

# A-fib linked to worse hospital outcomes in multiple myeloma

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Overall, 13.1 percent of hospitalized patients with multiple myeloma

(MM) have atrial fibrillation, which is associated with worse outcomes, according to a study recently published in *Cureus*.

Inimfon Jackson, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D., from Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, and colleagues conducted a retrospective cohort analysis using data from the National Inpatient Sample from 2016 to 2018 to explore the prevalence of [atrial fibrillation](#) among MM patients and the impact of atrial fibrillation on outcomes.

The researchers found that 13.1 percent of the 68,267 hospitalizations with a diagnosis of MM reported having atrial fibrillation. Compared with those without atrial fibrillation, MM patients with atrial fibrillation had increased odds of inpatient all-cause mortality (adjusted odds ratio, 1.16). In addition, they had increased odds of having a length of stay of more than five days relative to five days or less (adjusted odds ratio, 1.29). Compared with those without atrial fibrillation, MM patients with atrial [fibrillation](#) had hospital costs that were \$8,020 higher. On stratification by use of anticoagulation, MM patients who were not using anticoagulation had worse health outcomes, including increased odds of inpatient all-cause mortality and length of hospital stay of more than five days (adjusted odds ratios, 1.40 and 1.44, respectively), as well as higher hospital costs (\$14,772.50).

"While patients need to be educated on the need for [medication adherence](#), there is a need to pay specific attention to [medication reconciliation](#) during admission and prior to [hospital](#) discharge as this may help improve the length of stay and overall costs of hospitalization," the authors write.

**More information:** Inimfon Jackson et al, Impact of Atrial Fibrillation on Inpatient Outcomes Among Hospitalized Patients With Multiple Myeloma, *Cureus* (2022). [DOI: 10.7759/cureus.25252](https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.25252)

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