



Appendix B: Possible Causes of Atrial Fibrillation

Possible cardiac and non-cardiac causes of atrial fibrillation (AF) include: (not a complete list)

Cardiac causes of AF	Non-cardiac causes of AF
<p>Common cardiac causes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypertension (especially with associated left ventricular hypertrophy) • Ischemic heart disease • Rheumatic heart disease • Valvular heart disease (especially mitral valve stenosis) • Cardiac surgery • Myocarditis • Sick sinus syndrome • Pre-excitation syndromes with accessory conduction pathways (e.g., Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome) <p>Less common cardiac causes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dilated and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy • Pericardial disease (e.g., pericardial effusion, constrictive pericarditis) • Atrial septal defect • Atrial myxoma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyperthyroidism • Acute infections, especially pneumonia in the elderly • Acute excess alcohol intake or chronic excess alcohol intake • Narcotic abuse • Obesity • Sleep apnea • Hemochromatosis • Sarcoidosis • Respiratory causes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lung cancer - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) - Pleural effusion - Pulmonary embolism - Pulmonary hypertension