JAMA | Original Investigation

Effect of Intermediate-Dose vs Standard-Dose Prophylactic Anticoagulation on Thrombotic Events, Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation Treatment, or Mortality Among Patients With COVID-19 Admitted to the Intensive Care Unit The INSPIRATION Randomized Clinical Trial

INSPIRATION Investigators

IMPORTANCE Thrombotic events are commonly reported in critically ill patients with COVID-19. Limited data exist to guide the intensity of antithrombotic prophylaxis.

OBJECTIVE To evaluate the effects of intermediate-dose vs standard-dose prophylactic anticoagulation among patients with COVID-19 admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU).

DESIGN, SETTING, AND PARTICIPANTS Multicenter randomized trial with a 2 × 2 factorial design performed in 10 academic centers in Iran comparing intermediate-dose vs standard-dose prophylactic anticoagulation (first hypothesis) and statin therapy vs matching placebo (second hypothesis; not reported in this article) among adult patients admitted to the ICU with COVID-19. Patients were recruited between July 29, 2020, and November 19, 2020. The final follow-up date for the 30-day primary outcome was December 19, 2020.

INTERVENTIONS Intermediate-dose (enoxaparin, 1 mg/kg daily) (n = 276) vs standard prophylactic anticoagulation (enoxaparin, 40 mg daily) (n = 286), with modification according to body weight and creatinine clearance. The assigned treatments were planned to be continued until completion of 30-day follow-up.

MAIN OUTCOMES AND MEASURES The primary efficacy outcome was a composite of venous or arterial thrombosis, treatment with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, or mortality within 30 days, assessed in randomized patients who met the eligibility criteria and received at least 1 dose of the assigned treatment. Prespecified safety outcomes included major bleeding according to the Bleeding Academic Research Consortium (type 3 or 5 definition), powered for noninferiority (a noninferiority margin of 1.8 based on odds ratio), and severe thrombocytopenia (platelet count <20 ×10³/µL). All outcomes were blindly adjudicated.

RESULTS Among 600 randomized patients, 562 (93.7%) were included in the primary analysis (median [interquartile range] age, 62 [50-71] years; 237 [42.2%] women). The primary efficacy outcome occurred in 126 patients (45.7%) in the intermediate-dose group and 126 patients (44.1%) in the standard-dose prophylaxis group (absolute risk difference, 1.5% [95% CI, -6.6% to 9.8%]; odds ratio, 1.06 [95% CI, 0.76-1.48]; *P* = .70). Major bleeding occurred in 7 patients (2.5%) in the intermediate-dose group and 4 patients (1.4%) in the standard-dose prophylaxis group (risk difference, 1.1% [1-sided 97.5% CI, $-\infty$ to 3.4%]; odds ratio, 1.83 [1-sided 97.5% CI, 0.00-5.93]), not meeting the noninferiority criteria (*P* for noninferiority >.99). Severe thrombocytopenia occurred only in patients assigned to the intermediate-dose group (6 vs 0 patients; risk difference, 2.2% [95% CI, 0.4%-3.8%]; *P* = .01).

CONCLUSIONS AND RELEVANCE Among patients admitted to the ICU with COVID-19, intermediate-dose prophylactic anticoagulation, compared with standard-dose prophylactic anticoagulation, did not result in a significant difference in the primary outcome of a composite of adjudicated venous or arterial thrombosis, treatment with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, or mortality within 30 days. These results do not support the routine empirical use of intermediate-dose prophylactic anticoagulation in unselected patients admitted to the ICU with COVID-19.

TRIAL REGISTRATION Clinical Trials.gov Identifier: NCT04486508

JAMA. 2021;325(16):1620-1630. doi:10.1001/jama.2021.4152 Published online March 18, 2021. Editorial page 1613
Supplemental content

Authors/Group Information: The INSPIRATION Investigators are listed at the end of this article.

Corresponding Authors: Parham Sadeghipour, MD, Cardiovascular Intervention Research Center, Rajaie Cardiovascular Medical and Research Center, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Vali-Asr Ave, Niyayesh Blvd, Tehran 1996911101, Iran (psadeghipour@hotmail.com); Behnood Bikdeli, MD, MS, Cardiovascular Medicine Division, Brigham and Women's Hospital, 75 Francis St, Shapiro 5, Ste 5156, Boston, MA 02115 (bbikdeli@bwh. harvard.edu; behnood.bikdeli@yale. edu).

iama.com

n the context of endothelial injury^{1,2} and a prothrombic milieu,^{1,3} venous and arterial microthrombosis and macrothrombosis are common manifestations of COVID-19.⁴ Venous thromboembolism (VTE) is the most commonly reported thrombotic complication, with higher incidence rates among critically ill patients.⁵ A 2020 systematic review estimated that 28% of critically ill patients with COVID-19 had VTE.⁶

However, limited evidence exists to guide the prophylactic antithrombotic regimen.⁷ Some retrospective observational studies suggest that anticoagulation beyond standard prophylactic doses was associated with reduced mortality,8 but others did not confirm these findings and, rather, suggested an elevated risk of bleeding.⁹ A small randomized trial suggested improved oxygenation with therapeutic anticoagulation compared with standard prophylaxis.¹⁰ However, the small sample size and other drawbacks limit the strength of this evidence.¹¹ The uncertainty in optimal prophylactic anticoagulant regimen has translated into variability in expert recommendations, hospital policies, and clinicians' decisions to use a variety of types and intensities of antithrombotic regimens.^{4,12-15} The present multicenter randomized trial investigated the effects of intermediate-dose vs standard-dose prophylactic anticoagulation in patients with COVID-19 admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU).

Methods

Trial Oversight

The Intermediate vs Standard-Dose Prophylactic Anticoagulation in Critically-ill Patients With COVID-19: An Open Label Randomized Controlled Trial (INSPIRATION) and INSPIRATION-statin (INSPIRATION-S) studies, designed by an international committee, had a 2 × 2 factorial design and was conducted in Iran with 10 enrolling centers in Tehran and Tabriz. The Rajaie Cardiovascular Medical and Research Center and the Tehran Heart Center were the study coordinating centers. The study protocol was approved by the Rajaie Cardiovascular Medical and Research Center ethics committee and accepted by other participating sites. All patients or their health care proxies provided written informed consent. An independent data and safety monitoring committee monitored the study results.

Design

The trial design has been described previously¹⁶ and the study protocol and statistical analysis plan are provided in Supplement 1 and Supplement 2. This study was a multicenter randomized trial with a 2×2 factorial design comparing intermediate-dose vs standard-dose prophylactic anticoagulation (first hypothesis) and statin therapy vs matching placebo (second hypothesis) among patients with COVID-19 admitted to the ICU. The current article summarizes the results from the first hypothesis, an open-label randomized clinical trial with blinded outcome adjudication. Patient recruitment for the second (statin) hypothesis is underway.

Key Points

Question What are the effects of intermediate-dose compared with standard-dose prophylactic anticoagulation in patients with COVID-19 admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU)?

Findings In this randomized clinical trial that included 562 patients with COVID-19 admitted to the ICU, the primary outcome (a composite of adjudicated venous or arterial thrombosis, treatment with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, or mortality within 30 days) occurred in 45.7% of patients in the intermediate-dose prophylactic anticoagulation group and 44.1% of patients in the standard-dose prophylactic anticoagulation group, a difference that was not statistically significant (odds ratio, 1.06).

Meaning The results do not support routine empirical use of intermediate-dose prophylactic anticoagulation in unselected patients with COVID-19 admitted to the ICU.

Trial Population

Patients admitted to the ICU with polymerase chain reaction testing-confirmed COVID-19 within 7 days of the index hospitalization were eligible for inclusion. Patients with life expectancy less than 24 hours, an established indication for therapeutic-dose anticoagulation, weight less than 40 kg, pregnancy, history of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia, platelet count less than 50 ×10³/µL, or overt bleeding were excluded. The full list of eligibility criteria¹⁶ are available in the study protocol in Supplement 1.

Randomization and Study Drugs

Randomization was done using an electronic web-based system with permuted blocks of 4 and allocation sequence concealment. Eligible patients were allocated in 1:1 ratio to receive intermediate-dose or standard-dose prophylactic anticoagulation. The primary anticoagulant agent in both groups was enoxaparin. Unfractionated heparin was used in the case of severe kidney insufficiency. For patients who weighed less than 120 kg and had a creatinine clearance greater than 30 mL/min, enoxaparin, 1 mg/kg daily, was assigned as intermediate-dose anticoagulation. Enoxaparin, 40 mg daily, was the control group standard-dose prophylactic anticoagulation regimen. In both groups, predefined modifications were advised according to body weight and creatinine clearance (eTables 1-3 in Supplement 3). The assigned treatments were planned to be continued until the 30-day follow-up, irrespective of hospital discharge status.

Study Outcomes

The primary efficacy outcome was a composite of adjudicated acute VTE, arterial thrombosis, treatment with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), or all-cause mortality within 30 days of enrollment. Secondary efficacy outcomes included all-cause mortality, adjudicated VTE, and ventilator-free days. Prespecified exploratory outcomes included objectively clinically diagnosed type I acute myocardial infarction, stroke, and acute peripheral arterial thrombosis; rate of discharge from the ICU; incident atrial fibrillation; new in-hospital kidney replacement therapy;

and ICU length of stay. Diagnostic tests were performed based on clinical judgment of the treating clinicians; no systematic screening for thrombotic events was required by the study protocol.

The prespecified safety outcomes included major bleeding (Bleeding Academic Research Consortium type 3 or 5¹⁷) and severe thrombocytopenia (platelet count <20 ×10³/µL). Clinically relevant nonmajor bleeding was defined as clinically significant bleeding that warranted attention from medical personnel but did not fulfil criteria for major bleeding. Mild thrombocytopenia (platelet count <100 ×10³/µL) and moderate thrombocytopenia (platelet count <50 ×10³/µL) were also assessed as post hoc safety outcomes.

The full list of study outcomes and their definitions can be found in Supplement 3. For patients who did not die during hospitalization, regular follow-up was pursued by structured weekly phone interviews. A clinical events committee blinded to the treatment assignment adjudicated the primary, secondary, and exploratory outcomes.

