

# WHAT CAN WE ACHIEVE WITH IV THROMBOLYSIS IN LARGE VESSEL OCCLUSION?

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# DISCLOSURE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

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I, SHREY MATHUR, DO NOT have a financial interest/arrangement or affiliation with one or more organizations that could be perceived as a real or apparent conflict of interest in the context of the subject of this presentation.

# What can we achieve with IV lysis in LVO and what is the price to pay?

- Intravenous thrombolysis (IVT) with alteplase
  - widely available, approved and guideline recommended systemic treatment associated with improvement of neurological deficit and functional recovery

## AHA/ASA Guideline

### 2018 Guidelines for the Early Management of Patients With Acute Ischemic Stroke

A Guideline for Healthcare Professionals From the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association

## EAN GUIDELINES/CME ARTICLE

European Academy of Neurology and European Stroke Organization consensus statement and practical guidance for pre-hospital management of stroke

- Limited by:
  - short time window (4.5 h from stroke onset)
  - several exclusion criteria (including history of recent surgery or anticoagulant intake)
  - frequent re-occlusion (10–25% of the initially re-perfused vessels)
  - poor rates of complete recanalization in large vessel occlusions (LVOs)

# Emerging RCT Evidence for MT

- IVT+MT improves outcome in acute anterior circulation stroke patients with proximal vessel occlusion compared to IVT alone
- HERMES collaboration (MR CLEAN, SWIFT-PRIME, EXTEND IA, ESCAPE and REVASCAT, patient-level pooled analysis)
  - similar rates of functional independence and mortality at 90 days between IVT+MT and dMT
  - BUT patients in the direct MT group had contraindications for IV t-PA

# Bridging Therapy: Potential Advantages

## DISTAL OCCLUSIONS

- IVT pretreatment is highly effective in distal occlusions not accessible by catheters (Seners P, Stroke 2016)

## CLOT DETACHMENT

- tPa induces fibrin degradation which may lead to easier clot detachment during EVT, resulting in higher rates of successful reperfusion with fewer device passes (Grotta JC, Stroke 2015); (Tsvigoulis G, Expert Rev Neurother 2016)

## NEW INFARCTION

- tPa pretreatment may reduce the odds of infarction in new (previously unaffected) territory that has been shown to complicate endovascular reperfusion procedures (Ganesh A, ESCAPE Trial, Stroke 2016)

## REPERFUSION

- Pretreatment with IVT results in successful reperfusion in 10% of LVO patients eligible for MT obviating the need for endovascular reperfusion procedure (Tsvigoulis G, Stroke 2018)

## WORKFLOW

- if rt-PA bolus is delivered CT-scanner with the patient being transferred immediately to the angi-suite where the remaining alteplase infusion will be delivered, there is a significant reduction in unnecessary time delays (Wang H, J SCD, 2017)

# Bridging Therapy: Potential Disadvantages

## sICH RISK

- sICH in ~6% and major systemic bleeding complications in ~2% (Miller DJ, Neurohospitalist 2011)
- sICH complicated IVT carries high risk of mortality, whereas effective treatment options are still lacking (Yaghi S, JAMA Neurol 2014)

## ANAPHYLAXIS

- Angioedema ranging between 1.3-5.1%
- Most cases mild, with no need for ICU support or mechanical ventilation (Censori, Neurol Sci 2018)

## DISTAL THROMBUS MIGRATION

- Possible distal thrombus migration resulting in recurrent AIS in the territory of the affected artery

