The day my heart skipped a beat

Safe, consistent and effective management of Atrial Fibrillation in the Emergency Department
The Problem

1. Confusing array of management strategies
   - NICE Guidance
   - ESC Guidance
   - AHA Guidance
   - Personal opinion
The Problem

2. Stroke risk

- Increased risk by up to 5x
- AF causes around 12,500 strokes pa
- Only half of those who should take OACs are
- 7,000 strokes and 2,000 premature deaths could be avoided with OAC

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1. A standardised locally agreed guideline

- A pragmatic combination of ESC & NICE guidelines
- Locally agreed
- Trialled and amended several times
The Solution

2. Stroke - Risk Stratify & Anticoagulate

- CHA$_2$DS$_2$-VASc Score all patients

- Offer 1 month TTO NOAC.
Conclusion

• Atrial Fibrillation is common and getting commoner.

• Management need not vary day to day and individual to individual.

• Not documenting stroke risk and considering a NOAC is dangerous.