Statistical Analysis

Power calculation was performed for 2-sided superiority testing for the primary efficacy outcome in patients who were randomized and were not excluded due to violation of the eligibility criteria, did not withdraw consent, and received at least 1 dose of the study drug (see Supplement 2 for terms used previously for describing the analytic populations).¹⁶ According to the estimates obtained from the enrolling centers, a 55% event rate for the primary outcome in the standard-dose prophylactic group was presumed. Considering a 2-sided a of .05 and using the Z approximation formula for comparing 2 proportions between independent groups, a sample size of 544 patients (272 per group) was estimated to provide 80% power to detect a 12% absolute risk reduction in the primary outcome with intermediatedose compared with standard-dose prophylactic anticoagulation (eMethods in Supplement 3). Considering a 10% dropout rate during the study for withdrawal of consent or postrandomization exclusions, 600 patients were planned for enrollment. No interim efficacy analyses were planned to minimize the type I error rate.

In a prespecified secondary analysis, estimating bleeding event rates of 5.5% in the standard-dose group and 6.5% in the intermediate-dose anticoagulation group^{18,19} and a 1-sided a of .025, the same sample size provided 79.5% power to show noninferiority of intermediate-dose anticoagulation compared with standard-dose prophylactic anticoagulation with respect to major bleeding, with a noninferiority margin of 1.8 based on the odds ratio. The selection of a 12% difference in the primary outcome as the minimal clinically important difference to power the study, as well as the selection of an odds ratio of 1.8 as the basis for declaring noninferiority with regard to major bleeding events, were based on investigator consensus (eMethods in Supplement 3).

Because the study included a 2 × 2 factorial design, a Mantel-Haenszel χ^2 test was performed to assess the interaction between anticoagulation intensity and statin use for the primary outcomes prior to the assessment of the primary

efficacy and prespecified safety outcomes. Because the tests of interaction between the 2 interventions were nonsignificant (P = .97 for the primary efficacy outcome and P = .22 for major bleeding), the anticoagulation hypothesis is presented independently.

Given the short follow-up duration, logistic regression with odds ratio as the effect measure was prespecified for the primary analyses. Accounting for study sites as random effect was done post hoc in sensitivity analyses using mixed-effects logistic regression models for binary outcomes and linear mixedeffects models for interval outcomes.

Time to events for the primary outcomes were plotted with Kaplan-Meier curves. In sensitivity analyses, the proportionality assumption was met (based on Schoenfeld residuals) and results were repeated with unadjusted Cox proportional hazards models. Definitions of different cohorts used for sensitivity analyses can be found in Supplement 3.

There were no missing outcomes for participants in the final analysis. The rate of missing values for baseline characteristics was trivial (<5% in all cases) and did not warrant multiple imputations according to the prespecified statistical analysis plan. The only exception was baseline D-dimer, which was not available in 66.5% of the patients at baseline due to unprecedented national increase in use of D-dimer assays leading to temporary shortage. Because the rate of missing rate data was greater than 20%, according to the prespecified statistical analysis plan, multiple imputations were not performed.

The association between the assigned anticoagulation regimen and the primary outcome was assessed in the study subgroups. Prespecified subgroup analyses (based on age, sex, cigarette smoking, diabetes, hypertension, heart failure, obstructive airway disease, time from symptom onset to randomization, corticosteroid use, renin-angiotensinaldosterone system inhibitor use, and baseline D-dimer level) as well as post hoc subgroup analyses (based on coronary artery disease, body mass index, time receiving the assigned treatment, and aspirin use) were performed. For evaluation of the homogeneity of odds ratios across subgroups, the Woolf test was applied. The interaction between the intervention and specific subgroups was assessed via the Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel χ^2 test. All hypothesis tests, except for the test of noninferiority for major bleeding, were 2-sided. A P value <.05 was considered significant for the primary efficacy outcome. For noninferiority testing for major bleeding, a 1-sided P value <.025 was considered significant. No adjustment was performed for the P value thresholds with respect to multiplicity of comparisons. Because of the potential for type I error, findings for analyses of all other outcomes should be interpreted as exploratory. Statistical analyses were performed using R statistical software package, version 4.0.3 (R Core Team).

Results

Between July 29, 2020, and November 19, 2020, a total of 1692 patients were screened for eligibility and 600 underwent

randomization, of whom 4 died before receiving the first dose of the study drug, 2 were excluded due to duplicate entry, and 32 were excluded for other reasons (**Figure 1**). Ultimately, 562 patients (93.7%) were included in the prespecified primary analysis (Figure 1; eTable 4 in Supplement 3).

As shown in **Table 1**, the study population had a median (interquartile range [IQR]) age of 62 (50-71) years, 237 patients (42.2%) were women, and the median (IQR) body mass index was 27 (24.6-29.4). The 2 study groups were balanced with respect to baseline characteristics, expect for history of cigarette smoking, which was more frequent in the intermediate-dose group (Table 1).

The median (IQR) duration of receiving the assigned treatment was similar between the 2 groups (20 [7-30] days in both groups). Overall, 442 patients (78.6%) received the assigned treatment for the full study duration or until reaching an efficacy outcome (eTables 4 and 5 in Supplement 3).

Efficacy Outcomes

In the prespecified primary analysis cohort, the primary efficacy outcome occurred in 126 of 276 patients (45.7%) in the intermediate-dose group and 126 of 286 patients (44.1%) in the standard-dose prophylactic anticoagulation group (absolute risk difference, 1.5% [95% CI, -6.6% to 9.8%]; odds ratio, 1.06 [95% CI, 0.76-1.48]; P = .70) (Table 2). With respect to secondary efficacy outcomes, during 30-day follow-up, all-cause mortality occurred in 236 patients (42.0%) and was not significantly different in the intermediate-dose group compared with the standard-dose prophylaxis group (119 [43.1%] vs 117 [40.9%]; risk difference, 2.2% [95% CI, -5.9% to 10.3%]; odds ratio, 1.09 [95% CI, 0.78-1.53]; *P* = .50). VTE events occurred in 19 patients (3.4%), including 12 episodes of deep vein thrombosis and 7 pulmonary embolism events. The risk of VTE was not significantly different between the intermediate-dose and standard-dose groups (3.3% vs 3.5%; risk difference, -0.2% [95% CI, -3.2% to 2.7%]; odds ratio, 0.93 [95% CI, 0.37-2.32]; P = .94) (Table 2). The median (IQR) number of ventilatorfree days was 30 (1-30) in the study population, with no significant difference between the intermediate-dose and standard-dose groups (30 [3-30] vs 30 [1-30] days; *P* = .50). The 30-day Kaplan-Meier curves for the primary composite outcome, VTE, and all-cause mortality are shown in Figure 2 and eFigures 1 and 2 in Supplement 3.

No statistically significant differences were detected in the exploratory outcomes. There were no cases of adjudicated type I myocardial infarction. The rate of ischemic stroke was 0.3% in the intermediate-dose group and 0.4% in the standard-dose group (risk difference, 0.1% [95% CI, -0.9% to 0.9%]; odds ratio, 1.03 [95% CI, 0.06-16.65]; P = .97). No other acute arterial thrombotic events were identified. No patients received ECMO during the study period.

The median (IQR) ICU length of stay was 6 (2-11) days (5 [2-10] days in the intermediate-dose group vs 6 [3-11] days in the standard-dose group; P = .14), and a total of 343 patients (61.0%) were discharged from the ICU, including 169 patients (61.2%) assigned to receive the intermediate-dose regimen and 174 patients (60.8%) assigned to receive

Figure 1. Flow of Participants in a Study of the Effect of Intermediate-Dose vs Standard-Dose Prophylactic Anticoagulation Among Patients With COVID-19 Admitted to the Intensive Care Unit



^a Some patients had more than 1 reason for exclusion from the primary analysis cohort.

^b Reasons for discontinuation of the trial regimen are summarized in eTable 4 in Supplement 3.

^c Patients who were randomized and were not excluded due to violation of the eligibility criteria or withdrawal of informed consent and continued their assigned anticoagulation regimen until 30-day follow-up or the occurrence of the prespecified efficacy outcome. See eTable 13 in Supplement 3 for the per-protocol safety cohort.

the standard-dose prophylaxis regimen (risk difference, 0.3% [95% CI, -7.8% to 8.4%]; odds ratio, 1.01 [95% CI, 0.72-1.42]; P = .72). New in-hospital kidney replacement therapy was performed in 17 patients (3.0%) (3.6% in the intermediate-dose group vs 2.4% in the standard-dose group; risk difference, 1.1% [95% CI, -1.6% to 4.0%]; odds ratio, 1.49 [95% CI, 0.58-3.86]; P = .41) and new atrial fibrillation was detected in 8 patients (1.4%), without a significant difference between the intermediate-dose group and the standard-dose group (0.7% vs 2.1%; difference, -1.3% [95% CI, -3.3% to 0.5%]; odds ratio, 0.34 [95% CI, 0.00-1.49]; P = .16).

