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Cardiogenic cause of stroke: Which answers could provide modern echocardiography

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Statement of the Problem: One of the main problems in patients with atrial fibrillation is the prevention of stroke. This is the reason why the transoesophageal echocardiographic examination is recommended in patients with atrial fibrillation before cardioversion. However, there are many other reasons for cardiac embolic events that could cause a stroke.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: Cardiogenic embolism accounts for approximately 20% of ischemic strokes each year (50% are patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation, ventricular thrombus, prosthetic valves and rheumatic valve disease account 10% each and the rest are less common sources).

Findings: Modern transesophageal and transthoracic echocardiographic approach which include also 3D echocardiography enable detection of 99% of the cardiac embolus. This presentation will provide the insight into the modern echocardiographic detection of cardiac emboli sources using the latest technique including also contrast echocardiography.

Conclusion & Significance: Heart is the important source of emboli that cause ischemic stroke in the global population. Modern echocardiographic techniques enable the accurate detection of cardiac emboli in all cardiac chambers with the accuracy that is comparable with CT or CMR.

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