



## Letter to the Editor

## Type 1 diabetes is associated with increased risk of atrial fibrillation

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## Dear Editor,

We read with great interest the article titled "Type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus and incidence of seven cardiovascular diseases." by Larsson et al. [1]. The authors present a study regarding the association of type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM) with the incidence of seven cardiovascular diseases and conclude that there is no association between T1DM and atrial fibrillation (AF) [1].

Current literature, though, demonstrates with consistent effects that T1DM individuals have an excess risk of AF compared with the general population, which is higher for women than men [2–5].

Dahlqvist et al. in a large study that included almost all T1DM patients in Sweden, displayed that, compared with the general population, the risk of AF in men with T1DM was slightly increased, whereas for female patients it was 50% higher [2]. Furthermore, the risk of AF increased also with renal complications and poor glycaemic control [2].

It is generally recognized that in patients with AF, the presence of diabetes increases the risk of stroke [3,4]. T1DM patients have a longer duration of disease by the time of AF diagnosis, an attribute that is even associated with a higher stroke risk [3–5]. Pallisgaard et al. investigated 5,081,087 patients and concluded that diabetes is an independent risk factor for developing AF, most pronounced in young patients [5].

The study by Larsson et al. has a significant methodological flaw, thus despite the large sample size, the number of T1DM patients is limited, leading to low power in the analysis of T1DM concerning AF risk [1].

## Conflict of interest

None declared.

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