



김 범 준

울산의대 서울아산병원 신경과

PFO closure following cryptogenic stroke

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Patent foramen ovale (PFO) is the most common congenital cardiac deformity which is found in about 25% of general population and with a higher incidence of 50% in those with cryptogenic stroke patients. Right-to-left shunting through the PFO (paradoxical embolism) was regarded as the pathomechanism causing ischemic stroke (PFO-stroke). PFO-stroke more appeared as a small cortical lesion in the posterior circulation with less conventional risk factors. Large PFO with more shunting or a coexisting atrial septal aneurysm was regarded as high-risk PFO for ischemic stroke. While earlier clinical trials did not prove superiority of percutaneous PFO-closure over medical therapy, several meta-analyses showed positive results regarding closure. Recently three large randomized clinical trials and one long-term follow-up study have shown that PFO-closure is beneficial over standard medical therapy to cryptogenic stroke patients. However, still finding the true culprit PFO for ischemic stroke is crucial to determine the treatment strategy.

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