



# Role of Embolic Protection Devices in TAVR: Are They Needed? Waste of Time and Money?

Gian Paolo Ussia

Campus Bio-medico University, Rome Italy

[g.ussia@unicampus.it](mailto:g.ussia@unicampus.it)



**REQUIRED**

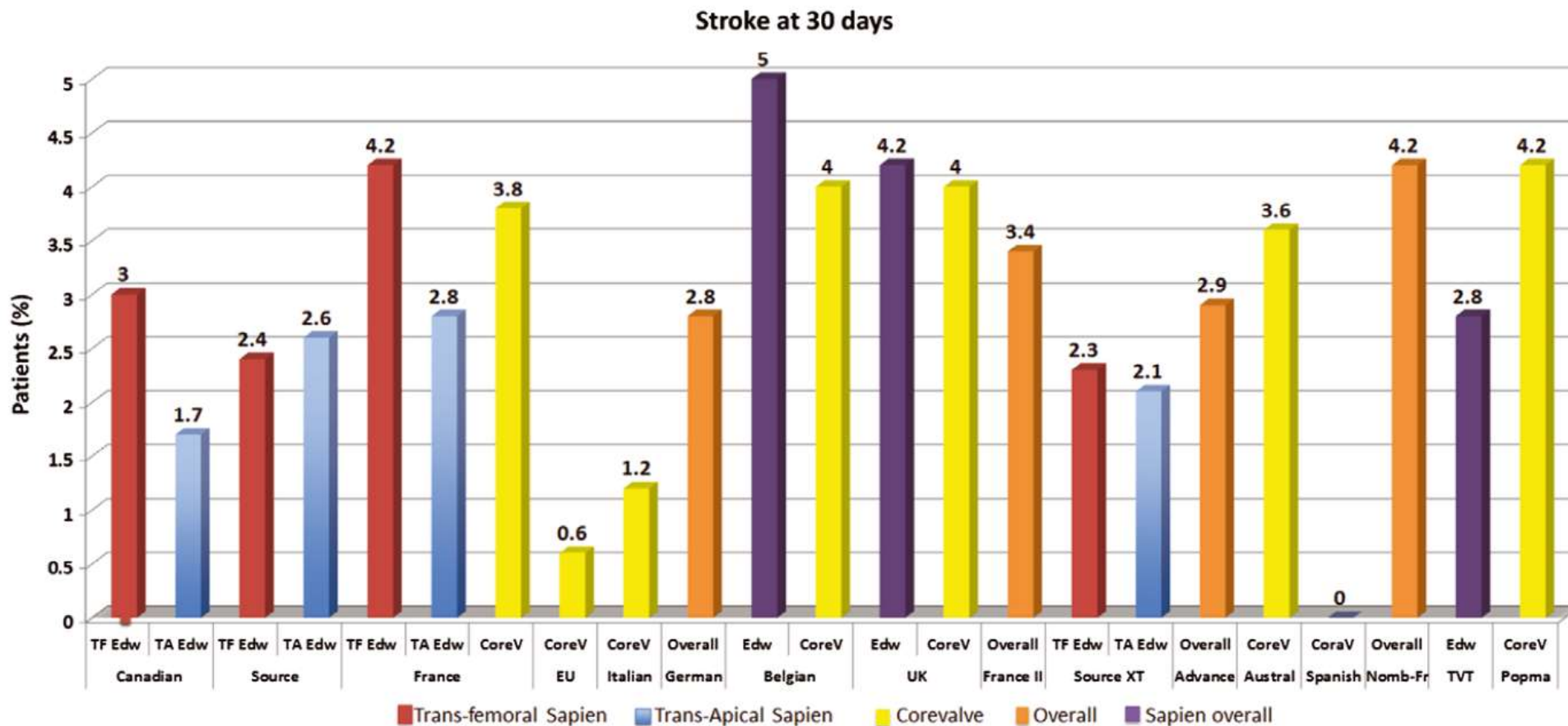
**Gian Paolo Ussia**

**I have no relevant financial relationships**

# Stroke After Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement: Incidence, Risk Factors, Prognosis, and Preventive Strategies

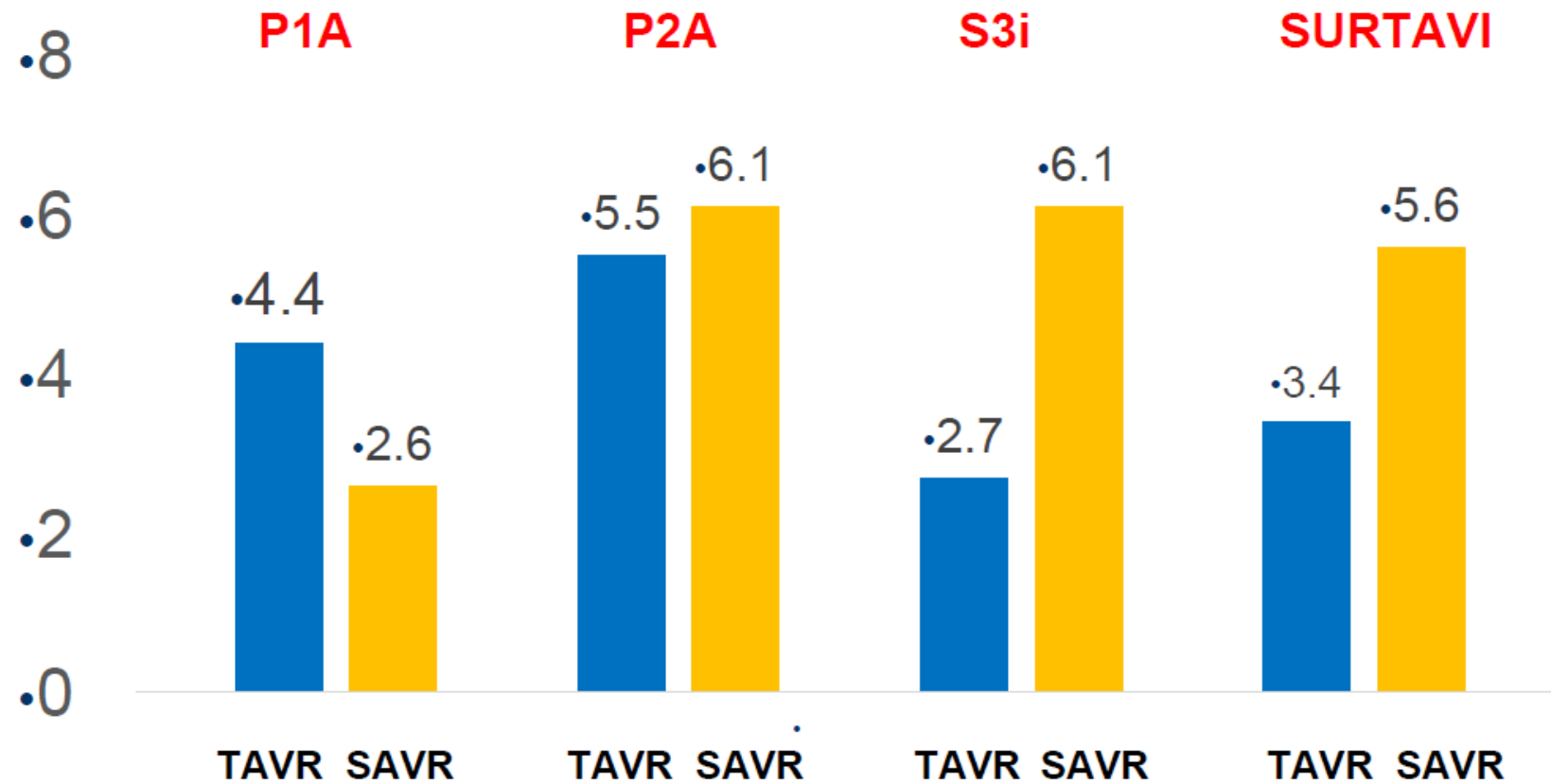
Ioannis Mastoris, MD; Mikkel M. Schoos, MD, PhD; George D. Dangas, MD, PhD; Roxana Mehran, MD

The Zena and Michael A. Wiener Cardiovascular Institute, the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, New York



**Figure 1.** Registry-based incidence of major and minor stroke after TAVR in current clinical practice. Abbreviations: ACC, American College of Cardiology; TAVR, transcatheter aortic valve replacement; TVT, TransValvular Therapy registry. Data are from Rodes-Cabau et al.,<sup>6</sup> Thomas et al.,<sup>7</sup> Eltchaninoff et al.,<sup>8</sup> Piazza et al.,<sup>9</sup> Tamburino et al.,<sup>41</sup> Zahn et al.,<sup>10</sup> Bosmans et al.,<sup>11</sup> Moat et al.,<sup>12</sup> Gilard et al.,<sup>13</sup> Avanzas et al.,<sup>14</sup> Nombela-Franco et al.,<sup>36</sup> Mack et al.,<sup>57</sup> Popma et al.<sup>21</sup>

