The Stiff Left Atrium Is to Atrial Fibrillation as the Stiff Left Ventricle Is to Diastolic Heart Failure

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Atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most common cardiovascular disorder present in as many as 9% of subjects aged ≥65 years and costing the United States >26 billion dollars a year. It causes significant morbidity and mortality with 750,000 hospitalizations each year and contributing to an estimated 130,000 deaths each year.1 Risk factors for AF such as obesity, diabetes mellitus, coronary artery disease, heart failure, renal disease, heavy alcohol use, sleep apnea, and untreated or uncontrolled hypertension are also the risk factors for both renal disease, heavy alcohol use, sleep apnea, and untreated or uncontrolled hypertension.

The opinions expressed in this article are not necessarily those of the editors or of the American Heart Association.

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(Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol. 2016;9:e003952.
DOI: 10.1161/CIRCEP.116.003952.)
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Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol is available at http://circep.ahajournals.org
DOI: 10.1161/CIRCEP.116.003952
at higher risk for the development of AF or recurrence post pharmacotherapy or device therapy. The effect of risk factor control and pharmacotherapy on reducing LA stiffness index and its sequelae could then be evaluated. In such an evaluation, the inherent influence of LV systolic and diastolic function on LA reservoir function should also be controlled for and the diastasis period in LV diastole may also be an important time interval for the study of LA myocardial properties.

Disclosures

None.

References


Keywords: Editorials • atrial fibrillation • catheter ablation • diastolic function • left atrium • risk factors
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Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol. 2016;9:
doi: 10.1161/CIRCEP.116.003952

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