

Our thanks to:

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CASE REPORT PFO CLOSURE DURING PREGNANCY

A 34 year old woman in her sixth week of pregnancy presented to the emergency room at Bichat Hospital, Paris, France, complaining of left arm and facial paralysis. Upon patient workup a stroke was documented on MRI. The patient's history showed no known cardiovascular risk factors and she already had two previous children with no complications.

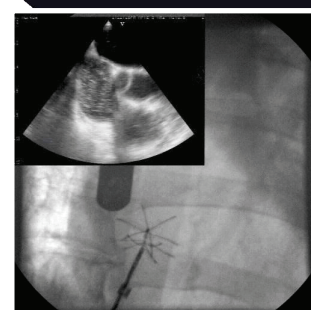
The patient was initially treated with LMWH (enoxaparine 1 mg/kg twice a day) leading to complete recovery from the hemiparesis with no sequela. Immediate Doppler examination of extra and intra cerebral arteries did not show any abnormality and biological evaluation of thrombophilic causes was normal. Deep venous thrombosis and/or pulmonary embolism were ruled out and there was no atrial fibrillation identified on a 12-hour ECG.

However, transthoracic and transesophageal echocardiography (TTE & TEE) identified a patent foramen ovale (PFO) that was associated with atrial septal aneurysm (ASA). Contrast testing was strongly positive both spontaneously and during the Valsalva maneuver. Further tests showed no other potential causes of intra cardiac emboli.

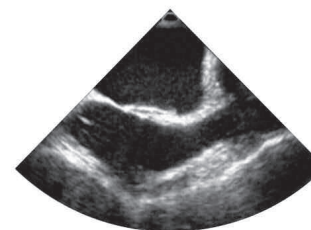
The risk of stroke recurrence is approximately 4% per year in patients with PFO associated with septal aneurysm despite medical therapy. In order to avoid recurrent stroke during the patient's remaining pregnancy, it was decided to continue LMWH until a planned PFO closure could be scheduled four months after the initial stroke. This time frame was chosen to allow termination of antithrombotic treatment prior to delivery of the child.

PFO closure was successfully performed with no complications. A 25mm Intrasept occluder was inserted via the right femoral vein under general anesthesia and TEE monitoring. LMWH was stopped and a combination of aspirin (75mg) plus Clopidogrel (75mg) daily was prescribed for 3 months, followed by aspirin alone which was then terminated shortly before delivery as planned.

Delivery of a healthy baby girl occurred on schedule and was uneventful for both mother and child.



flouro pre-release



echo post-release