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**Ablazione transcaterere mediante criopallone per il trattamento della fibrillazione atriale.  
Valutazione rapida [Trancatheter ablation with cryoballoon for the treatment of atrial  
fibrillation. A rapid assessment]**

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**Record Status**

This is a bibliographic record of a published health technology assessment from a member of INAHTA. No evaluation of the quality of this assessment has been made for the HTA database.

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**Authors' objectives**

The objective of the present assessment was to assess efficacy, safety, and technical performance of percutaneous ablation with cryoballoon in comparison to radiofrequency ablation for pulmonary vein isolation in patients with paroxysmal and persistent atrial fibrillation. Percutaneous ablation with cryoballoon could offer advantages in terms of: identification and mapping of target sites (a reversible cryomapping is possible), reduction of catheter time in the left atrium (leading to a possible reduction of procedural complications), reduced procedural and fluoroscopy time with increased efficiency and, finally, relative simplicity of the procedure with a shorter learning curve.

**Authors' conclusions**

Most of the studies assessed the first-generation cryoballoon (Arctic Front™, Medtronic Inc, Minneapolis, MN) to treat paroxysmal atrial fibrillation. For this indication, cryoballoon ablation does not seem to be more effective than radiofrequency ablation in terms of recurrence of atrial fibrillation; cryoballoon ablation is associated with a significantly lower incidence of pericardial effusion and cardiac tamponade but with a higher risk of phrenic nerve injury (PNI) at hospital discharge. Furthermore, it was associated with a reduced procedural time. Only two studies assessed the use of cryoballoon ablation in persistent atrial fibrillation.

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An English language summary is available.

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