

## Australia explores risk reduction of stroke and heart problems after surgery

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### Research to improve and advance care for patients undergoing major surgery



Researchers from the University of Sydney and Westmead Hospital in Australia have been awarded \$1.8 million to advance research into reducing the risk of stroke and heart complications in patients undergoing major surgery.

Many Australians have major surgery each year, with approximately three percent developing atrial fibrillation (AF), an irregular and often very rapid heart rhythm that can lead to blood clots and increase the risk of stroke, heart failure and other heart-related complications.

Current research shows that anticoagulation, more commonly known as blood thinners, can reduce stroke risk in people with established AF.

Researchers will explore the development of AF following major surgery and determine whether blood thinners will improve health outcomes and decrease the risk of stroke.

The research is funded through the Australian Government's Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF).