Gender specific long term multiprocedural outcome after catheter ablation for persistent Atrial fibrillation. Time to close the gender gap.

Hariharan Sugumar  
Shane Nanayakkara  
David Chieng  
Geoffrey R Wong  
Ramanathan Purameswaran  
Robert Anderson  
Ahmed Al-Kaisey  
Chrishan J Nalliah  
Sonia Azzopardi  
Geoffrey Lee  
Alex J McLellan  
Liang-Han Ling  
Joseph Morton  
Jonathan M Kalman  
Peter M Kistler

**Introduction**: Despite increasing number of ablations performed for persistent atrial fibrillation (AF), even with multiple procedures, arrhythmia outcomes continue to remain suboptimal. Whether repeat ablation procedure improves arrhythmia outcomes in the female population with persistent AF (PsAF) compared to men is not well understood.

**Methods**: We conducted a large scale multicentre long-term observational study with prospective follow up evaluating multiprocedural long term arrhythmia outcomes in people with PsAF undergoing catheter ablations.

**Result**: From a total of 4,089 patients undergoing AF ablation at 4 sites, 281 patients had more than one ablation procedure for PsAF and were included in the analysis. Eighty-six (30.6%) were women. Female gender (HR 2.16 p<0.001) and enduring pulmonary vein isolation (HR 1.66 p=0.01) were independently associated with AF recurrence.

**Conclusion**: Female gender is a strong and independent predictor of arrhythmia recurrence in people with persistent AF despite multiple ablation procedures.