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**Title:** New insights in the risk profile for arterial thrombosis: differences and similarities in risk factors between myocardial infarction and ischaemic stroke  
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New insights in the risk profile for arterial thrombosis

1. To identify new treatments to prevent arterial thrombosis, it is important that reliable data on potential risk factors are available. (this thesis)

2. Overall, hypercoagulability plays a greater role on the risk of ischaemic stroke than on that of myocardial infarction, which is particularly true for young persons. (this thesis)

3. Young women who survived myocardial infarction or ischaemic stroke have a high long term mortality and risk of recurrence. (this thesis)

4. Type of recurrence after myocardial infarction or ischaemic stroke is true to type. (this thesis)

5. Just as absolute causal criteria cannot be used to establish the validity of inference, there are no absolute criteria that can be used to establish the validity of data or evidence. (Kenneth J Rothman et al, Am J Public Health 2005)

6. Irrefutability is not a virtue of a theory but a vice. Every genuine test of a theory is an attempt to falsify it, or refute it. (Karl R Popper, Conjectures and Refutations 1963)

7. The rates of death attributable to acute cardiovascular events have declined in the last decades, but the burden of the disease remains high because of the increasing number of survivors. (Alan S Go, Circulation 2014)

8. Research into arterial thrombosis has traditionally focused on the elderly and men, leaving women and the young underrepresented. (Mathew J Reeves et al, Lancet Neurol. 2008)

9. The causes of thrombotic disorders can be divided into three categories; stasis, vessel wall damage and hypercoagulability. (Rudolph Virchow, Gesammelte Abhandlungen zur wissenschaftlichen Medicin 1856)

10. In the realm of ideas everything depends on enthusiasm…in the real world all rests on perseverance. (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Maximen und Reflexionen 1833)

11. May your choices reflect your hope, not your fears. (Nelson Mandela, speech at Cape Town City Hall 1990)