

Reasons for exclusion are defined as:

- (a) Study design (excluded if study was a commentary or letter, conference abstract published before 2008, case series, studies of bridging therapy with heparin, rationale or study design papers, ecological studies, case-control study).
- (b) Population criteria not satisfied (if paper specified the included population with a CHADS₂ score of <2, or if the study was conducted primarily on stroke patients with AF whose outcomes were retrieved retrospectively or the population consisted of those with valve replacements or mechanical heart valves).
- (c) Intervention criteria not satisfied (if the study did not specify a subgroup of patients on combined ACT plus APT).
- (d) Comparator criteria not satisfied (if the paper did not specify a population on ACT alone).
- (e) Outcome criteria not satisfied (if none of the desired outcomes were reported and/or outcomes were not reported for both intervention and comparator groups and/or outcomes were retrieved retrospectively in a population of stroke patients with AF).

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a Foreign-language papers: reason for exclusion reported is one of the primary reasons agreed by two reviewers.