

Female gender increases stroke risk in AF patients aged over 75 years by 20%

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Female gender increases the risk of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF) aged >75 years by 20%, according to a study presented today at the ESC Congress 2012. The findings were presented by Anders Mikkelsen, from Denmark.

The results suggest that female gender should not be included as an independent [stroke](#)/thromboembolism (TE) risk factor in guidelines or [risk stratification](#) schemes used in treatment of [patients](#) with [atrial fibrillation](#).

The increased risk of stroke and TE in patients with atrial fibrillation depends on additional risk factors, and female sex has been suggested as one such risk factor. The 2010 ESC Guidelines for the management of atrial fibrillation consider female gender a minor risk factor for stroke/TE, and recommend oral anticoagulants for [females](#)

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