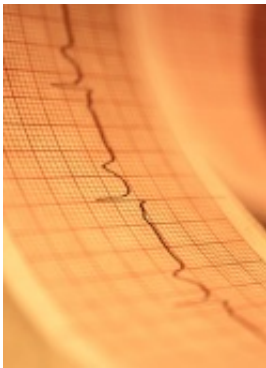


A-fib recurrence common five years after ablation

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(HealthDay)—Most patients with atrial fibrillation (AF) and systolic heart failure who undergo ablation have AF recurrence at five years, according to a study published in the April issue of the *Journal of Cardiovascular Electrophysiology*.

T. Jared Bunch, M.D., from the Intermountain Heart Institute in Murray, Utah, and colleagues examined the long-term efficacy and impact of [cardiac ablation](#) in patients with severe systolic heart failure. Data were included for three groups of patients with systolic heart failure and five years of follow-up: 267 AF ablation patients receiving their first ablation; 1,068 AF patients who did not receive an ablation; and 1,068

systolic heart failure patients without AF.

The researchers found that 60.7 percent of patients had clinical recurrence of AF at five years. Significant predictors of long-term risk of AF recurrence were diabetes and prior heart attack. In the AF ablation, AF, and no AF groups, long-term mortality rates were 27, 55, and 50 percent, respectively (P heart failure hospitalizations were lower following AF ablation versus AF and no ablation. At five years there was a trend toward lower stroke rates in the AF ablation group.

"Recurrence rates of AF in patients with [systolic heart failure](#) after [ablation](#) are common at five years, with an anticipated ongoing increase," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the medical device industry.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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