Atrial Fibrillation (AF) is the most common type of sustained cardiac arrhythmia affecting approximately 1.5–2% of the developed world’s population. By 2050 it is expected that over 60% of the population will be over 65.

AF prevalence is expected to increase from 8.8 to 17.9 million, between 2010 and 2060.

The two main goals of the study were to:
1. Develop an understanding of the current realities of AF-related anticoagulation management and research
2. Develop an understanding of areas within that could be refined to improve the outlook for future AF management.

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The report aims were to assess the current realities of AF-related anticoagulation management and research across the health services, patient approaches to care, and the current reality of AF-related care across the public and policy sectors. The committee guided the research across the health services – International Steering Committee

Members
- Prof. Jane Gunn (Chair)
- Dr. Jonathan Salter
- Prof. John Camm (Chair)
- Dr. Andrew Walker
- Prof. Raffaele De Caterina
- Prof. Reinhold Kreutz
- Prof. Josep Brugada
- Prof. Hans-Christoph Diener
- Dr. Andrea Goette
- Dr. Sophie Castle-Clarke
- Mrs. Catriona Manville
- Mrs. Veronika Horvath
- Mrs. Enora Robin
- Mrs. Joachim Krapels
- Mrs. Sarah Parks

**CHALLENGES**

1. Low awareness of AF and its risk to patients and public funding for campaigns
2. Education of AF patients and HCPs
3. Integrating research and healthcare
4. Immediate recommendations
   - Improve AF awareness among the public and policy sectors
   - Support education about AF management across HCPs and patients
   - Maintain engagement in AF related research and healthcare service

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Long-term recommendations
   - Improved AF awareness among the public and policy sectors
   - Increased interaction among primary, community, secondary and tertiary care would enable knowledge sharing and more whole-community, secondary and tertiary care patient approaches to care
   - Support education about AF management and improved awareness of AF management
2. Immediate recommendations
   - Non-pharmacological treatment of AF
   - Improved AF awareness among the public and policy sectors
   - Improved AF awareness among the public and policy sectors
   - Support education about AF management
   - Improved engagement in AF related research and healthcare service

**Facts and Figures**

The cost burden of AF-related stroke is estimated to be €26-30bn.
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