# Stroke randomized trial TAVR/SAVR

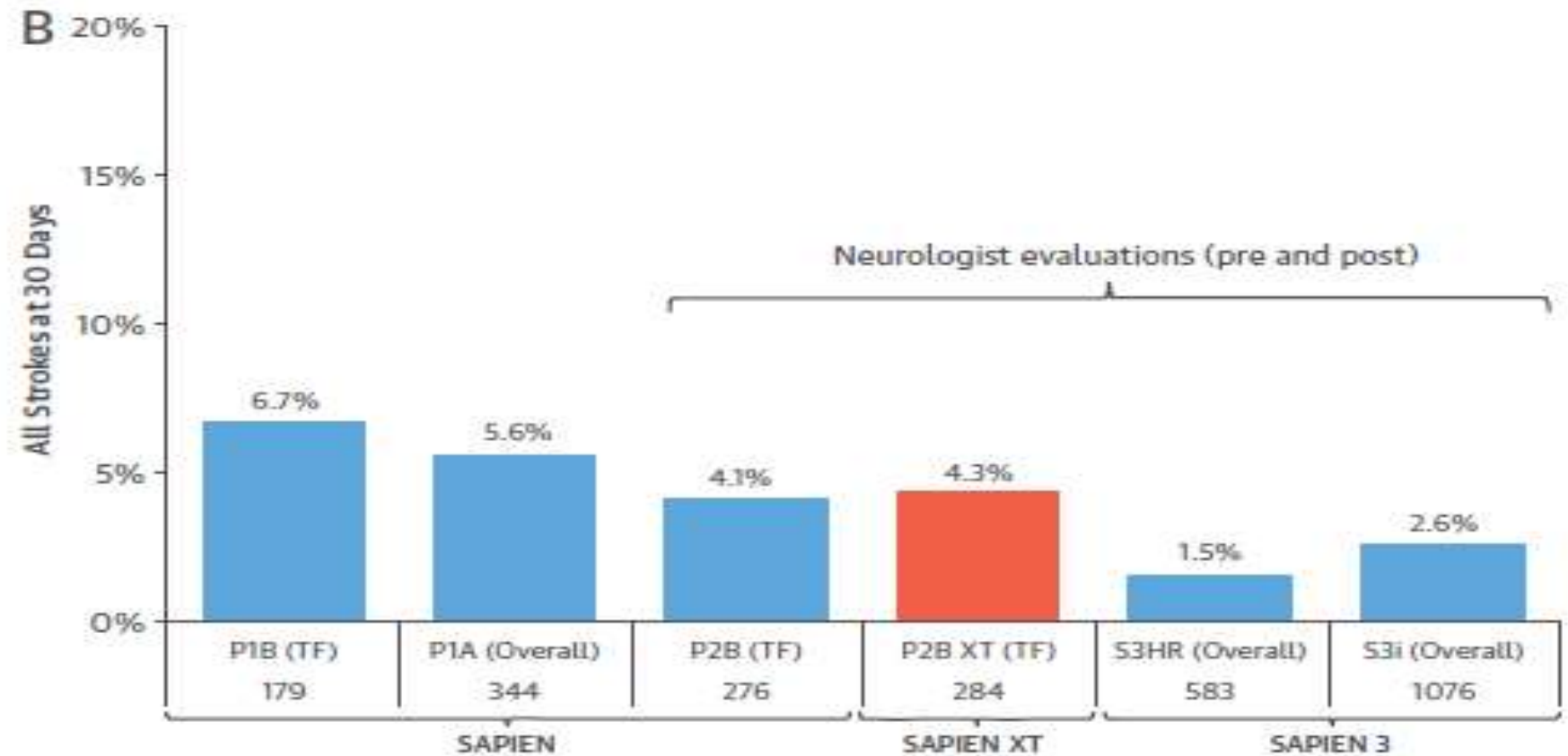


# Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement 2016



A Modern-Day “Through the Looking-Glass” Adventure

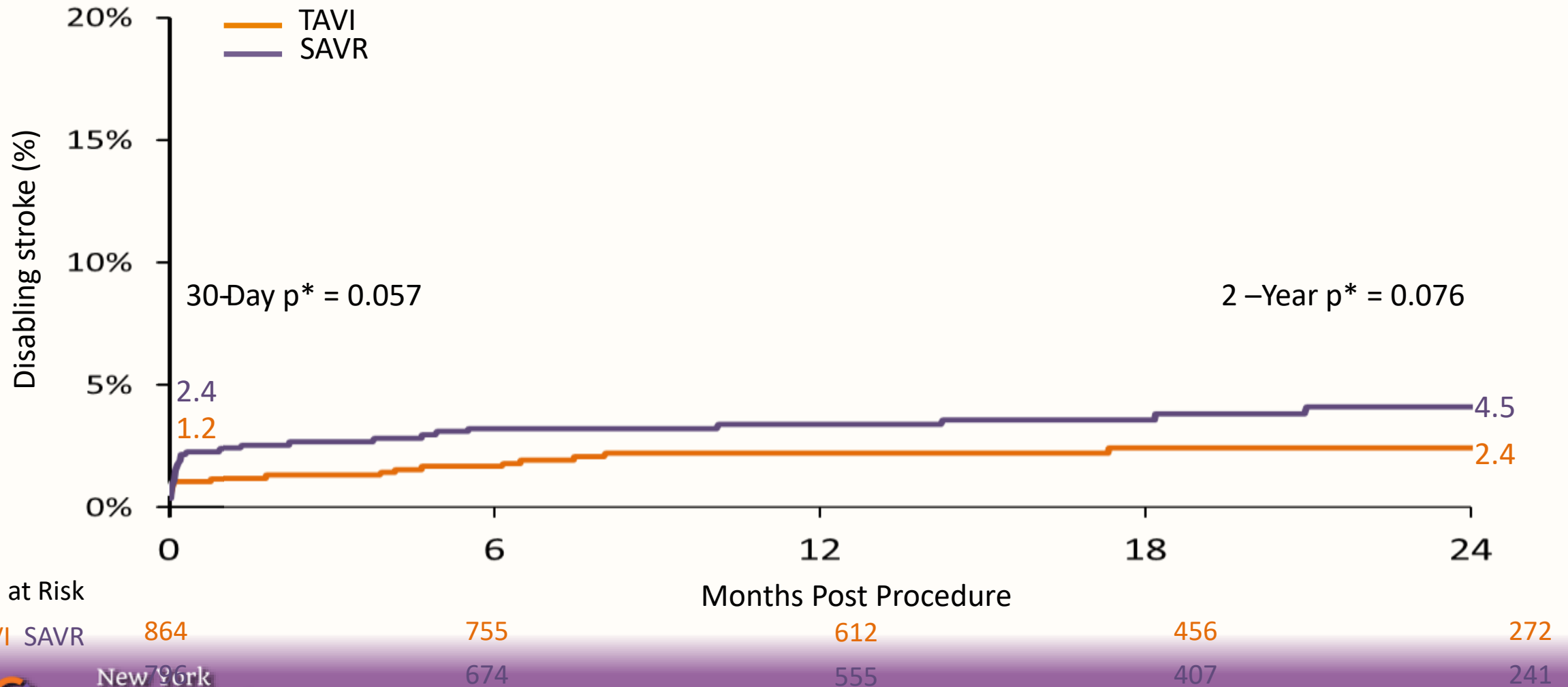
Torsten P. Vahl, MD, Susheel K. Kodali, MD, Martin B. Leon, MD



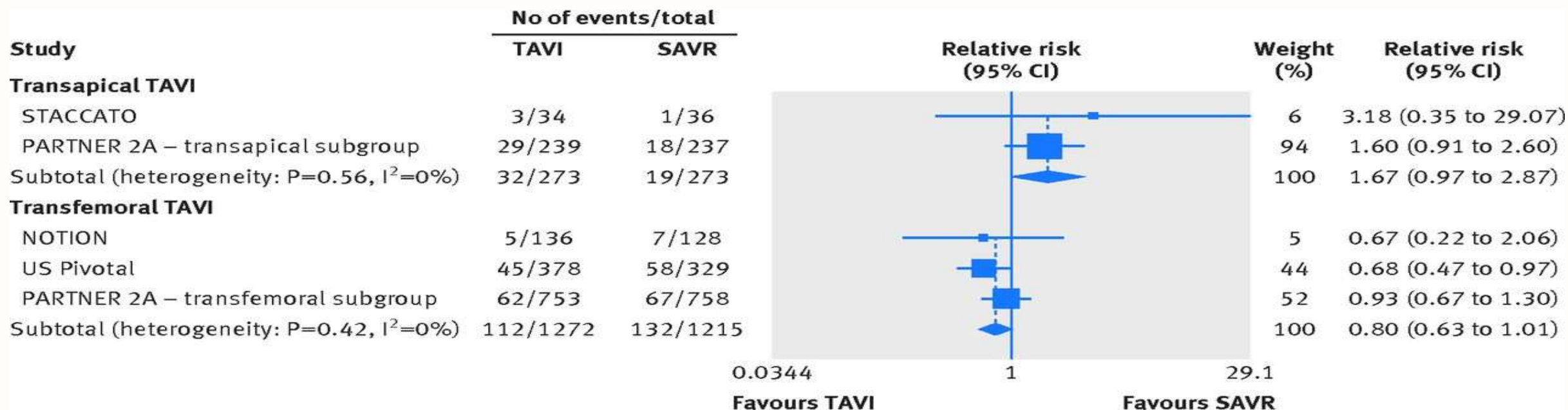
Stroke ↓

# SURTAVI TRIAL

## Incidence of disabling stroke



**Fig 4 Forest plot for relative risk of stroke at longest follow-up for transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI) compared with surgical aortic valve replacement (SAVR) for severe aortic stenosis, by valve approach.**



