

Table 3. Atrial fibrillation management

Variable	Rate control N = 1622 (64.3%)	Rhythm control N = 900 (35.7%)	p-value
<i>AF management settings</i>			
AF was the main reason for the hospitalization	636 (39.2)	667 (74.1)	<0.001
Outpatient visit	146 (9.0)	62 (6.9)	0.007
Academic healthcare facility	1268 (78.2)	730 (81.1)	0.040
AF managed by a cardiologist	1236 (76.2)	762 (84.7)	<0.001
<i>Diagnostic assessment</i>			
Routine biochemistry	1257 (77.5)	771 (85.7)	<0.001
Thyroid hormones measurement	467 (28.8)	449 (49.9)	<0.001
Transthoracic echocardiography	1244 (76.7)	778 (86.4)	<0.001
Holter monitoring (rhythm)	350 (21.6)	328 (36.4)	<0.001

<i>Stroke prevention</i>			
No antithrombotic therapy	124 (7.6)	93 (10.3)	0.001
Overall OAC	1264 (77.9)	639 (71.0)	<0.001
OAC alone	1068 (65.8)	540 (60.0)	<0.001
VKA	1085 (66.9)	485 (53.9)	<0.001
NOAC	179 (11.0)	154 (17.1)	<0.001
Single antiplatelet therapy alone	180 (11.1)	126 (14.0)	0.059
DAPT alone	54 (3.3)	42 (4.7)	0.001
Dual antithrombotic therapy	149 (9.2)	70 (7.8)	0.699
Triple antithrombotic therapy	47 (2.9)	29 (3.2)	0.522
<i>Symptom management</i>			
<i>Non-pharmacological AF therapies</i>			
AF catheter ablation	5 (0.3)	60 (6.7)	<0.001
Surgical AF ablation	0 (0)	1 (0.1)	0.153
ECV	17 (1.0)	97 (10.8)	<0.001
AV node ablation with	6 (0.4)	4 (0.4)	0.632

PM implantation			
<i>Pharmacological AF therapies</i>			
Digoxin	594 (36.6)	53 (5.9)	<0.001
Verapamil	82 (5.1)	29 (3.2)	0.004
Diltiazem	15 (0.9)	2 (0.2)	0.116
Beta blockers	1335 (82.3)	588 (65.3)	<0.001
Propafenone	20 (1.2)	219 (24.3)	<0.001
Flecainide	4 (0.2)	4 (0.4)	0.012
Sotalol	3 (0.2)	18 (0.2)	0.979
Amiodarone	229 (14.1)	447 (49.7)	<0.001
Dronedarone	2 (0.1)	2 (0.2)	0.074
<i>Other therapy</i>			
ACEi	766 (47.2)	450 (50.0)	0.515
AT1 receptor blockers	325 (20.0)	171 (19.0)	0.353
Loop diuretics	878 (54.1)	200 (22.2)	<0.001
Statins	656 (40.4)	389 (43.2)	0.097
Polypharmacy	978 (60.3)	482 (53.6)	<0.001

*Polypharmacy, the use of five or more drugs [24],

ACEi, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, AF, atrial fibrillation, OAC, oral anticoagulants, VKA, vitamin K antagonists, NOAC, non-vitamin K oral antagonists, DAPT, dual antiplatelet therapy, ECV, electrical cardioversion, AV, atrioventricular, PM, pacemaker.