Table 1. Baseline Characteristics of the Prespecified Primary Analysis Population in a Study of the Effect of Intermediate- vs Standard-Dose Prophylactic Anticoagulation Among Patients With COVID-19 Admitted to the Intensive Care Unit

	Median (IQR)		
Characteristic	Intermediate dose (n = 276)	Standard dose (n = 286)	
Age, y	62 (51-70.7)	61 (47-71)	
Sex, No. (%)			
Women	114 (41.3)	123 (43.0)	
Men	162 (58.7)	163 (57.0)	
Body mass index	26.7 (24.4-29.1)	27.2 (24.3-29.1)	
Current smoker	35 (12.7)	21 (7.3)	
Coexisting conditions, No. (%)			
Hypertension	131 (48.0)	118 (41.2)	
Diabetes	82 (29.7)	73 (25.6)	
Hyperlipidemia	75 (27.2)	68 (23.8)	
Coronary artery disease	45 (16.3)	33 (11.5)	
Obstructive airway disease	23 (8.3)	16 (5.6)	
Heart failure	7 (2.5)	6 (2.1)	
Ischemic cerebrovascular accidents	6 (2.2)	11 (3.8)	
Hemorrhagic stroke	0	0	
Venous thromboembolism	0	0	
Duration of symptoms prior to hospitalization, d	7 (4-8)	7 (5-10)	
Duration of hospitalization before randomization, d	4 (2-6)	4 (3-6)	
Baseline indicators of illness severity, No. (%)			
Patients with systolic blood pressure <100 mm Hg at the time of randomization	25 (9.0)	33 (11.5)	
Vasopressor agent support within 72 h of enrollment	63 (22.8)	64 (22.3)	
Fraction of inspired oxygen >50% at the time of randomization	112 (40.5)	122 (42.6)	
Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation II score at the time of randomization ^a	8 (5-11)	8 (5-11)	
Acute respiratory support, No. (%)			
Nasal cannula	10 (3.6)	14 (4.9)	
Face mask	33 (12.0)	27 (9.4)	
Reservoir mask	76 (27.5)	96 (33.6)	
High-flow nasal cannula	9 (3.3)	6 (2.1)	
Noninvasive positive pressure ventilation	93 (33.7)	85 (29.7)	
Invasive positive pressure ventilation (endotracheal intubation)	55 (19.9)	58 (20.3)	
Medication history, No. (%) ³			
Baseline medication	04 (22.0)	04 (20.2)	
Aspirin	91 (33.0)	81 (28.3)	
Platelet ADP P2Y12 receptor inhibitors	/ (2.5)	6 (2.1)	
	226 (01.0)	217 (75.0)	
Antiviral therapy	226 (81.9)	217 (75.9)	
Remdesivir	168 (60.9)	170 (59.4)	
Favipiravir	52 (18.8)	43 (15.0)	
Lopinavir/ritonavir	3 (1.1)	3 (1.0)	
Atazanavir/ritonavir	27 (9.8)	19 (6.6)	
Corticosteroid use	262 (94.9)	262 (91.6)	
Renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system inhibitors	/8 (28.3)	/4 (25.9)	
Tocilizumab	34 (12.3)	40 (14.0)	

(continued)

Table 1. Baseline Characteristics of the Prespecified Primary Analysis Population in a Study of the Effect of Intermediate- vs Standard-Dose Prophylactic Anticoagulation Among Patients With COVID-19 Admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (continued)

	Median (IQR)		
Characteristic	Intermediate dose (n = 276)	Standard dose (n = 286)	
Laboratory values at baseline ^c			
Creatinine, mg/dL	1.1 (0.9-1.2)	1.1 (0.9-1.3)	
White blood cell count, /µL	9800 (7300-13 400)	10 000 (7525-12 500)	
Hemoglobin level, g/dL	13.1 (11.9-14.5)	13.2 (11.9-14.5)	
Platelet count, ×10³/µL	239 (183-309)	230 (173-301)	
D-dimer, ng/mL	1037 (460-3121) (n = 97)	910 (410-2380) (n = 91)	
Prothrombin time, s	13.6 (12.6-15.0)	13.7 (12.6-15.0)	
International normalized ratio	1.0 (1.1-1.2)	1.0 (1.1-1.2)	
Activated partial thromboplastin time, s	32 (28-38)	31 (27.4-36)	

Abbreviation: IQR, interquartile range.

^a The Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation II score is an index for the severity of the disease that ranges from O to 71 and includes 3 components: Acute Physiology Score, age, and chronic health status. Higher scores indicate poorer outcome.

- ^b No patients received monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma.
- ^c Normal ranges of measured laboratory tests were defined as follows: 0.6-1.4 mg/dL for creatinine, 4500-11 000 /µL for white blood cell count, 13.5-17.5 g/dL for men and 12-15.6 g/dL for women for hemoglobin level, 150-450 ×10³/µL for platelet count, <500 ng/mL for D-dimer level, 13.3-14.3 s for prothrombin time, and 33.9-35.3 s for activated partial thromboplastin time.

Safety Outcomes

There were 7 (2.5%) major bleeding events in the intermediate-dose group and 4 (1.4%) in the standard-dose prophylactic anticoagulation group (risk difference, 1.1% [1-sided 97.5% CI, -∞ to 3.4%]; odds ratio, 1.83 [1-sided 97.5% CI. 0.00-5.931). which did not meet the noninferiority criteria (P for noninferiority >.99). There was 1 case of intracranial hemorrhage and 2 cases of fatal bleeding events in the intermediate-dose group. Clinically relevant nonmajor bleeding occurred in 12 patients (4.3%) in the intermediatedose group and 5 patients (1.7%) in the standard-dose group (risk difference, 2.5% [95% CI, -0.2% to 5.4%]; odds ratio, 2.55 [95% CI, 0.92-7.04]; P = .07) (Table 2). Severe thrombocytopenia occurred only in patients assigned to the intermediate-dose group (6 vs 0; risk difference, 2.2% [95% CI, 0.4%-3.8%]) (Table 2). No significant differences were observed between the 2 study groups with respect to less severe forms of thrombocytopenia (Table 2).

Sensitivity Analysis

Findings from the per-protocol analyses and other sensitivity analyses were similar to those from the primary analyses (eTables 8-18 in Supplement 3). Findings were consistent in subgroup analyses. No particular subgroups were identified in which use of intermediate-dose prophylactic anticoagulation was associated with significant reduction in the primary outcome (Figure 3; eFigure 4 in Supplement 3). Table 2. Primary, Secondary, and Exploratory Outcomes Within 30 Days of Enrollment in the Prespecified Primary Analysis in a Study of the Effect of Intermediate- vs Standard-Dose Prophylactic Anticoagulation Among Patients With COVID-19 Admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU)

