

Brief Report

Prevalence of Patent Foramen Ovale in Patients with Cryptogenic Stroke or Transient Ischemic Attacks

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Background

The prevalence of patent foramen ovale (PFO) in the general population is about 25%. Most patients with a PFO as an isolated finding are asymptomatic and receive no special treatment; yet it is likely associated with cryptogenic stroke.

Objective

To assess the prevalence of PFO in patients with cryptogenic stroke or transient ischemic attacks (TIAs).

Results

A total of 43 patients were evaluated; mean age was 59.6 ± 16.9 years, and 41.9% were women. Patent foramen ovale was detected in 13 patients (30.2%; 95% CI, 15% to 44%), 7 of whom (16.3% of the total population) had large defects. ASA was present in 6 patients (14%) associated with PFO; 4 patients (66%) had large PFOs.

Conclusions

The prevalence of PFO in patients with cryptogenic stroke or TIAs is 30%, and in 33% of cases it is associated with atrial septum aneurysm.