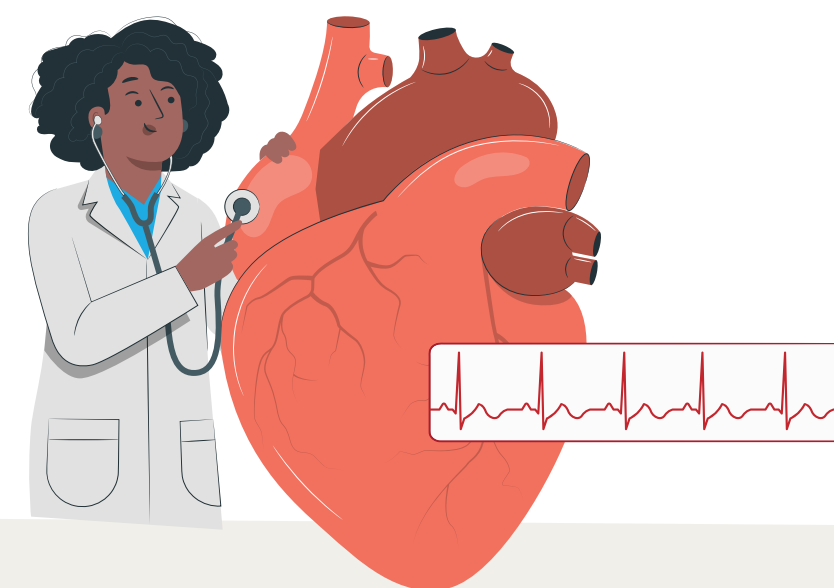


Atrial fibrillation, or AFib, is the most common heart rhythm problem (arrhythmia). **Medications, along with lifestyle changes, play a vital role in managing AFib.**

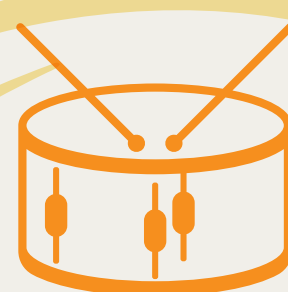


Medications can:



Keep the heart from beating too fast
(rate control medications)

and/or



Get the heart back to a normal rhythm and help keep it there
(rhythm control medications)

and



Help prevent a stroke, which is more common with AFib (anticoagulants or blood thinners)

Zeroing in on rhythm control medications as one option

- ▶ They help restore and maintain a normal rhythm.
- ▶ Examples include sotalol, flecainide, propafenone, dronedarone, dofetilide and amiodarone.
- ▶ More often used in people who:



Know when they are "in" AFib or don't feel well with AFib



Have other heart conditions



Continue having a fast heart rate despite medication



Are waiting to have an ablation (procedure to restore and maintain rhythm)

No single approach to AFib medications fits everyone. Some people benefit more from controlling their heart rhythm.

Things to keep in mind

Some rhythm control medications:

- ▶ Require regular blood work and other tests.
- ▶ May cause new heart rhythm problems.
- ▶ Need to be started in the hospital to see if they work and are safe.
- ▶ Sometimes are used along with a cardioversion or ablation.

As with any medications, there can be side effects. Ask questions and always share concerns with your care team.

visit [CardioSmart.org/AFib](https://www.cardiosmart.org/AFib) to learn more.

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