

# Short-term versus long-term atrial fibrillation after cardiac surgery – is there a difference in outcomes?

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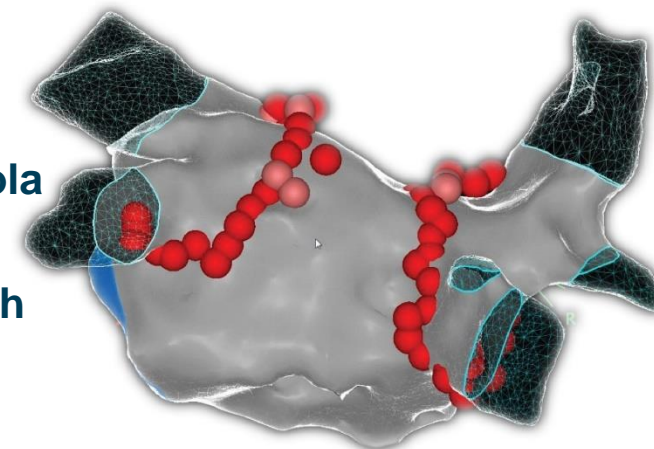
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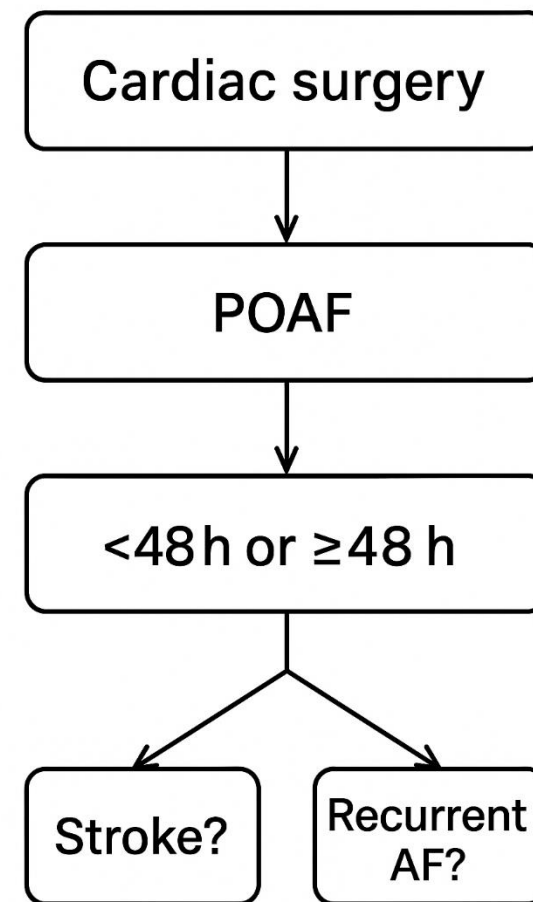
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# Background & Objective

