

Summary

- As with heart failure or angina, success in managing atrial fibrillation is defined as a decrease in:

Frequency
of
episodes

Duration
of
episodes

Symptoms
during
episodes

- Decreasing atrial fibrillation burden offers potential to successfully treat atrial fibrillation by:
 - Decreasing mortality
 - Decreasing hospitalizations
 - Increasing quality of life

BIDMC Approach

- First clinic established to deal with diagnosis and management of AF
- National/international registry to define practice patterns and define best approaches and outcomes (cost effectiveness)
- Multidisciplinary approach
 - Clinical cardiologists/electrophysiologists – rate control: pharmacologic, device and ablation
 - Electrophysiologists and surgeons – rhythm control: pharmacologic, catheter and surgical ablative approach
 - Non-invasive imaging (echo and MRI) to define structure, clot and stroke risk, and assess efficacy of catheter or surgical ablation