Table 5

Antiarrhythmic drugs

Antiarrhythmic drug	Suitable for the following groups	Avoid in the following groups	Side effects
Sotalol (minimum dose 80 mg bd)	Hypertension, previous ischaemic heart disease	Severe lung disease or heart failure	Lethargy, fatigue, bradycardia, wheeze
Flecainide (50-150 mg bd)	Patients intolerant of beta-blockers, normal heart on echocardiography	Ischaemic heart disease, structural heart disease, Brugada syndrome, atrial flutter	Headache, paraesthesia, visual disturbances
Dronedarone (400 mg bd)	Additional risk factors including hypertension, age >70, diabetes, previous stroke/TIA, LA diameter > 50 mm, LVEF 35-40%	Persistent AF, LVEF < 35%, moderate to severe heart failure	GI disturbances. Need to monitor liver function
Amiodarone (200 mg od)	Heart failure, structural heart disease	Younger patients, liver disease thyroid disease, outdoor workers	Photosensitivity (common), thyroid dysfunction, liver toxicity, pulmonary toxicity, corneal deposits, peripheral neuropathy (all rare)