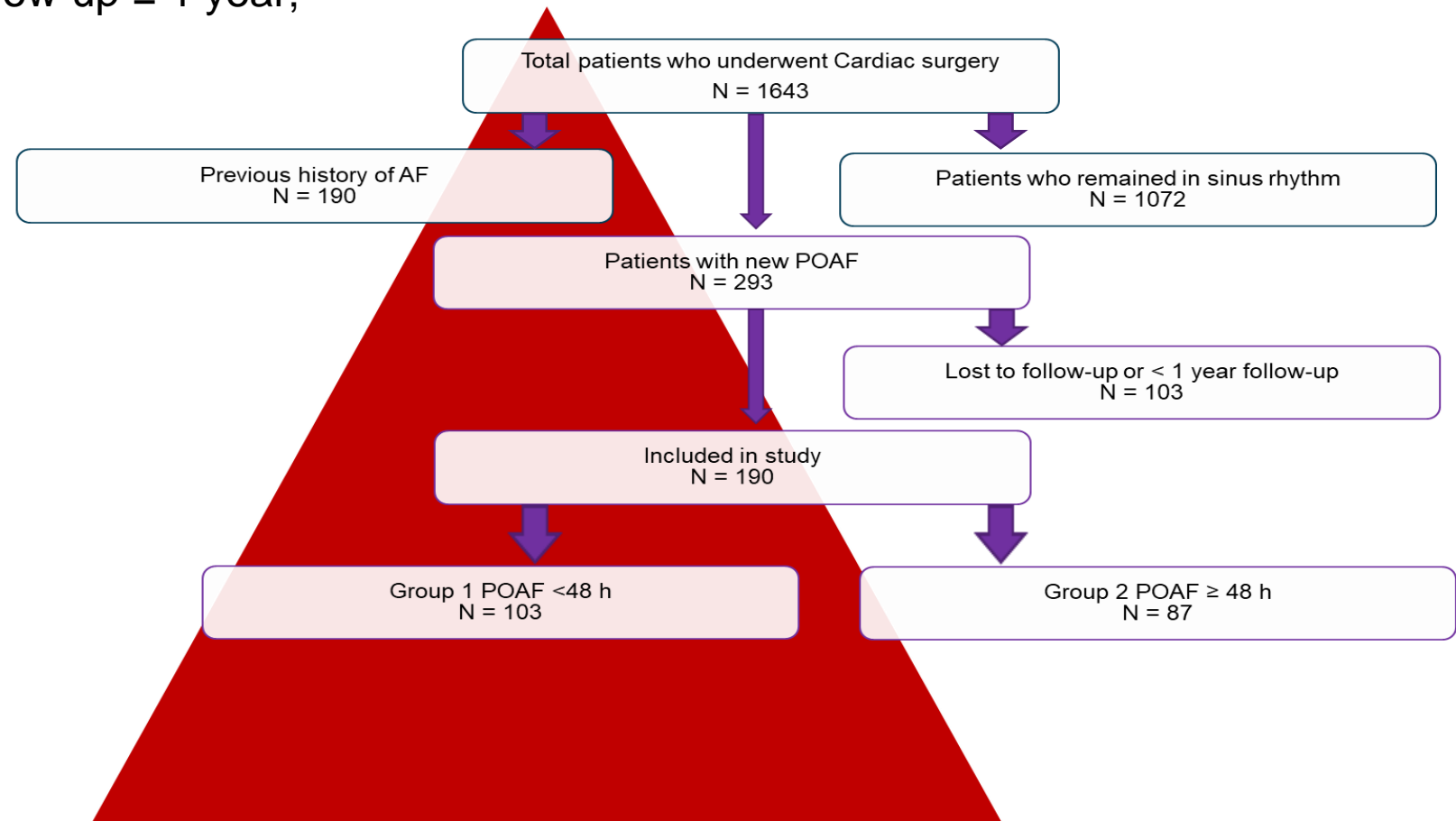


- POAF is common after cardiac surgery and often considered transient;
- Associated risks: stroke, prolonged hospitalization, mortality;
- Need to evaluate whether duration of POAF affects outcomes such as stroke and atrial fibrillation recurrence;
- **Objective:**
  - Assess if POAF duration ( $< 48\text{h}$  vs  $\geq 48\text{h}$ ) impacts:
    - Incidence of stroke in hospital and after discharge;
    - Long-term recurrence of atrial fibrillation.



# Study Design and Methods

- **Type of study:** Retrospective cohort study (2020–2022);
- **Sample:** 1.643 surgeries; included only new-onset POAF patients > 18y;
- **Data:** Hospital records + outpatient follow-up  $\geq 1$  year;
- **Groups:** POAF < 48h vs POAF  $\geq 48$ h;
- **Analysis:** Fisher Exact Test,  $p < 0.05$ .



# Results and Conclusion

Table 1 – Recurrent AF and new-onset stroke

Recurrent atrial fibrillation after discharge in the first 6 weeks	19 (10%)
Recurrent atrial fibrillation after discharge after 6 weeks	24 (13%)

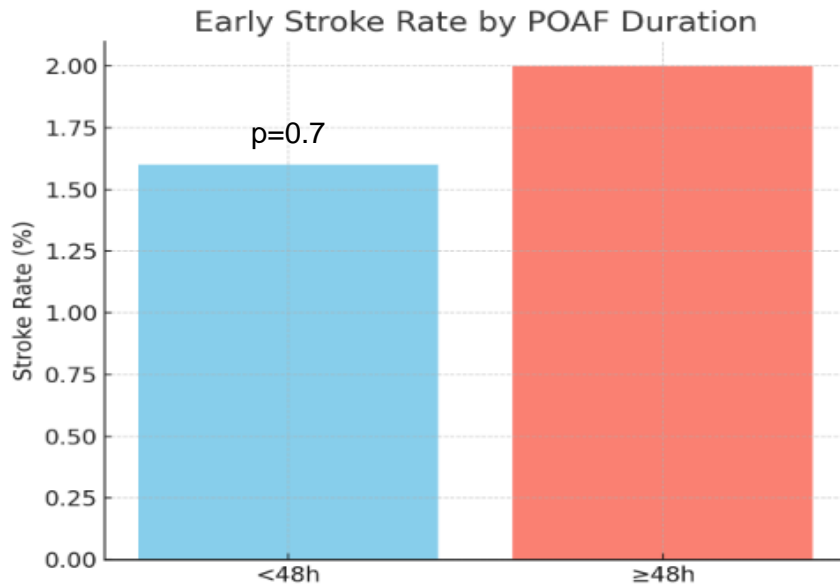


Table 2 - Recurrence of Atrial Fibrillation by Duration of POAF in Early and Late Postoperative Periods

	Recurrence of AF until 6 weeks	Recurrence of AF after 6 weeks
AF < 48 h (n=103)	9	11
AF ≥ 48 h (n= 87)	10	13
P value	P= 0.62	P=0.39

Table 3 - Incidence of early intraoperative stroke and stroke after discharge according to the POAF duration

	Intraoperative stroke	Stroke up to 6 weeks	Stroke after 6 weeks
AF < 48 h (n=103)	3	1	2
AF ≥ 48 h (n= 87)	4	0	2
Total	7	1	4
	P=0.7	P=1	P = 1

**Conclusion:** The duration of POAF did not prove to be a significant risk factor for early stroke or recurrence of atrial fibrillation. However, POAF itself is a predictive factor for AF recurrence in the long term.



