

Statin in Prevention of Atrial Fibrillation after Cardiac Surgery

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Our group of studies on coronary heart diseases would like to congratulate the authors for the article by Alves et al¹ for this relevant subject matter. We wished to report our opinion regarding the chronic use of preoperative statin and atrial fibrillation in the postoperative period.

The onset of atrial fibrillation often occurs in patients after cardiac surgery². And the presence of three or more risk

factors significantly increases the incidence of arrhythmia after cardiac surgery³.

We agree with the existence of an anti-inflammatory effect attributed to statins, but we believe that reducing the occurrence of atrial fibrillation in the postoperative period is due to a smaller manipulation of the pericardium in patients taking statins, due to a greater stabilization of atherosclerotic ischemia and smaller extension of coronary disease. Postoperative atrial fibrillation has a strong relationship with the degree of pericardial inflammation, which is turn related to the amount of pericardial manipulation.

We would like to ask the authors about the occurrence of acute postoperative pericarditis and the occurrence of atrial fibrillation in this group.

Keywords

Hydroxymethylglutaril-CoA reductase inhibitors/therapeutic use; atrial fibrillation/prevention & control; postoperative period.

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Reply

We greatly appreciate your attention and we are honored with the comments made to our study, which will serve as an encouragement, and for future observations.

Undoubtedly, pericarditis is a risk factor for developing atrial fibrillation after cardiac surgery, as well as the presence of three or more risk factors^{1,2}. Therefore, we have already included this risk factor in our current research.

However, in the study at hand³, there was no clinical sign of acute pericarditis in the postoperative period. We have observed in patients only the presence of pericardial friction between the immediate postoperative period and the first day after the surgery. This picture was spontaneously solved and we did not associate it with the onset of atrial fibrillation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Renato J. Alves

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