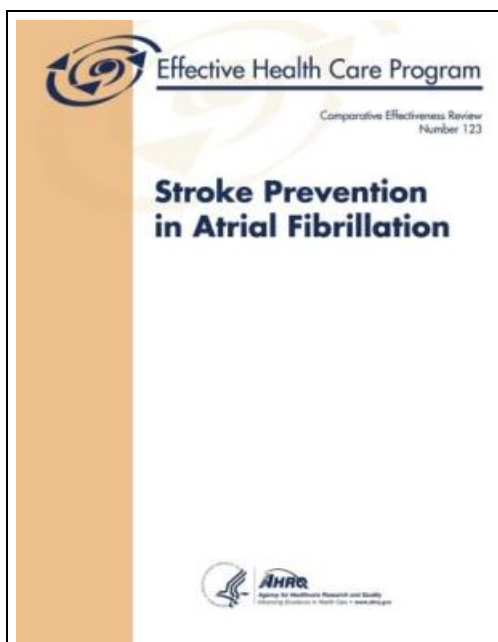


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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2013. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Atrial fibrillation (AF) is a common type of supraventricular tachyarrhythmia. While a supraventricular tachyarrhythmia is a tachycardic rhythm originating above the ventricular tissue, AF is characterized by uncoordinated atrial activation with consequent deterioration of mechanical function. AF is the most common cardiac arrhythmia in clinical practice, accounting for approximately one-third of hospitalizations for cardiac rhythm disturbances. The estimated prevalence of AF is 0.4 to 1 in the general adult population, occurring in about 2.2 million people in the U.S. The prevalence increases to about 6 in people age 65 or older and to 10 in people age 80 or older. The burden of AF in the U.S. is increasing. It is estimated that by the year 2050 there will be 12.1 million Americans with AF, representing more than a twofold (240) increase since 2000. However, this estimate assumes no further increase in the age-adjusted incidence of AF beyond 2000. If the incidence of AF increases at the same pace, then the projected number of adults with AF would be 15.9 million, a threefold increase from 2000. Although generally not as immediately life threatening as ventricular arrhythmias, AF is associated with significant morbidity and mortality. Patients with AF have increased risk of embolic stroke, heart failure, and cognitive impairment; reduced quality of life; and higher overall mortality. Patients with AF have a fivefold increased risk of stroke, and it is estimated that up to 25 of all strokes in the elderly are a consequence of AF.⁴ Furthermore, AF-related strokes are more severe, with patients twice as likely to be bedridden as patients with stroke from other etiologies, and are also more likely to result in death. Consistent with the nature...



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