<table-container>DetermIntermediationReadeModel offermeOperationPiratePiratePiratePiratePiratePirateStandard extrements thromospherely site of adjudicate aute venous thromospherely site of adjudicate adjudicate</table-container>		No. (%)		_		
Primary utcomeComposite of adjudicated scate venous thromboenholes membrane oxygenation, or all-cause mortality?126 (45.7)126 (46.1)1.5 (-6.6 to 9.8)1.06 (0.76 to 1.48).70All-rue mortality19 (43.1)117 (40.9)2.2 (-5.9 to 10.3)1.09 (0.78 to 1.48).70All-rue mortality9(3.3)10 (3.5)-0.2 (-3.2 to 2.7)0.93 (0.37 to 2.32).87Ventilact venous thromboenholism9(3.3)10 (15.0)-0.2 (-3.2 to 2.7)0.93 (0.37 to 2.32).87Ventilact free days, median (UR)*30 (3 to 30)30 (10 30)0 (0 to 0)NA.50*Exploratory00.10 (13.0)0 (10.0)NA.50*Exploration free days, median (UR)*10.041.03.001.01 (-0.9 to 0.9).103 (0.06 to 16.65).87Object vel clinically diagnosed strate peripheral10.041.04 (0.01).104 (0.01).104.104Point it thrombosis10.04 (10.0)1.01 (-01 to 0.0).03 (0.06 to 16.65).104.104Point it thrombosis10.04 (10.0)1.04 (10.0).104 (10.0).104.104.104Point it thrombosis10.04 (10.0)1.04 (10.0).104 (10.0).104.104.104Point it thrombosis10.04 (10.0)1.04 (10.0).104 (10.0).104 (10.0).104 (10.0).104 (10.0).104 (10.0).104 (10.0).104 (10.0).104 (10.0).104 (10.0).104 (10.0).104 (10.0).104 (10.0).104 (10.0).104 (10.0).104 (10.0).104 (10.0).104 (10.0)<	Outcome	Intermediate dose (n = 276)	Standard dose (n = 286)	Absolute difference (95% CI), %	Odds ratio (95% CI)	P value
Gromposite of adjudicated acute venous thromboembolism entrical thrombosit, treatment with extracorporal entrical tomosity.126 (48.1)1.5 (-6.6 to 9.8)1.06 (0.76 to 1.48).70SeconderSeconderSeconderVentions for other with extracorporal adjudicated wonds from bombolism10 (93.3)10 (13.9)-0.2 (-3.2 to 2.7)0.90 (0.78 to 1.53).50Adjudicated wonds from bombolism9 (3.3)10 (15.9)-0.2 (-3.2 to 2.7)0.90 (0.78 to 1.53).50Vention wonds from bombolism9 (3.3)0 (10 to 3)0 (0 to 0)Na.50Seconder9 (3.3)0 (10 to 3)0 (0 to 10)Na.50Seconder9 (3.3)0 (3 to 1.3)0 (0 to 0)Na.50Vention of the day median (10R)0 (0.4)1 (0.4)0 (0.1)0 (0.6).50Objectively clinically diagnosed acute peripheral arterial thrombosis0 (3 (1.1)-1 (-4 to 3)Na.14Ventical diagnosed acute peripheral arterial thrombosis0 (3 (0.1)-1 (-4 to 3)Na.14Ventical diagnosed acute peripheral arterial thrombosis0 (3 (0.1)-1 (-4 to 3)Na.14Ventical diagnosed acute peripheral arterial thrombosis0 (3 (0.1)-1 (-4 to 3)Na.14Ventical diagnosed acute peripheral arterial thrombosis0 (3 (0.1)-1 (-4 to 3)Na.16Ventical diagnosed	Primary outcome					
<table-container>No</table-container>	Composite of adjudicated acute venous thromboembolism, arterial thrombosis, treatment with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, or all-cause mortality ^a	126 (45.7)	126 (44.1)	1.5 (-6.6 to 9.8)	1.06 (0.76 to 1.48)	.70
<table-container>All - curve montaity119 (43.1)117 (40.9)2.2 (-5.9 to 13.0)1.0 (0.7 ko 1.5.3).5 detectAll uictard venous thromboenholism9(3.3)10 (3.5)-0.2 (-3.2 to 2.7).93 (0.3 7 to 2.3.2).87V=triate days, modan (QB)*30 (3 0 0)0 (10 0)NA.50*Every uterial (QB)*30 (3 0 0)30 (10 30).0 (10 0)NA.50*Discurs glasses days days days days days days days day</table-container>	Secondary outcomes					
Adjuit and uenous thromobembolism9 (3.3)10 (3.5)-0.2 (-3.2 to 2.7)0.93 (0.3 To 2.3.2 to 3.7)8.7Ventilator-free days, median (1QR)*30 (3 to 30)30 (1 to 30)0 (0 to 0)NA5.0*Expertised diggeosed to the diggeosed	All-cause mortality	119 (43.1)	117 (40.9)	2.2 (-5.9 to 10.3)	1.09 (0.78 to 1.53)	.50
<table-container>NetworkName<t< td=""><td>Adjudicated venous thromboembolism</td><td>9 (3.3)</td><td>10 (3.5)</td><td>-0.2 (-3.2 to 2.7)</td><td>0.93 (0.37 to 2.32)</td><td>.87</td></t<></table-container>	Adjudicated venous thromboembolism	9 (3.3)	10 (3.5)	-0.2 (-3.2 to 2.7)	0.93 (0.37 to 2.32)	.87
First protectionExist protection0Object true (dincically diagnosed stroke)10.0410.030.10-05.001.03.00.05.05.0097Object true (dincically diagnosed stroke)000 <t< td=""><td>Ventilator-free days, median (IQR)^b</td><td>30 (3 to 30)</td><td>30 (1 to 30)</td><td>0 (0 to 0)</td><td>NA</td><td>.50^c</td></t<>	Ventilator-free days, median (IQR) ^b	30 (3 to 30)	30 (1 to 30)	0 (0 to 0)	NA	.50 ^c
Dy> <t< td=""><td>Exploratory outcomes</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></t<>	Exploratory outcomes					
Discuss Quince	Objectively clinically diagnosed type I acute myocardial infarction ^d	0	0			
Objectively clinically diagnosed acute peripheral arterial thrombosis 0 0 ICU length of stay, median (IQR) 5 (2 to 10) 6 (3 to 11) -1 (-4 to 3) NA .14 ^c Patients discharged from the ICU 169 (61.2) 174 (60.8) 0.3 (-7.6 to 8.4) 1.01 (0.7.2 to 1.4.2) .72 Incident atrial fibrillation 2 (0.7) 6 (2.1) -1.3 (-3.3 to 0.5) 0.34 (0.0 to 1.4.9) .16 New in-loopital kidney replacement therapy 10 (3.6) 7 (2.4) 1.1 (-1.6 to 4.0) 0.34 (0.0 to 1.4.9) .16 Spect classification 7 (2.5) 4 (1.4) 1.1 (-1.1 to 3.4) 1.83 (0.53 to 5.9.3) .33 prape 3 (hemoglobin drop of 3-5 g/dL 7 (2.5) 4 (1.4) -0.3 (-2.1 to 1.5) .78 (0.17 to 3.4.9) .73 Type 3 (hemoglobin drop of 3-5 g/dL 10.4 f 0.3 (-0.3 to 1.0)	Objectively clinically diagnosed stroke	1 (0.4)	1 (0.3)	0.1 (-0.9 to 0.9)	1.03 (0.06 to 16.65)	.97
ICU length of stay, median (lQR)5 (2 to 10)6 (3 to 11) -1 (-4 to 3)NA.14°Patients discharged from the ICU169 (61.2)174 (60.8)0.3 (-7.6 to 8.4)1.01 (0.72 to 1.42).72Incident atrial fibrillation2 (0.7)6 (2.1) -1.3 (-3.3 to 0.5)0.34 (0.0 to 1.49).16New in-hospital kidney replacement therapy10 (3.6)7 (2.4)1.1 (-1.6 to 4.0)1.49 (0.58 to 3.86).41Subject to the second	Objectively clinically diagnosed acute peripheral arterial thrombosis	0	0			
Patients discharged from the ICU169 (61.2)174 (60.8)0.3 (-7.6 to 8.4)1.01 (0.7.2 to 1.4.2)7.2Incident at all fibrillation2 (0.7)6 (2.1)-1.3 (-3.3 to 0.5)0.34 (0.0 to 1.4.9)1.6Netwine by the indication of the indicatio	ICU length of stay, median (IQR)	5 (2 to 10)	6 (3 to 11)	-1 (-4 to 3)	NA	.14 ^c
$ \begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	Patients discharged from the ICU	169 (61.2)	174 (60.8)	0.3 (-7.6 to 8.4)	1.01 (0.72 to 1.42)	.72
$ \frac{Nev in-hospital kidney replacement therapy}{Nev in-hospital kidney replacement therapy} = 10(3.6) 7(2.4) 1.1(-1.6 to 4.0) 1.49(0.58 to 3.8) .41 e = 4.4 e$	Incident atrial fibrillation	2 (0.7)	6 (2.1)	-1.3 (-3.3 to 0.5)	0.34 (0.0 to 1.49)	.16
Sale vertices Matrix classification 7(2.5) 4(1.4) 1.1(-1.1 o.3.4) 1.83 (0.53 to 5.9.3) .33 BARC classification 9 9.1 </td <td>New in-hospital kidney replacement therapy</td> <td>10 (3.6)</td> <td>7 (2.4)</td> <td>1.1 (-1.6 to 4.0)</td> <td>1.49 (0.58 to 3.86)</td> <td>.41</td>	New in-hospital kidney replacement therapy	10 (3.6)	7 (2.4)	1.1 (-1.6 to 4.0)	1.49 (0.58 to 3.86)	.41
$ \begin{split} & \textsf{M} = r + leding^{e} \\ & \textsf{M} = r + leding^{e} \\ \hline \begin{tabular}{lllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	Safety outcomes					
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c } \hline BARC\ classification \\ \hline Type\ 3a\ (hemoglobin\ drop\ of\ 3-5\ g/dL & $$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$	Major bleeding ^e	7 (2.5)	4 (1.4)	1.1 (-1.1 to 3.4)	1.83 (0.53 to 5.93)	.33
$ \frac{\begin{tabular}{l} \label{eq:product} \begin{tabular}{l} t$	BARC classification					
$\begin{tabular}{ c c c c c } \hline Type 3b (hemoglobin drop >5 g/dL) & 1 (0.4) & 0^f & 0.3 (-0.3 to 1.0) & .30 \\ \hline Type 3c (intracranial hemorrhage) & 1 (0.4) & 0^f & 0.3 (-0.3 to 1.0) & .30 \\ \hline Type 5 (fatal bleeding) & 2 (0.7) & 0^f & 0.7 (-0.2 to 1.7) & .14 \\ \hline Type 5 (fatal bleeding) & 12 (4.3) & 5 (1.7) & 2.5 (-0.2 to 5.4) & 2.55 (0.92 to 7.04) & .07 \\ \hline Clinically relevant nonmajor bleeding (BARC type 2)9 & 12 (4.3) & 9 (3.1) & 3.0 (-0.4 to 6.4) & 2.02 (0.89 to 4.61) & .08 \\ \hline Clinically relevant non-major bleeding & 17 (6.2) & 9 (3.1) & 3.0 (-0.4 to 6.4) & 2.02 (0.89 to 4.61) & .08 \\ \hline Moderate (<50 \times 10^3/\mu L)^h & 50 (18.2) & 57 (19.9) & -1.4 (-7.9 to 5.0) & 0.89 (0.58 to 1.36) & .62 \\ \hline Moderate (<50 \times 10^3/\mu L)^h & 14 (5.1) & 20 (7.0) & -0.8 (-4.6 to 2.8) & 0.71 (0.35 to 1.44) & .61 \\ \hline Severe (<20 \times 10^3/\mu L) & 6 (2.2) & 0^f & 2.2 (0.4 to 3.8) & \\ \hline \end{tabular}$	Type 3a (hemoglobin drop of 3-5 g/dL or any transfusion)	3 (1.1)	4 (1.4)	-0.3 (-2.1 to 1.5)	0.78 (0.17 to 3.49)	.73
$\frac{\text{Type 3c (intracranial hemorrhage)}}{\text{Type 5 (fatal bleeding)}} = 2 (0.7) \\ 2 (0.7) \\ 0^{\text{f}} \\ 0.7 (-0.2 \text{ to } 1.7) \\ 0.8 (-0.2 \text{ to } 1.7) \\ 0.7 (-0.2 \text{ to } 1.7) \\ 0.8 (-0.2 \text{ to } $	Type 3b (hemoglobin drop >5 g/dL)	1 (0.4)	0 ^f	0.3 (-0.3 to 1.0)		.30
Type 5 (fatal bleeding) 2 (0.7) 0 ^f 0.7 (-0.2 to 1.7) .14 Clinically relevant nonmajor bleeding (BARC type 2) ^g 12 (4.3) 5 (1.7) 2.5 (-0.2 to 5.4) 2.55 (0.92 to 7.04) .07 Composite of major and non-major bleeding 17 (6.2) 9 (3.1) 3.0 (-0.4 to 6.4) 2.02 (0.89 to 4.61) .08 Thrombocytopenia 50 (18.2) 57 (19.9) -1.4 (-7.9 to 5.0) 0.89 (0.58 to 1.36) .62 Midd (<100 × 10 ³ /μL) ^h 50 (18.2) 57 (19.9) -1.4 (-7.9 to 5.0) 0.89 (0.58 to 1.36) .62 woderate (<50 × 10 ³ /μL) ^h 14 (5.1) 20 (7.0) -0.8 (-4.6 to 2.8) 0.71 (0.35 to 1.44) .61 Evere (<20 × 10 ³ /μL) 6 (2.2) 0 ^f 2.2 (0.4 to 3.8) .01	Type 3c (intracranial hemorrhage)	1 (0.4)	0 ^f	0.3 (-0.3 to 1.0)		.30
Clinically relevant nonmajor bleeding (BARC type 2) ^a 12 (4.3) 5 (1.7) 2.5 (-0.2 to 5.4) 2.55 (0.92 to 7.04) .07 Composite of major and non-major bleeding 17 (6.2) 9 (3.1) 3.0 (-0.4 to 6.4) 2.02 (0.89 to 4.61) .08 Trombosytopenia 50 (18.2) 57 (19.9) -1.4 (-7.9 to 5.0) 0.89 (0.58 to 1.36) .62 Moderate (<50 × 10 ³ /μL) ^h 14 (5.1) 20 (7.0) -0.8 (-4.6 to 2.8) 0.71 (0.35 to 1.44) .61 severe (<20 × 10 ³ /μL) 6 (2.2) 0 ^f 2.2 (0.4 to 3.8) .01	Type 5 (fatal bleeding)	2 (0.7)	0 ^f	0.7 (-0.2 to 1.7)		.14
Composite of major and non-major bleeding 17 (6.2) 9 (3.1) 3.0 (-0.4 to 6.4) 2.02 (0.89 to 4.61) .08 Thrombocytopenia Mild (<100 ×10 ³ /μL) ^h 50 (18.2) 57 (19.9) -1.4 (-7.9 to 5.0) 0.89 (0.58 to 1.36) .62 Moderate (<50 ×10 ³ /μL) ^h 14 (5.1) 20 (7.0) -0.8 (-4.6 to 2.8) 0.71 (0.35 to 1.44) .61 Severe (<20 ×10 ³ /μL) 6 (2.2) 0 ^f 2.2 (0.4 to 3.8) .01	Clinically relevant nonmajor bleeding (BARC type 2) ^g	12 (4.3)	5 (1.7)	2.5 (-0.2 to 5.4)	2.55 (0.92 to 7.04)	.07
Thrombocytopenia Mid (<100 ×10 ³ /μL) ^h 50 (18.2) 57 (19.9) -1.4 (-7.9 to 5.0) 0.89 (0.58 to 1.36) .62 Moderate (<50 ×10 ³ /μL) ^h 14 (5.1) 20 (7.0) -0.8 (-4.6 to 2.8) 0.71 (0.35 to 1.44) .61 Severe (<20 ×10 ³ /μL) 6 (2.2) 0 ^f 2.2 (0.4 to 3.8) .01	Composite of major and non-major bleeding	17 (6.2)	9 (3.1)	3.0 (-0.4 to 6.4)	2.02 (0.89 to 4.61)	.08
Mild (<100 ×10 ³ /μL) ^h 50 (18.2) 57 (19.9) -1.4 (-7.9 to 5.0) 0.89 (0.58 to 1.36) .62 Moderate (<50 ×10 ³ /μL) ^h 14 (5.1) 20 (7.0) -0.8 (-4.6 to 2.8) 0.71 (0.35 to 1.44) .61 Severe (<20 ×10 ³ /μL) 6 (2.2) 0 ^f 2.2 (0.4 to 3.8) .01	Thrombocytopenia					
Moderate (<50 ×10 ³ /μL) ^h 14 (5.1) 20 (7.0) -0.8 (-4.6 to 2.8) 0.71 (0.35 to 1.44) .61 Severe (<20 ×10 ³ /μL) 6 (2.2) 0 ^f 2.2 (0.4 to 3.8) .01	Mild (<100 ×10 ³ /µL) ^h	50 (18.2)	57 (19.9)	-1.4 (-7.9 to 5.0)	0.89 (0.58 to 1.36)	.62
Severe (<20 ×10 ³ /µL) 6 (2.2) 0 ^f 2.2 (0.4 to 3.8) .01	Moderate (<50 ×10 ³ /µL) ^h	14 (5.1)	20 (7.0)	-0.8 (-4.6 to 2.8)	0.71 (0.35 to 1.44)	.61
	Severe (<20 ×10 ³ /µL)	6 (2.2)	0 ^f	2.2 (0.4 to 3.8)		.01

