

Study shows postoperative atrial fibrillation tied to worse outcomes after valve surgery

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Postoperative atrial fibrillation (POAF) is associated with an increased rate of neurologic events and worse long-term survival, according to a study published online Sept. 11 in the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*.

Whitney Fu, M.D., from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and

colleagues examined the rate of POAF, incidence of neurologic events, development of permanent atrial fibrillation, and mortality in [patients](#) undergoing isolated mitral valve surgery. Analysis included 922 [adult patients](#) from 2011 to 2022 with no preoperative history of arrhythmias.

The researchers found that over a median follow-up of 4.9 months, the incidence of POAF was 39 percent. Risk factors for POAF included diabetes (odds ratio [OR], 2.2; 95 percent confidence interval [CI], 1.2 to 4.1; P = 0.01) and increasing age (OR, 1.1; 95 percent CI, 1.0 to 1.1; P

There was an association between POAF and development of permanent atrial fibrillation (OR, 3.2; 95 percent CI, 1.9 to 5.4; P

"POAF is not benign and carries a long-term mortality implication," the authors write.

More information: Whitney Fu et al, Postoperative atrial fibrillation in mitral valve surgery is not benign, *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* (2023). [DOI: 10.1016/j.jtcvs.2023.08.057](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtcvs.2023.08.057)

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