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Original Investigation Non-Vitamin K Antagonist Oral Anticoagulants and Risk of Serious Liver Injury

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Some clinical evidence had suggested a connection between the new generation of non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulants (NOACs) and a risk of serious liver injury. However, this large-scale cohort study found no such association. Researchers looked at nearly 52,000 patients over close to 70,000 person-years of exposure to the drugs. NOACs represent the first improvement in anticoagulation care in sixty years. Verifying their safety profile is essential because they are at least as effective as vitamin K antagonists, and NOACs have the advantages that they do not cause more serious bleeding and are far easier to manage. Vitamin K antagonists require patients to have their blood tested on a regular basis and there are known interactions with other medications and foods that demand constant vigilance. Whereas NOACs pose no comparable complications. The study focused on nonvalvular atrial fibrillation patients taking anticoagulants for stroke prevention because they are required to consume this medication for the rest of their lives and would, therefore, be most susceptible to any potential long-term side effects. The paper's finding is important because it will reassure physicians in treating their patients with NOACs.

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