

# Effectiveness of Surgical Ablation of Atrial Fibrillation during Mitral Valve Surgery: A Randomized Clinical Trial from the Cardiothoracic Surgical Trials Network

**Purpose:** For patients who have persistent or long-standing persistent (LSP) atrial fibrillation (AF) and are having mitral valve surgery, this trial compares effectiveness of surgical ablation to no surgical ablation.

**Trial Design:** Phase 2, interventional, randomized, parallel, single blind (outcomes) study. Mitral valve surgery (MVS) + ablation vs. MVS alone. N= 260. Mean f/u=21 months.

**Primary Endpoint:** number of patients free of AF at 6 and 12 months

Trial Results	MVS + ablation	MVS alone	P value
AF Free	63%	29%	<0.001
Mortality @ 1 year	6.8%	8.7%	0.55
# Requiring permanent pacemaker	21.5	8.1	0.01

**Conclusions:** A significant number of patients were free of AF at 1 year when ablation was used with MVS. More patients who received ablation required a permanent pacemaker. Other endpoints were similar with both approaches.