Top tips from AF talk May 2025

- 1. Treat co-morbidities and Risk Factors.
- 2. ECGs
 - Learn a system and use it
 - <u>https://litfl.com/ecg-library/</u>
 - A template is included as a separate document and also uploaded to the training website
- 3. Interaction of diltiazem and NOACs.
- 4. Don't forget digoxin.
 - It is cheap
 - Safe
 - Good choice for the elderly
 - Evidence that it can reduce hospital admissions in patients with HF
- 5. Use CHA2DS2-VA Score

https://www.mdcalc.com/calc/10583/cha2ds2-va-score-atrialfibrillation-stroke-risk

6. Asymptomatic screening lacks strong evidence (yet), but it is widely promoted. There is a trial that may hopefully answer this question, but remember that screening is not without risks and should only be performed when there is evidence of it's benefits.

> https://www.phpc.cam.ac.uk/news/university-cambridge-studybecomes-largest-randomised-atrial-fibrillation-screening-trial-ever

- 7. PAF detected on devices (like an Apple watch) does not have the same level of stroke risk as persistent AF, symptomatic AF, or opportunistic detected AF for CVA
- 8. Ablation is good for symptoms in the right patient
 - No good evidence that ablation reduces stroke
- 9. Stents are for symptoms only (apart from during an MI)
- 10. Beware of non-blinded & observational trials Be a Sceptic!
- 11. Here is the video of the graphics I created for the talk, available here.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ic3zkF_Whfg

12. Here is a link to the patient leaflet <u>https://www.escardio.org/static-file/Escardio/Guidelines/Documents/ESC-</u> <u>Patient-Guidelines-Atrial-Fibrillation.pdf</u>