

Priority Topic: ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

Key Features:

For a single source of info on this topic: [A Fib Guideline CCS Update 2014](#)

If you like the “In the Clinic” articles, check out: [Atrial Fibrillation AIM 2017](#)

1. In a patient who presents with [new onset atrial fibrillation](#), look for an [underlying cause](#) (e.g., ischemic heart disease, acute myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure, cardiomyopathy, pulmonary embolus, hyperthyroidism, alcohol, etc.)

What you should study:

- ✓ [Diagnosis and Treatment of A Fib AAFP 2016](#)

2. In a patient presenting with [atrial fibrillation](#),
 - a) Look for [hemodynamic instability](#),
 - b) Intervene rapidly and appropriately to [stabilize the patient](#).

What you should study: these podcasts cover treatment also

- ✓ [EM Cases: Episode 20 Atrial Fibrillation](#)
- ✓ [EM Cases: Episode 57 The Stiell Sessions 2 – Update in Atrial Fibrillation 2014](#)

3. In an individual presenting with **chronic or paroxysmal atrial fibrillation**,
- a) Explore the need for **anticoagulation based on the risk of stroke** with the patient,
 - b) **Periodically reassess** the need for anticoagulation.

What you should study: the newest stroke risk assessment tool is **CHADS-65**

- ✓ **A Fib Guideline Companion Pamphlet CCS 2014**
- ✓ **A Fib Assessment Algorithm**

4. In patients with atrial fibrillation, when the decision has been made to use **anticoagulation**, institute the **appropriate therapy and patient education**, with a **comprehensive follow-up plan**.

What you should study:

- ✓ **Oral Anticoagulation Algorithm CCS 2014**
- ✓ **A Fib Guidelines Companion CCS 2014 - Page 9**
- ✓ **EM Cases: Episode 57 *The Stiell Sessions 2 – Update in Atrial Fibrillation 2014***

5. In a **stable patient** with atrial fibrillation, identify the **need for rate control**.

What you should study:

- ✓ **Rate vs Rhythm Control Algorithm CCS 2014**

6. In a **stable patient** with atrial fibrillation, arrange for **rhythm correction when appropriate**.

What you should study:

- ✓ **EM Cases: Episode 20 Atrial Fibrillation**