## DELAYING EVT

- Possible delay to MT because of delays in arranging IVT

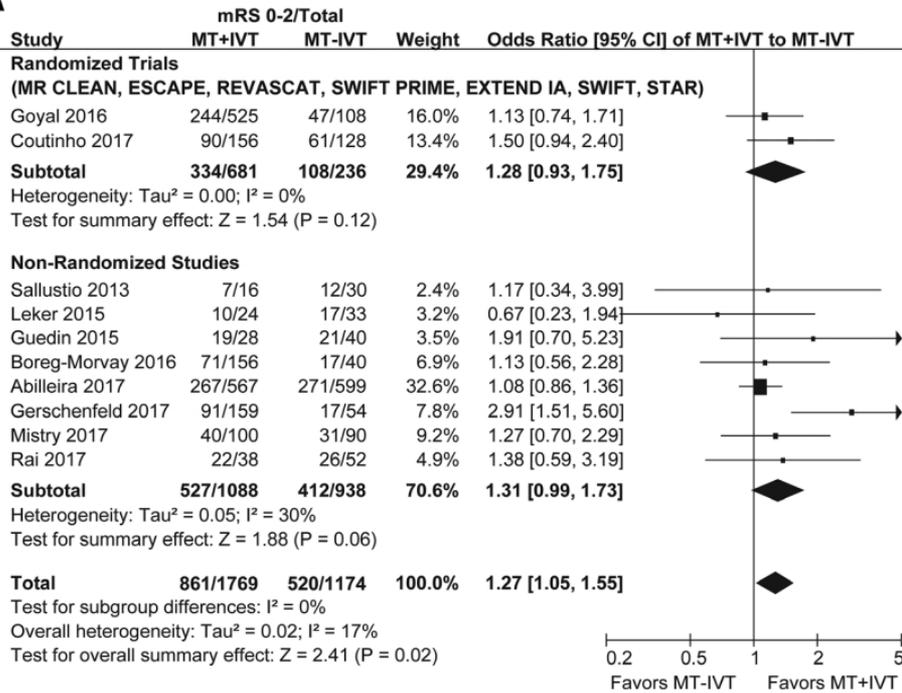
## PRECLUDES USE OF HEPARIN/ANTIPLATELETS

- IVT precludes use of heparin and antiplatelets (esp. clopidogrel loading) during the first 24h following IVT
- May limit the therapeutic options of neurointerventionalists (esp. in patients with tandem extra-cranial and intra-cranial occlusions)