Reed A Siemieniuk et al. BMJ 2016;354:bmj.i5130



Stroke After Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement: Incidence, Risk Factors Prognosis, and Preventive Strategies

Ioannis Mastoris, MD; Mikkel M. Schoos, MD, PhD; George D. Dangas, Roxana Mehran, MD  
The Zena and Michael A. Wiener Cardiovascular Institute, the Icahn School of M Sinai, New York, New York

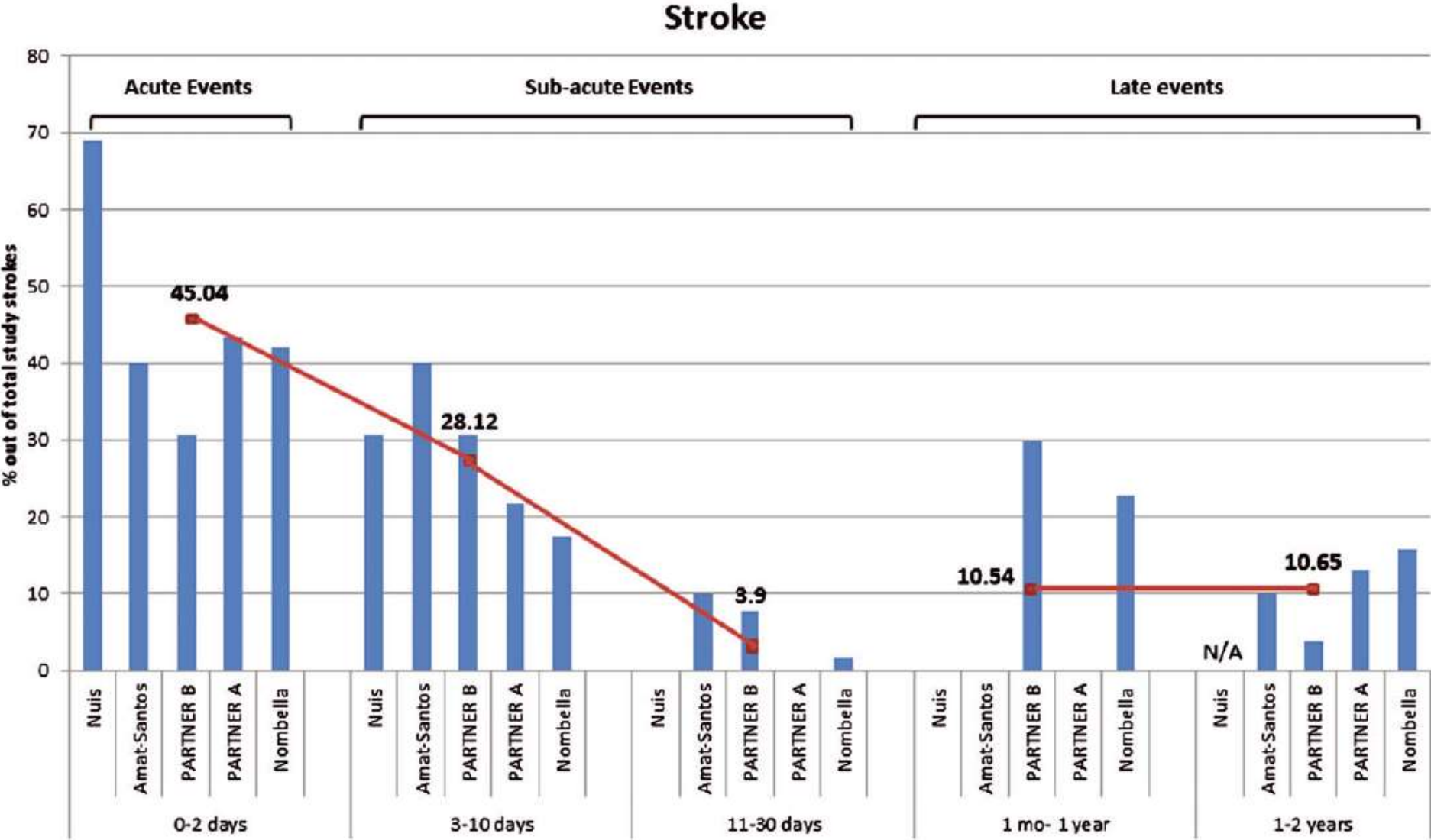


Figure 2. Timing of stroke after TAVR with approximately 2 years follow-up. Each bar-chart represents the percentage of strokes out of the total individual study strokes. Abbreviations: PARTNER, Placement of Aortic Transcatheter Valves; TAVR, transcatheter aortic valve replacement. Data are from Amat-Santos et al,<sup>34</sup> Nuis et al,<sup>35</sup> PARTNER A<sup>3</sup> and B,<sup>17</sup> and Nombela-Franco et al.<sup>36</sup>



# Silent Ischemia

- > 70% of TAVR have new silent cerebral lesions detected by post procedural diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging (DW-MRI)
- Has been suggested that represent silent brain infarctions that could be related to memory loss, cognitive decline, and dementia
- One study showed a >2-fold risk of dementia and decline in cognitive function.
- The same association was found after cardiac surgery within 6 weeks after the procedure
- Another study showed that in pts with silent lesions 91% of them had preserved cognitive function at 2 years follow up and only 5.4% had early cognitive decline

**Table 3. Clinically Silent Cerebral Embolism Assessed With DW-MRI: Summary of Studies Available**

Study	% of Patients With New Cerebral Lesions (n)			Mean No. of Infarcts Per Patient			Mean Lesion Volume and SD, cm <sup>3</sup>		Mean Total Volume and SD, cm <sup>3</sup>
	All	TF	TA	All	TF	TA	TF	TA	
Fairbairn et al, 2012 <sup>29</sup>	77% (24/31)	77% (24/31)			4.2 ± 6.5				2.05 ± 3.5
Kahlert et al, 2010 <sup>18</sup>	84.4% (27/32)	84.4% (27/32)			4.0 (2.1–6.0)		0.081 (0.06–0.10)		0.32
Ghanem et al, 2010 <sup>61</sup>	72.7% (16/22)	72.7% (16/22)			3.4 ± 5.1				4.3 ± 14.9
Astarci et al, 2010 <sup>62</sup>	91.5% (32/35)	90% (19/21)	93% (13/14)		5.9 ± 6.8	6.6 ± 7.1	0.475	2.170	2.
Rodés-Cabau et al, 2011 <sup>19</sup>	68% (41/60)	66% (19/29)	71% (22/31)	3 (2–8)	3 (1–7)	4 (2–9)			
Average estimate	78.2%				4.1				2.4 ± 9.2

Abbreviations: DW-MRI, diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging; SD, standard deviation; TA, transapical; TF, transfemoral.

# Stroke After Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement: Incidence, Risk Factors, Prognosis, and Preventive Strategies

Ioannis Mastoris, MD; Mikkel M. Schoos, MD, PhD; George D. Dangas, MD, PhD;  
Roxana Mehran, MD  
The Zena and Michael A. Wiener Cardiovascular Institute, the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, New York

## Pathophysiology

- Stroke at 24h and 30 days strongly correlated to the procedure
- Retrograde crossing of a stenotic aortic valve results in new focal cerebral lesions in 22% of pts
- BAV could cause embolism of calcium deposits and increases the risk of thrombogenic complication
- The interaction of the stent valve with the aortic annulus over the displaced natural valve can cause additional embolic debris.
- Hypoperfusion may occur during BAV and balloon-expandable valve deployment due to repeated rapid ventricular pacing, results in transiently reduced cardiac output. This can induce ischemia in addition to impaired decreased washout of dislodged microemboli.
- prosthetic valve surface exposure, flow turbulence, blood stasis in the perivalvular space “outside” the metallic stent generate thrombi with subsequent events.

