

Mayo Clinic Medical Edge
Complications of Atrial Fibrillation

1:00

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Audio

Intro with music	GIVING YOU THE EDGE ON HEALTHY LIVING, HERE'S MAYO CLINIC'S MEDICAL EDGE.
	IT'S THE MOST COMMON HEART RHYTHM PROBLEM IN THE UNITED STATES....
Stephen Hammill, M.D.	"SKIPPED BEATS, IRREGULAR BEATS, PAUSES, FLUTTERINGS, ALL KINDS OF WORDS ARE USED TO DESCRIBE IT."
	DR. STEPHEN HAMMILL IS A HEART RHYTHM SPECIALIST AT MAYO CLINIC. WHILE ATRIAL FIBRILLATION IS NOT CONSIDERED LIFE-THREATENING ON ITS OWN, IT CAN SET THE STAGE FOR TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS. THE FIRST IS STROKE.

Dr. Hammill	“ABOUT HALF OF NEW STROKE PATIENTS WHO PRESENT TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM, IT’S DUE TO ATRIAL FIBRILLATION.”
	THE SECOND PROBLEM COMES WHEN THE ATRIAL FIBRILLATION IS PERSISTANT AND UNRECOGNIZED.
Dr. Hammill	“IT CAN REDUCE HEART STRENGTH AND CAUSE HEART FAILURE.”
	THAT’S WHY, IF YOU EXPERIENCE SYMPTOMS—A FLUTTERING OR IRREGULAR HEART BEAT, SHORTNESS OF BREATH, FATIGUE OR LIGHTHEADEDNESS—SEE YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER. ATRIAL FIBRILLATION IS USUALLY VERY TREATABLE.
	FOR MORE INFORMATION, TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR OR VISIT MAYOCLINIC.ORG . I’M VIVIEN WILLIAMS.