SAFETY AND SHORT-TERM EFFICACY OF VIDEOTHORACOSCOPIC EPICARDIAL LEFT ATRIAL APPENDAGE CLOSURE FOR THE PREVENTION OF CARDIOEMBOLISM

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Left atrial appendage closure (LAAc) has emerged as an alternative for stroke prevention in patients with Non-Valvular Atrial Fibrillation (NVAF) and contraindications to oral anticoagulation (OAC).

Percutaneous LAAc with Watchman compared to warfarin in NVAF patients with increased stroke risk showed a significant reduction in hemorrhagic stroke and a similar incidence of all-cause stroke or systemic embolism. All studies excluded patients with contraindications to OAC, and device patients required antithrombotic therapy after procedure.

Recent data from trial and registry of epicardial LAAc th the AtriClip in AF patients undergoing surgery, besides demonstrating safety and durability of the procedure, suggest a potential efficacy in reducing stroke incidence.

AtriClip PRO2 Atricure Inc.,Dayton,OH,USA - LAA exclusion system

We report data from 13 NVAF patients with history of major bleedings/recurrent stroke in anticoagulation undergoing videothoracoscopic epicardial LAAc with AtriClip Pro 2 (AtriCure, Inc., Dayton, OH, USA) and antithrombotic therapy contraindications, enrolled in Mantova, Cremona, and Trento Hospitals since 2012. Mean CHA₂DS₂VASc and HAS-BLED scores were 6 and 4.5, respectively.

No major peri-procedural complications and one case of pericarditis > 7 days were observed. LAAc was successful in all patients. No patients required antithrombotic therapy after-procedure. Follow-up at a median time of 16 months with Questionnaire stroke free status and by neurological examination showed no ischemic events except a TIA due to ICA stenosis > 70% treated with carotid endarterectomy.

N.	Sex	Age	HAS-BLED	CHA ₂ DS ₂ VASc	LLA	Periprocedural complications LLAc <7d	Complications LLAc >7d	Recurrent TIA/stroke	ETE LEAK
I	F	77	4	7	A	0	0	No	0
II	M	76	2	3	D	0	0	No	0
III	M	77	4	6	D	blood trasfusion	0	No	0
IV	M	67	4	4	A	0	0	No	1
V	F	73	3	5	D	0	0	TIA in carotid stenosis >70%	0
VI	M	78	6	7	D	0	0	No	0
VII	M	74	7	6	B	0	0	No	0
VIII	F	81	4	7	A	0	pericarditis	No	0
IX	M	68	6	5	A	0	0	No	0
X	M	79	5	8	D	0	0	No	0
XI	M	77	5	8	D	pneumonia	0	No	0
XII	F	76	4	5	D	0	0	No	0
XIII	M	83	5	7	D	0	0	No	0

M=male; F=female. Morphology classification of the LAA: (A) Chicken wing, (B) Windsock, (C) Cactus, (D) Cauliflower. ETE Leak: 0= no, 1 ≤ 5mm, 2 ≥ 5mm

AtriClip LAAc in our cohort of patients demonstrated to be safe and efficacious in reducing short-term incidence of stroke. Longer FU is required to demonstrate long-term efficacy.

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