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IMAGES IN CARDIOLOGY

Right to left thromboembolism through a patent foramen ovale

RV, right ventricle; S, Swan-Ganz catheter.

The possibility of right to left thromboembolism through a patent foramen ovale in patients with systemic embolism with no other cause continues to be discussed. We report a 63 year old man in whom we found an embolus (E) in the patent foramen ovale membrane, with one end in the right atrium and the other end in the left atrium (LA). The transoesophageal examination was done with a multiplane probe in the intensive care unit, because of a deterioration in respiratory variables in a ventilated patient after abdominal surgery.

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