A 50-year-old man was accepted as a multiorgan donor. The cause of death was cranioencephalic trauma. No pathological antecedents were found. Transthoracic echocardiography showed neither valvular nor contractility abnormalities. Cardiectomy was performed as usual. A traumatic interatrial septal defect was found in the donor heart preparation before transplantation (Figure 1). It did not involve the foramen ovale (Figure 2). The donor heart was not used. Atrial septal defect due to blunt trauma is rare. Only 10 cases of atrioseptal defect due to blunt trauma have been reported in the English-language medical literature, and this is the first one described in a multiorgan donor. Therefore, it is a very uncommon cause of exclusion of a hemodynamically stable heart donor. In summary, inspection of the atrial septum in a heart donor after cardiectomy is mandatory, especially in countries like Spain, where echocardiography in the heart donor is not always performed by an experienced echocardiographer.
Interatrial Septal Defect Caused by Blunt Trauma in a Heart Donor
Alfonso Cañas, Juan Carlos Tellez, Jorge Roda, Evaristo Castedo, Juan Ugarte and Luis Alonso Pulpon

Circulation. 1999;100:e73-e74
doi: 10.1161/01.CIR.100.16.e73

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the World Wide Web at:
http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/100/16/e73

Permissions: Requests for permissions to reproduce figures, tables, or portions of articles originally published in Circulation can be obtained via RightsLink, a service of the Copyright Clearance Center, not the Editorial Office. Once the online version of the published article for which permission is being requested is located, click Request Permissions in the middle column of the Web page under Services. Further information about this process is available in the Permissions and Rights Question and Answer document.

Reprints: Information about reprints can be found online at:
http://www.lww.com/reprints

Subscriptions: Information about subscribing to Circulation is online at:
http://circ.ahajournals.org//subscriptions/