

	< 24 h n=73	> 24 – 72 h n=190	> 3 – 7 d n=344	> 7 – 14 d n=410	> 14 – 28 d n=174	>28d – 3m n=49
Age (Mean, SD) (Median, IQ)	72 ± 11 (69-75)	74 ± 10 (73-76)	75 ± 9 (73-76)	75 ± 9 (74-77)	76 ± 9 (74-78)	77 ± 10 (73-80)
Gender (N, %, Female)	29 (39.7%)	95 (50%)	175 (50.9%)	225 (54.9%)	99 (56.9%)	33 (67.3%)
NIHSS baseline (Median, IQ)	8 (5-14)	8 (5-14)	8 (6-13)	12 (7-17)	14 (10-18)	15 (9-19)
SBP (mm Hg, Mean, SD)	156 ± 22	150 ± 21	154 ± 22	155 ± 23	152 ± 22	157 ± 29
DBP (mm Hg, Mean, SD)	87 ± 12	83 ± 15	84 ± 14	85 ± 15	85 ± 17	91 ± 16
Glucose (mmol/dl, Mean, SD)	6.8 ± 1	7.1 ± 3	7.3 ± 2	7.8 ± 3	7.4 ± 2	7.1 ± 2
Weight (kg, Mean, SD)	84 ± 16	79 ± 15	77 ± 15	78 ± 15	77 ± 16	77 ± 17
Hypertension (%)	75.3%	77.9%	74.9%	79.9%	76.3%	77.6%
Diabetes (%)	15.1%	17.4%	16.9%	18.1%	16.9%	22.4%
Hyperlipidemia (%)	29.6%	33.5%	25.5%	34.4%	21.9%	26.5%
Previous TIA (%)	5.5%	6.8%	6.2%	3.4%	5.8%	6.1%
Current smoker (%)	5.8%	8.6%	7.1%	8.9%	5.4%	6.3%
Previous smoker (%)	8.7%	8.0%	10.8%	10.5%	6.8%	10.9%
Congestive heart failure (%)	12.3%	7.4%	8.7%	13.2%	11.6%	14.3%
Vascular disease (%)	12.3%	10.6%	13.9%	12.5%	10.5%	8.3%
Renal impairment (%)	2.0%	2.8%	2.1%	3.5%	1.2%	2.2%
Abnormal liver function (%)	0.0%	0.6%	2.1%	1.5%	1.2%	0.0%
Alcohol use (%)	8.5%	2.3%	4.0%	2.1%	4.3%	2.2%
History of / predisposition to bleeding (%)	2.1%	1.1%	3.0%	3.0%	1.8%	4.4%
Labile INR (%)	0.0%	4.8%	3.1%	2.7%	5.8%	4.5%
Previous AF (%)	20.5%	22.2%	27.9%	19.1%	22.5%	42.9%
Previous mRS (Median, IQR)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0-1)
Previous CHA2DS2-VASc (Mean, 95%CI) (Median, IQ)	2.9 (2.5-3.2) 3 (1-5)	3.2 (3-3.4) 3 (1-5)	3.2 (3-3.3) 3 (1-5)	3.2 (3.1-3.4) 3 (1-5)	3.3 (3.-3.5) 3 (1-5)	3.4 (3.1-3.8) 3.5 (2.5-4.5)
Previous HAS-BLED (Mean, 95%CI) (Median, IQ)	1.1 (0.9-1.3) 1 (0-3)	1.3 (1.2-1.3) 1 (0-2)	1.2 (1.2-1.3) 1 (0-2)	1.3 (1.2-1.4) 1 (0-1)	1.2 (1-1.3) 1 (1-1)	1.2 (1.1-1.4) 1 (0-2)
CHA2DS2-VASc (Mean, 95%CI) (Median, IQ)	4.7 (3.1-6.3) 5 (4-6)	5 (3.7-6.3) 5 (4-6)	5 (3.6-6.4) 5 (4-6)	5.2 (3.8-6.6) 5 (4-6)	5.2 (3.8-6.6) 5 (4-6)	5.3 (4.2-6.4) 5 (4-6)
HAS-BLED (Mean, 95%CI) (Median, IQ)	1.7 (0.9-2.5) 3 (2-3)	1.7 (1-2.4) 3 (2-3)	1.7 (0.9-2.5) 3 (2-3)	1.8 (1.1-2.5) 3 (2-3)	1.7 (1-2.4) 3 (2-3)	1.8 (1.2-2.4) 3 (2-3)
Signs of acute infarct (N, %)	11 (15.9%)	23 (14.5%)	33 (12%)	36 (11.3%)	22 (15.9%)	3 (17.1%)

