

Venous air embolism and intracardiac thrombus after pressurized fibrin glue during liver surgery.

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Abstract:

After segmental liver resection, a fibrin glue aerosol was used to stop diffuse bleeding from the liver resection site. Immediately after pressurized administration, severe hypotension and bradycardia occurred, requiring cardiopulmonary resuscitation and inotropic support. Transoesophageal echocardiography demonstrated air in both ventricles deriving from the inferior vena cava; contractility of both ventricles was markedly reduced. In addition, a 3 cm floating thrombus was detected in the right ventricle. This case demonstrates that sprayed fibrin glue can cause life-threatening air embolism and intracardiac thrombus formation in liver surgery. © The Author [2010]. Published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the British Journal of Anaesthesia. All rights reserved.