

Optimal medical treatment versus timely intervention therapy for uncomplicated arrhythmia

Lin yenn-jiang MD, PhD.

Taipei Veterans General Hospital,

There are dozens of arrhythmias that differ vastly in their symptoms severity, clinical prognosis, and available treatments. For each arrhythmia, frequently, there can be more than one therapeutic options. Frequently, there can be as many different opinions regarding treatment options for any given arrhythmia as there are physicians willing to provide them. However, there are some general principles and guidelines that most physicians do agree on. First, risk and benefits for different types of arrhythmias shall be considered. Second, treatment of symptoms could be the priority of concerns in cases of uncomplicated arrhythmias. Third, preventing morbidity and mortality shall be considered for atrial fibrillation and ventricular arrhythmias. Last, even though every physician strives to provide the best treatment recommendation for his or her patients, there are many factors that influences the physician's opinion, one of which is his or her own anecdotal experiences. A electrophysiology physician who has performed a large number of certain procedures would be more comfortable with that procedure, and consequently more inclined to recommend it than another physician who has little or no experience with it. Therefore, these factors can result in a bewildering array of treatment choices and professional opinions, including medical treatment versus intervention therapy.