

New Oral Agents Move Beyond Stroke

There is more to the new class of oral anticoagulants than stroke prevention, which overall makes for a "very exciting time in the field of cardiology," according to Thomas Tu, MD, director of the cardiac catheterization lab for the Louisville Cardiology Group in Louisville, Ky.

Tu was joined by Harry Büller, MD, professor of vascular medicine at the Academic Medicine Center in Amsterdam, in this exclusive video report about the expanded clinical uses for drugs such as dabigatran, rivaroxaban, and apixaban.

Despite there being no approved antidote for these new oral anticoagulants, Büller, the principle investigator of the EINSTEIN-PE study, which found favorable results for rivaroxaban in treating pulmonary embolism, said that "if we use our normal strategies to control bleeding, we will do fine."

Tu, who along with Büller spoke with *MedPage Today* Cardiology Editor Chris Kaiser, said he was impressed with how one agent in particular stood out in the treatment of acute coronary syndrome in an otherwise "very crowded field."

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