Atrial Septal Aneurysm as a Cause of Cerebral Embolism in Young Patients

To the Editor:

The article by Belkin and associates,1 in which they reported a high prevalence of embolic events in a series of 36 consecutive patients with atrial septal aneurysm, has several additional important clinical implications besides those put forth by the authors. First, atrial septal aneurysm should always be considered among the cardiac causes of cerebral embolism that can be detected by echocardiography in young patients.2 Second, the consideration should be even more serious if the patient develops simultaneous embolic events in both the systemic and pulmonary circulation since biatrial myxoma and paradoxical embolization are the only two other conditions that can cause 'bilateral' cerebral embolism.

Third, the frequent association of paradoxical embolism with transcranial Doppler ultrasonography, this statement cannot be made unmodified. W: use transcranial Doppler to detect changes of median cerebral artery blood flow velocity during breathholding tests or Valsarva maneuvers.2-1 These transcranial Doppler examinations can be performed as simple bedside tests. In patients with lacunar infarctions made unmodified. W: use transcranial Doppler to detect changes of median artery flow velocity during breathholding tests or Valsarva maneuvers.2-1 These transcranial Doppler examinations can be performed as simple bedside tests. In patients with lacunar infarctions...
Does transcranial Doppler ultrasonography provide information about cerebral microcirculatory flow?
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