

Atrial Fibrillation- Pro

BobbieJean Sweitzer, MD, FACP, F-SAMBA, FASA
 Immediate Past-President, SAMBA
 Systems Director, Perioperative Medicine
 Inova Health
 Professor, Medical Education
 University of Virginia
Bobbiejean.sweitzer@inova.org
 @BobbieJeanSwe1

You know that feeling
 when you meet someone
 and your heart skips a
 beat?

Yeah, that's arrhythmia
 You can die from that.

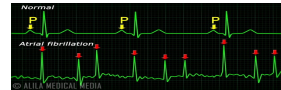
SAMBA 2023 Annual Meeting • May 18 - 20, 2023

@samba_hq

1

Atrial fibrillation in patients having noncardiac surgery

- ✓ Lack of data on AF discovered immediately before noncardiac surgery
- ✓ AF more common in older individuals
- ✓ AF more common with systemic illnesses (hypertension and diabetes)
- ✓ Non-cardiac surgery common in older individuals
- ✓ Only a matter of time until we encounter a patient with “**newly discovered AF**” in the preoperative setting



UpToDate®

SAMBA 2023 Annual Meeting • May 18 - 20, 2023

@samba_hq

2

Newly discovered preop atrial fibrillation

- ✓ Paucity of studies limits evidence-based recommendations
- ✓ Investigate underlying causes
- ✓ If time and resources permit, consult cardiology
- ✓ Decision to cancel or postpone is case-by-case
- ✓ Rate control most important
- ✓ Rhythm control has no or few short term advantages
- ✓ Restoring sinus rhythm is associated with post-conversion LA dysfunction
- ✓ Risk of stroke is highest in month following cardioversion
- ✓ Anticoagulation required for 30 days post-cardioversion

SAMBA 2023 Annual Meeting • May 18 - 20, 2023

@samba_hq

3

Acute AF = detected first time during acute illness such as hospitalization for another condition

- ✓ Acute AF previously thought to be transient and isolated
- ✓ Accumulating evidence suggests that acute AF associated with a high risk of long-term AF recurrence
- ✓ The 3As of acute management:
 - ✓ Acute triggers
 - ✓ AF rate/rhythm management
 - ✓ Anticoagulation
- ✓ Early referral for evaluation (usually outpatient)

AHA Scientific Statement

Atrial Fibrillation Occurring During Acute Hospitalization: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association

Circulation 2023;147:00–. DOI: 10.1161/CIR.0000000000001133

SAMBA 2023 Annual Meeting • May 18 - 20, 2023

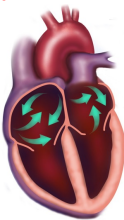
@samba_hq

4

Approach to Preoperative AF

- ✓ AF History
 - ✓ Prior history of AF
 - ✓ Is the AF paroxysmal or persistent?
- ✓ Functional capacity
- ✓ Angina, dyspnea, edema, other signs of HF
- ✓ Examination
 - ✓ BP, HR
 - ✓ Cardiovascular exam: JVD, murmur, edema
- ✓ Prior testing
 - ✓ Stress test, echocardiography, TFTs, CBC, electrolytes

AF rarely a result
 of acute ischemia

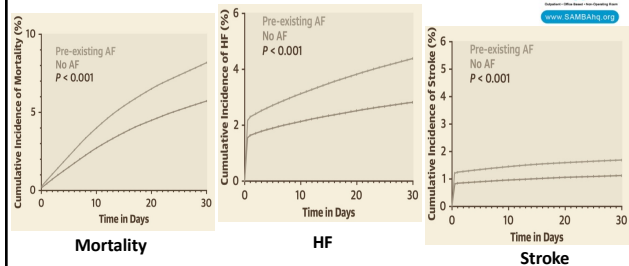


SAMBA 2023 Annual Meeting • May 18 - 20, 2023

@samba_hq

5

Lower postop risk of MI in those with hx of AF



30-day higher risk of bleeding and VTE

J Am Coll Cardiol 2022;79:2471

SAMBA 2023 Annual Meeting • May 18 - 20, 2023

@samba_hq

6

Newly Discovered Preoperative AF



Preoperative atrial fibrillation — AF diagnosed preoperatively may arise in the setting of a risk factor such as hypertension or from an underlying systemic disorder such as severe hyperthyroidism. Both the AF and the underlying disorder may be a source of perioperative risk unless recognized and managed. For these reasons, we suggest that newly discovered AF be treated as a potentially unstable condition that should preclude elective noncardiac surgery. Diagnosis and management of newly discovered AF are discussed elsewhere. (See "[New onset atrial fibrillation](#)".)

7

Day of Surgery Newly Discovered AF Proceed vs. Postpone



Proceed

- ✓ Rate controlled
- ✓ Known history of AF
- ✓ No symptoms
- ✓ Surgery urgent or time sensitive
- ✓ Low risk surgery with sedation
- ✓ Condition or surgery precludes anticoagulation

Postpone

- ✓ Rapid ventricular rate
- ✓ Hypotension
- ✓ New cardiac symptoms
- ✓ Known or suspected structural HD

7

SAMBA 2023 Annual Meeting • May 18 - 20, 2023

@samba_hq

8

SUMMARY



- ✓ Controversy over how to proceed with newly discovered DOS AF
- ✓ Associated comorbidities and symptoms important in assessing risk
- ✓ Rate control more important than rhythm control
- ✓ Risk of VTE low
- ✓ New onset postoperative AF carries risk, especially of stroke
- ✓ Likely safe to proceed with low risk surgeries and MAC

9

BobbieJean.sweitzer@inova.org

@BobbieJeanSwei1

SAMBA 2023 Annual Meeting • May 18 - 20, 2023

@samba_hq

9