**Bubbles in the Heart**

*To the Editor:*

The image by Catapano et al gives misleading information concerning bubbles in the heart in patients with prosthetic valves. They speculated that “bright particles” seen in the left ventricular cavity are consistent with gas bubbles that occur in scuba divers after hypobaric decompression. We disagree with this speculation, because this phenomenon is well documented in patients with prosthetic valves. In their large series, Gencbay et al found a strong correlation between serum lactic dehydrogenase levels and quantity of bubbles. They suggested hemolysis as a cause of bubble formation. Moreover, Kaymaz et al determined the prevalence of bubble formation in 279 patients with valve replacement and found that none of the patients with bioprosthetic valves demonstrated bubble formation. Bubbles were present, however, in 128 of 227 (56.4%) prosthetic mitral valves (P<0.0001). Bubbles were documented in 75.4% of the normal range.

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