

How to prevent inappropriate shock?

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Implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs) have been to reduce mortality in patients with high risk of sudden cardiac death. However, there is a high frequency of inappropriate shock which impair patient's quality of life and cause adverse clinical outcome. ICD shocks are related with worse mental health, impaired quality of life, fewer new activities, depression and anxiety. Inappropriate therapies could result in the induction of ventricular tachycardia or fibrillation and multiple ICD shocks have been associated with increased mortality. Therefore, the reduction of inappropriate shock is important in the management of patients with ICD. Minimizing inappropriate shocks requires a comprehensive approach and it includes appropriate choice of hardware and device programming. The use of antiarrhythmic drugs and catheter ablation to prevent supraventricular tachycardia or atrial fibrillation also should be considered.