

The antithrombotic management of atrial fibrillation

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Summary / Samenvatting

Summary

The introduction portrays the profile of one of the most wanted cardiovascular serial killers: atrial fibrillation (AF). The arrhythmia has all it takes to maintain this position: several ten millions of victims worldwide, deadly sequelae – in particular stroke – and the act of a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Fortunately, we have a trump card backing up our pursuit to drastically minimize casualties by this international fugitive: oral anticoagulation. Still, up to now we failed to play this card right, leaving the arrhythmia to have the upper hand.

This thesis reflects the problem (Chapters 2, 4, 5 and 7), proposes guerrilla tactics (Chapters 1 and 3) and future avenues (Chapters 6 and 8) in order to regain control and make the (citizen's) arrest.

Samenvatting

De introductie schildert het profiel van een van de meest gezochte cardiovasculaire serie moordenaars: atrium fibrilleren. De ritmestoornis heeft alles in huis om deze positie te behouden: wereldwijd tientallen miljoenen slachtoffers, dodelijke gevolgen – met name beroertes – en het gedrag van een wolf in schaapskleren.

Gelukkig hebben we een troef achter de hand om het aantal slachtoffers van deze internationale voortvluchtige drastisch te beperken: orale antistolling. Helaas hebben we tot op heden onze kaarten niet juist gespeeld waardoor de ritmestoornis de bovenhand heeft.

Dit proefschrift schetst het probleem (Hoofdstukken 2, 4, 5, en 7), stelt guerrilla tactieken voor (Hoofdstuk 1 en 2) en toont toekomstige mogelijkheden om de controle terug te krijgen en tot (burger)arrest over te gaan.