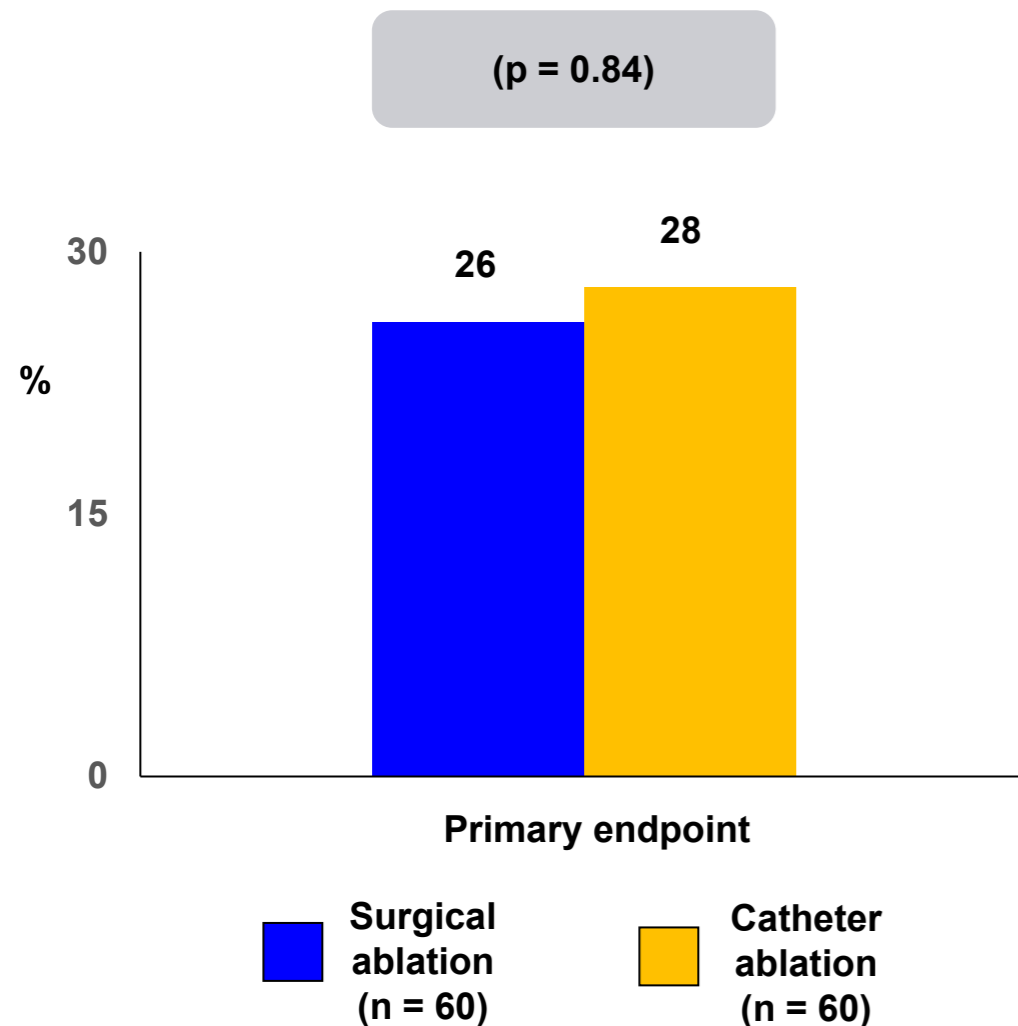


Trial Description: Patients with persistent atrial fibrillation were randomized to thoracoscopic surgical ablation versus catheter ablation.



RESULTS

- Primary endpoint, freedom from atrial fibrillation/tachycardia at 12 months: 26% of the surgical ablation group vs. 28% of the catheter ablation group (p = 0.84)
- Reduction in atrial fibrillation/tachycardia $\geq 75\%$ at 12 months: 67% of the surgical ablation group vs. 77% of the catheter ablation group (p = 0.3)
- Procedure-related serious adverse events within 30 days: 15% of the surgical ablation group vs. 10% of the catheter ablation group (p = 0.46)

CONCLUSIONS

- Among patients with long-standing persistent atrial fibrillation, surgical ablation was not superior to catheter ablation
- Freedom from atrial fibrillation/tachycardia and reduction in atrial fibrillation/tachycardia $\geq 75\%$ was similar between treatment groups

Haldar S, et al. *Eur Heart J* 2020;Aug 29:[Epub]