Supplementary Online Content


eAppendix: Detailed Description of Databases

This supplementary material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.
Ontario Public Drug Benefit Program Database: This database contains comprehensive, computerized information on prescription drugs dispensed to approximately 1.8 million residents of Ontario aged 65 and older. This database was used to define the cohort of patients treated with warfarin, and to restrict to new users of this drug.

Canadian Institute for Health Information’s Discharge Abstract Database (CIHI-DAD): The CIHI-DAD contains detailed diagnostic and procedural information regarding all inpatient hospital admissions in Ontario’s acute hospitals. We used the CIHI-DAD to define our population of patients with atrial fibrillation, and to generate components of the CHADS2 score used in our stratified analysis.

CIHI National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (CIHI-NACRS): CIHI-NACRS contains detailed diagnostic and procedural information regarding all emergency department visits in Ontario. We used the CIHI-NACRS to define our population of patients with atrial fibrillation.

Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) database: The OHIP database contains claims for inpatient or outpatient physician services, and was used to define our population of patients with atrial fibrillation.

Registered Persons Database (RPDB): The RPDB contains demographic information and vital statistics for all residents of Ontario who have ever been issued a health card. We used this database to obtain demographic characteristics for all cohort participants.
Ontario Diabetes Database (ODD): The ODD uses a validated algorithm to identify all incident and prevalent diabetes of cases in Ontario since 1991. The sensitivity and specificity of this database are high (0.86 and 0.97, respectively). We used this database to identify diabetes diagnoses for each patient in our cohort, which was used to populate the CHADS$_2$ score.

Congestive Heart Failure Database (CHFD): The CHFD uses a validated algorithm to identify all individuals with congestive heart failure in Ontario since 1991. The sensitivity and specificity of this database are 0.85 and 0.97, respectively. We used the CHFD to identify CHF diagnoses for each patient in our cohort, which was used to populate the CHADS$_2$ score.

Hypertension Database: The Hypertension database uses a validated algorithm to identify all Ontario hypertension patients since 1988. The sensitivity and specificity of this database are high (0.72 and 0.95, respectively). We used this database to ascertain the presence of hypertension in our cohort to generate the CHADS$_2$ score for each patient.