*Van Mieghem Circulation 2013, Rodes Cabau JACC 2011, Popma JACC 2014, Stirtecky circulation 2012 Marechau EJCTS 2012, Kalhert Circulation 2012*

# Insights Into Timing, Risk Factors, and Outcomes of Stroke and Transient Ischemic Attack After Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement in the PARTNER Trial (Placement of Aortic Transcatheter Valves)

Samir Kapadia, MD; Shikhar Agarwal, MD; D. Craig Miller, MD; John G. Webb, MD; Michael Mack, MD; Stephen Ellis, MD; Howard C. Herrmann, MD; Augusto D. Pichard, MD; E. Murat Tuzcu, MD; Lars G. Svensson, MD, PhD; Craig R. Smith, MD; Jeevanantham Rajeswaran, PhD; John Ehrlinger, PhD; Susheel Kodali, MD; Raj Makkar, MD; Vinod H. Thourani, MD; Eugene H. Blackstone, MD; Martin B. Leon, MD

*“...Improvements in the TAVR procedure may decrease risk of post-TAVR stroke. We observed that longer procedure time and more pacing runs and postdilations were associated with a higher risk of stroke after TAVR (with variable reliability). Advances in valve and delivery-system design, alongwith increasing experience, may reduce procedure times and,thereby, reduce occurrence of stroke...”*

**Table 3. Incremental Risk Factors for Stroke After Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement**

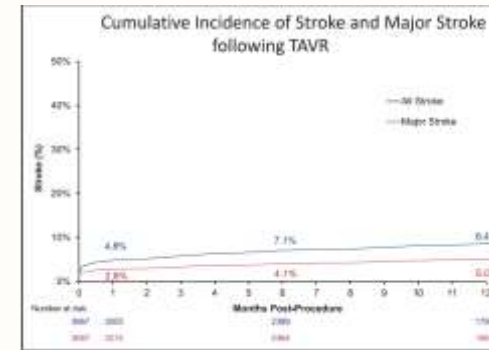
Risk Factor	Coefficient±SE	P Value	Reliability, %*
TF-TAVR			
Early hazard phase			
Higher pre-TAVR aortic valve peak gradient†	0.33±0.16	0.04	62
Late hazard phase			
Dementia	1.2±0.48	0.01	82
Smaller prosthetic valve size: 23 mm (vs 26 mm)	0.62±0.34	0.07	53
TA-TAVR			
Early hazard phase			
Pure aortic stenosis without regurgitation	0.77±0.39	0.05	55
More postdilations‡	0.18±0.082	0.03	51
Late hazard phase			
Race other than white	1.7±0.57	0.003	73
Lower left ventricular ejection fraction§	0.82±0.40	0.04	57
Atrial fibrillation	1.5±0.48	0.002	75



# Neurological Events Following Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement and Their Predictors

## A Report From the CoreValve Trials

Neal S. Kleiman, MD; Brijeshwar J. Maini, MD; Michael J. Reardon, MD; John Conte, MD; Stanley Katz, MD; Vivek Rajagopal, MD; James Kauten, MD; Alan Hartman, MD; Raymond McKay, MD; Robert Hagberg, MD; Jian Huang, MD; Jeffrey Popma, MD; for the CoreValve Investigators



## Multivariable procedural predictors

- total time in the cath lab or OR
- total delivery catheter time in the body
- rapid pacing during valvuloplasty
- repositioning of the CoreValve with a snare
- Number of valves implanted

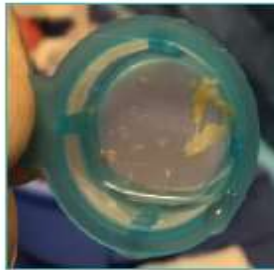
## Multivariable predictors

- total NIHSS score >0,
- Manifestations of prior CVA, prior TIA,
- peripheral vascular disease,
- absence of prior CABG
- presence of angina,
- low body mass index (<21 kg/m<sup>2</sup>),
- falls within the past 6 month

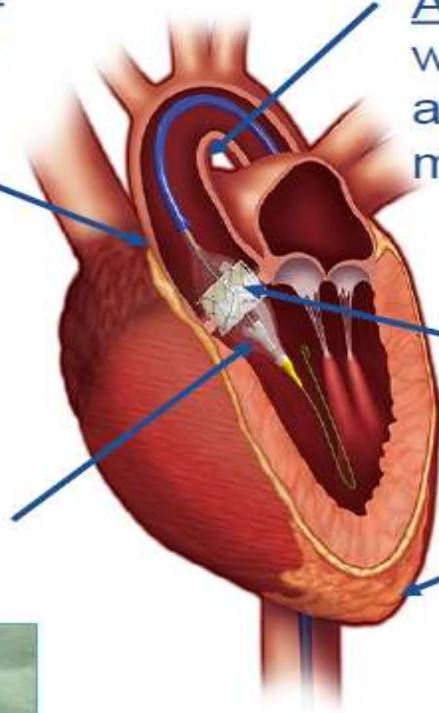
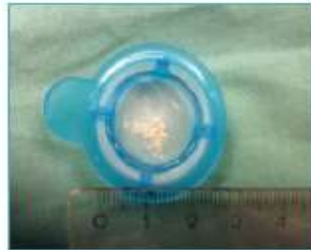
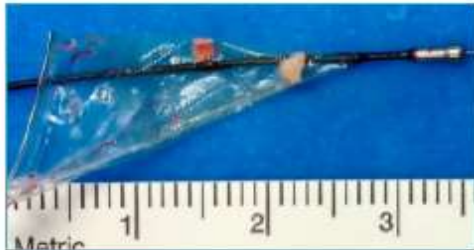
# Sources of Debris During TAVR



ASCENDING ARCH  
Arterial wall, calcific and atherosclerotic material



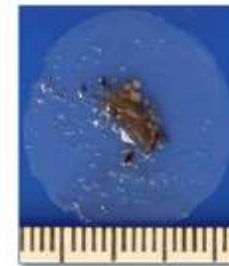
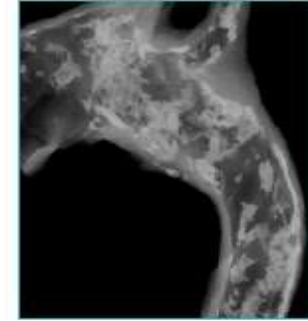
STENOTIC VALVE  
Leaflet tissue and calcific deposits



