



The Heart's Rhythm:
Treatment Options for
Living with Atrial
Fibrillation

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Cardiovascular Services

Symptoms of Arrhythmia

- Palpitations
- Shortness of breath
- Dizzy spells
- Fainting (unconscious) spells
- No symptoms!

Atrial Fibrillation

- Huge Problem
 - Many patients
 - Many hospitalizations
- Causes/risk factors
 - High blood pressure
 - Alcohol
 - Lung disease
 - Heart disease
 - Overactive thyroid
 - Major surgery
 - Unknown (“Lone”)

Treatment Goals in Atrial Fibrillation

- Relieve symptoms and prevent heart failure
 - Control Rate
 - Drugs
 - Ablation
 - Restore normal rhythm (if possible)
 - Drugs
 - Ablation
- Prevent Stroke/Blood clot
 - Warfarin (Coumadin)
 - [Newer drugs]
 - [Devices]

Who is at Risk for Stroke?

- Age more than 70
- High blood pressure
- Diabetes
- Congestive heart failure
- Previous stroke

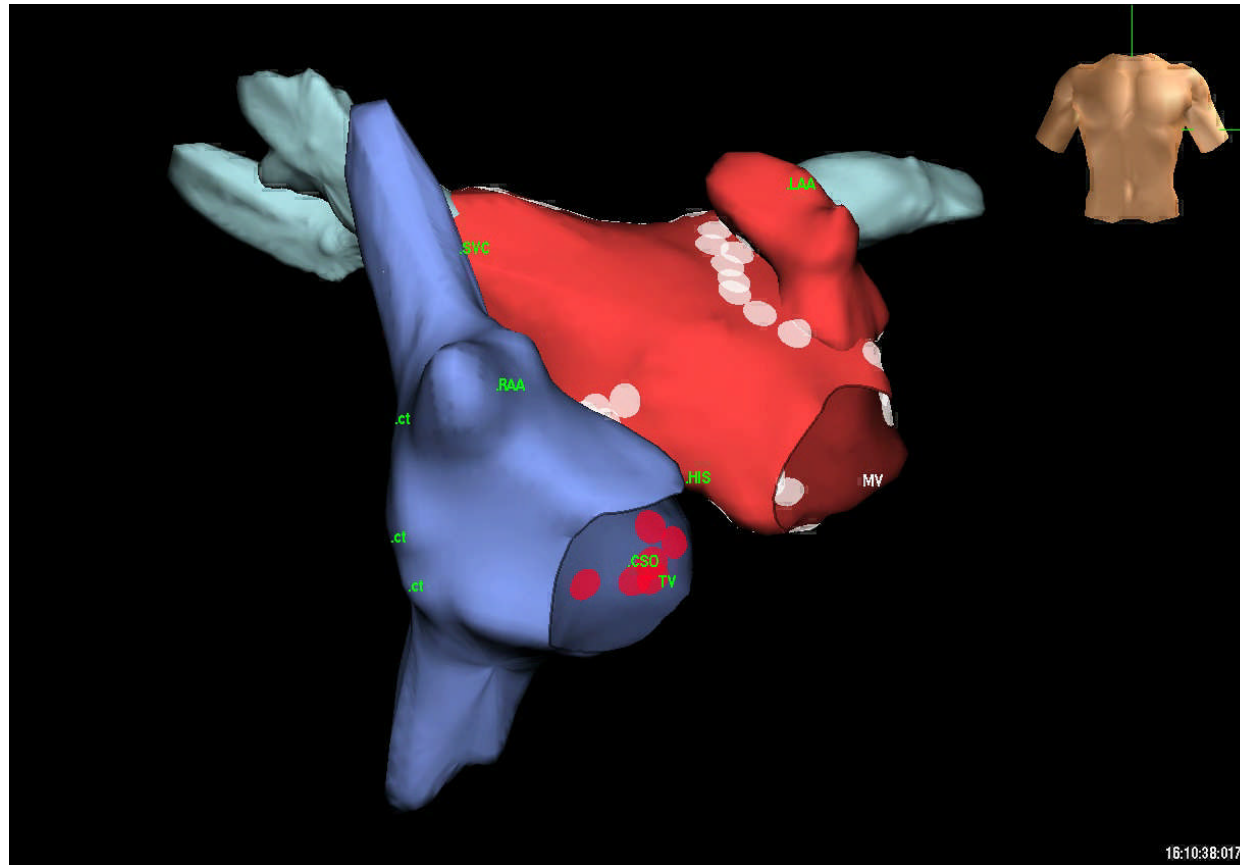
Rate Control Options in Atrial Fibrillation

- Drugs
 - Beta blockers
 - Digoxin
 - Calcium channel blockers
- Ablation with Pacemaker Implant

Rhythm Control Options in Atrial Fibrillation

- Cardioversion
- Drugs
 - Flecainide/propafenone
 - Sotalol
 - Dofetilide
 - Amiodarone
- Ablation

Atrial Fibrillation Ablation



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