery

Exclusion Criteria

- Any mechanical prosthetic heart valve.
- Major bleeding within the past 6 weeks
- Deep vein thrombosis and/or pulmonary embolism within the last 12 weeks.
- Allergy to heparin or history of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia

To inquire if you are eligible for this study or hear more about it, please contact:

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