



PRESS RELEASE

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Name: Francesca Costanzo
Phone: + 1 215 239 3249
Email: f.costanzo@elsevier.com

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Canadian Journal of Cardiology Publishes New Atrial Fibrillation Guidelines *New drugs available to prevent strokes and control heart rhythm*

Philadelphia, PA, March 20, 2012 – The *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* (www.onlinecjc.ca) has published a focused update to the Canadian Cardiovascular Society's atrial fibrillation guidelines.

Atrial fibrillation is the most common cardiac arrhythmia and is a significant cause of stroke, illness in general, and death. It is, for example, the leading cause of stroke in the elderly. The past year has seen important changes in the drugs available to treat atrial fibrillation and in our understanding of their indications and complications. These changes will strongly affect how doctors treat this important condition. The Canadian Cardiovascular Society has accordingly updated its guidelines for drugs to prevent strokes and to control the heart rhythm, providing important new guidance to practicing doctors as to how to treat the condition, prevent potentially serious negative consequences, and avoid complications of therapy.

"These Canadian Cardiovascular Society guidelines provide the first detailed analysis of how the mass of recently obtained important information should be applied to change the ways that doctors handle this challenging clinical problem. They will have a significant impact on how the condition is treated worldwide," comments Stanley Nattel, MD, Editor-in-Chief of the *Canadian Journal of Cardiology*.

The paper is "[Focused 2012 Update of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society Atrial Fibrillation Guidelines: Recommendations for Stroke Prevention and Rate/Rhythm Control.](#)" by Allan C. Skanes, MD, Jeff S. Healey, MD, MSc, John A. Cairns, MD, Paul Dorian, MD, Anne M. Gillis, MD, M. Sean McMurtry, MD, PhD, L. Brent Mitchell, MD, Atul Verma, MD, Stanley Nattel, MD, and the Canadian Cardiovascular Society Atrial Fibrillation Guidelines Committee (DOI: 10.1016/j.cjca.2012.01.021). It appears in *Canadian Journal of Cardiology*, Volume 28, Issue 2 (March 2012), published by Elsevier.

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About the *Canadian Journal of Cardiology*

The *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* (www.onlinecjc.ca) is the official journal of the [Canadian Cardiovascular Society](#). It is a vehicle for the international dissemination of new knowledge in cardiology and cardiovascular science, particularly serving as a major venue for the results of Canadian cardiovascular research and Society guidelines. The journal publishes original reports of clinical and basic research relevant to cardiovascular medicine as well as editorials, review articles, case reports, and papers on health outcomes, policy research, ethics, medical history, and political issues affecting practice.

About the Editor-in-Chief

Editor-in-Chief Stanley Nattel, MD, is Paul-David Chair in Cardiovascular Electrophysiology and Professor of Medicine at the University of Montreal and Director of the Electrophysiology Research Program at the Montreal Heart Institute Research Center.

About the Canadian Cardiovascular Society

The Canadian Cardiovascular Society is the professional association for Canadian cardiovascular physicians and scientists working to promote cardiovascular health and care through knowledge translation, professional development, and leadership in health policy. The CCS provides programs and services to its 1900+ members and others in the cardiovascular community, including guidelines for cardiovascular care, the annual Canadian Cardiovascular Congress, and, with the Canadian Cardiovascular Academy, programs for trainees. More information about the CCS and its activities can be found at www.ccs.ca.

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Media contact

Francesca Costanzo

Elsevier

+1 215 239 3249

f.costanzo@elsevier.com