

Mayo Clinic Minute

Atrial Fibrillation

	AUDIO
	This is a normal heartbeat.
	<i>Sound of a regular heartbeat</i>
	Atrial fibrillation interrupts this regular beat.
	In atrial fibrillation, instead of the atria squeezing in a normal, regular fashion, the atria beat irregularly and chaotically.
	Dr. Fred Kusumoto is an electrophysiologist at Mayo Clinic.
Title: FRED KUSUMOTO, M.D. CARDIOLOGY Mayo Clinic	In some cases, people feel their heart palpitating or beating very, very fast; or a flip-flop in their heart or chest area. Other times, people just notice that they are more short of breath when they walk upstairs.
Graphic: ATRIAL FIBRILLATION RISKS Blood clots Heart failure Stroke	Dr. Kusumoto says atrial fibrillation decreases the heart's blood-pumping efficiency and puts a patient at higher risk for blood clots, heart failure and stroke.
Title: JEFF OLSEN MAYO CLINIC MINUTE Mayo Clinic News Network	In some cases, atrial fibrillation can be corrected with medication or by administering a shock to a sedated patient's heart.
	<i>Sound of operating room</i>
	In other instances, a procedure called catheter ablation may be used to scar tissue that's creating the erratic signals ...
	<i>Sound of a regular heartbeat</i>
	... in the hopes of getting back to that normal beat.
Use the heartbeat sound effect in the file.	<i>Sound of a regular heartbeat</i>

Graphic:
newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org

For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Jeff Olsen.