MID-TERM RESULTS OF PERCUTANEOUS CLOSURE OF ATRIAL SEPTAL DEFECT AND PATENT FORAMEN OVALE USING THE OCCLUTECH FIGULLA® FLEX I/II CLOSURE DEVICE. MULTICENTER ITALIAN EXPERIENCE

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Purpose: To assess the safety and efficacy of percutaneous closure of atrial septal defect (ASD) and patent foramen ovale (PFO) with or without atrial septal aneurysm (ASA) using the novel Occlutech Figulla® Flex I/II ASD/PFO Closure Device.

Methods: Between April 2010 and September 2012, we performed transcatheter ASD and PFO closure in 224 consecutive symptomatic patients (pts). Twenty-six ASDs (female/male=2,3/1; mean age 40±18 years, range 14-65) and one hundred ninety-eight PFOs (female/male=2,9/1; mean age 48±15 years, range 12-75) were included. Pts were pre-procedurally submitted to cardiological/neurological examination including contrast transthoracic/transesophageal echocardiography (cTTE/cTEE), brain CT/NMR imaging and contrast-enhanced transcranial Doppler (cTCD). Indication for ASD closure was significant left-to-right shunt associated with RV overload and mild to moderate pulmonary artery hypertension. 11 ASDs (47,8%) were more than 30 mm in diameter. Closure of PFO was clinically indicated for secondary prevention in pts with previous cryptogenic cerebrovascular events due to presumed paradoxical embolism. Pre-procedurally thromboembolic events were: 107 ischemic stroke (54,8%), 88 transient ischemic attack (41,5%). Atrial septal aneurysm was observed in 35 pts (17,1%); a prominent redundant Eustachian valve was present in 25 pts (12,2%). Thrombophylic disorders were present in 10 pts (5,5%). 40 pts were aura migraineurs (19,6%). Primary prevention of cerebrovascular accidents was done in three professional scuba divers with multiple episodes of decompression sickness with large right-to-left shunt (RLS) via PFO. All procedures were performed with local anesthesia under fluoroscopic guidance and rotational intracardiac echocardiography (Ultra-ICE) alone. Clopidogrel was recommended for 2 months and aspirin for at least 6 months after ASD/PFO closure.

Conclusions: Catheter ASD/PFO closure using Occlutech Figulla® Flex I/II devices appear to be easy, safe and effective, ensuring high closure rate and low complication rate. Mid-term follow-up results appear favorable with respect to recurrent thromboembolic events. Further studies with adequate follow-up are warranted to confirm long-term efficacy.