Letter by Jogia and Liang Regarding Article, “Evaluating the Atrial Myopathy Underlying Atrial Fibrillation: Identifying the Arrhythmogenic and Thrombogenic Substrate”

To the Editor:

We read with interest the recent article in Circulation by Goldberger et al.1 The authors discussed potential substrates for the condition. However, we were surprised that they did not emphasize the crucial role that hypertension plays in the development of AF. A report published more than 10 years ago found that hypertension was the leading cause of death and disease in the world.2 Arterial hypertension is found in 65% to 70% of patients with AF but in only 40% of the population, and it is the most common comorbidity found in AF registries in Germany and Europe.3-5 Although these statistics suggest a causal link between hypertension and AF, the mechanism by which it predisposes to AF is not well understood and requires more research. The strong association between hypertension and AF behooves us to redouble our collective efforts to identify and treat hypertension in an attempt to reduce the burden of this disease, which will no doubt favorably affect the ever-increasing prevalence of AF in most communities. The role of hypertension should not be understated in any contemporary review relating possible substrates for this condition.

Disclosures

None.

References


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