TRANSVERSE ARCH  
Arterial wall, calcific and atherosclerotic material

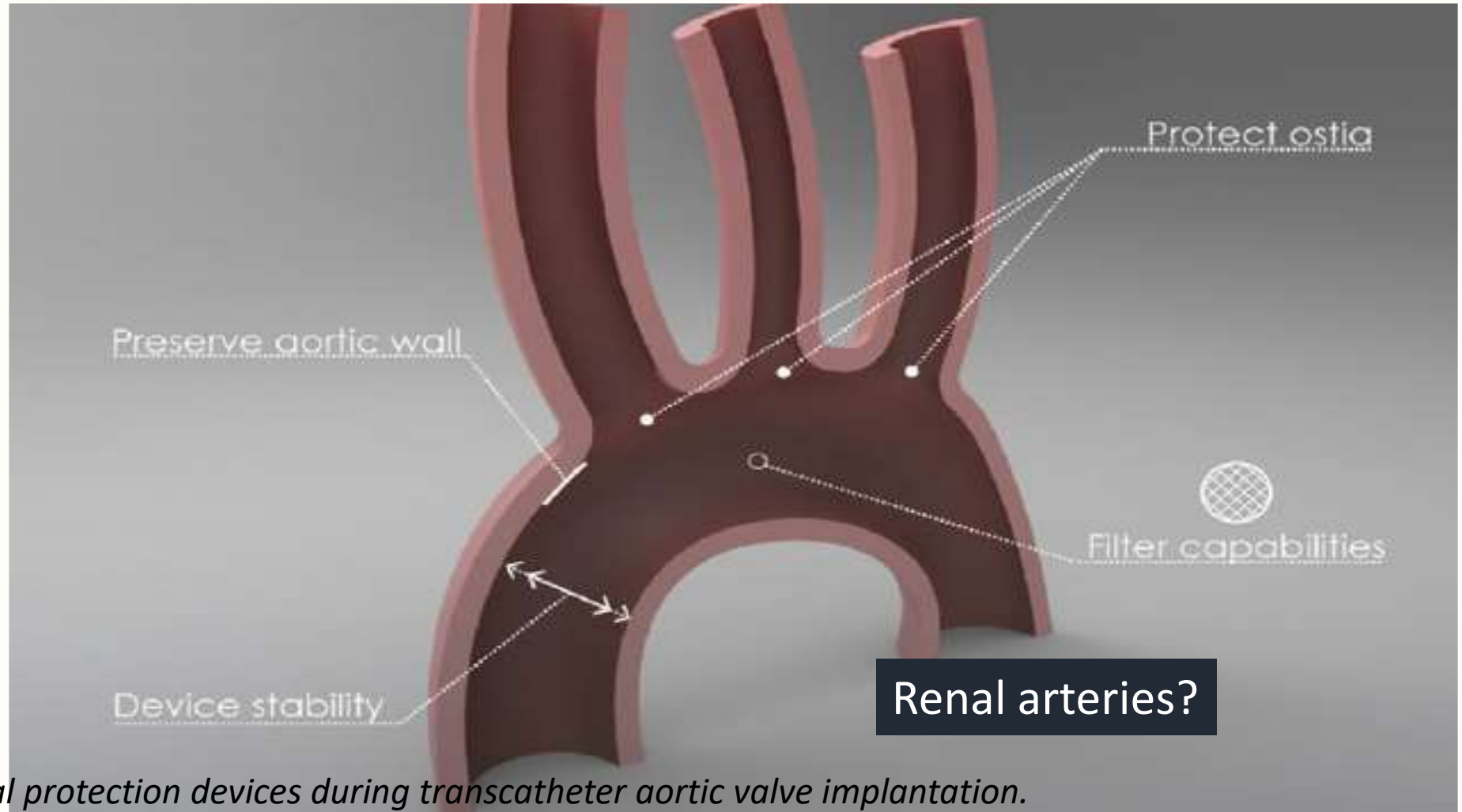
TAVR DEVICES  
Foreign material

NATIVE HEART  
Myocardium



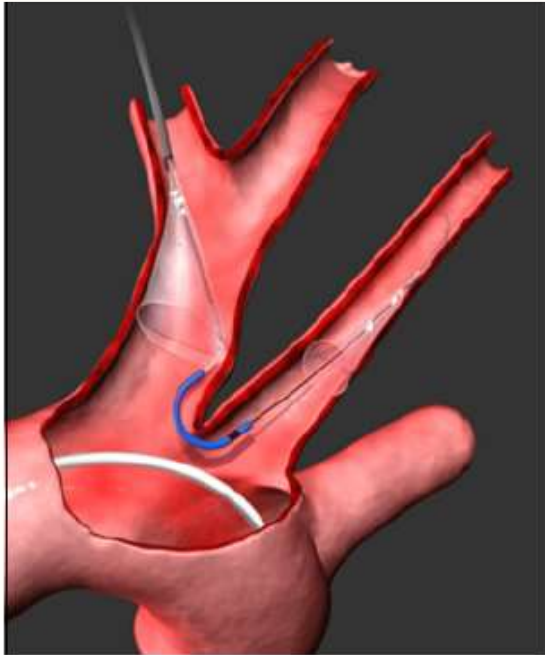


# Mechanism of efficient Cerebral Embolic protection

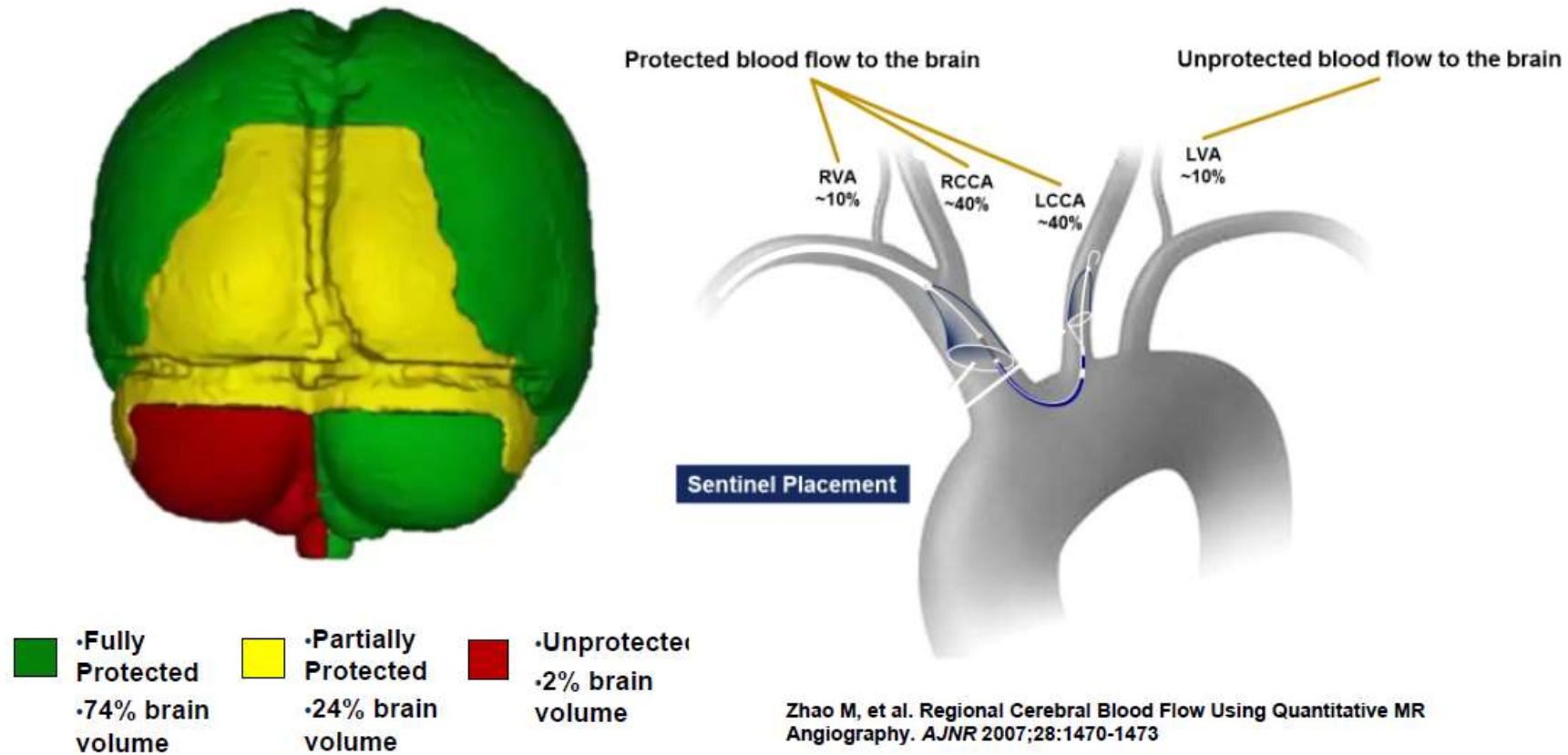


*Wieneke Vlastra, et al. Cerebral protection devices during transcatheter aortic valve implantation. Trends in Cardiovasc Med 2018*

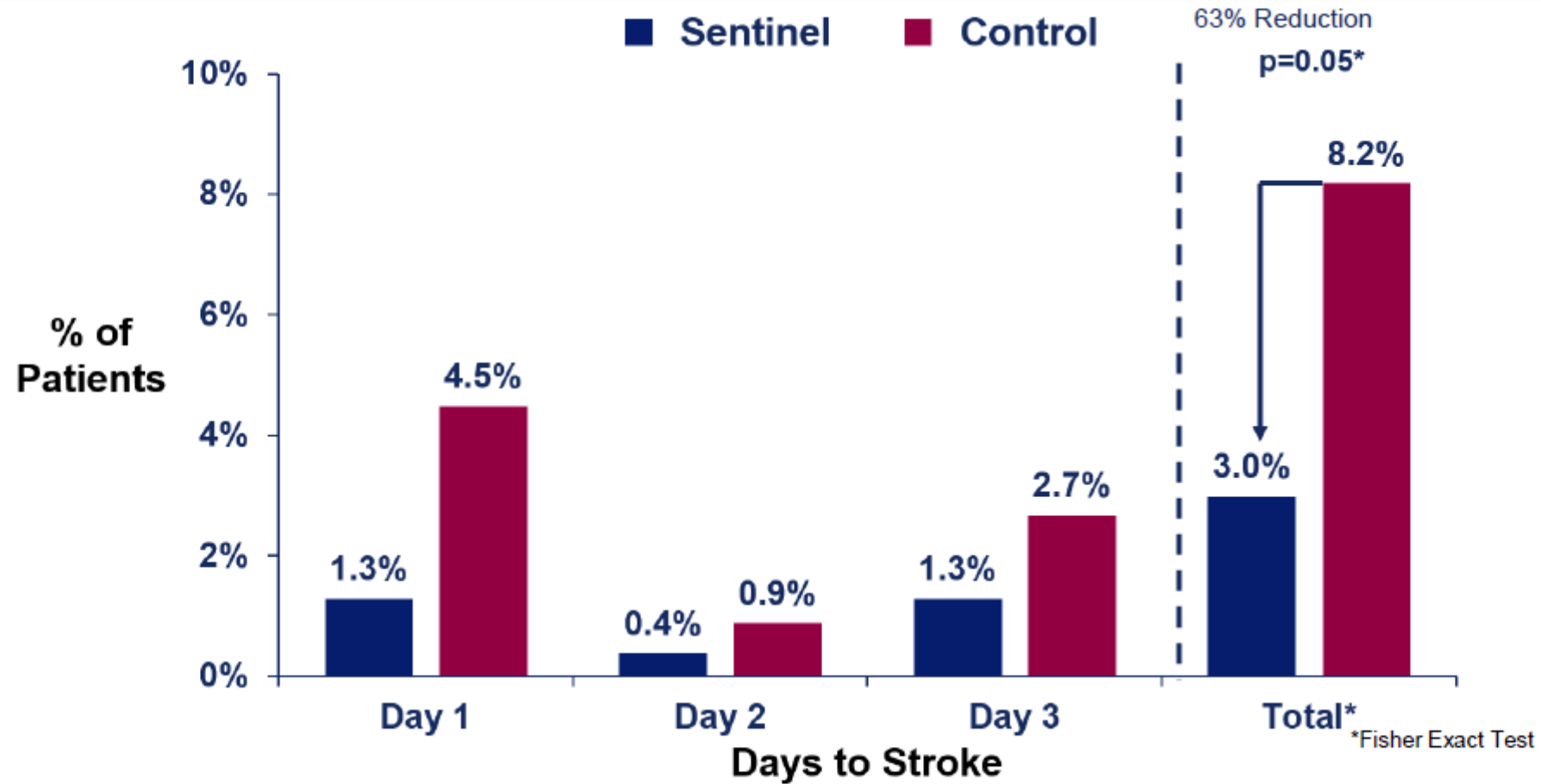
# Sentinel Embolic protection (Boston Scientific)



