Objective: There were many reports on the prevalence of atrial fibrillation (AF) such as ATRIA study, Framingham study, and so on, according to guideline for pharmacotherapy of AF (JCS 2008). Though, there were few reports on the percentage of AF in the general population in Japan. We conducted population-based study to clarify the prevalence of AF in general Japanese population.

Methods: The study was a single center, cross sectional study. We analyzed 90,143 people (male:49.1%, age:46.3±12.0 years) who had medical screening examination in private preventive healthcare center from January 2004 to June 2010. We diagnosed AF by 12 leads-electrocardiography (ECG) and stratified AF patients according to age and sex.

Results: In total, 90127 patients (100.0%) had ECG examination and were enrolled in this analysis. Only 291 patients (0.32%, male:85.9%, age:63.2±10.9 years, 34-X years) had AF by ECG. The prevalence of AF increased with age (<1/1000 in 35-44 years to 73/1000 in 85 years and over). The prevalence was higher in males (0.565%) than females (0.089%).

Conclusions: The prevalence of AF in this study was much less than previous reports from Euro and US. The reason is not clear, but the prevalence of AF in Japanese people is low.

Keywords: atrial fibrillation, prevalence