

Catheter ablation improves A-fib outcomes in minority populations

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(HealthDay)—Catheter ablation significantly improved major clinical

outcomes compared with drug therapy among racial or ethnic minorities with atrial fibrillation (AF) enrolled in the CABANA trial, according to a study published in the July 13 issue of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

Kevin L. Thomas, M.D., from Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, and colleagues describe outcomes in the CABANA trial as a function of race/ethnicity. In the trial, a total of 2,204 symptomatic patients with AF were randomly assigned to ablation or drug therapy, including rate and/or rhythm control drugs. Of 1,280 participants in North America, 127 (9.9 percent) were racial and ethnic minorities.

The researchers found that racial and ethnic minorities were younger than nonminorities, and they had more symptomatic heart failure, hypertension, and ejection fraction

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