

KEY REFERENCES
Postoperative Atrial Fibrillation

Atrial fibrillation is the most common sustained cardiac arrhythmia and is increasing in prevalence because of an aging population. Atrial fibrillation is particularly troublesome following cardiac surgery because it increases length of stay and delays cardiac rehabilitation. We provide key references for seminal articles that provide background information about the impact of atrial fibrillation, the pathophysiology and epidemiology of this common arrhythmia, and risk factors including predictors, outcomes, and resource use after heart surgery. We have also provided key references regarding medications that are currently used as prophylaxis against the development of atrial fibrillation following cardiac surgery, as well as overdrive pacing and surgical ablation techniques. The follow-up and outcomes for long-standing atrial fibrillation are important topics and include issues related to anticoagulation and stroke prevention. Overall, this list of key references will help the cardiac surgeon deal with this common problem in a systematic and thoughtful manner.

Background

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