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Chronic Atrial Fibrillation

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Chronic Atrial Fibrillation*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C80392.

A disorder characterized by a long standing and persistent uncoordinated atrial myocardium activation due to multiple reentry circuits with consequent deterioration of atrial mechanical function. Instead of intermittently contracting, the atria quiver continuously in a chaotic pattern, causing a totally irregular, often tachycardia ventricular rate. On the ECG it is characterized by the replacement of consistent P waves by rapid oscillations or fibrillatory waves that vary in size, shape, and timing, associated with an irregular, frequently rapid ventricular response when atrioventricular conduction is intact.