

Cardiac Arrhythmia

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Abstract

Cardiac arrhythmia is the condition which the heart normal rhythm is just disrupted. The heart pumps blood containing oxygen, nutrients, immune cells, and regulatory molecules to the body organs. The rhythm of the heart is set by a cardiac muscle cells in the right atrium called the Sinoatrial (SA) node that acts as a spontaneous pacemaker to maintain adequate blood pressure and oxygen.

Introduction

The heart itself is composed of two upper chambers, the atria, and two lower chambers, the ventricles and the normal heart rhythm is produced. Each impulse propagates throughout the atria before being channeled through the Atrioventricular (AV) node to the ventricles. The heart rhythm is typically monitored by an Electrocardiogram (ECG), which measures the voltage differences between points on the surface of the body. There are several different types of arrhythmia:

- Atrial Fibrillation: This is the irregular beating of atrial chambers, and nearly involves tachycardia.
- Atrial flutter: Atrial flutter is usually from one area in the atrium that is not conducting properly.
- Supraventricular tachycardia: Refers to a rapid but rhythmically regular heartbeat. An individual can experience a burst of accelerated heartbeats that can last from a few

seconds to a few hours.

- Ventricular tachycardia: This condition refers to abnormal electrical impulses that start in the ventricles and cause an abnormally fast heartbeat.
- Ventricular fibrillation: This is an irregular heart rhythm consisting of rapid, uncoordinated, and fluttering contractions of the ventricles.

This condition can cause blockage of artery or veins in vital parts of body and can damage it. If a clot dislodges, it may travel to a brain artery, causing a potentially fatal blockage, or stroke. Stroke can cause brain damage and require emergency treatment. Prolonged tachycardia or bradycardia can result in heart failure. When the heart is failing, it cannot pump enough blood to the body and its organs.

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