

OBJECTIVES FOR COMMON CLINICAL PROBLEMS

Atrial Fibrillation (AF)

A. KNOWLEDGE: Students should be able to define, describe and discuss

1. Definition of AF
2. Epidemiology
3. Pathophysiologic mechanism of AF
4. Myocardial and hemodynamic consequences of AF
5. Thromboembolism in AF
6. Evaluation of patient with AF
7. Investigations of patient with AF
8. Management
 - rhythm control vs. rate control
 - pharmacological cardioversion
 - electrical cardioversion
 - anticoagulation
 - pulmonary vein ablation

B. SKILLS. Students should be able to demonstrate specific skills, including:

1. History and physical examination, to define

- The presence and nature of symptoms associated with AF
- The clinical type of AF (first episode, paroxysmal, persistent, or permanent)
- The onset of the first symptomatic attack or date of discovery of AF
- Identifying risks factors for stroke in AF
- The frequency, duration, precipitating factors, and modes of termination of AF
- The response to any pharmacological agents that have been administered
- The presence of any underlying heart disease or other reversible conditions (e.g., hyperthyroidism or alcohol consumption)

2. Differential diagnosis:

- Differentiating AF from other forms of SVT

3. Investigations. Students should be able to interpret specific diagnostic tests that are routinely ordered to evaluate patients with AF

- 12 lead ECG
- Chest x-ray
- Echocardiogram
- Blood work e.g. thyroid function tests

4. Management skills. Student should be able to develop an appropriate evaluation and treatment plan for patients with AF

- Anticoagulation in AF
- Rhythm control vs. rate control
- Cardioversion
- Pharmacological
- Electrical
- Pulmonary vein ablation