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## Arrhythmias

### A CLOSER ASSOCIATION OF ATRIAL FIBRILLATION (AF) WITH THREE CHRONIC CONDITIONS MAY EXPLAIN KNOWN RACIAL DISPARITIES IN AF MORTALITY

ACC Moderated Poster Contributions

McCormick Place South, Hall A

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Session Title: Arrhythmias: AF/SVT- Emerging Risk Factors for Atrial Fibrillation

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**Background:** Previous studies indicate that, unlike all heart disease or coronary heart disease (CHD), mortality in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF) is higher in whites than blacks. However, reasons for this difference are incompletely understood.

**Methods:** Data for AF were analyzed from the US multiple-cause mortality files for 2005-2006. Age-adjusted death rates per 100,000 were computed for non-Hispanic blacks and whites aged 35-84 years.

**Results:** Overall death rates with AF were much lower in blacks than whites (23.8 vs. 32.4). Death rates were similar in blacks and whites for AF with hypertensive disease (8.7 vs. 8.6), cerebrovascular disease (6.0 vs. 7.4) and complications of medical/surgical therapy (0.5 vs. 0.7) but much lower in blacks for AF with ischemic heart disease (IHD) (6.9 vs. 11.0), heart failure (6.7 vs. 9.0), and respiratory disease (7.2 vs. 12.7). Overall death rates with IHD were much higher in blacks than whites (343.1 vs. 262.7).

**Conclusions:** A closer association of AF with fatal ischemic heart disease, heart failure and respiratory disorders in whites than blacks may explain much of the racial disparities in AF death rates.