Supplementary Table I. Baseline characteristics according to time initiation.

	Dabigatran patients with available time of initiation N = 1240	Dabigatran patients NO timing information N= 249	P value
Age (Mean, SD) (Median, IQR)	75 ± 10 (69-82)	74 ± 10 (69-80)	0.15
Gender (N, %, Female)	656 (52.9%)	132 (53%)	0.97
NIHSS baseline (Median, IQR)	10 (6-16)	14 (9-19)	<0.001
SBP (mm Hg, Mean, SD)	153 ± 23	154 ± 25	0.31
DBP (mm Hg, Mean, SD)	85 ± 15	84 ± 14	0.23
Glucose (mmol/dl, Mean, SD)	7.3 ± 2.3	7.8 ± 5.1	<0.001
Weight (kg, Mean, SD)	78 ± 15	77 ± 13	0.004
Hypertension (N, %)	955 (77%)	189 (75.9%)	0.63
Diabetes (N, %)	216 (17.4%)	48 (19.3%)	0.5
Hyperlipidemia (N, %)	349 (28.1%)	75 (30.1%)	0.04
Previous TIA (N, %)	65 (5.3%)	10 (4%)	0.48
Current smoker (N, %)	88 (7.1%)	15 (6%)	0.051
Previous smoker (N, %)	107 (8.8%)	30 (12.3%)	0.048
Congestive heart failure (N, %)	134 (10.9%)	24 (9.6%)	0.57
Vascular disease (N, %)	149 (12%)	33 (13.3%)	0.6
Renal impairment (N, %)	30 (2.6%)	5 (2.4%)	0.88
Abnormal liver function (N, %)	16 (1.4%)	1 (0.5%)	0.5
Alcohol use (N, %)	37 (3.2%)	9 (4.3%)	0.44
History of / predisposition to bleeding (N, %)	30 (2.6%)	12 (5.7%)	0.02
Labile INR (N, %)	39 (3.5%)	5 (2.5%)	0.46
Previous AF (N, %)	720 (58.6%)	110 (44.4%)	<0.001
Previous mRS (Median, IQR)	0 (0-0)	0 (0-0)	0.98
Previous CHA2DS2-VASc (Mean) (Median, IQR)	3.1 3 (2-4)	3.1 3 (2-4)	0.31
Previous HAS-BLED (Mean) (Median, IQR)	1.7 1 (1-2)	1.7 1 (1-2)	0.64
CHA2DS2-VASc Discharge (Mean) (Median, IQR)	5.1 5 (4-6)	5.1 5 (4-6)	0.53
HAS-BLED Discharge (Mean) (Median, IQR)	2.7 3 (2-3)	2.8 3 (2-3)	0.73
IVT (N, %)	1055 (85.1%)	180 (72.3%)	<0.001
EVT (N, %)	68 (5.5%)	23 (9.2%)	<0.001
IVT+EVT (N, %)	117 (9.4%)	46 (18.5%)	<0.001

Supplementary Table II. Baseline characteristics of patients initiating dabigatran after the index event.

Legend Supplementary Figure 1. Histogram of initiation time periods, showing proportion of patients and median NIHSS at baseline for each group