Abbreviations: IQR, interquartile range; NA, not applicable.

^a All venous thromboembolism events were diagnosed by the online clinical event committee. Each event was confirmed only if guideline-recommended imaging tests were presented (see definitions of outcome events in Supplement 3). Acute arterial thrombosis was defined as type I acute myocardial infarction, ischemic stroke, and acute peripheral arterial thrombosis. No patients received extracorporeal membrane oxygenation.

- ^b Difference between the total number of days alive after enrollment and the total number of days receiving invasive mechanical ventilation.
- ^c Calculated using Mann-Whitney U test.

^d Type I myocardial infarction was defined as an increase and/or decrease in cardiac troponin values with at least 1 value above the 99th percentile upper reference limits with at least 1 of the following: symptoms of ischemia, new or presumed new ischemic electrocardiographic (ECG) change, development of pathologic Q waves on the ECG findings, imaging evidence of new loss of viable myocardium or new regional wall motion abnormality in a pattern consistent with ischemic etiology confirmed by coronary angiography, intravascular imaging, or autopsy. Myocardial injury was noted in 6 patients with a combination of cardiac biomarker rise and electrocardiographic changes. Coronary angiography was only pursued in 1 patient (with normal coronary vasculature), thus type I myocardial infarction was not adjudicated in any participants.

- ^e Major bleeding consisted of Bleeding Academic Research Consortium (BARC) type 3 and 5, which defines type 3a as overt bleeding plus hemoglobin drop of 3 to 5 g/dL or any transfusion with overt bleeding; type 3b as overt bleeding plus hemoglobin drop 5 g/dL, cardiac tamponade, or bleeding requiring surgical intervention for control; type 3c as intracranial hemorrhage; and type 5 as fatal bleeding.¹⁷
- ^f For events with zero incidence in 1 group, only absolute risk difference was reported.
- ^g Clinically significant bleeding that warranted attention from the medical personnel but did not fulfil criteria for major bleeding.

^h Post hoc outcomes.

Discussion

In this multicenter randomized clinical trial of patients with COVID-19 admitted to the ICU, intermediate-dose compared with standard-dose prophylactic anticoagulation did not improve the primary composite efficacy outcome or its major components, including all-cause mortality and VTE. Results were consistent in sensitivity analyses and in key prespecified subgroups. Although bleeding events were rare, both major and clinically relevant nonmajor bleeding events were nonsignificantly more frequent with intermediate-dose

Figure 2. Primary Outcome in the Prespecified Primary Cohort in a Study of the Effect of Intermediate-Dose vs Standard-Dose Prophylactic Among Patients With COVID-19 Admitted to the Intensive Care Unit



The primary outcome was a composite of adjudicated acute arterial thrombosis, venous thromboembolism, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, or all-cause mortality during 30 days from enrollment. The prespecified primary cohort consisted of patients who received at least 1 dose of the study drug, were not excluded, and did not withdraw consent. The median (interquartile range) follow-up time was 30 (9-30) days in the intermediate-dose group and 30 (10-30) days in the standard-dose prophylactic anticoagulation group.

^a All-cause mortality events were censored by precedent venous thromboembolism (VTE) events. In some cases, the thrombotic events occurred in the prior window (ie, in the first 5 days).

^b One of the 2 VTE events was censored by a precedent ischemic stroke event.

anticoagulation, and noninferiority for major bleeding was not demonstrated. Furthermore, severe thrombocytopenia was observed only in patients assigned to receive intermediate-dose prophylactic anticoagulation.

Establishing the optimal antithrombotic prophylactic regimen in patients with COVID-19 is essential because of the reported excess rates of microvascular and macrovascular thrombosis.^{4,20-22} The observation of heightened VTE risk in patients receiving standard-dose prophylaxis²³⁻²⁵ encouraged some experts to advocate escalated-dose prophylaxis.²⁶ Although the primary end point event rate was slightly lower than expected, there was no signal for benefit. Further, noninferiority for major bleeding was not confirmed. In line with these results, an interim analysis of critically ill patients enrolled in 3 pivotal trials testing therapeutic-dose vs standard prophylactic anticoagulation (ACTIV-4a, REMAP-CAP, and ATTACC) led the data and safety monitoring board to pause further enrollment because of futility for efficacy and potential excess of safety events, and additional clarifications are awaited.27

Several potential explanations exist for the observed lack of benefit with intermediate-dose prophylactic anticoagulation in this study. First, the intensity of intermediate-dose anticoagulation might have been insufficient to prevent thrombotic events compared with the standard-dose prophylactic regimen. Some studies completed before the COVID-19 pandemic indicated that intermediate-dose regimens may be effective for preventing thrombotic events.^{19,28} At the time of study design, some experts hypothesized that intermediate intensity of anticoagulation may be suitable for patients with COVID-19. Second, the timing of anticoagulation administration and its relation to the symptom onset might affect the effectiveness of anticoagulation.²⁹ However, in this study, the results were consistent even among patients who received anticoagulation within the first 7 days from symptom onset.

Third, the study recruited a broad population of patients admitted to the ICU rather than targeting metrics such as D-dimer or specific metrics of illness severity. This was a pragmatic choice. A subgroup analysis showed that patients with baseline D-dimer elevation had outcomes consistent with the primary analysis. Fourth, the number of patients receiving mechanical ventilation at the time of enrollment in the present study was lower than some other cohorts.^{30,31} The study population correlated with the eligibility criteria of this trial, which did not allow the enrollment of the patients with extremely severe disease with estimated survival less than 24 hours. Nevertheless, many of the study participants were very ill, as indicated by the requirements for cardiopulmonary support and evidenced by the 30-day mortality rates. The possibility of a potential effect among patients who were admitted to the ICU and had more severe illness cannot be excluded or, alternatively, that heparin-based regimens might be effective in hospitalized patients not admitted to the ICU with an earlier stage of disease. In addition, it is possible that heparin-based regimens are not beneficial in critically ill patients with COVID-19,32 but that other agents may confer benefit.

Although the present study was unable to demonstrate noninferiority for the prespecified bleeding end point, major bleeding was infrequent in both study groups. Also, severe thrombocytopenia was noted in 6 patients who received intermediate-dose prophylactic anticoagulation, compared with zero patients who received standard-dose prophylactic anticoagulation, although no significant differences were noted in other platelet count measures. Because this outcome was not powered for hypothesis testing and its results were not adjusted for multiplicity, this finding should be considered exploratory. Numerous additional randomized trials with heparin-based and nonheparin agents are ongoing across the spectrum of COVID-19 illness severity and could identify potentially effective therapies in various subgroups of illness severity with COVID-19.³³

Limitations

This study has several limitations First, this trial, by design, required the estimated survival of greater than 24 hours at the determination of site physicians and exclusion of patients receiving ECMO at the time of randomization (because ECMO needs escalated-dose anticoagulation). This meant that the most severely ill patients (eg, those with unstable maximized ventilatory support or those receiving multiple vasopressor agents at the time of screening) were not included in the trial.

