

# Atrial Fibrillation and Anaesthesia

*Essay*

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In Anaesthesiology*

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# الارتجاع الأذيني وعلاقته بالتخدير

توطئه للحصول على درجة الماجستير فى التخدير

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## List of Abbreviations

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AAD	: Antiarrhythmic drug
ACC	: American collage of cardiology
AF	: Atrial fibrillation
AHA	: American heart association
APD	: Action potential duration
ARCH	: Amiodarone Reduction in Coronary Heart
AT	: Antithrombin
ATP	: Adenosine triphosphate
AVN	: Atrioventricular node
B.I.D.	: Bis in die (twice a day)
BB	: Bachmann's bundle
BMI	: Body mass index
BP	: Blood pressure
Ca <sup>++</sup>	: Calcium
CABG	: Coronary artery bypasses graft
CBC	: Complete Blood Picture
CHD	: Congenital heart disease
CI	: Contra indication
Cl <sup>-</sup>	: Chloride
CNS	: Central nervous system
CO	: Carbon monoxide
COP	: Cardiac output
COX	: Cyclooxygenase
CPNB	: Continuous peripheral nerve block
CRP	: C-reactive protein
CS	: Coronary sinus
CT	: Computerized tomography
CVP	: Central Venous Pressure
DC	: Direct current
DCC	: direct current cardioversion
DIC	: Disseminated intravascular coagulation
ECG	: Electrocardiogram

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## List of Abbreviations (Cont.)

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EP	: Electrophysiological
ESC	: European society of cardiology
ETT	: Endotracheal tube
G6PD	: Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase
GA	: General anaesthesia
GI	: Gastro intestinal
HCM	: Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
HF	: heart failure
HIT	: Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia
HRV	: Heart rate variability
ICE	: Intracardiac echocardiogram
ICU	: Intensive care unit
ILCOR	: International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation
IM	: Intramuscular
INR	: International normalized ratio
ISA	: intrinsic sympathomimetic activity
IV	: Intravenous
IVC	: Inferior vena cava
K+	: Potassium
KCal	: Kilo calorie
kDa	: kilo dalton
Kh <sub>z</sub>	: Kilo Hertz
LA	: Left atrium
LAA	: Left atrial appendage
LCA	: Left coronary artery
LCx	: left circumflex coronary
LMWH	: Low-Molecular-Weight Heparin
LQTS	: Long QT syndrome
LV	: left ventricle
LVH	: Left ventricular hypertrophy
MDCT	: Multidetector computerized tomography

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## List of Abbreviations (Cont.)

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MI	: Myocardial infarction
MP	: Membrane potential
Na <sup>+</sup>	: Sodium
NAPA	: N-acetyl procainamide
NICE	: National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence
NSAIDs	: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
OAC	: Oral anticoagulants
PA	: Pulmonary artery
PFO	: Patent foramen ovale
PT	: Prothrombin time
PVs	: Pulmonary veins
Q.I.D	: Quarter in die (four times a day)
RA	: Right atrium
RBC	: Red blood cell
RCA	: Right coronary artery
RF	: Radio frequency
SAN	: Sinoatrial node
SVTs	: Supra ventricular tachycardias
T.I.D	: Ter in die (three times a day)
TEE	: Transesophageal echocardiography
TEG	: Thromboelastography
TIA	: Transient ischemic attack
TTR	: Target therapeutic range
U.S.	: United States
UK	: United Kingdom
VF	: Ventricular fibrillation
Vs	: Versus
VT	: Ventricular tachycardia
W	: Weight [kg]
WPW	: Wolff-Parkinson-White

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## الملخص العربي

يتألف نظام التوصيل في القلب من العقدة الجيبية الأذينية ، العقدة الأذينية البطينية وحرمة من الألياف العصبية.

هناك خلايا معينة من القلب لديها القدرة على الخضوع لإزالة الإستقطاب، دون أي تأثير من الخلايا المجاورة، هذا هو المعروف بالتلقائية. الخلايا التي يمكن أن تخضع لإزالة الإستقطاب أسرع هي التي تنظم ضربات القلب ، وتعيين معدل ضربات القلب عادة ، وهذه هي الخلايا في العقدة الجيبية الأذينية من القلب. يتم نشر النشاط الكهربائي الذي ينشأ من العقدة الجيبية الأذينية إلى بقية القلب.

الانكماش الأذيني يسهم 20-30% من الناتج القلبي. أثناء حدوث نوبات من الارتجاف الاذيني يفقد الانكماش الأذيني المنتظم وتحدث سرعة الإيقاع البطيني غير النظامية مما ينتج عنه أن تفرغ الأذنين يصبح سيئ مع احتمال تشكيل جلطات في الزائده الأذينية ، ويصغر حجم البطين نهاية الانبساط مما يؤدي الي انخفاض ناتج القلب.

يعتبر الارتجاف الاذيني هو أحد أنواع عدم انتظام ضربات القلب التي تنشأ من فوق البطين و يتميز بالتنشيط غير المنسق للأذنين فيترتب على ذلك تدهور في وظيفة الأذنين الميكانيكية ويظهر ذلك في رسم القلب الكهربائي علي هيئة تذبذبات سريعة تختلف في السعة والشكل والتوقيت.

