

Supplementary Table S3 The distribution of patient- and medication-associated characteristics in the groups of new and prevalent antiplatelet medication users

Factor	Prevalent users				New users			
	All (n=7864)	Persistent (n=5409)	Non- persistent (n=2455)	p	All (n=1314)	Persistent (n=737)	Non- persistent (n=577)	p
<i>Socio-demographic characteristics</i>								
Age	75.4 ± 6.8	76.1 ± 7.1	74.0 ± 6.1	<0.001	73.9 ± 6.6	75.1 ± 7.0	72.4 ± 5.6	<0.001
Female sex	4610 (58.6)	3053 (56.4)	1557 (63.4)	<0.001	675 (51.4)	360 (48.8)	315 (54.6)	0.039
University education	547 (7.0)	354 (6.5)	193 (7.9)	0.033	90 (6.8)	39 (5.3)	51 (8.8)	0.012
Employed patients	384 (4.9)	234 (4.3)	150 (6.1)	0.001	64 (4.9)	24 (3.3)	40 (6.9)	0.002
<i>History of cardiovascular events^a</i>								
History of ischemic stroke	1664 (21.2)	1253 (23.2)	411 (16.7)	<0.001	92 (7.0)	61 (8.3)	31 (5.4)	0.041
History of TIA	679 (8.6)	467 (8.6)	212 (8.6)	0.998	36 (2.7)	21 (2.8)	15 (2.6)	0.783
History of MI	550 (7.0)	425 (7.9)	125 (5.1)	<0.001	27 (2.1)	20 (2.7)	7 (1.2)	0.057
<i>Comorbid conditions</i>								
Number of comorbid conditions	3.0 ± 1.6	3.0 ± 1.6	2.8 ± 1.6	<0.001	2.0 ± 1.6	2.0 ± 1.6	1.9 ± 1.5	0.287
Arterial hypertension	6871 (87.4)	4812 (89.0)	2059 (83.9)	<0.001	680 (51.8)	406 (55.1)	274 (47.5)	0.006
Chronic heart failure	694 (8.8)	533 (9.9)	161 (6.6)	<0.001	45 (3.4)	30 (4.1)	15 (2.6)	0.146
Atrial fibrillation	1036 (13.2)	683 (12.6)	353 (14.4)	0.033	88 (6.7)	53 (7.2)	35 (6.1)	0.418
Diabetes mellitus	3417 (43.5)	2468 (45.6)	949 (38.7)	<0.001	449 (34.2)	271 (36.8)	178 (30.8)	0.025
Hypercholesterolemia	3199 (40.7)	2172 (40.2)	1027 (41.8)	0.160	378 (28.8)	189 (25.6)	189 (32.8)	0.005
Dementia	761 (9.7)	602 (11.1)	159 (6.5)	<0.001	54 (4.1)	42 (5.7)	12 (2.1)	0.001
Depression	980 (12.5)	690 (12.8)	290 (11.8)	0.240	102 (7.8)	55 (7.5)	47 (8.1)	0.646
Anxiety disorders	2520 (32.0)	1719 (31.8)	801 (32.6)	0.456	296 (22.5)	157 (21.3)	139 (24.1)	0.230
Parkinson's disease	392 (5.0)	288 (5.3)	104 (4.2)	0.040	52 (4.0)	38 (5.2)	14 (2.4)	0.012

(Table continued)

