

## Electrophysiology

### IS THERE A NEED FOR EVALUATING ADEQUACY OF LEFT ATRIAL APPENDAGE OCCLUSION AFTER ATRICLIP?

Moderated Poster Contributions  
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**Background:** Atriclip is often used for Left atrial appendage (LAA) occlusion during open heart surgery. Follow-up imaging, to assess LAA occlusion (LAAO) and need for anticoagulation, is not routinely performed.

**Methods:** We performed retrospective chart review on consecutive patients with Atriclip placement from 2017 to 2018. Details regarding anticoagulation, follow-up Transesophageal Echo (TEE) and adequacy of LAAO were extracted.

**Results:** We identified 87 Atriclip patients, 37 patients were on anticoagulation at the time of discharge. 1 died postoperatively and 86 patients were followed up for mean duration of  $81 \pm 23.5$  months. Of these patients, 76 had atrial arrhythmias (baseline or postoperative) requiring stroke prevention prophylaxis. Among the 76 patients, 33 patients (43%) had assessment of LAAO (30: TEE; 3: Intracardiac echocardiogram) and 43 had no assessment (57%). Out of 33 patients who underwent LAAO assessment, 7 patients (21%) had indication for continuing long term anticoagulation (6 patients: Device failure or residual pouch  $\geq 10$  mm; 1 patient: LA thrombus).

**Conclusion:** LAAO adequacy was not assessed in 57% of post Atriclip patients with atrial arrhythmias. When LAAO was assessed, 21% of the patients were found to need long term anticoagulation. This raises concerns about safety of stopping anticoagulation after Atriclip without assessing LAAO adequacy. The need for LAAO assessment and appropriate follow-up protocol after Atriclip placement should be further studied.