# Sentinel Filters Protection



# Stroke reduction with CPF



95% of SENTINEL patients were evaluated by neurologists  
Clinical Events Committee included 2 stroke neurologists

SENTINEL trial. Data presented at Sentinel FDA Advisory Panel, February 23, 2017

Kapadia SR et al. JACC 2017

# Registries

Study Center • Total N • Timing	Unprotected TAVR Patients Neurological Event Rate % (n/N)	Sentinel TAVR Patients Neurological Event Rate % (n/N)	Relative Risk Reduction (RRR)	Number-needed-to-treat (NNT) to avoid one event	Specific Measures
Ulm University <sup>1</sup> • N=560 • May 2017	4.6% (13/280)	1.4% (4/280)	70%	22	Propensity-score-matched All-stroke at 7-days
Pinnacle Health <sup>2</sup> • N=122 • Feb 2018	10% (7/69)	0% (0/53)	100%	10	All-stroke at 7-days Length-of-stay (LOS) reduced from 3.2d without protection to 1.5d with Sentinel
Erasmus, Rotterdam <sup>3</sup> • N=747 • March 2018	5% (23/453)	1% (3/294)	80%	25	All-stroke + TIA at 3-days
	3.8% (17/453)	1% (3/294)	74%	36	All-stroke at 3-days
Cedars Sinai <sup>4</sup> • N=419 • March 2018	6.3% (8/128)	1.4% (4/291)	78%	21	All-stroke at 7-days

1. Seeger J, et al. JACC Cardiovasc Interv. 2017 Nov 27;10(22):2297-2303

2. Gada H, presented at CMS NTAP Town Hall meeting Feb 2018

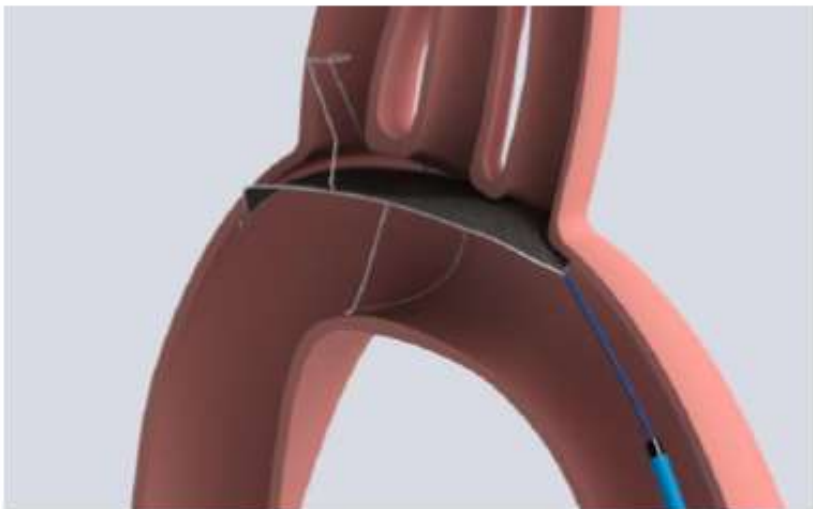
3. Van Mieghem N, presented at JIM and CRT 2018, manuscript in preparation

4. Makkar R, presented at CRT 2018, manuscript in preparation



# TriGuard HDH vs TriGUARD 3

- *TriGuard HDH*



- *Nitinol frame with upper and lower stabilizers*
- *Nitinol mesh (pore size 130x250  $\mu\text{m}$ )*
- *Filter area = 20.9  $\text{cm}^2$*
- *9 Fr RX delivery*

- *TriGUARD 3*



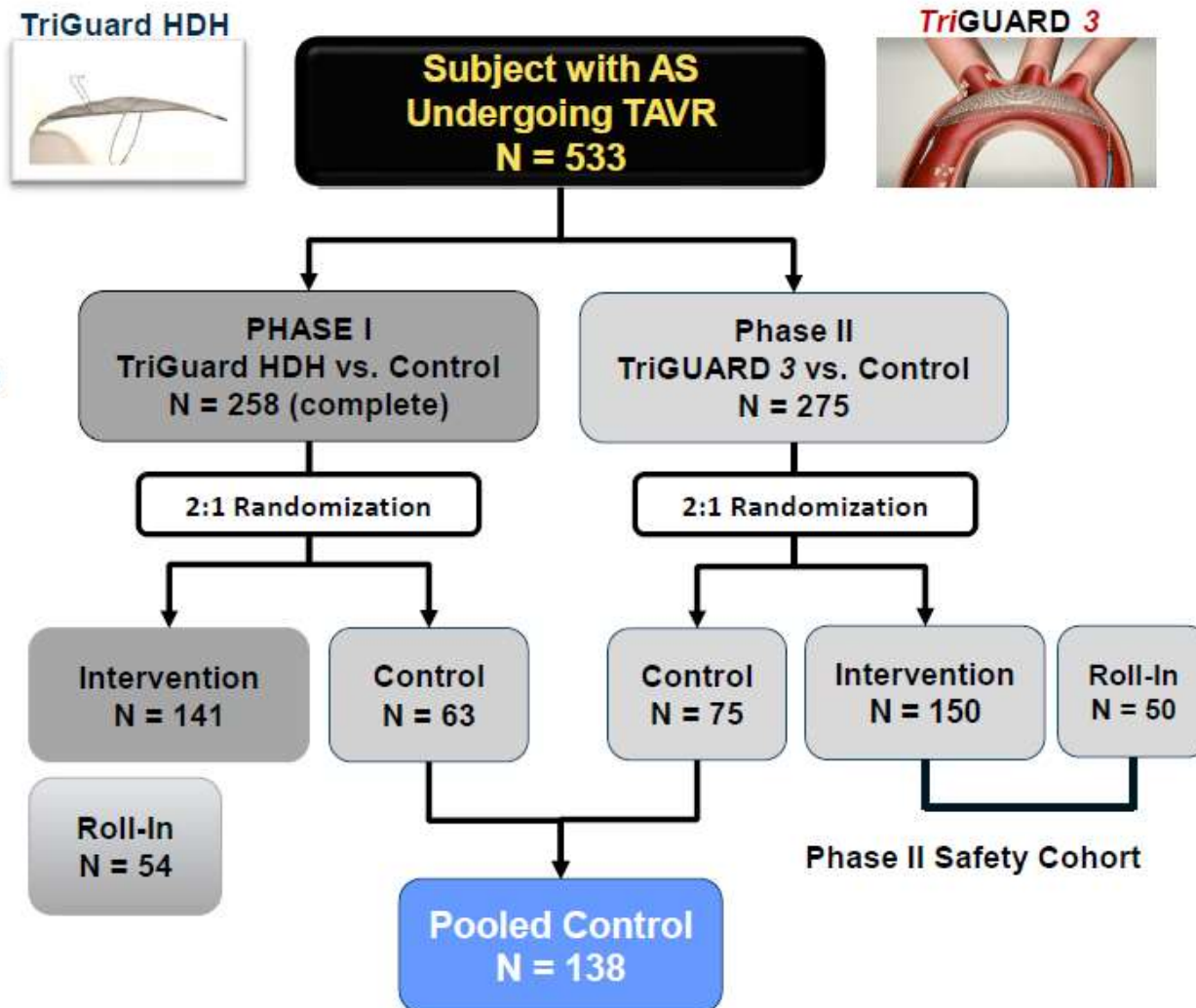
- *Self-positioning, nitinol frame without stabilizers*
- *PEEK mesh (pore size 115x145  $\mu\text{m}$ )*
- *Filter area = 68.3  $\text{cm}^2$*
- *8 Fr OTW delivery*



