



ANDERS AHLSSON was born in Trollhättan in 1962. He studied music and violin playing at Gothenburg University 1981–1982 and Medicine at Uppsala University 1982–1988. He started his training in Cardiac Surgery at Örebro University Hospital in 1990 and became specialist in Cardiothoracic Surgery in 1996. He has an interest in mitral and arrhythmia surgery, and started atrial fibrillation research in 2003 under the tutorship of Associate Professor Anders Englund at the Department of Cardiology.

One-third of patients undergoing open-heart surgery experience an episode of atrial fibrillation on the second or third day after surgery. The reasons for this arrhythmia tendency are not known, and the long-term consequences are poorly understood. The findings in this thesis indicate that postoperative atrial fibrillation is a risk factor for late arrhythmia and late cardiovascular death. No correlation between inflammation and postoperative atrial fibrillation was found. In patients with preoperative atrial fibrillation, modern surgical ablation procedures seem to preserve atrial contractile function.

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