

■ **High-dose dalteparin sodium does not appear to be superior to aspirin** in patients with acute ischaemic stroke and atrial fibrillation (AF), reports the Norwegian-based HAEST* Study Group. In this multicentre study, 449 such patients were randomised to receive SC dalteparin sodium ['Fragmin'] 100 IU/kg twice daily (n = 224) or oral aspirin ['Albyl-E'] 160 mg/day, for 11–17 days (median 13).** There was no significant between-group difference in the proportion of patients who had recurrence of ischaemic stroke during the first 14 days. The researchers suggest that patients with acute ischaemic stroke and AF should be given aspirin during the acute phase of stroke and that low molecular weight heparins should be considered for venous thromboembolism prophylaxis.

* Heparin in Acute Embolic Stroke Trial

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Berge E, et al. Low molecular-weight heparin versus aspirin in patients with acute ischaemic stroke and atrial fibrillation: a double-blind randomised study. *Lancet* 355: 1205-1210, 8 Apr 2000

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