

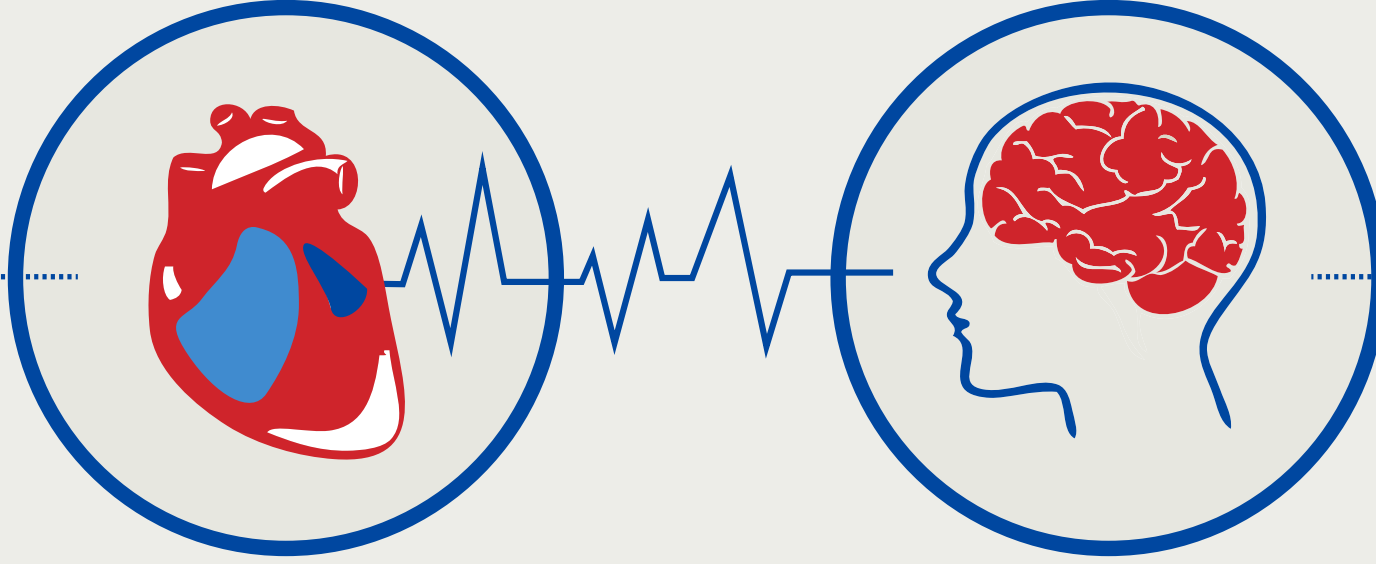
WHAT IS THE AFIB - STROKE CONNECTION?

? AFIB + STROKE RELATIONSHIP

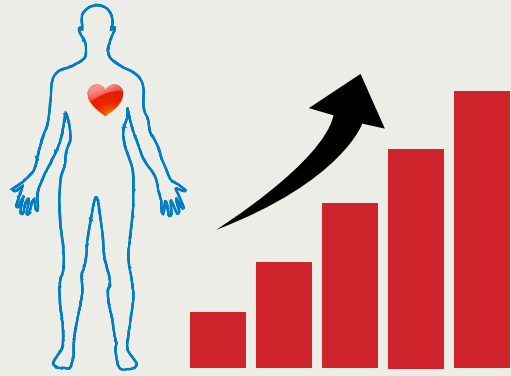
Atrial Fibrillation, also known as **AFib**, is the most common heart arrhythmia, affecting more than **2.7 million** people in the United States, and is a major risk factor for **stroke**.



AFib is a type of irregular heartbeat, characterized by unpredictable, sometimes rapid, beating of the two upper chambers of the heart (atria).



AFib can allow blood to pool in the upper chambers of the heart and potentially form a clot, which can travel to a person's brain and cause a stroke.



The risk of stroke is increased four-to five-fold in patients with AFib.

The **Heart Rhythm Society (HRS)** and **National Stroke Association**, in collaboration with **Boehringer Ingelheim (BI)**, fielded a new survey of more than **1,200 respondents** to evaluate the impact of AFib and stroke on patients and caregivers, and the concurrent perceptions physicians have about treatment options and their patients' understanding of issues surrounding the condition.

👤 BARRIERS TO PATIENT EDUCATION

When asked about barriers to educating AFib patients about their condition and increased risk of AFib-related stroke, surveyed physicians perceive the following as **the top three barriers**:

1

Patients feel the risk of AFib-related stroke goes away once symptoms are being treated

2

Patients think risks outweigh the benefits for medications reducing the risk of AFib-related stroke

3

Patients have trouble understanding what is being explained

📄 CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION

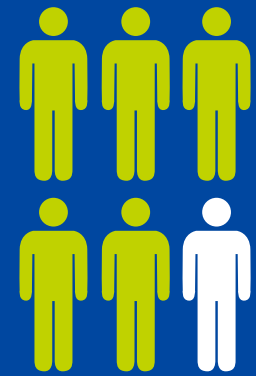


More than 2 in 3

AFib patients surveyed were not previously aware that AFib-related strokes are **nearly twice as likely** to be fatal or disabling as non-AFib-related strokes.

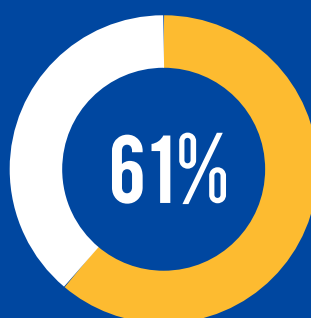
5 in 6

stroke survivors surveyed wish they had known more about reducing the risk of AFib-related stroke prior to experiencing a stroke.

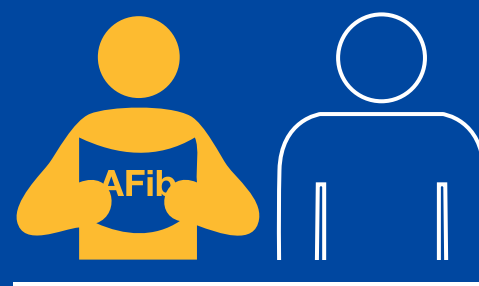


3 in 5

stroke survivors surveyed (**61 percent**) did not know they had AFib prior to experiencing a stroke



90 percent of physicians surveyed believe AFib patients underestimate the impact of AFib-related stroke on their daily lives.



1 in 2

Approximately half of caregivers surveyed believed AFib caused an increased risk of stroke prior to the person in their care experiencing a stroke.

It is important to know how to recognize and respond to AFib and stroke signs and symptoms. More information and resources for understanding and preventing AFib-related strokes are available at www.MyAFib.org and www.Stroke.org/afib-stroke.