

In Afib, Shape May Matter

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The shape of the left atrial appendage may have something to do with the risk of ischemic stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation, researchers found.

Of the four shapes characterized by researchers, the one called Chicken Wing carried a 79 percent decreased risk of stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA), according to Andrea Natale, MD, from the Texas Cardiac Arrhythmia Institute in Austin, and colleagues.

Compared with Chicken Wing, the other three shapes were four to eight times more likely to be associated with stroke or TIA, they reported in the Aug. 7 issue of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

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