Assessment on Implantable Defibrillators and the Evidence from Primary Prevention of Sudden Cardiac Death (Paperback)

By Agency for Healthcare Resea And Quality, U S Department of Healt Human Services

Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Sudden cardiac death (SCD) is the most common cause of cardiovascular death worldwide, accounting for approximately 300,000 deaths in the U.S. annually, although estimates have ranged from 200,000 to 450,000 deaths. Operationally, SCD is most frequently defined as a cardiac death that occurred within 1 hour of cardiac symptom onset and without another probable cause of death. Studies from epidemiological cohorts from the 1970s through the 1990s suggest that 88 to 91 of deaths that occur within 1 hour of symptom onset are arrhythmic in nature. The temporal definition of SCD strongly influences epidemiological data. Increasing the time window to 24 hour since symptom onset to define SCD increases the sensitivity but reduces specificity by reducing the proportion of all sudden natural deaths that are due to cardiac causes. Approximately three-quarters of cases of SCD are caused by ventricular tachyarrhythmias such as ventricular tachycardia and ventricular fibrillation. Sustained ventricular arrhythmias may lead to hemodynamic instability and abrupt loss of consciousness without spontaneous recovery, requiring cardiac resuscitation (i.e., cardiac arrest). Prevention is the primary strategy to lower death from SCD. However, SCD is...

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