

A Century Later, An Improvement on Daily Aspirin

An interview with **Population Health Research Institute** researchers: **John Eikelboom**, Hematologist **Salim Yusuf**, Cardiologist and **Sonia Anand**, Cardiologist

John Eikelboom

COMPASS, which stands for Cardiovascular Outcomes in People using Anticoagulation Strategies, is a global randomized trial: 33 countries, over 600 sites.

Salim Yusuf

COMPASS is a study where we took people with evidence of vascular disease - stroke, or peripheral artery disease, or a heart attack. These people are at risk of future events, even though they may be getting aspirin. So in the COMPASS study, we tested, can we improve on aspirin? And aspirin has been king for nearly a hundred years.

Sonia Anand

And the exciting part is we certainly found that the low-dose rivaroxaban used together with aspirin was superior to aspirin alone. That's the first time we have a therapy that prevents both cardiovascular complications and limb complications.



Nobody wants to have an amputation, suffer a stroke, or die because of those causes. And now, with this therapy, we can significantly reduce the chances of that happening.

John Eikelboom

No one person does a trial like this. This involves incredible resources. It involves a large number of groups. There are countless scientists that have been working, labouring in the background, rarely recognized. There is then the collaboration between industry, academia, regulators. We need leaders in each country: 33 leaders in 33 countries. We end up with a list of thousands of collaborators. And then of course all of the challenges of making a coherent story from the data.

The good news about COMPASS of course is the answer was absolutely clear and compelling, and that's changed practice around the world.