

Clinical Summary: Screening for Atrial Fibrillation With Electrocardiography

Population	Older adults
Recommendation	No recommendation. Grade: I (insufficient evidence)

Risk Assessment	Atrial fibrillation is strongly associated with older age and obesity. Other risk factors include high blood pressure, diabetes, heart failure, prior cardiothoracic surgery, current smoking, prior stroke, sleep apnea, alcohol and drug use, and hyperthyroidism.
Screening Tests	The USPSTF found inadequate evidence to assess whether screening with electrocardiography identifies older adults with previously undiagnosed atrial fibrillation more effectively than usual care.
Treatments and Interventions	Treatment of atrial fibrillation has 2 components: managing arrhythmia and preventing stroke. In general, these treatment goals are independent of each other. Arrhythmia can be managed by controlling the heart rate to minimize symptoms (usually through medication) or by restoring a normal rhythm. Treatment with anticoagulant therapy reduces the incidence of stroke in patients with symptomatic atrial fibrillation and high stroke risk.
Other Relevant USPSTF Recommendations	The USPSTF has made recommendations on many factors related to stroke prevention, including screening for high blood pressure, use of statins, counseling on smoking cessation, counseling to promote healthful diet and physical activity, and low-dose aspirin use for certain persons at increased risk of cardiovascular disease.

For a summary of the evidence systematically reviewed in making this recommendation, the full recommendation statement, and supporting documents, please go to <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org>.