ATRIAL FIBRILLATION, STROKE & BLOOD THINNERS

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

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