# Functional outcomes

## mRS 0-2 (good)

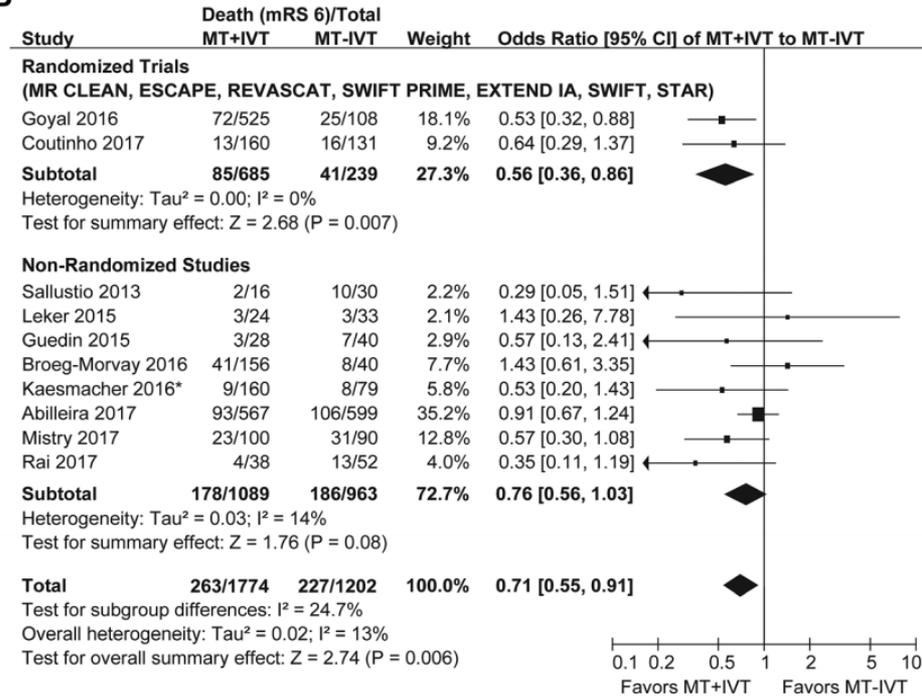
A



**Favours  
MT+IVT**

## mRS 6 (mortality)

B

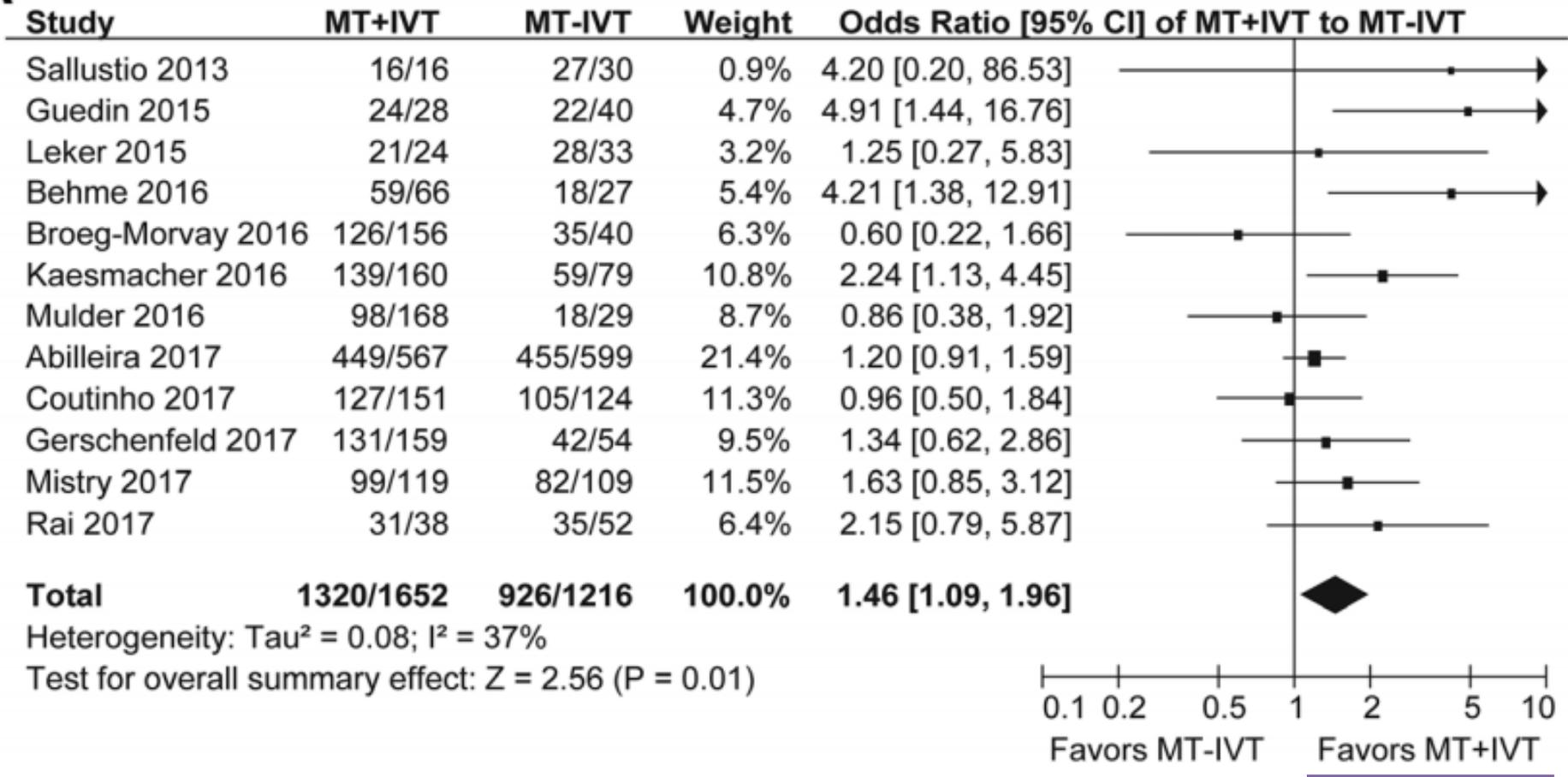


**Favours  
MT+IVT**

# Successful Recanalisation

**A**

## Successful Recanalization/Total

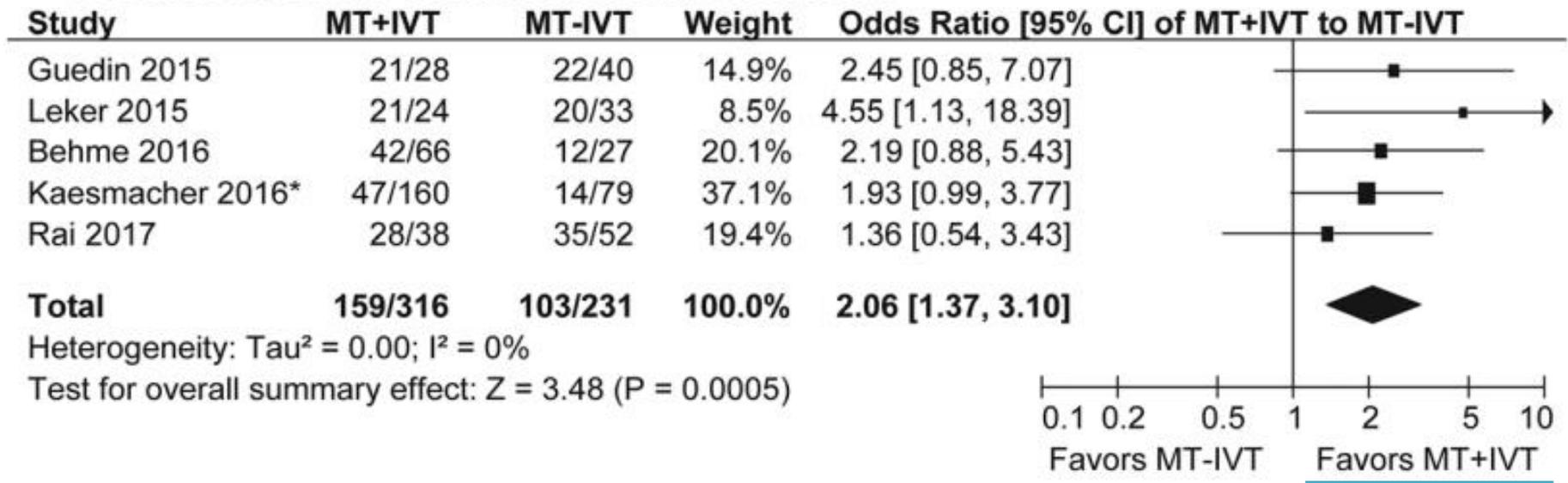


**Favours  
MT+IVT**

# ≤2 Device Passes for Successful Recanalisation

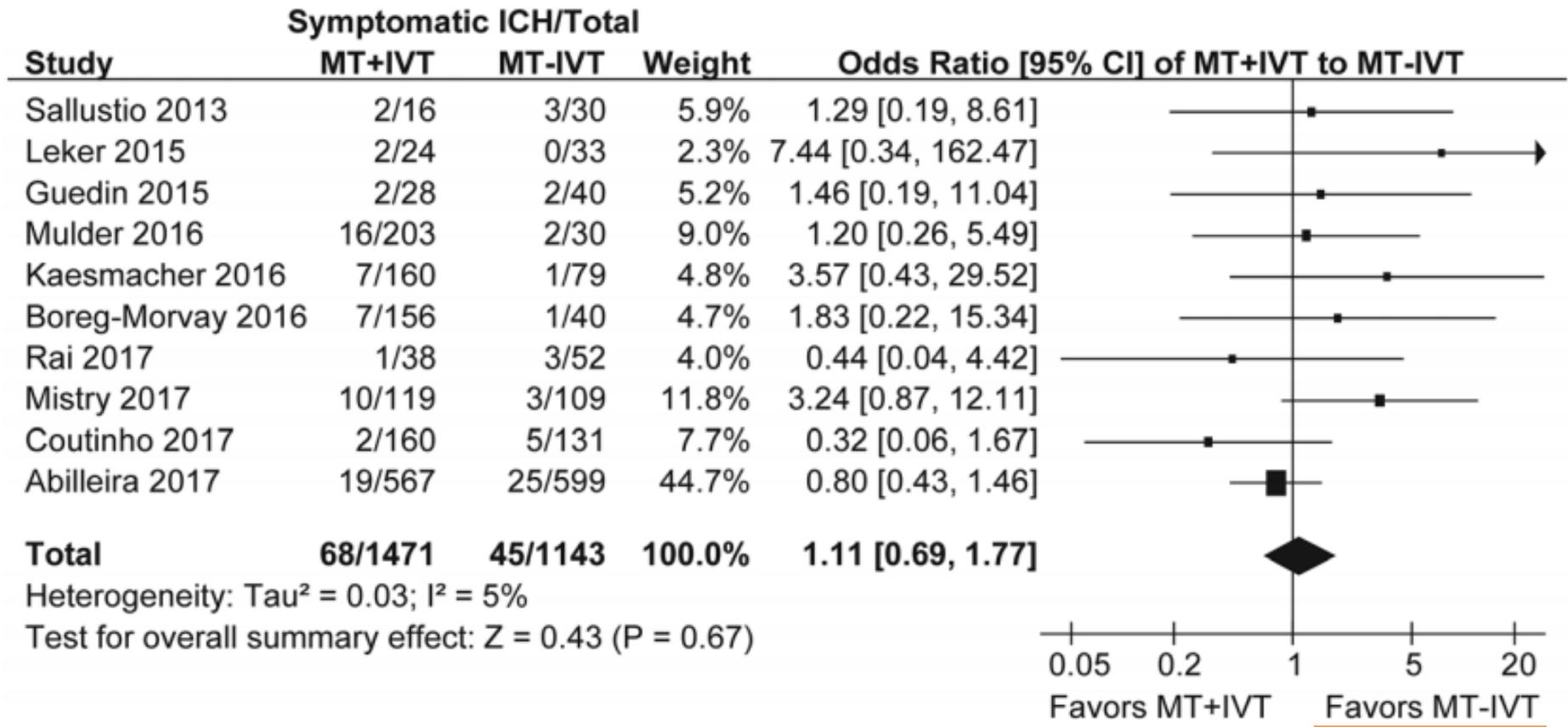
**B**

≤2 Device Passes for Successful Recanalization/Total



**Favours  
MT+IVT**

# Rates of sICH



**Favours  
MT+IVT**

# SWIFT DIRECT

- Awaiting RCT (SWIFT DIRECT) to assess whether dMT is equally effective as IVT+MT (bridging thrombolysis)
- 30+ centers, more than 400 subjects
- Estimated Study Completion Date: December 31, 2021
  
- SWIFT DIRECT may have implications for changing acute stroke management
  - If dMT is non-inferior to bridging thrombolysis, then dMT would be therapy of choice in CSC
  - trial does not address whether patients arriving in PSCs should be pre-treated with IV t-PA or whether they should directly be referred to CSCs

# Conclusions

- Evidence from Meta-Analysis
  - MT+IVT patients had **better functional outcomes**, **lower mortality**, **higher rate of successful recanalization**, **requiring fewer device passes**, and **equal odds of sICH** compared with MT-IVT patients
- IVT and MT should be regarded as two highly effective and complementary reperfusion therapies
  - LVO patients (with no CI to IVT) should receive IVT ASAP followed by immediate transfer to the cath lab for prompt MT initiation
- Limitations and Future Research
  - Data from studies where MT+IVT and MT-IVT groups differ based on IVT eligibility
  - Comparison in studies with matched ages, baseline NIHSS, and symptom onset to groin puncture time between MT+IVT and MT-IVT groups failed to demonstrate a significant difference
  - Require RCTs directly comparing bridging therapy with MT (SWIFT DIRECT)

