



Medical Or Surgical Treatment In Cryptogenic Stroke With Patent Foramen Oval (PFO)

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PFO is one of common congenital cardiac anomalies. It's incidence is 15-30% and decreases with age.

PFO is associated with several disease processes such as transient ischemic attacks and stroke. Various studies have reported that 45-54% of patients with cryptogenic stroke have PFO.

The underlying pathological mechanism of PFO-associated stroke is the passage of abnormal material from the venous circulation through the PFO into the systemic circulation.

As individuals age and develop comorbid cardiovascular disease such as heart failure or diastolic dysfunction the propensity to shunt right to left may increase and the risk of hypercoagulability may increase as well. Thus PFO only become pathogenic in the setting of certain comorbid conditions that cause the formation of pathogenic material with embolic potential.

Controversy exists regarding closure of PFO as a therapeutic treatment modality for cryptogenic stroke.

In properly selected patient closure of PFO is a safe and effective treatment modality. Contemporary indication for PFO closure in stroke or TIA is: 1. Documented paradoxical embolus. 2. Recurrent cryptogenic events. 3. Single cryptogenic event and inability to tolerate medical therapy. 4. Single cryptogenic event with high risk anatomical PFO features.

Key words: PFO, stroke



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