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Epilepsy	217 (2.8)	159 (2.9)	58 (2.4)	0.148	29 (2.2)	20 (2.7)	9 (1.6)	0.158
Bronchial asthma/COPD	1885 (24.0)	1282 (23.7)	603 (24.6)	0.407	221 (16.8)	115 (15.6)	106 (18.4)	0.183
<i>Antiplatelet agent related characteristics</i>								
<i>Initial antiplatelet agent</i>								
Aspirin	5592 (71.1)	3696 (68.3)	1896 (77.2)	<0.001	799 (60.8)	407 (55.2)	392 (67.9)	<0.001
Clopidogrel	1238 (15.7)	925 (17.1)	313 (12.7)		324 (24.7)	196 (26.6)	128 (22.2)	
Ticlopidine	612 (7.8)	450 (8.3)	162 (6.6)		27 (2.1)	12 (1.6)	15 (2.6)	
Aspirin + clopidogrel	422 (5.4)	338 (6.2)	84 (3.4)		164 (12.5)	122 (16.6)	42 (7.3)	
Patient's co-payment (EUR) ^b	1.4 ± 1.2	1.5 ± 1.3	1.3 ± 1.1	<0.001	1.4 ± 1.1	1.4 ± 1.2	1.3 ± 1.0	0.004
General practitioner as index prescriber	6069 (77.2)	4251 (78.6)	1818 (74.1)	<0.001	609 (46.3)	375 (50.9)	234 (40.6)	<0.001
<i>Cardiovascular co-medication</i>								
Number of medications	8.5 ± 2.3	8.6 ± 2.2	8.3 ± 2.4	<0.001	5.4 ± 3.1	5.6 ± 3.1		0.020
Number of CV medications	5.2 ± 2.3	5.3 ± 2.3	5.0 ± 2.2	<0.001	3.8 ± 2.0	3.9 ± 2.1	3.7 ± 2.0	0.032
Anticoagulants	1713 (21.8)	1173 (21.7)	540 (22.0)	0.758	204 (15.5)	127 (17.2)	77 (13.3)	0.053
Cardiac glycosides	689 (8.8)	539 (10.0)	150 (6.1)	<0.001	55 (4.2)	39 (5.3)	16 (2.8)	0.024
Antiarrhythmic agents	616 (7.8)	395 (7.3)	221 (9.0)	0.009	38 (2.9)	21 (2.8)	17 (2.9)	0.917
Beta-blockers	1623 (20.6)	1153 (21.3)	470 (19.1)	0.027	166 (12.6)	88 (11.9)	78 (13.5)	0.393
Thiazide diuretics	1788 (22.7)	1200 (22.2)	588 (24.0)	0.083	203 (15.4)	113 (15.3)	90 (15.6)	0.895
Loop diuretics	2015 (25.6)	1539 (28.5)	476 (19.4)	<0.001	162 (12.3)	116 (15.7)	46 (8.0)	<0.001
Mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists	676 (8.6)	544 (10.1)	132 (5.4)	<0.001	46 (3.5)	31 (4.2)	15 (2.6)	0.116
Calcium channel blockers	2541 (32.3)	1751 (32.4)	790 (32.2)	0.866	315 (24.0)	167 (22.7)	148 (25.6)	0.208
RAAS inhibitors	6714 (85.4)	4641 (85.8)	2073 (84.4)	0.113	945 (71.9)	547 (74.2)	398 (69.0)	0.036

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Statin	5458 (69.4)	3690 (68.2)	1768 (72.0)	0.001	861 (65.5)	478 (64.9)	383 (66.4)	0.565
Lipid lowering agents other than statins ^c	797 (10.1)	539 (10.0)	258 (10.5)	0.459	105 (8.0)	57 (7.7)	48 (8.3)	0.698

In case of categorical variables, values represent the frequency and the percentages are provided in parentheses (% of n). In case of continuous variables, means $\pm$ standard deviations are provided. TIA – transient ischemic attack; MI – myocardial infarction; COPD – chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; CV – cardiovascular; RAAS – renin-angiotensin-aldosterone-system; p – statistical significance between persistent and non-persistent patients according to the χ^2 -test; * statistical significance according to the Mann-Whitney U test; in case of statistical significance (p<0.05), the values are expressed in bold. ^aThe time period covered by “history” – 5 years before the index date of this study. ^bCo-payment – calculated as the cost of antiplatelet treatment paid by the patient per month. ^cLipid lowering agents other than statins – ezetimibe and fibrates.