

“Stuck” in the Septum

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Images

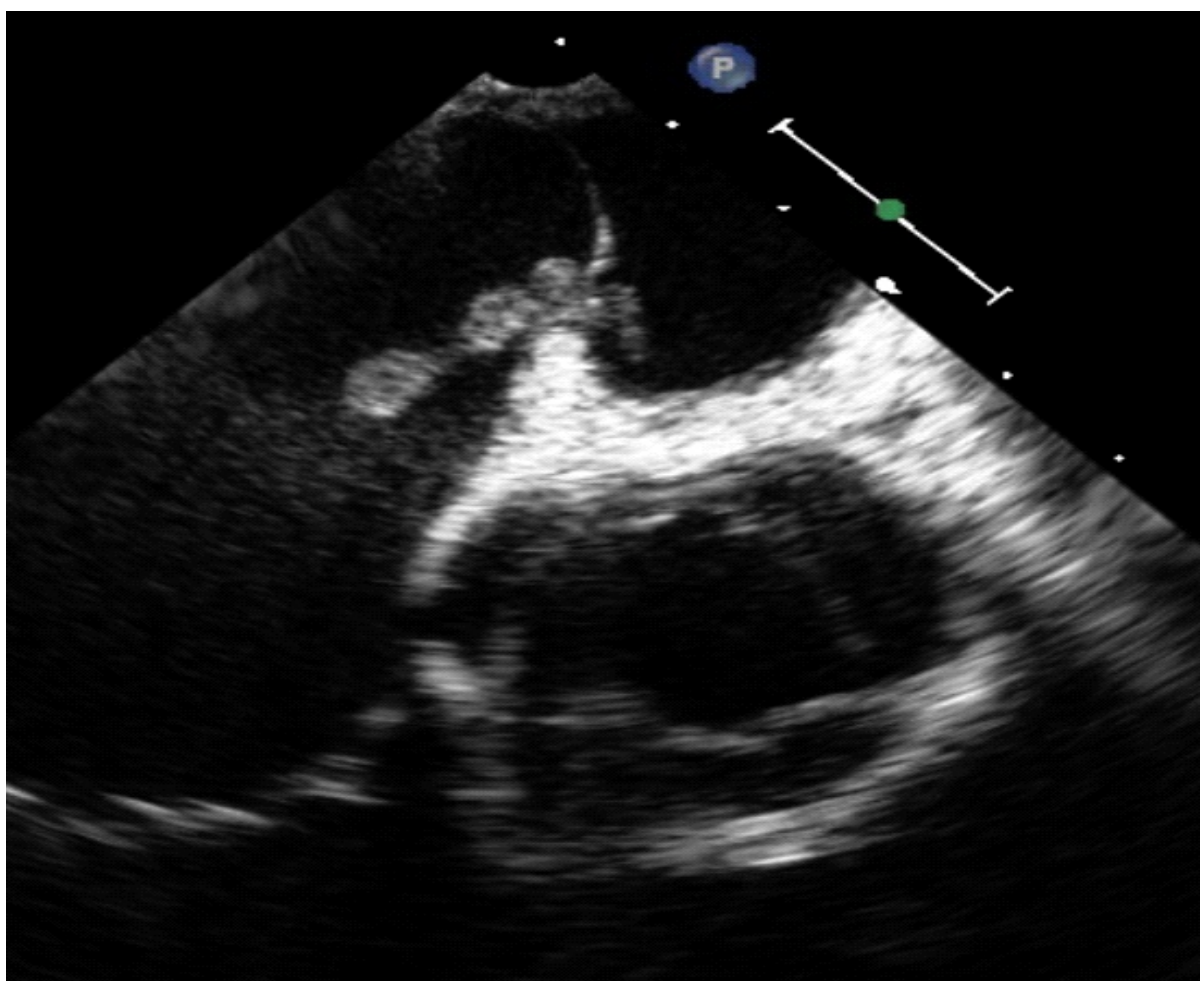


Figure 1: TEE showing the clot (white arrow) migrating from the right atrium to the left atrium across the PFO. The inter atrial septum is shown with the black arrow



