



## Patent Foramen Ovale 2023: More Lights than Shadows

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Patent foramen ovale (PFO) represents a benign common abnormality. In fact, one-third of ischemic strokes are considered to be PFO-related, and the majority of them are thought to be caused by a paradoxical embolism via the PFO. Remarkably, PFO can be associated with other pathologic conditions such as decompression illness, platypnea-orthodeoxia, migraine with aura, paradoxical coronary embolism, major orthopaedic surgery, posterior fossa neurosurgery, obstructive sleep apnea, and arterial deoxygenation, which have been defined as PFO-associated syndromes. Those patients need to be approached within a multidisciplinary framework, wherein shared decision making becomes essential.

Areas for future study include the role of new PFO closure devices, platelet hyperactivity in migraine aura patients with PFO, new markers to aid in the determination of the role of PFO closure in individual patients, the role of oral anticoagulants, particularly direct oral anticoagulants, the role of PFO in stroke occurring in patients older than 60 years old, the possible efficacy of primary prevention in selected populations, and very long-term outcomes after device closure.





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