

An elderly man with white hair and a beard is sitting in a chair, looking towards a doctor who is partially visible on the left. The doctor is wearing a white coat and has their back to the camera. The scene is set in a clinical or office environment with a white table and a chair. The lighting is soft and natural.

Why is talking about reversal of anticoagulation important for people with atrial fibrillation?

A recent poll of 902 people with atrial fibrillation (AF), who are prescribed an anticoagulant (blood thinning) medication, revealed the importance of patient-doctor dialogue about reversal of anticoagulation.

People with AF who are taking anticoagulant medication may worry about its effects in an emergency:



89%

of respondents are **aware** of potential complications caused by the blood thinning effect of anticoagulant medication in the event of an emergency



34%

described feeling **'fearful'** about potential complications in an emergency



51%

could not recall speaking to their doctor about stopping the blood thinning effect of anticoagulation in an emergency

People with AF feel it is important to talk to their doctor about reversing anticoagulation in an emergency:



80%

think having an **open discussion** with their doctor is **important** or **very important**



83%

believe it is **important** to know about a **medication** which could quickly stop the blood thinning effect in an emergency



78%

would prefer to **receive information** about reversibility during discussions with their **doctor**

Being informed by their doctor helps people with AF to feel reassured in their daily lives:



64%

said knowing about reversal of anticoagulation in the case of an emergency would allow them to **worry less** giving 'peace of mind' about their health



42%

said they think **their families** and friends would be **less worried** about them having an accident



31%

said the potential reversibility of anticoagulants would allow them to live a more **active lifestyle**



18%

said the potential reversibility of anticoagulants would make them more **adventurous** and **inclined to travel more**



14%

said they would be less worried about **playing with their children or grandchildren**



About this poll

An online poll was conducted by Branding Science, an independent market research consultancy, on behalf of Boehringer Ingelheim in October/November 2017 amongst patients diagnosed with atrial fibrillation (AF) by their doctor who have been prescribed an anticoagulant therapy for stroke prevention. The poll sought to evaluate patient attitudes towards anticoagulation and potential reversal in an emergency. The data are from the responses of 902 AF patients living in five different countries (USA, Russia, Germany, Italy and Belgium). The respondents were 63% male and 37% female, with 39% of the patients being between 56 and 70 years of age.