Real-Time 3-Dimensional Transesophageal Echocardiography for the Diagnosis of a Thrombus Straddling the Patent Foramen Ovale

Jean-Paul Rinaldi, MD, Decebal Gabriel Latcu, MD, Nadir Saoudi, MD, PhD

Monaco

Check-up for a recent ischemic stroke in a 66-year-old man showed on transthoracic echocardiography dilated right cavities with arterial pulmonary hypertension. A mobile and serpentine 3-cm-long thrombus was seen in the left atrium, associated with a 4-cm-long thrombus in the right atrium (A). Real-time 3-dimensional transesophageal echocardiography showed the threatening thrombus entrapped in the patent foramen ovale (B and C, Online Video 1), floating in both cavities. Bilateral pulmonary embolism was present. The patient received continuous intravenous unfractionated heparin. Repeated transesophageal echocardiography revealed that the thrombus had disappeared after 4 days of treatment. In case of associated recent stroke or comorbidity, anticoagulant therapy is an acceptable alternative.