CARDIAC ARREST AFTER A CEREBRAL GAS EMBOLISM.

Case report

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- Cerebral arterial gas embolism (CAGE) is a serious and often iatrogenic fatal event associated to invasive procedures.^{1,2} Correct diagnosis is only possible upon suspicion.
- We report a case of a cardiac arrest (CA) after a CAGE, successfully managed with Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT).

There are many different causes for CAGE, mainly following surgical and medical procedures.²

In this case, **TNAB** might have caused a **fistula allowing the air to reach the pulmonary veins** and the systemic circulation through the left heart.³ Another mechanism includes arterialization of venous bubbles via a **patent *foramen ovale***.^{1,3} The etiology remains poorly understood and further investigation is needed.

In the majority of cases, air embolism does not cause hemodynamic complication, but there are a few cases reported followed by cardiac arrest.² In the **case of suspected CAGE**, it is **recommended** to administer **pure oxygen** and refer the patient to a **hyperbaric center** as soon as possible.³ HBOT accelerates nitrogen reabsorption and improves oxygenation of ischemic tissue ^{1,3}. In our case it was the key for an improved outcome of our patient.

- ✓ The diagnosis of CAGE is challenging and must be sought off following some invasive procedures.
- ✓ It's a possible cause of a CA.⁴ HBOT can be a successful treatment for this condition.

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