Letters to the Editor

Methodological Issues in Right-to-Left Shunt Detection in CADASIL Patients

To the Editor:

With regard to the article from Zigari et al,¹ we would like to add some comments to the authors’ reply² to our letter.³ The authors are very welcome to read our data that have indeed been published on an international, peer-reviewed journal.⁴ As to the second point of their reply, in our article we systematically referred to contrast enhanced transcranial Doppler diagnosis of right-to-left shunt instead of patent foramen ovale. We still believe that contrast enhanced transcranial Doppler is the most sensitive tool to detect right-to-left shunt, which is sustained by a patent foramen ovale in 95% of cases. Nevertheless, we think that if a relation is to be demonstrated between such a complex disease as CADASIL and interatrial septal abnormalities due to mutated Notch3-induced developmental disorders, these have at least to be documented anatomically. Otherwise, we could be left to suspect that 5% of the patients reported by Zicari et al¹ had conditions other than a patent foramen ovale, such as a pulmonary arteriovenous malformation.

Disclosures

None.

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