تعتمد استجابة البطين للارتجاف الاذيني علي الخصائص الكهربائية للعقدة الأذينية البطينية وغيرها من الأنسجة الموصلة كما تعتمد علي الجهاز السمبثاوي والباراسمبثاوي ووجود أو عدم وجود أنسجة موصلة اضافيه وكذلك تتأثر بالأدوية.

إن الارتجاف الأذيني هو أكثر أنواع عدم إنتظام ضربات القلب إنتشارا, ومعدل حدوثه يمثل تقريبا ثلث حالات المستشفيات التي تعاني من عدم إنتظام ضربات القلب.

قد يحدث الارتجاف الأذيني في عزلة أو بالاشتراك مع غيره من اضطرابات النظم.

إن إستعادة ضربات القلب من الممكن أن تكون بالمحافظة على ضربات البطين مع عدم ضبط ضربات الأذين أو إن أمكن ضبط ضربات الأذين.

إن علاج عدم إنتظام ضربات القلب له محورين رئيسين:

1- استعادة الضربات الطبيعيه

2 - منع حدوث جلطات

وذلك عن طريق أساليب دوائية وغيردوائية.العلاج الدوائي يشمل: الأدوية المنظمه لضربات القلب وموانع التخثر. العلاج الغيردوائي يشمل:الصدمة الكهربائية والجراحى والكى عن طريق القثطرة ومنظم ضربات القلب الداخلى.

## **Introduction**

Cardiac dysrhythmias are common during anaesthesia and surgery and occur in patients with structural heart disease or normal heart. The aggravating factor is often physiologic imbalance unique to perioperative settings e.g. anaesthetics or adjuvant drugs, adrenergic stress, acid-base and electrolyte imbalance.

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most common sustained cardiac rhythm disturbance, increasing in prevalence with age. AF is often associated with structural heart disease, although a substantial proportion of patients with AF have no detectable heart disease (**Fuster et al., 2006**).

Atrial fibrillation is common after cardiac surgery and often occurs after discharge from the hospital and without accompanying symptoms. Outpatient monitoring may be warranted in patients with characteristics that place them at increased risk for atrial fibrillation (**Funk et al., 2003**).

The clinical significance of these abnormalities for the anaesthesiologist depends on the effect they have on vital signs. Anaesthesiologist must have a thorough understanding of normal physiology of cardiac rhythm, causes of cardiac dysrhythmias and drugs used in treatment of these cases.

The therapy of AF has essentially two aspects: rhythm management, and thromboembolism prophylaxis. Within rhythm management, there are basically two strategies: control of the ventricular rate without any specific effort to restore and maintain sinus rhythm (known as heart rate control), and restoration and maintenance of sinus rhythm (known as heart rhythm control) (**Garwood S, 2006**).

Many pharmacologic options are available for the treatment of AF. For symptomatic patients, sinus rhythm can be restored and maintained using pharmacologic or ablative therapy (**Conway et al., 2009**).

In the last decade, interventional therapy (catheter and surgical ablation) has emerged to play an ever increasing role for patients with symptomatic, medically refractory arrhythmia (**Lee et al., 2009**).

Catheter ablation techniques aimed at curing atrial fibrillation rather than simply controlling the ventricular response (**Callahan et al., 2009**).

## **Anatomical and Physiological Considerations**

### **Anatomical consideration:**

#### **(A) Cardiac Conduction System:**

The cardiac conduction system is composed of the sinoatrial node (SAN), the atrioventricular node (AVN), the HIS bundle, the right and left bundle branches and the Purkinje fibers (as shown in Fig.1) ( **Sanchez-Quintana and Yen Ho 2003**).

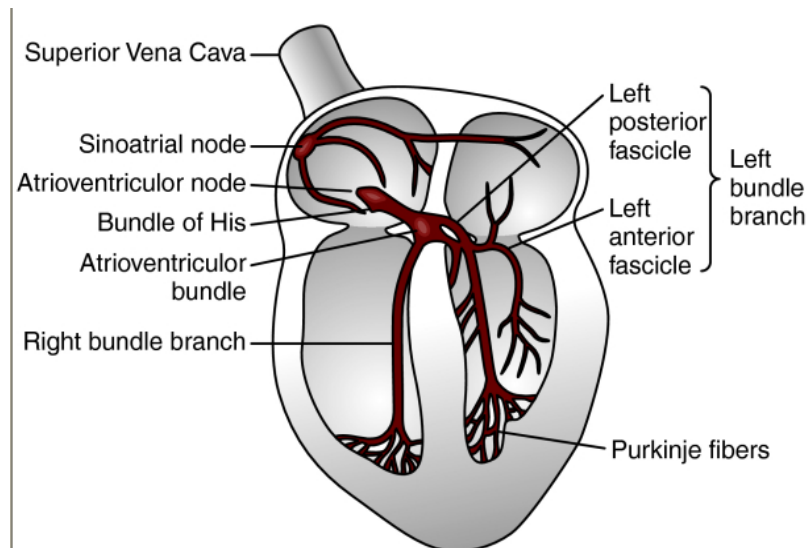


Fig. (1): Anatomy of the conduction system for transmission impulses (**Hines and Marschall, 2008**).

The conduction system consists of specialized myocytes. Its atrial components, the SAN (subepicardial) and the AVN (subendocardial), are in contact with the atrial myocardium (**Malouf et al., 2004**).

While no morphologically distinct conduction pathway between the SAN and AVN is demonstrable, functional