Top Ten Things To Know
2011 Focused Update on the Management of Patients With Atrial Fibrillation

1. This guideline updates the 2006 Guideline.
2. New evidence is presented in this guideline to help clinicians with the management of persons with atrial fibrillation.
3. Strict control of heart rate provides no advantage over more lenient control of heart rate.
4. Combination antiplatelet therapy may be considered instead of anticoagulation with warfarin in persons not deemed suitable for warfarin therapy.
5. Recommendations regarding the use of dronedarone are presented in this guideline.
6. Discovering the potential cause of atrial fibrillation and treating it is recommended before initiating antiarrhythmlic therapy.
7. Updated recommendations for catheter ablation are presented and are upgraded from the 2006 Atrial Fibrillation guideline.
8. A decision tree is included to guide maintenance of sinus rhythm in patients with recurrent paroxysmal or persistent atrial fibrillation.
9. Future directions for the use of catheter ablation are presented as a new section in this update.
10. Emerging and investigational antithrombotic drugs such as dabigitran were reviewed by this writing group, and will be addressed in the future.