



## Effective Health Care Treatment Options for Chronic and Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation

### Next Steps

The nominator is interested in guidance about management of paroxysmal atrial fibrillation and chronic atrial fibrillation.

The Effective Health Care (EHC) Program improves the quality of health care by providing evidence reviews on the outcomes, benefits and harms, and appropriateness of drugs, devices, and health care services to inform health care decisions.

It is outside of the purview of the Effective Health Care Program to provide assistance with the management of patients. In addition the nominator has a limited timeframe for this information. For these reasons further activity will be undertaken on this topic. We have included information that might be useful to the nominator.

### Summary

**Topic Name and Number:** #812, Treatment Options for Chronic and Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation

**Date:** 8/27/2018

**Key question(s) from the nomination:**

KQ 1: what is the effectiveness and harms of treatments for paroxysmal atrial fibrillation?

KQ 2: what is the effectiveness and harms of interventions for rate control compared to rhythm control in people with non-valvular atrial fibrillation?

KQ 3: what is the effectiveness of cardiac ablation compared to pharmacologic interventions for rhythm control?

- Atrial fibrillation is the most common type of heart rhythm abnormalities. With atrial fibrillation the heart beats irregularly, and the blood doesn't flow as well as it should into the two lower chambers of the heart.<sup>1</sup>
- An estimated 2.7–6.1 million people in the United States have atrial fibrillation. <sup>1</sup>
- Treatments include those aimed at restoring a normal heart rhythm (rhythm control); those aimed at controlling the heart rate (rate control); and those aimed at preventing blood clots.
- While we are unable to further assess this topic at this time, these references may be useful to the nominator:
  - 2014 AHA/ACC/HRS guideline for the management of patients with atrial fibrillation<sup>2</sup>
  - Systematic review on the treatment of atrial fibrillation<sup>3</sup>
  - Systematic review on cardiac ablation for non-paroxysmal atrial fibrillation<sup>4</sup>

## References

1. Atrial Fibrillation Fact Sheet. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [https://www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/data\\_statistics/fact\\_sheets/fs\\_atrial\\_fibrillation.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/data_statistics/fact_sheets/fs_atrial_fibrillation.htm). Accessed on 30 August 2018 2018.
2. January CT, Wann LS, Alpert JS, et al. 2014 AHA/ACC/HRS guideline for the management of patients with atrial fibrillation: a report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines and the Heart Rhythm Society. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2014 Dec 2;64(21):e1-76. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2014.03.022. PMID: 24685669. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24685669>
3. Al-Khatib SM, Lapointe NA, Chatterjee R, et al. *Treatment of Atrial Fibrillation*. Rockville (MD); 2013.
4. Nyong J, Amit G, Adler AJ, et al. Efficacy and safety of ablation for people with non-paroxysmal atrial fibrillation. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2016 Nov 22;11:CD012088. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD012088.pub2. PMID: 27871122. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27871122>