

Atrial Fibrillation?

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Atrial fibrillation is a heart rhythm disorder that causes a rapid and irregular heartbeat.

AFib is the most common arrhythmia diagnosed in clinical practice. Estimates of the prevalence of AFib in the United States ranges from about 2.7 million to 6.1 million. That number is estimated to rise to 12.1 million in 2030.

Atrial fibrillation can lead to the formation of blood clots. Such blood clots can cause serious problems.

Sometimes atrial fibrillation can lead to the following complications:

- **Stroke.** In atrial fibrillation, the chaotic rhythm may cause blood to pool in your heart's upper chambers (atria) and form clots. If a blood clot forms, it could dislodge from your heart and travel to your brain. There it might block blood flow, causing a stroke.
- **Heart failure.** Atrial fibrillation, especially if not controlled, may weaken the heart and lead to heart failure — a condition in which your heart can't circulate enough blood to meet your body's needs.

How long the condition lasts depends on the cause. Atrial fibrillation caused by a treatable condition may go away when the condition is treated; or it may be a lifelong condition. This is more likely when it has no known cause or results from a long-standing cardiac disorder.