Figure 3. Subgroup Analysis for the Primary Outcome in a Study of the Effect of Intermediate-Dose vs Standard-Dose Prophylactic Anticoagulation Among Patients With COVID-19 Admitted to the Intensive Care Unit

	Intermediate dose, No./total No. (%)	Standard dose, No./total No. (%)	Odds ratio (95% CI)	Favors intermediate dose	Favors standard dose	P value
Age						
≥65 y	75/116 (64.6)	72/117 (61.5)	1.14 (0.67-1.94)			70
<65 y	51/160 (31.9)	54/169 (32.0)	0.99 (0.62-1.58)			.70
Sex						
Women	54/114 (47.4)	45/123 (36.6)	1.56 (0.92-2.62)			06
Men	72/162 (44.4)	81/163 (49.7)	0.81 (0.52-1.25)		_	.00
Cigarette s	moker					
Yes	15/35 (42.9)	8/21 (38.1)	1.21 (0.40-3.68)			01
No	111/241 (46.1)	118/265 (44.5)	1.06 (0.74-1.51)			.81
Diabetes						
Yes	41/82 (50.0)	35/73 (47.9)	1.08 (0.57-2.04)			0.4
No	85/194 (43.8)	90/212 (42.5)	1.05 (0.71-1.56)		-	.94
Hypertensi	ion					
Yes	64/131 (48.9)	64/118 (54.2)	0.80 (0.49-1.32)			24
No	60/142 (42.3)	62/167 (37.1)	1.23 (0.78-1.95)	_		.21
Heart failu	re					
Yes	4/7 (57.1)	3/6 (50.0)	1.33 (0.14-11.92)		-	→ 71
No	122/269 (45.4)	123/280 (43.9)	1.05 (0.75-1.48)			./1
Obstructiv	e airway disease					
Yes	6/16 (37.5)	10/23 (43.5)	1.05 (0.75-1.49)		—	70
No	116/253 (45.8)	120/270 (44.4)	1.28 (0.34-4.73)		-	.78
Symptom of	onset					
≤7 y	77/165 (46.7)	76/163 (46.6)	1.00 (0.64-1.54)		: 	47
>7 y	28/68 (41.2)	25/73 (34.2)	1.34 (0.67-2.66)		-	.47
Corticoste	roid use					
Yes	118/262 (45.0)	119/262 (45.4)	0.98 (0.69-1.38)			10
No	8/14 (57.1)	7/24 (29.2)	3.23 (0.81-12.82)	_		→ ^{.10}
Renin-ang	iotensin-aldosterone sy	stem inhibitor use				
Yes	37/78 (47 .4)	36/74 (48.6)	0.95 (0.50-1.80)			c 0
No	89/198 (44.9)	90/212 (42.5)	1.10 (0.74-1.63)		-	.69
				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	тп
			0	.1	1	10
				Udds rati) (95% CI)	

P values indicate tests of interaction between the treatment group and each of the assessed variables for the primary composite outcome.

This issue should be considered for the external validity of the findings. Second, anticoagulation assignment was openlabel. Using a double-dummy design during the COVID-19 pandemic was not considered feasible. However, the allocation sequence was concealed and outcomes were blindly adjudicated and analyzed. Third, the VTE event rate in the present study was lower than that reported in some other studies.^{6,25,34} This may in part correlate with lack of systematic routine screening, similar to results from other multicenter studies that did not use systematic screening and reported lower rates of VTE.^{9,35} Other factors that may have contributed include lower acuity of care in patients admitted to the ICU in this study compared with some other studies^{36,37} or the possible effect of antiinflammatory therapies (including steroids³⁸) on mitigating microthrombosis or macrothrombosis.⁷ Some recent studies suggest that the majority of thrombotic events in critically ill patients with COVID-19 include catheter-associated thrombosis, isolated distal deep vein thrombosis, or subsegmental pulmonary embolism, all of which are less severe forms of VTE and less likely to affect mortality.^{6,34} Fourth, although allcause mortality rates in the present study are in line with other reports of critically ill patients, ^{30,31,34} the CI for the primary outcome was relatively wide. Consequently, the possibility of a small benefit or a small and important harm cannot be excluded. Fifth, due to resource limitations, the study focused only on clinical events that were assumed to directly affect hard clinical end points. In this setting, the case report form did not collect information related to radial arterial line exchange (due to nonfunctioning) or nonfunctioning dialysis lines. Sixth, only 4 study participants weighed more than 120 kg, limiting the generalizability of the results to patients with higher body weight or obesity.

Conclusions

Among patients with COVID-19 admitted to the ICU, intermediate-dose prophylactic anticoagulation, compared with standard-dose prophylactic anticoagulation, did not result in a significant difference in the primary outcome of a composite of venous or arterial thrombosis, treatment with ECMO, or mortality within 30 days. These results do not support the routine empirical use of intermediate-dose prophylactic anticoagulation in unselected patients with COVID-19 admitted to the ICU.

ARTICLE INFORMATION

Accepted for Publication: March 4, 2021. Published Online: March 18, 2021. doi:10.1001/jama.2021.4152

Authors/INSPIRATION Investigators: Parham Sadeghipour, MD; Azita H. Talasaz, PharmD; Farid Rashidi, MD: Babak Sharif-Kashani, MD: Mohammad Taghi Beigmohammadi, MD; Mohsen Farrokhpour, MD; Seyed Hashem Sezavar, MD; Poova Pavandemehr, MD: Ali Dabbagh, MD: Keivan Gohari Moghadam, MD; Sepehr Jamalkhani, MD ('23): Hossein Khalili, PharmD: Mahdi Yadollahzadeh, MD; Taghi Riahi, MD; Parisa Rezaeifar, MD; Ouria Tahamtan, MD; Samira Matin, MD: Atefeh Abedini, MD: Somaveh Lookzadeh, MD; Hamid Rahmani, PharmD; Elnaz Zoghi, PharmD; Keyhan Mohammadi, PharmD; Pardis Sadeghipour, MD; Homa Abri, MD; Sanaz Tabrizi, MD; Seyed Masoud Mousavian, MD; Shaghayegh Shahmirzaei, MD; Hooman Bakhshandeh, MD, PhD; Ahmad Amin, MD; Farnaz Rafiee, MD; Elahe Baghizadeh, MD; Bahram Mohebbi, MD; Seyed Ehsan Parhizgar, MD; Rasoul Aliannejad, MD; Vahid Eslami, MD; Alireza Kashefizadeh, MD; Hessam Kakavand, PharmD; Seyed Hossein Hosseini, PharmD; Shadi Shafaghi, MD; Samrand Fattah Ghazi, MD; Atabak Najafi, MD; David Jimenez, MD, PhD; Aakriti Gupta, MD, MS; Mahesh V. Madhavan, MD; Sanjum S. Sethi, MD, MPH; Sahil A. Parikh, MD; Manuel Monreal, MD; Naser Hadavand, PharmD; Alireza Hajighasemi, PharmD: Maiid Maleki, MD: Saeed Sadeghian, MD: Gregory Piazza, MD, MS; Ajay J. Kirtane, MD, SM; Benjamin W. Van Tassell, PharmD; Paul P. Dobesh, PharmD; Gregg W. Stone, MD; Gregory Y. H. Lip, MD; Harlan M. Krumholz, MD, SM; Samuel Z. Goldhaber, MD: Behnood Bikdeli, MD, MS.

Affiliations of Authors/INSPIRATION Investigators: Cardiovascular Intervention Research Center, Rajaie Cardiovascular, Medical, and Research Center, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Parham Sadeghipour, Mohebbi); Clinical Trial Center, Rajaie Cardiovascular, Medical, and Research Center, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Parham Sadeghipour, Bakhshandeh); Tehran Heart Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Talasaz, Hajighasemi, Sadeghian); Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases Research Center. Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran (Rashidi, Rezaeifar, Tahamtan, Matin); Tobacoo Prevention and control Research center, National Research institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (NRITLD), Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Sharif-Kashani); Lung Transplantation Research Center, Department of Cardiology, National Research Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (NRITLD), Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Sharif-Kashani, Shafaghi); Anesthesiology and Intensive Care, Imam Khomeini Hospital Complex, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Beigmohammadi, Ghazi); Firouzgar hospital, Department of internal medicine, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Farrokhpour, Yadollahzadeh, Pardis Sadeghipour, Abri); Research Center for Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease, Institute of Endocrinology & Metabolism, Iran University of Medical Sciences. Tehran. Iran (Sezavar); Sina Hospital, Tehran University of

Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Pavandemehr, Shahmirzaei, Najafi); Department of Anesthesiology, School of Medicine Anesthesiology Research Center Shahid Modarres Hospital, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Dabbagh); School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Shariati Hospital, Tehran, Iran (Moghadam): Student Research Committee. Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Jamalkhani); Department of Pharmacotherapy, Imam Khomeini Hospital Complex, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Khalili): Rasoul-e-Akram Hospital, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Riahi, Tabrizi, Mousavian); Chronic Respiratory Disease Research Center, Masih Daneshvari Hospital, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Abedini, Lookzadeh); Department of Pharmacotherapy, Faculty of Pharmacy, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah, Iran (Rahmani); School of Pharmacy, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Zoghi, Mohammadi, Kakavand, Hosseini); Rajaie Cardiovascular Medical and Research Center, Iran university of Medical sciences, Tehran, Iran (Bakhshandeh, Amin, Rafiee, Baghizadeh, Parhizgar, Hadavand, Maleki); School of Medicine, Department of Pulmonary and Critical Care, Shariati Hospital, Tehran, Iran (Aliannejad); Advanced Thoracic Research Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Aliannejad); Cardiovascular Research Center, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Eslami); Shahid Dr Labbafinejad Hospital, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Kashefizadeh); Respiratory Department, Hospital Ramón y Cajal (IRYCIS), Madrid, Spain (Jimenez): Medicine Department, Universidad de Alcalá (IRYCIS), Madrid, Spain (Jimenez); CIBER Enfermedades Respiratorias (CIBERES), Madrid, Spain (Jimenez); Cardiovascular Research Foundation (CRF), New York, New York (Gupta, Madhavan, Sethi, Parikh, Kirtane, Stone, Bikdeli): Division of Cardiology, Columbia University Irving Medical Center/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, New York, New York (Gupta, Madhavan, Sethi, Parikh, Kirtane); Yale/YNHH Center for Outcomes Research & Evaluation. New Haven. Connecticut (Gupta, Krumholz, Bikdeli); Department of Internal Medicine, Hospital Germans Trias i Pujol, Badalona, Barcelona, Universidad Católica de Murcia, Murcia, Spain (Monreal); Cardiovascular Medicine Division, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts (Piazza, Goldhaber, Bikdeli); School of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcome Science, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia (Van Tassell); School of Pharmacy, Pauley Heart Center, Division of Cardiology, Department of Internal Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia (Van Tassell); College of Pharmacy, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha (Dobesh); The Zena and Michael A. Wiener Cardiovascular Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, New York (Stone): Liverpool Centre for Cardiovascular Science, University of Liverpool and Liverpool Heart & Chest Hospital, Liverpool, United Kingdom (Lip): Aalborg University, Aalborg, Denmark (Lip); Section of Cardiovascular Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut (Krumholz); Department of Health

Policy and Administration, Yale School of Public Health, New Haven, Connecticut (Krumholz).

