## An Expensive Disease

AFib is a major economic burden for the US, with at least $6.65 billion in annual direct costs. The estimated annual direct medical costs for individuals with AFib is $8.0 billion. Medicare alone pays $15.7 billion per year for AFib.

### Risk Factors for AFib

- **Age:** A major risk factor and prevalence increases significantly as we grow older.
- **Gender:** Afib prevalence is going up in women, compared to stroke patients without AFib.
- **Genetics:** A family history of stroke may in fact be extremely low. One study estimates that 50% of strokes occur in first-degree relatives of those with AFib.
- **Disability:** Not surprisingly, individuals with AFib report worse quality of life compared to those without the disease.

### The Cost of Hospitalization

- **Direct Care:** Hospital care is the major cost driver with bleeding complications and the average hospitalization cost per patient was $15,988.
- **Indirect Care:** The cost of caring for stroke associated with AFib was estimated to be $1.3 billion.

### The Cost of Anticoagulation

- **Office Visits:** Adjusted total Medicare spending in one year was found to be $10,000 to $14,200.
- **Hospitalizations:** The annual cost of hospitalization for patients with an intracranial hemorrhage, $40,586 per patient with a minor GI bleed—compared with $24,129 per patient with no bleeding events.

### The Cost of Bleeding Complications

- **Prevention of Stroke:** AFib can cause serious complications, including stroke, which doubles the person’s risk of death and is the most common cause of nontraumatic death—almost 99.8% of all deaths from AFib.
- **New Oral Anticoagulants:** Studies show that new oral anticoagulants are associated with a lower risk of major bleeding compared to warfarin.
- **Cost Savings:** New oral anticoagulants, as high as 31% reduction in major bleeding complications, and the average hospitalization cost per patient was $9,836 per year.

### The Value of Innovation

- **Prevention of AFib:** The cost of caring for stroke associated with AFib was estimated to be $1.3 billion.
- **Lifestyle Changes:** Studies show that lifestyle changes can reduce the risk of AFib.
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References


The private, not-for-profit Alliance for Aging Research is the nation’s leading citizen advocacy organization for improving the health and independence of Americans as they age.