Atrial fibrillation (AFib) can lead to **blood clots** inside your heart. These clots can travel to your brain and **cause a stroke**.

If you have AFib, you are **5x more likely to have a stroke**. It also **doubles the risk** a stroke may leave you unable to:

- Take care of yourself (dress, bathe, eat)
- Talk or understand language
- Move one or both sides of your body

**For most people, blood thinners** (also called anticoagulants)

- **Lower the risk** of stroke
- **Reduce the blood’s ability to clot**

The **benefit** of preventing stroke often **outweighs** bleeding risk, and bleeding usually can be stopped.

### What can you do?

1. **Know & weigh your risks** of stroke and bleeding
2. **Partner with your care team**
3. **Use a decision guide** to help you learn more about blood thinners for AFib, such as CardioSmart.org/SDMAFib

**For more information, visit** [CardioSmart.org/BloodThinners](https://CardioSmart.org/BloodThinners)

Information provided for educational purposes only. Please consult your health care provider about your specific health needs.