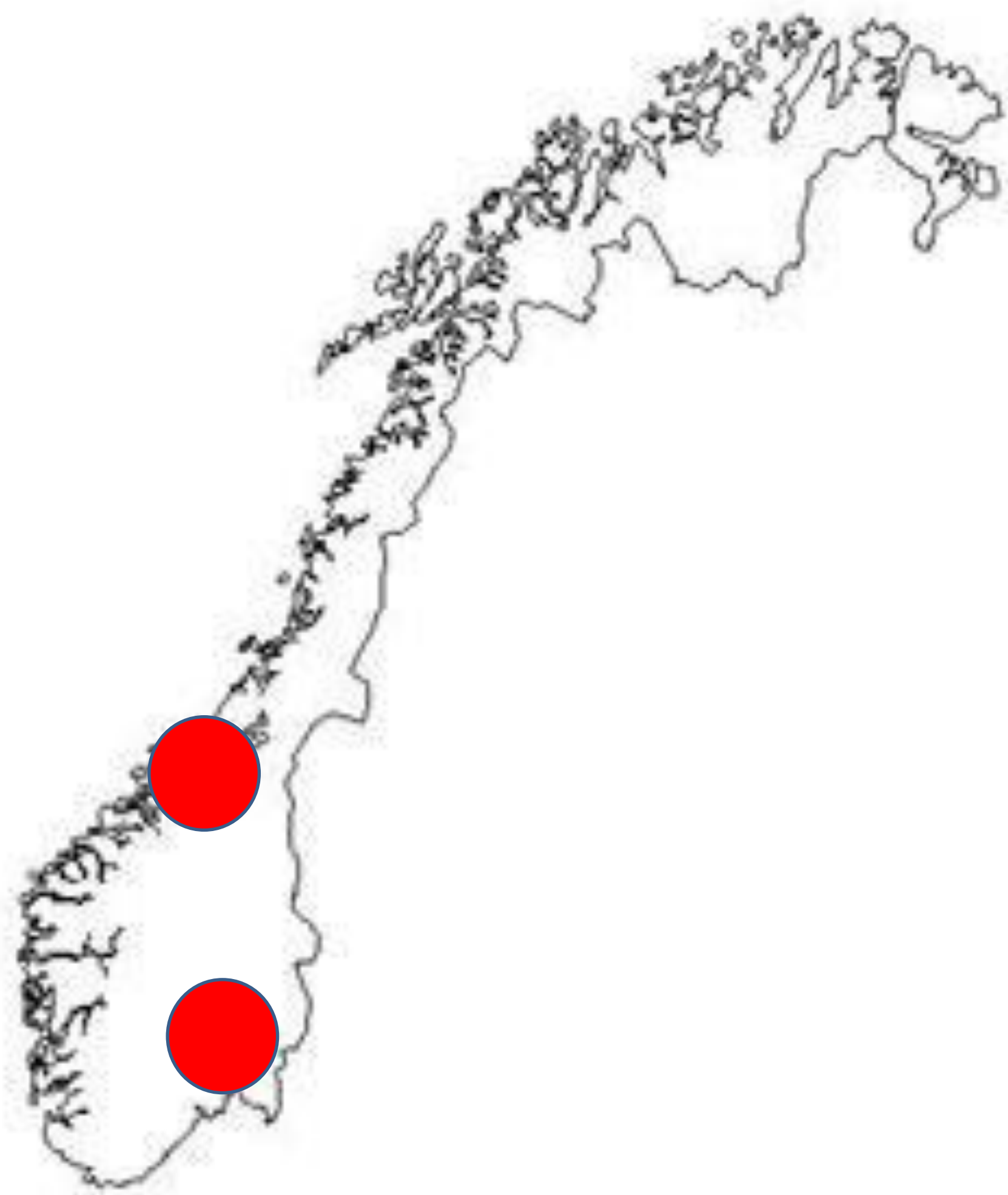


Differences between women and men in use of antithrombotic drugs in patients with stroke and atrial fibrillation



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Women with AF were less likely than men to be on treatment with new oral anticoagulants prior to the stroke.

Introduction

Women who suffer stroke are older than men, have more cardioembolic aetiology including atrial fibrillation (AF) and suffer from more severe strokes.

We aimed to investigate whether the use of antithrombotic drugs is different in women and men with stroke and AF.

Methods

We used data from the Norwegian Stroke Registry 2016 and extracted people with detected AF, both known and detected during the hospital stay.

Using the Chi-square test we compared the use of different antithrombotic drugs prior to stroke and upon discharge.

Results

Out of 8650 patients, 2290 (26.5%) had AF. There were significantly more AF among women than men (27.7 vs 25.5%, $p = 0.02$).

On admission, there were no differences between women and men in the use of aspirin (31.2 vs 32.1%, $p = 0.495$), clopidogrel (1.9 vs 2.5%, $p = 0.327$) or warfarin (21.8 vs 23.6, $p = 0.30$). Women were less likely to be on treatment with other anticoagulants (19.4 vs 23.4%, $p = 0.017$).

At discharge, there were no differences in the use of either warfarin or other anticoagulants, however, men were more often on treatment with aspirin (17.1 vs 21.8%, <0.001) and clopidogrel (1.8 vs 4.1%, $p = 0.002$).

Conclusion

The proportion of AF is higher among women than among men. Women were less likely than men to be treated with other anticoagulants prior to the stroke, but not on discharge.