

**Table 1** Clinical characteristics of the study cohort

	<b>Acute AF</b>	<b>Permanent AF</b>	<b>Healthy controls</b>	<b>p Value</b>
Number of subjects (n)	31	93	31	
Age in years (mean (SD))	61 (17)	66 (7)	66 (12)	0.08
Sex ratio (male: female)	19:12	59:34	13:18	0.10
Antithrombotic therapy (Aspirin: No therapy)	11:20	34:59	0:31	0.91
Smoker: non-smoker	3 :28	9 :84	5 :26	1.00
Hypertensive:normotensive	15 :16	56 :37	3:28	0.25
Diabetics:non-diabetics	4:27	9:84	0:31	0.61
CVA: no CVA	1:30	9:84	0:31	0.25
IHD: no IHD	5:26	13:80	0:31	0.77
Cardiac failure: no cardiac failure	2:29	14:79	0:31	0.22

AF, atrial fibrillation; IHD, ischaemic heart disease; CVA, cerebrovascular accident.

Chi-squared test and ANOVA, all p=NS.