

QUESTIONS FOR DOCTOR

Atrial Fibrillation, Stroke Risk and Treatment Options Discussion Guide

Use this list to help you prepare the questions you want to ask your doctor at your next appointment.



Atrial Fibrillation (AF) and Stroke Risk?

- ▶ What is atrial fibrillation?
- ▶ What's caused it in my case – why have I got it?
- ▶ Can atrial fibrillation increase my risk of stroke?
- ▶ Is there anything I should avoid doing, for example

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(name activity you enjoy or are worried about such as sports, gardening, flying)

- ▶ What else can I do to protect my heart and reduce my risk of stroke?
- ▶ What kind of atrial fibrillation do I have? (paroxysmal, persistent, or permanent)
- ▶ What can I do to avoid triggering an episode of atrial fibrillation?
- ▶ What should I do when I have an episode of atrial fibrillation?
- ▶ What should I tell my family/partner about my condition?
- ▶ What should they watch out for in terms of stroke symptoms?
- ▶ Do I need to have any tests to find out more about my condition?
- ▶ Does atrial fibrillation go away naturally?
- ▶ Is atrial fibrillation hereditary – might my children be at risk?



Drug Treatments

- ▶ What medication are you prescribing for my condition?
- ▶ How does it work and are there any possible side effects?
- ▶ Will drugs impact the activities I can do?
- ▶ Will these drugs stop the episodes of atrial fibrillation occurring?
- ▶ Will I always be on these drugs?

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Other Treatments

- What are the alternatives to medication?
- Am I a good candidate for any non-drug treatments, such as:
 - Pulmonary vein isolation (PVI) with cardiac ablation?
 - Left atrial appendage closure?
 - Pacemaker?



For all other treatments: Cardiac Ablation, LAAC, Pacemaker:

- Where would I have the procedure done?
- How long would I need to wait before I can have the procedure?
- Would I need more tests beforehand?
- How would I need to prepare for the procedure?
- How does the ablation work to treat my atrial fibrillation?
- How long does the procedure take?
- How long would I need to be in hospital?
- Is the procedure painful?
- When would I be able to go back to work/normal activities?
- What are the risks and side effects?
- What is the success rate? Will my symptoms be completely gone?
- Does the procedure need to be repeated or does the result last for ever?
- Is there anything else I need to know about the procedure?



More Questions for Your Doctor

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Remember to take this guide with you when you see your doctor!

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