Frequency of Atrial Septal Aneurysm in Patients With Cerebral Ischemic Events

To the Editor:

We read with great interest the article by Agmon et al., which was a transesophageal echocardiographic study comparing the frequency of atrial septal aneurysm (ASA) in patients with cerebral ischemic stroke with a large group from the general population. They found that the odds of ASA were 3.65 times greater (95% confidence interval, 1.64 to 8.13) in patients than in controls after adjustment for age and sex. The frequency of patent foramen ovale (PFO) in patients and controls with ASA was similar (~56%); however, the frequency of PFO among patients and controls without ASA was not reported. Given that a large right-to-left shunt due to PFO is associated both with ASA and an increased risk of ischemic stroke, the authors should have given the odds of ASA adjusted for the presence of PFO. It is possible that ASA is only an anatomical defect associated with PFO and does not have a pathophysiological role of its own. This fact is important not only from an etiopathogenic point of view but also from a practical one. A noninvasive diagnostic procedure, such as transcranial Doppler, which cannot detect ASA but is highly accurate in the diagnosis of PFO, may be sufficient as a screening test in stroke patients.

Joaquín Serena, MD
Antoni Dávalos, MD, PhD
Section of Neurology and Stroke Research Unit
Hospital Universitari Doctor Josep Trueta
Girona, Spain
jserenal@meditex.es

Frequency of Atrial Septal Aneurysm in Patients With Cerebral Ischemic Events
Joaquín Serena and MD Antoni Dávalos

_Circulation_. 2000;102:e27
doi: 10.1161/01.CIR.102.4.e27
_Circulation_ is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
Copyright © 2000 American Heart Association, Inc. All rights reserved.
Print ISSN: 0009-7322. Online ISSN: 1524-4539

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/102/4/e27

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/