RACE 7 ACWAS

Trial Description: Patients with new-onset atrial fibrillation were randomized to delayed cardioversion vs. early cardioversion.

RESULTS
- Primary efficacy endpoint: presence of normal sinus rhythm at 4 weeks, occurred in 91% of the delayed cardioversion group vs. 94% of the early cardioversion group (p = 0.005 for noninferiority)
- Ischemic stroke or transient ischemic attack: one patient in the delayed group vs. one patient in the early group
- Cardiovascular complications: 10 patients in the delayed group vs. eight patients in the early group

CONCLUSIONS
- Among patients with recent-onset atrial fibrillation, delayed cardioversion was noninferior to early cardioversion at maintaining atrial fibrillation at 4 weeks
- Spontaneous cardioversion occurred in the majority of patients randomized to a delayed strategy before electrical or pharmacological cardioversion was required