Reviewer’s report

Title: Ischemic stroke risk estimation in patients without oral anticoagulation: an observational cohort study based on secondary data from Germany

Version: 0 Date: 03 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Kang-Ling Wang

Reviewer's report:

The authors are congratulated on conducting this study that presented an update on the risk of ischemic stroke/systemic embolism in German patients with atrial fibrillation. This is the first study in the cohort after 2013 when most of the currently available oral anticoagulants were licensed.

My comments:

1. The inception of this cohort was in 2014 and the outcomes were assessed in 2015 and 2016. Those who died in 2014 were also excluded. Such approach introduced survivorship bias and the authors should be aware of it.

2. On page 6, line 143, the missing reference should be added.

3. The current guidelines (either European or American) recommend anticoagulation treatments in patients with atrial fibrillation and with one additional risk factor other than gender (page 3, lines 66-68).

4. On page 3, line 63, it should be RCTs rather than RTCs.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
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Yes
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
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