# REFLECT Trial Design (Phase I & II)

## REFLECT

- Prospective, single-blind, randomized (2:1 device: control), multi-center safety & efficacy trial in two phases of the Keystone Heart Cerebral Embolic Protection Devices:
  - Phase 1 - TriGuard HDH
  - Phase 2 - **TriGUARD 3**
- Study Chairman: Jeffrey Moses
- Study PI: Tamim Nazif
- Co-PIs: Alexandra Lansky
  - Raj Makkar
  - Andreas Baumbach
  - Joachim Schofer



# Metanalysis

**Table 2** Clinical outcomes for TAVR with and without cerebral protection

Study	Author	Year	30-day stroke (%)		30-day mortality (%)		Life threatening bleed (%)		Acute kidney injury (%)		Major vascular complications (%)	
			TAVR + CP	TAVR	TAVR + CP	TAVR	TAVR + CP	TAVR	TAVR + CP	TAVR	TAVR + CP	TAVR
CLEAN-TAVI	Haussig <i>et al.</i>	2014	8.0	8.0	0.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	10.0	10.0	12.0
DEFLECT-III	Lansky <i>et al.</i>	2015	4.3	5.1	2.2	5.1	2.2	7.7	2.2	0.0	17.4	20.5
EMBOL-X	Wednt <i>et al.</i>	2015	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
MISTRAL-C	Van Mieghem <i>et al.</i>	2015	3.1	21.2	3.1	9.1	3.1	15.2	0.0	3.0	0.0	18.2
SENTINEL	Kapadia <i>et al.</i>	2017	5.6	9.1	1.3	1.8	NR	NR	0.4	0.0	8.6	5.9
Total	–	–	5.4	9.3	1.3	3.2	2.3	7.4	0.8	2.6	9.1	11.2

CP, cerebral protection; NR, not reported; TAVR, transcatheter aortic valve replacement.

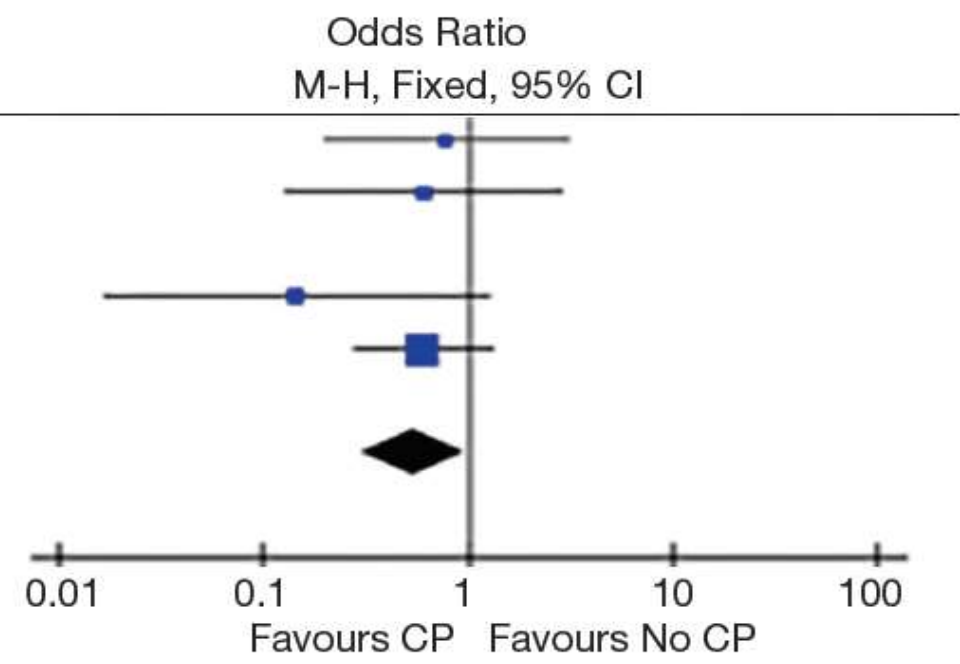
Cerebral protection devices in transcatheter aortic valve replacement: a clinical meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials

Nelson Wang, Kevin Phan

Combined stroke&mortality @ 30 days

**A**

Study or subgroup	CP		No CP		Weight	Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% CI
	Events	Total	Events	Total		
CLEAN-TAVI	4	50	5	50	15.6%	0.78 [0.20, 3.10]
DEFLECT-III	3	46	4	39	13.7%	0.61 [0.13, 2.91]
EMBOL-X	0	14	0	16		Not estimable
MISTRAL-C	1	32	6	33	19.4%	0.15 [0.02, 1.28]
SENTINEL	16	234	12	111	51.3%	0.61 [0.28, 1.33]
Total (95% CI)		376		249	100.0%	0.54 [0.30, 0.98]
Total events	24		27			
Heterogeneity: Chi <sup>2</sup> =1.77, df=3 (P=0.62); I <sup>2</sup> =0%						
Test for overall effect: Z=2.03 (P=0.04)						



# Cerebral Stroke @ 30 days

replacements  
trials

Nelson Wang, Kevin

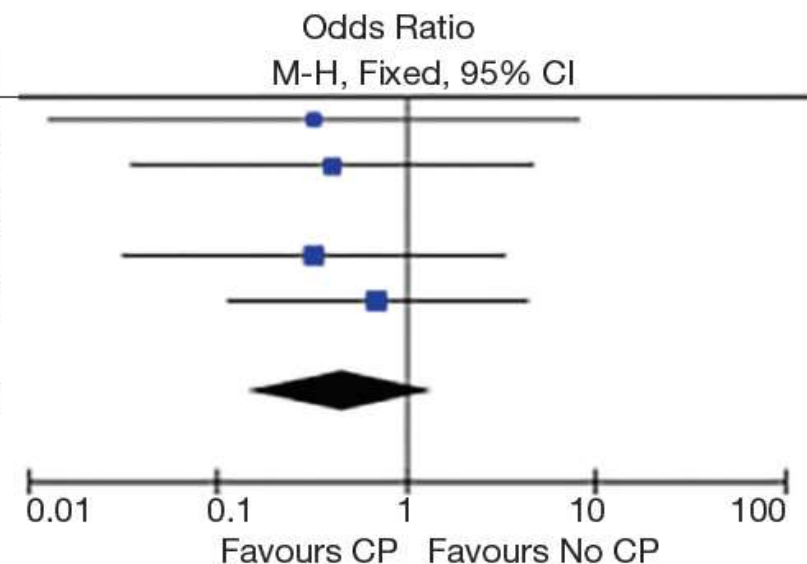
Study or subgroup	CP		No CP		Weight	Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% CI
	Events	Total	Events	Total		
CLEAN-TAVI	0	50	1	50	16.2%	0.33 [0.01, 8.21]
DEFLECT-III	1	46	2	39	23.2%	0.41 [0.04, 4.71]
EMBOL-X	0	14	0	16		Not estimable
MISTRAL-C	1	32	3	33	31.3%	0.32 [0.03, 3.28]
SENTINEL	3	234	2	111	29.3%	0.71 [0.12, 4.30]

Total (95% CI) 376 249 100.0% 0.46 [0.15, 1.40]

Total events 5 8

Heterogeneity:  $\chi^2=0.36$ ,  $df=3$  ( $P=0.95$ );  $I^2=0\%$

Test for overall effect:  $Z=1.37$  ( $P=0.17$ )