Figure 2: 3 D reconstruction image as seen from the superior aspect of the left atrium is shown. The thrombus is seen migrating across the interatrial septum through the PFO. Mitral valve is seen below

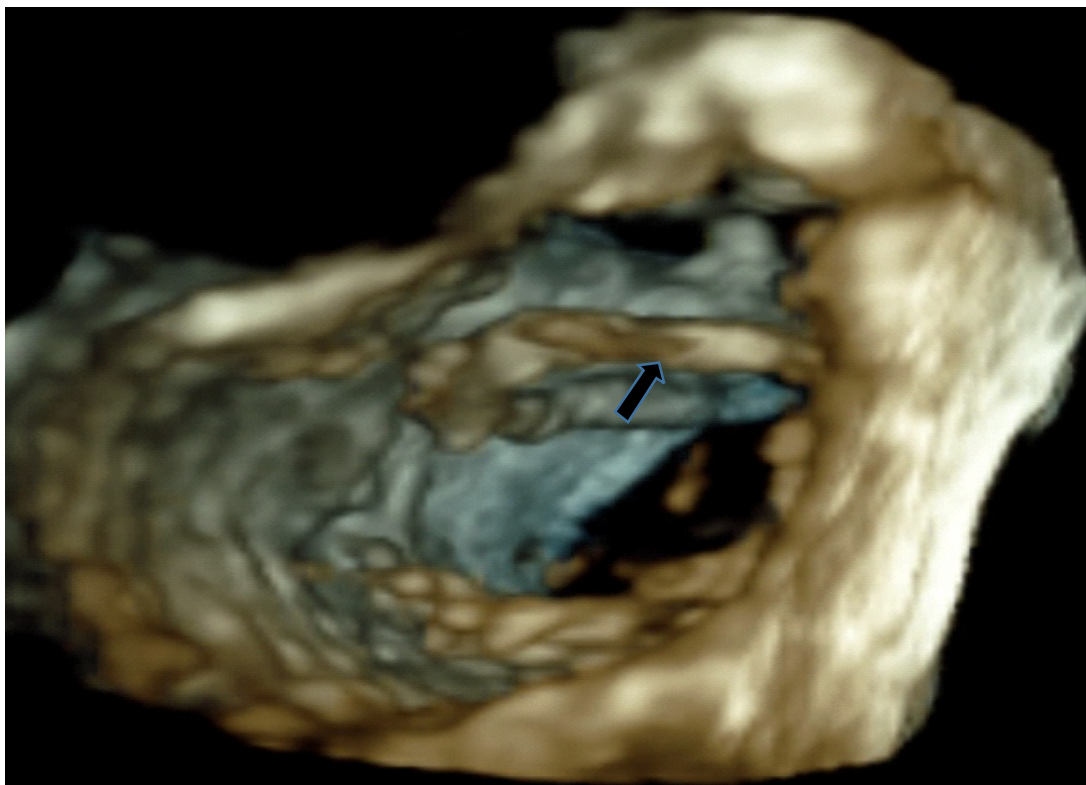


Figure 3: 3 D reconstruction of the right atrial aspect of inter atrial septum showing the thrombus (arrow) attached to it

Images Description

A 60 year old woman was admitted with leg edema and shortness of breath. She was diagnosed with deep venous thrombosis of both lower extremities and pulmonary embolism. Her transthoracic echocardiogram showed a linear structure attached to the tricuspid valve and another one attached to the left atrial side of the atrial septum. Clinical examination was significant for the presence of a hard mass in her lower abdomen. Computerized tomography of the abdomen showed an ovarian mass with peritoneal metastasis. Cardiac metastasis from ovarian carcinoma was suspected. However transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) showed that the linear structure described above was a linear thrombus migrating across a patent foramen ovale. The structures attached to the tricuspid valve and the left side of interatrial septum were part of the same thrombus. TEE pictures of the above structure are shown in above figures. She was started on anticoagulation and chemotherapy for ovarian cancer. Patient did not develop symptomatic systemic embolism.

References

Theologou T, Tewari P, Pointon K, Mitchell IM. Pulmonary thromboembolism with floating thrombus trapped in patent foramen ovale. *Ann Thorac Surg* 2007;84(6):2104–6.

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