

Dear Prof Sanson,I would like to offer a comment regarding anti-coagulation for AF in patients living in non-metropolitan regions, which comprise 30% of the total Australian population.

I supply cardiology services to a population of about 200000 in the NorthWest of NSW. Many persons living here are financially disadvantaged (poor) and cannot all be managed by Warfarin (coumadin) therapy. Regular testing of INRs is a great chore for them, let alone the GPs to advise change of dose. Pradaxa was the hoped for medication which was going to liberate them from the difficulties of Warfarin management. It appears that this hope is no longer a possibility. I would like to ask that you do not forget the non-metro regions in you careful deliberations.

Regards

Alex Levendel

Director of Cardiology and Nuclear Medicine Tamworth Rural Referral Hospital.

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Mr Tony Windsor

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