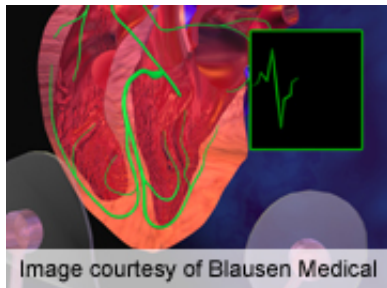


Chronic kidney disease increases stroke risk in A-fib

16 August 2012



Patients with atrial fibrillation who have chronic kidney disease are at higher risk of stroke or systemic thromboembolism and bleeding, according to a study published in the Aug. 16 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

(HealthDay) -- Patients with atrial fibrillation who have chronic kidney disease are at higher risk of stroke or systemic thromboembolism and bleeding, according to a study published in the Aug. 16 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Jonas Bjerring Olesen, M.D., from the Copenhagen University Hospital Gentofte in Hellerup, Denmark, and colleagues reviewed the records of 132,372 patients in Denmark who had been discharged from the hospital with a diagnosis of nonvalvular atrial fibrillation between 1997 and 2008. Of these, 2.7 percent had non-end-stage [chronic kidney disease](#) and 0.7 percent required renal-replacement therapy. The risks of stroke and systemic thromboembolism and the effects of antithrombotic treatment were examined in these patients.

Compared with patients without renal disease, the researchers found a significantly higher risk of stroke or systemic thromboembolism in patients with non-end-stage chronic kidney disease (hazard ratio, 1.49) and in patients requiring renal-replacement therapy (hazard ratio, 1.83). Warfarin, but not aspirin, significantly reduced this risk. Both

groups of patients also had a higher risk of bleeding, which was further increased with warfarin or aspirin.

"Chronic kidney disease was associated with an increased risk of stroke or systemic thromboembolism and bleeding among patients with [atrial fibrillation](#)," Olesen and colleagues write. "Warfarin treatment was associated with a decreased risk of stroke or systemic thromboembolism among patients with chronic kidney disease, whereas warfarin and aspirin were associated with an increased risk of bleeding."

Several authors disclosed [financial ties](#) to pharmaceutical companies.

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APA citation: Chronic kidney disease increases stroke risk in A-fib (2012, August 16) retrieved 10 June 2021 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-08-chronic-kidney-disease-a-fib.html>

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