Author Contributions: Dr Sadeghipour had full access to all of the data in the study and takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.

Concept and design: Parham Sadeghipour, Talasaz, Rashidi, Sharif-Kashani, Beigmohammadi, Sezavar, Payandemehr, Dabbagh, Gohari Moghadam, Riahi, Abedini, Mohebbi, Kakavand, Fattah Ghazi, Najafi, Jimenez, Sethi, Monreal, Hajighasemi, Sadeghian, Piazza, Kirtane, Dobesh, Bikdeli.

Acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data: Parham Sadeghipour, Talasaz, Sharif-Kashani, Beigmohammadi, Farrokhpour, Payandemehr, Dabbagh, Jamalkhani, Khalili, Yadollahzadeh, Rezaeifar, Tahamtan, Matin, Lookzadeh, Rahmani, Zoghi, Mohammadi, Pardis Sadeghipour, Abri, Tabrizi, Mousavian, Shahmirzaei, Bakhshandeh, Amin, Rafiee, Baghizadeh, Mohebbi, Parhizgar, Aliannejad, Eslami, Kashefizadeh, Hosseini, Shafaghi, Jimenez, Gupta, Madhavan, Sethi, Parikh, Hadavand, Maleki, Piazza, Van Tassell, Stone, Lip, Krumholz, Goldhaber, Bikdeli.

Drafting of the manuscript: Parham Sadeghipour, Talasaz, Sharif-Kashani, Farrokhpour, Payandemehr, Jamalkhani, Khalili, Yadollahzadeh, Riahi, Rezaeifar, Tahamtan, Matin, Lookzadeh, Pardis Sadeghipour, Abri, Tabrizi, Mousavian, Shahmirzaei, Rafiee, Baghizadeh, Mohebbi, Parhizgar, Eslami, Kashefizadeh, Hosseini, Shafaghi, Fattah Ghazi, Naiafi, Bikdeli.

Critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content: Parham Sadeghipour, Talasaz, Rashidi, Beigmohammadi, Sezavar, Payandemehr, Dabbagh, Gohari Moghadam, Abedini, Rahmani, Zoghi, Mohammadi, Bakhshandeh, Amin, Mohebbi, Aliannejad, Kakavand, Najafi, Jimenez, Gupta, Madhavan, Sethi, Parikh, Monreal, Hadavand, Hajighasemi, Maleki, Sadeghian, Piazza, Kirtane, Van Tassell, Dobesh, Stone, Lip, Krumholz, Goldhaber, Bikdeli.

Statistical analysis: Parham Sadeghipour, Bakhshandeh, Mohebbi, Jimenez. *Obtained funding:* Parham Sadeghipour, Abedini,

Najafi. Administrative, technical, or material support: Parham Sadeghipour, Talasaz, Beigmohammadi, Payandemehr, Gohari Moghadam, Khalili, Abedini, Rahmani, Zoghi, Mohammadi, Amin, Mohebbi, Parhizgar, Aliannejad, Kakavand, Fattah Ghazi, Najafi, Sethi, Hadavand, Hajighasemi, Maleki, Sadeghian, Piazza, Bikdeli.

Supervision: Parham Sadeghipour, Talasaz, Rashidi, Sharif-Kashani, Beigmohammadi, Payandemehr, Gohari Moghadam, Riahi, Mohebbi, Gupta, Monreal, Piazza, Van Tassell, Dobesh, Goldhaber, Bikdeli.

Other - monitoring of the study progress, supporting patient recruitment, data clarifications, and data entry: Sharif-Kashani, Farrokhpour, Sezavar, Jamalkhani, Yadollahzadeh, Rezaeifar, Tahamtan, Matin, Lookzadeh, Pardis Sadeghipour, Abri, Tabrizi, Mousavian, Shahmirzaei, Eslami, Kashefizadeh, Hosseini, Shafaghi.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Dr Jimenez reported receiving personal fees from Bristol Myers Squibb, Daiichi-Sankyo, Bayer, Pfizer, Rovi, and Leo-Pharma and grants from Sanofi outside the submitted work. Dr Gupta reported receiving consulting fees from Edwards Lifesciences, Arnold Porter Law Firm, and Ben C. Martin Law Firm and equity from Heartbeat Health Inc outside the submitted work. Dr Madhavan reported receiving an institutional research grant to Columbia University Irving Medical Center (T32 HL007854) from the National Institutes of Health/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute during the conduct of the study. Dr Sethi reported receiving personal fees from Janssen and Chiesi and grants from the American Heart Association outside the submitted work. Dr Parikh reported receiving grants from Abbott Vascular, Boston Scientific, Surmodics, and TriReme Medical: nonfinancial support from Cordis. Medtronic, Philips, and Cardiovascular Systems Inc; and personal fees from Terumo, Abiomed, Inari, and Penumbra outside the submitted work. Dr Monreal reported receiving grants from Sanofi outside the submitted work. Dr Piazza reported receiving grants from Bristol Myers Squibb/Pfizer, Janssen, Portola, Boston Scientific, and Bayer and serving on a data and safety monitoring board for Prairie Education and Research Cooperative outside the submitted work. Dr Kirtane reported receiving institutional funding to Columbia University and/or the Cardiovascular Research Foundation from Medtronic, Boston Scientific, Abbott Vascular, Abiomed, Cardiovascular Systems Inc, CathWorks, Siemens, Philips, and ReCor Medical, including fees paid to Columbia University and/or the Cardiovascular Research Foundation for speaking engagements and/or consulting; consulting fees from Neurotronic; and travel expenses/meals from Medtronic. Boston Scientific. Abbott Vascular. Abiomed, Cardiovascular Systems Inc, CathWorks, Siemens, Philips, ReCor Medical, Chiesi, OpSens, Zoll, and Regeneron. Dr Dobesh reported receiving personal fees from the Pfizer/Bristol Myers Squibb Alliance and Janssen Pharmaceuticals outside the submitted work. Dr Stone reported receiving personal fees from Terumo, Cook, TherOx, Reva, Vascular Dynamics, Robocath, HeartFlow, Gore, Ablative Solutions, Matrizyme, Miracor Neovasc, V-wave, Abiomed, MAIA Pharmaceuticals. Shockwave, Vectorious, Cardiomech, and Elucid Bio; equity/equity options from Applied Therapeutics, MedFocus, Biostar, Aria, Cagent, Cardiac Success; personal fees and equity/equity options from Spectrawave, Valfix, Ancora; and personal fees, equity/equity options, and honorarium from Orchestra Biomed, and outside the submitted work. Dr Lip reported being a consultant and speaker for Bristol Myers Squibb/ Pfizer, Boehringer Ingelheim, and Daiichi-Sankyo outside the submitted work. Dr Krumholz reported receiving personal fees from UnitedHealth, IBM Watson Health, Element Science, Aetna, Facebook, Siegfried & Jensen Law Firm, Arnold & Porter Law Firm, Martin/Baughman Law Firm, F-Prime, and the National Center for Cardiovascular Diseases, Beijing: being the cofounder of HugoHealth. a personal health information platform, and Refactor Health, an enterprise health care artificial intelligence-augmented data management company; receiving contracts from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, through Yale New Haven Hospital, to develop and maintain measures of hospital performance; and receiving grants from Medtronic, the US Food and Drug Administration, Johnson & Johnson, and the Shenzhen Center for Health Information outside the submitted work. Dr Goldhaber reported receiving grants from Bayer, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Boston Blood Institute, and Pfizer and personal fees from Agile, Bayer, Boehringer-Ingelheim, and Pfizer outside the submitted work. Dr Bikdeli reported being a consulting expert, on behalf of the plaintiff, for litigation related to 2 specific brand models of inferior vena cava filters. No other disclosures were reported.

Funding/Support: The study was funded by the Rajaie Cardiovascular Medical and Research Center. Some study authors, including the lead author, are affiliated with the Rajaie Cardiovascular Medical and Research Center. Enoxaparin was provided through Alborz Darou, Pooyesh Darou, and Caspian Pharmaceuticals companies, and atorvastatin and matching placebo was provided by Sobhan Darou. None of these companies were study sponsors.

Role of the Funder/Sponsor: Some study authors are affiliated with the study funder (Rajaie Cardiovascular and Medical Research Center). Neither the funder, nor the companies who donated the study drugs (Alborz Darou, Pooyesh Darou and Caspian Pharmaceuticals) had any role in the design and conduct of the study; collection, management, analysis, and interpretation of the data; preparation, review, or approval of the manuscript; and decision to submit the manuscript for publication.

Group Information: A list of the INSPIRATION collaborators appears in Supplement 4.

Data Sharing Statement: See Supplement 5.

Additional Contributions: The authors would like to thank the members of the data and safety monitoring board, Saeideh Mazloomzadeh, MD, PhD; Shiva Khaleghparast, PhD; Behshid Ghadrdoost, PhD; Mostafa Mousavizadeh, MD; and Mohammad Reza Baay, MD (Raiaie Cardiovascular, Medical and Research Center). The authors would also like to thank Feridoun Noohi, MD (Rajaie Cardiovascular, Medical and Research Center), for his support for performing this study, Hamidreza Sharifnia, MD: Arezoo Ahmadi, MD (Sina Hospital, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran); Sasan Tavana, MD; Nasser Malekpour Alamdari, MD; Mohammad Fathi, MD; Mahshid Soleimanzadeh, MD (Shahid Modarres Hospital, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences. Tehran, Iran); Mostafa Mohammadi, MD (Imam Khomeini Hospital Complex, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran); and Navid Davoody, MD (Rasoul-e-Akram Hospital, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran), for their kind support for patient recruitment and Maryam Zarinsadaf, Sara Tayyebi, MS; Fahimeh Farrokhzadeh, MS; Faeze Nezamabadi, MS; and Esmaeil Soomari, MS (Rajaie Cardiovascular, Medical and Research Center), for their support and contribution to the INSPIRATION study.

