5 May 2016. Patients were randomly assigned to receive either catheter ablation (ablation group) with continuation of baseline antiarrhythmic medications or treatment with conventional pharmacologic therapy. In the catheter ablation group, the mean (±SEM) number of arrhythmic episodes/24 hours was reduced from 13.6 ± 2.1 to 1.0 ± 0.9 episodes (p < 0.001). In the conventional pharmacologic therapy group, the mean number of episodes/24 hours was reduced from 13.6 ± 2.1 to 8.5 ± 2.5 episodes (p = 0.02). The mean number of arrhythmic episodes/24 hours was significantly lower in the catheter ablation group compared to the conventional pharmacologic therapy group (p < 0.05). The results of this study support the use of catheter ablation for the treatment of atrial fibrillation and suggest that it may be more effective than conventional pharmacologic therapy in reducing the number of arrhythmic episodes. Further research is needed to confirm these findings and to determine the optimal approach for treating atrial fibrillation.