**Arrhythmias – Journal Summaries**

9/7/07

The Antiarrhythmics versus Implantable Defibrillators (AVID) Investigators. A comparison of antiarrhythmic-drug therapy with implantable difibrillators in patients resuscitated from near-fatal ventricular arrhythmias. N Engl J Med 1997; 337:1576-1583

- RCT

- n = 1016

- ICD's vs class III antiarrhythmics (mainly amiodarone)

- patients also had a LVF<40%, syncope or other serious cardiac symptoms

-> significant reduction in mortality in ICD group

The Digitalis Investigation Group. The effect of digoxin on mortaility and morbidity in patients with heart failure. N Engl J Med 1997; 336:525-533

- n = 6800

- LVEF<45%

- on diurectics & ACE

- digoxin vs placebo

-> no significant reduction in hospital admissions

Hart RG, *et al*. Antithrombotic therapy to prevent stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation: a meta-analysis. Ann Interna Med 1999: 131:492-501

- MA

- n = 9874

-> warfarin and aspirin reduce stroke in patients with AF

-> warfarin is significantly better than aspirin

-> absolute risk of major extracranial haemorrhage with warfarin = 0.3%/year