

Atrial Fibrillation Screening in General Practice

This was a multisite prospective observational study to examine the feasibility of screening for atrial fibrillation (AF) amongst patients aged 65 years and over in a predominately rural, low population density area. For six months participating GPs screened all eligible patients for AF using radial pulse palpation confirmed by 12 lead electrocardiogram (ECG). Galway University Hospital and Sligo Regional Hospital provided open access to participating GPs for cardiac diagnostics, cardiology clinic appointments and clinical advice via telephone.

OPPORTUNISTIC SCREENING FOR ATRIAL FIBRILLATION IS FEASIBLE IN A RURAL POPULATION.



37 GP PRACTICES



PARTICIPATED INVOLVING

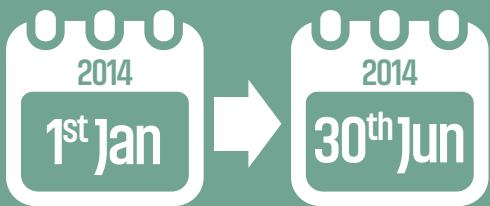
89 GPs



& THEIR PRACTICE NURSES

7,262 PATIENTS

SCREENED BETWEEN



AN IRREGULAR PULSE WAS DETECTED IN 916 PATIENTS - 12.6%

55

NEW CASES OF AF WERE DETECTED

AN INCIDENCE RATE OF 17/1,000 OVER 65'S PER YEAR

PREVALENCE OF AF IN THE STUDY POPULATION WAS 10.9% OR 220/1,000

OVER

65's

PER YEAR

OF THE NEWLY DETECTED

AF CASES

81% OF FEMALES



69% OF MALES

WERE EITHER OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE
PREVALENCE OF DIABETES WAS 25%



95% OF PATIENTS WITH NEWLY DIAGNOSED AF WERE AT HIGH ENOUGH RISK OF STROKE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ANTICOAGULATION THERAPY: CHA2DS2VASC SCORE ≥ 2

50%

HALF OF NEWLY DIAGNOSED AF PATIENTS (27) PRESENTED WITH NO SYMPTOMS



57%

57% OF NEWLY DIAGNOSED AF PATIENTS WHO STARTED ON ORAL ANTICOAGULATION WERE STARTED ON A NEW ORAL ANTICOAGULANT (NOAC)

National Stroke Programme

HSE Clinical Strategy and Programmes Directorate



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



STROKE