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CARDIOVASCULAR FLASHLIGHT

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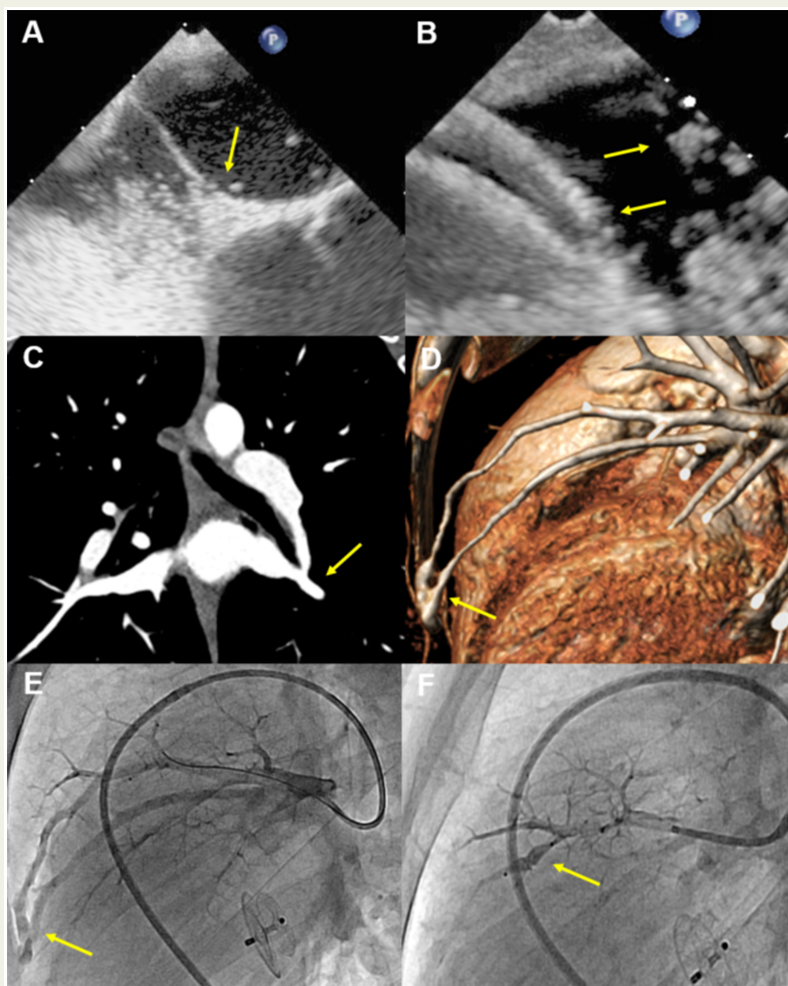
Right-to-left shunt in cryptogenic cerebrovascular event: fleas and lice

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A 26-year-old woman with a history of transient ischaemic attack was referred for percutaneous closure of a patent foramen ovale (PFO) diagnosed with transoesophageal echocardiography (TOE). A TOE with bubble test and Valsalva manoeuvre showed a PFO Grade II (arrow) with an atrial septal aneurysm (Panel A). The PFO was successfully closed with a 25 mm Amplatzer PFO Occluder. The patient was discharged on acetylsalicylic acid 100 mg/day and clopidogrel 75 mg/day for 3 months followed by 3 months of acetylsalicylic acid alone. At 6 months, a TOE showed the Amplatzer PFO Occluder 25 mm in correct position (lower arrow). There was persistent right-left shunt (RLS) from the region of the left pulmonary veins (upper arrow) and not involving the PFO (Panel B). A multislice computed tomography (MSCT) was performed showing a pulmonary arteriovenous fistula (PAVF) between the inferior lingular artery and correlating pulmonary vein (arrows) (Panels C and D). Cardiac catheterization confirmed the MSCT findings demonstrating a PAVF in the segment 5a left (arrow, Panel E). The PAVF was successfully closed with a 5-mm Amplatzer Vascular Plug II (arrow, Panel F). The patient was discharged without any antiplatelet therapy.



Three months later a TOE excluded RLS persistence. The patient has remained symptom-free since. This case emphasizes that different RLS can coexist (fleas and lice) and contribute to the development of cerebrovascular events. The existence of PAVF should be always considered even in the presence of a PFO. Both can be corrected with a simple and innocuous catheter-based intervention.

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