REFERENCES

1. Ackermann M, Verleden SE, Kuehnel M, et al. Pulmonary vascular endothelialitis, thrombosis, and angiogenesis in Covid-19. *N Engl J Med*. 2020;383 (2):120-128. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2015432

2. Wichmann D, Sperhake JP, Lütgehetmann M, et al. Autopsy findings and venous thromboembolism in patients with COVID-19: a prospective cohort study. *Ann Intern Med*. 2020; 173(4):268-277. doi:10.7326/M20-2003

3. Libby P, Lüscher T. COVID-19 is, in the end, an endothelial disease. *Eur Heart J*. 2020;41(32): 3038-3044. doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehaa623 4. Bikdeli B, Madhavan MV, Jimenez D, et al; Global COVID-19 Thrombosis Collaborative Group, Endorsed by the ISTH, NATF, ESVM, and the IUA, Supported by the ESC Working Group on Pulmonary Circulation and Right Ventricular Function. COVID-19 and thrombotic or thromboembolic disease: implications for prevention, antithrombotic therapy, and follow-up: jacc state-of-the-art review. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2020; 75(23):2950-2973. doi:10.1016/j.jacc.2020.04.031

5. Bilaloglu S, Aphinyanaphongs Y, Jones S, Iturrate E, Hochman J, Berger JS. Thrombosis in hospitalized patients with COVID-19 in a New York City health system. *JAMA*. 2020;324(8):799-801. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.13372

6. Jiménez D, García-Sanchez A, Rali P, et al. Incidence of venous thromboembolism and bleeding among hospitalized patients with COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Chest.* 2021;159(3):1182-1196. doi:10.1016/j.chest. 2020.11.005

7. Bikdeli B, Madhavan MV, Gupta A, et al; Global COVID-19 Thrombosis Collaborative Group. Pharmacological agents targeting thromboinflammation in COVID-19: review and implications for future research. *Thromb Haemost*. 2020;120(7):1004-1024. doi:10.1055/s-0040-1713152

8. Paranjpe I, Fuster V, Lala A, et al. Association of treatment dose anticoagulation with in-hospital survival among hospitalized patients with COVID-19. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2020;76(1):122-124. doi:10.1016/j.jacc.2020.05.001

9. Al-Samkari H, Gupta S, Karp Leaf R, et al Thrombosis, bleeding, and the effect of anticoagulation on survival in critically ill patients with COVID-19 in the United States. *Res Pract Thromb Haemost*. 2020;4.

 Lemos ACB, do Espírito Santo DA, Salvetti MC, et al. Therapeutic versus prophylactic anticoagulation for severe COVID-19: a randomized phase II clinical trial (HESACOVID). *Thromb Res*. 2020;196:359-366. doi:10.1016/j.thromres.2020.09. 026

11. Bikdeli B. Anticoagulation in COVID-19: randomized trials should set the balance between excitement and evidence. *Thromb Res.* 2020;196: 638-640. doi:10.1016/j.thromres.2020.09.033

12. Barnes GD, Burnett A, Allen A, et al. Thromboembolism and anticoagulant therapy during the COVID-19 pandemic: interim clinical guidance from the anticoagulation forum. *J Thromb Thrombolysis*. 2020;50(1):72-81. doi:10.1007/ s11239-020-02138-z

13. Moores LK, Tritschler T, Brosnahan S, et al. Prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of VTE in patients with coronavirus disease 2019: CHEST guideline and expert panel report. *Chest*. 2020;158 (3):1143-1163. doi:10.1016/j.chest.2020.05.559

14. Ramacciotti E, Macedo AS, Biagioni RB, et al. Evidence-based practical guidance for the antithrombotic management in patients with coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in 2020. *Clin Appl Thromb Hemost.* 2020;26:1076029620936350. doi:10.1177/1076029620936350

15. Cuker A, Tseng EK, Nieuwlaat R, et al. American Society of Hematology 2021 guidelines on the use of anticoagulation for thromboprophylaxis in patients with COVID-19. *Blood Adv*. 2021;5(3):872-888. doi:10.1182/bloodadvances.2020003763

Scientific, Janssen, the National Heart, Lung, and

16. Bikdeli B, Talasaz AH, Rashidi F, et al. Intermediate versus standard-dose prophylactic anticoagulation and statin therapy versus placebo in critically-ill patients with COVID-19: rationale and design of the INSPIRATION/INSPIRATION-S studies. *Thromb Res.* 2020;196:382-394. doi:10.1016/j. thromres.2020.09.027

17. Mehran R, Rao SV, Bhatt DL, et al. Standardized bleeding definitions for cardiovascular clinical trials: a consensus report from the Bleeding Academic Research Consortium. *Circulation*. 2011;123(23): 2736-2747. doi:10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.110. 009449

18. Cook D, Meade M, Guyatt G, et al; PROTECT Investigators for the Canadian Critical Care Trials Group and the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society Clinical Trials Group. Dalteparin versus unfractionated heparin in critically ill patients. *N Engl J Med*. 2011;364(14): 1305-1314. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1014475

19. Eck RJ, Bult W, Wetterslev J, et al. Intermediate dose low-molecular-weight heparin for thrombosis prophylaxis: systematic review with meta-analysis and trial sequential analysis. *Semin Thromb Hemost*. 2019;45(8):810-824. doi:10.1055/s-0039-1696965

20. Connors JM, Levy JH. COVID-19 and its implications for thrombosis and anticoagulation. *Blood.* 2020;135(23):2033-2040. doi:10.1182/blood. 2020006000

21. Levi M, Thachil J, Iba T, Levy JH. Coagulation abnormalities and thrombosis in patients with COVID-19. *Lancet Haematol*. 2020;7(6):e438-e440. doi:10.1016/S2352-3026(20)30145-9

22. Piazza G, Morrow DA. Diagnosis, management, and pathophysiology of arterial and venous thrombosis in COVID-19. *JAMA*. 2020;324(24): 2548-2549. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.23422

23. Llitjos JF, Leclerc M, Chochois C, et al. High incidence of venous thromboembolic events in anticoagulated severe COVID-19 patients. *J Thromb Haemost.* 2020;18(7):1743-1746. doi:10.1111/jth.14869

24. Al-Samkari H, Karp Leaf RS, Dzik WH, et al. COVID-19 and coagulation: bleeding and thrombotic manifestations of SARS-CoV-2 infection. *Blood*. 2020;136(4):489-500. doi:10. 1182/blood.2020006520

25. Klok FA, Kruip MJHA, van der Meer NJM, et al. Incidence of thrombotic complications in critically ill ICU patients with COVID-19. *Thromb Res*. 2020;191: 145-147. doi:10.1016/j.thromres.2020.04.013

26. Spyropoulos AC. The management of venous thromboembolism in hospitalized patients with COVID-19. *Blood Adv.* 2020;4(16):4028. doi:10. 1182/bloodadvances.2020002496

27. NIH ACTIV trial of blood thinners pauses enrollment of critically ill COVID-19 patients. News release. National Institutes of Health. December 22, 2020. Accessed January 15, 2021. https://www.nih. gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-activ-trialblood-thinners-pauses-enrollment-critically-illcovid-19-patients

28. Pannucci CJ, Fleming KI, Agarwal J, Rockwell WB, Prazak AM, Momeni A. The impact of onceversus twice-daily enoxaparin prophylaxis on risk for venous thromboembolism and clinically relevant bleeding. *Plast Reconstr Surg.* 2018;142(1): 239-249. doi:10.1097/PRS.00000000004517

29. Yamakawa K, Umemura Y, Murao S, Hayakawa M, Fujimi S. Optimal timing and early intervention with anticoagulant therapy for sepsis-induced disseminated intravascular coagulation. *Clin Appl Thromb Hemost.* 2019;25:1076029619835055. doi: 10.1177/1076029619835055

30. Cummings MJ, Baldwin MR, Abrams D, et al. Epidemiology, clinical course, and outcomes of critically ill adults with COVID-19 in New York City: a prospective cohort study. *Lancet*. 2020;395 (10239):1763-1770. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(20) 31189-2

31. Grasselli G, Zangrillo A, Zanella A, et al; COVID-19 Lombardy ICU Network. Baseline characteristics and outcomes of 1591 patients infected with SARS-CoV-2 admitted to ICUs of the Lombardy Region, Italy. *JAMA*. 2020;323(16):1574-1581. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.5394

32. White D, MacDonald S, Bull T, et al. Heparin resistance in COVID-19 patients in the intensive care unit. *J Thromb Thrombolysis*. 2020;50(2):287-291. doi:10.1007/s11239-020-02145-0

33. Talasaz AH, Sadeghipour P, Kakavand H, et al. Antithrombotic therapy in COVID-19: systematic summary of ongoing or completed randomized trials. J Am Coll Cardiol. Published online March 16, 2021. doi:10.1016/j.jacc.2021.02.035

34. Piazza G, Campia U, Hurwitz S, et al. Registry of arterial and venous thromboembolic complications in patients with COVID-19. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2020; 76(18):2060-2072. doi:10.1016/j.jacc.2020.08.070

35. Hendren NS, de Lemos JA, Ayers C, et al. Association of body mass index and age with morbidity and mortality in patients hospitalized with COVID-19: results from the American Heart Association COVID-19 Cardiovascular Disease Registry. *Circulation*. 2021;143(2):135-144. doi:10. 1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.120.051936

36. Horby P, Lim WS, Emberson JR, et al; RECOVERY Collaborative Group. Dexamethasone in hospitalized patients with Covid-19. *N Engl J Med*. 2021;384(8):693-704. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2021436

37. Tomazini BM, Maia IS, Cavalcanti AB, et al; COALITION COVID-19 Brazil III Investigators. Effect of dexamethasone on days alive and ventilator-free in patients with moderate or severe acute respiratory distress syndrome and COVID-19: the CoDEX randomized clinical trial. *JAMA*. 2020;324 (13):1307-1316. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.17021

38. Sterne JAC, Murthy S, Diaz JV, et al; WHO Rapid Evidence Appraisal for COVID-19 Therapies (REACT) Working Group. Association between administration of systemic corticosteroids and mortality among critically ill patients with COVID-19: a meta-analysis. *JAMA*. 2020;324(13): 1330-1341. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.17023