## Mortality @ 30 days

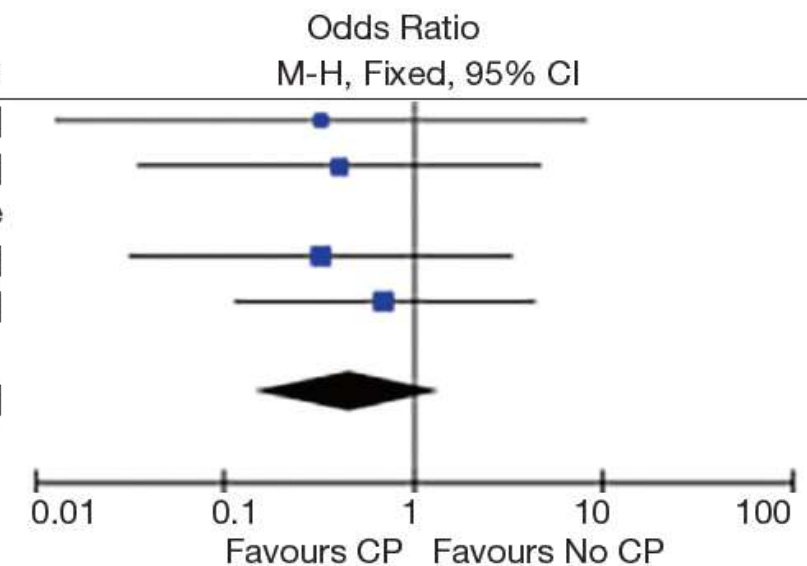
Study or subgroup	CP		No CP		Weight	Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% CI
	Events	Total	Events	Total		
CLEAN-TAVI	0	50	1	50	16.2%	0.33 [0.01, 8.21]
DEFLECT-III	1	46	2	39	23.2%	0.41 [0.04, 4.71]
EMBOL-X	0	14	0	16		Not estimable
MISTRAL-C	1	32	3	33	31.3%	0.32 [0.03, 3.28]
SENTINEL	3	234	2	111	29.3%	0.71 [0.12, 4.30]

Total (95% CI) 376 249 100.0% 0.46 [0.15, 1.40]

Total events 5 8

Heterogeneity:  $\chi^2=0.36$ ,  $df=3$  ( $P=0.95$ );  $I^2=0\%$

Test for overall effect:  $Z=1.37$  ( $P=0.17$ )





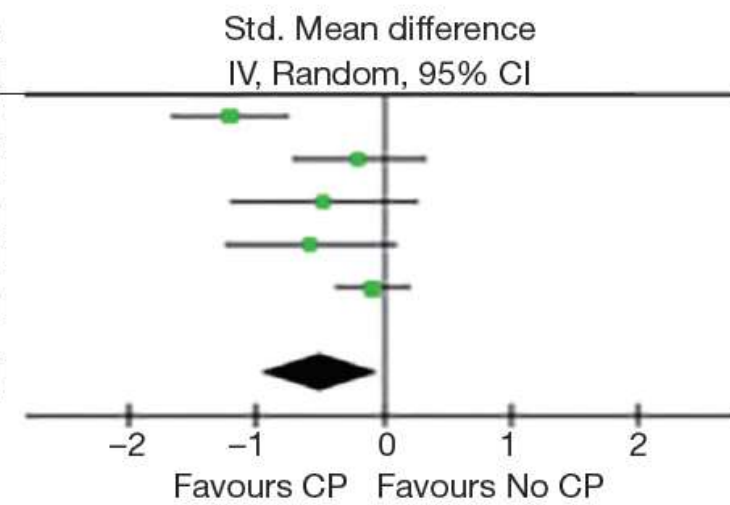
Cerebral New total volume lesions @ 30 days ie

replacer  
trials

Nelson Wan

Study or subgroup	CP			No CP			Weight	Std. Mean difference IV, Random, 95% CI
	Mean	SD	Total	Mean	SD	Total		
CLEAN-TAVI	219.3	170.2	45	588.7	400	43	21.5%	-1.20 [-1.66, -0.75]
DEFLECT-III	58.5	52.5	33	68.3	43.8	26	20.3%	-0.20 [-0.71, 0.32]
EMBOL-X	88	60	14	168	217	16	16.3%	-0.47 [-1.20, 0.25]
MISTRAL-C	120.7	191.7	22	272.3	333.2	15	17.3%	-0.58 [-1.25, 0.10]
SENTINEL	383.2	538.2	91	425	562.4	98	24.6%	-0.08 [-0.36, 0.21]

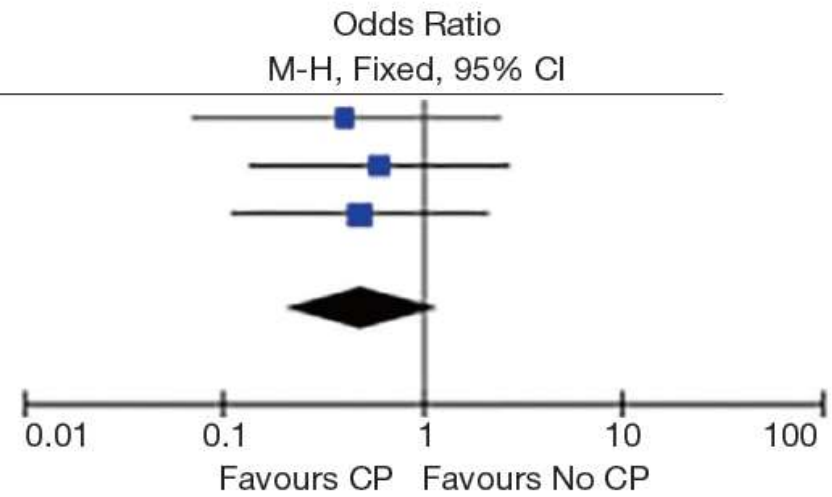
Total (95% CI) 205 198 100.0% -0.49 [-0.96, -0.03]  
Heterogeneity:  $\tau^2=0.21$ ;  $\chi^2=17.71$ ,  $df=2$  ( $P=0.94$ );  $I^2=0\%$   
Test for overall effect:  $Z=1.52$  ( $P=0.13$ )



Pts with new brain lesions @ 30 days

Study or subgroup	CP		No CP		Weight	Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% CI
	Events	Total	Events	Total		
DEFLECT-III	16	22	13	15	30.0%	0.41 [0.07, 2.38]
EMBOL-X	8	14	11	16	31.3%	0.61 [0.14, 2.71]
MISTRAL-C	26	33	23	26	38.8%	0.48 [0.11, 2.10]
Total (95% CI)		69		57	100.0%	0.50 [0.20, 1.23]
Total events	50		47			

Heterogeneity:  $\chi^2=0.11$ ,  $df=2$  ( $P=0.94$ );  $I^2=0\%$   
Test for overall effect:  $Z=1.52$  ( $P=0.13$ )



# Considerations

- Metanalysis failed to detect a significant reduction in clinically overt stroke and all-cause mortality. However, both endpoints were numerically lower in the EP group.
- The effect of EP on neurological imaging endpoints appeared to be uniform between SE and BE valve types, which differ significantly in terms of design and implantation technique.
- Because a substantial number of emboli during TAVR are of thrombotic origin, complementary antithrombotic strategies to EP are warranted



# Technical and procedural factors favouring CVA

- Thrombus formation in large diameter sheath despite optimal anticoagulation
- Wire and catheter manipulation in aortic arch,
- Aggressive retrograde aortic valve crossing
- Suboptimal preparatory BAV ( ineffective RVP and excessive balloon movement)
- DCS navigation
- ↓ cardiac output reduce cerebral perfusion which can results in diffuse silent ischemia
  - RV pacing during BAV pre and post implant or during valve implant
  - Hemodynamic instability

Device malpositioning, dislodgment, or embolization;

### Art and Science of Cerebrovascular Event Prevention After Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement

George D. Dangas, MD; Gennaro Giustino, MD

- Consensus to better characterize, track, and report CVEs in TAVR and SAVR
  - accuracy
  - etiology (stroke because of atrial fibrillation versus device thrombosis)
  - Easy of use ( ex noncomplex tools in diagnosis)
- The importance of antithrombotic drugs in mitigating stroke risk after TAVR,
- Characterize modifiable factors for periprocedural stroke to identify patients who may benefit of intraprocedural embolic protection devices
  - complex anatomic characteristics (eg, highly calcified native valves, large aortic arc atheromas, or angulated aorta)
  - Aortic valve mobile vegetations
  - expected challenging-longer procedures.

# Role of Embolic Protection Devices in TAVR: Are They Needed? Waste of Time and Money?

- Yes if is used extensively
- No if we are able to Identify patient at risk of intra-periprocedurale CVA:
- Optimize procedure technique
  - Be Precise, follow rigorously all the procedural steps, don't waste time be fast but not in hurry
  - Reduce unuseful manipulation
    - aggressive approach for crossing the valve
    - mantain the wire in the ventricle,
    - reduce RV Pacing for BAV pre and post
    - during deployment mantain the valve position
- Use CEP in patient considered at high risk for CVA
- Avoid CEP if:
  - Unfavourable vascular anatomy
  - Potential device related complication of the procedure

# *Discussion*

1. Who is the patient at higher risk of periprocedural stroke?
2. Do the younger or lower risk patient benefit more of the cerebral embolic protection?
3. Technical advise for reducing periprocedural stroke.
4. Concern about potential complication during CEP device manipulation/postioning?
5. Importance of full protection of epiaortic vessels.



# Thank You

