Treatment of atrial fibrillation

Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
There are two generally accepted strategies for managing atrial fibrillation (AF): rate control and rhythm control. However, within each strategic approach there are a large number of potential pharmacological and nonpharmacological therapies, and the comparative safety and effectiveness of these therapies—both within and between strategies—are uncertain.

Authors' conclusions
In assessing clinical outcomes associated with rate- versus rhythm-control strategies, our review of recent evidence agrees with prior reviews demonstrating little overall difference in outcomes between these two strategic approaches. Uncertainties still exist within specific subgroups of interest, among the wide variety of pharmacological and procedural therapies within each strategic approach, and in the impact of strategies on long-term clinical outcomes. Specifically, our review highlights the need for additional studies evaluating final outcomes such as mortality, stroke, and cardiovascular hospitalizations.

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