

Adult cor triatriatum sinistrum: a rare cause of ischaemic stroke

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A 55-year-old male was referred to the cardiologist because of the occurrence of two ischaemic strokes within five months' time in the absence of documented atrial fibrillation. At echocardiography, a membrane was visualised in the left atrium (cor triatriatum) (Fig. 1a). Since no other abnormalities were detected, the cor triatriatum was held responsible for the cardioembolic stroke. Surgical resection of the fenestrated membrane was carried out successfully (Fig. 1b).

Cor triatriatum is a rare congenital cardiac malformation often recognised during childhood [1] and is usually accompanied by other congenital abnormalities [2]. Symptoms result from the obstructive property mimicking mitral stenosis [3]. In a minority of cases, it is found during routine evaluation in asymptomatic adults. Cor triatriatum as a source of cardioembolic stroke is rare and in most cases atrial fibrillation is an associated finding [2]. Anticoagulant medication or surgery are proposed therapies; however, there is no consensus with respect to the best strategy [4].

Conflict of interest L. Baris, A.J.J.C. Bogers, E.J. van den Bos and M.J.M. Kofflard declare that they have no competing interests.

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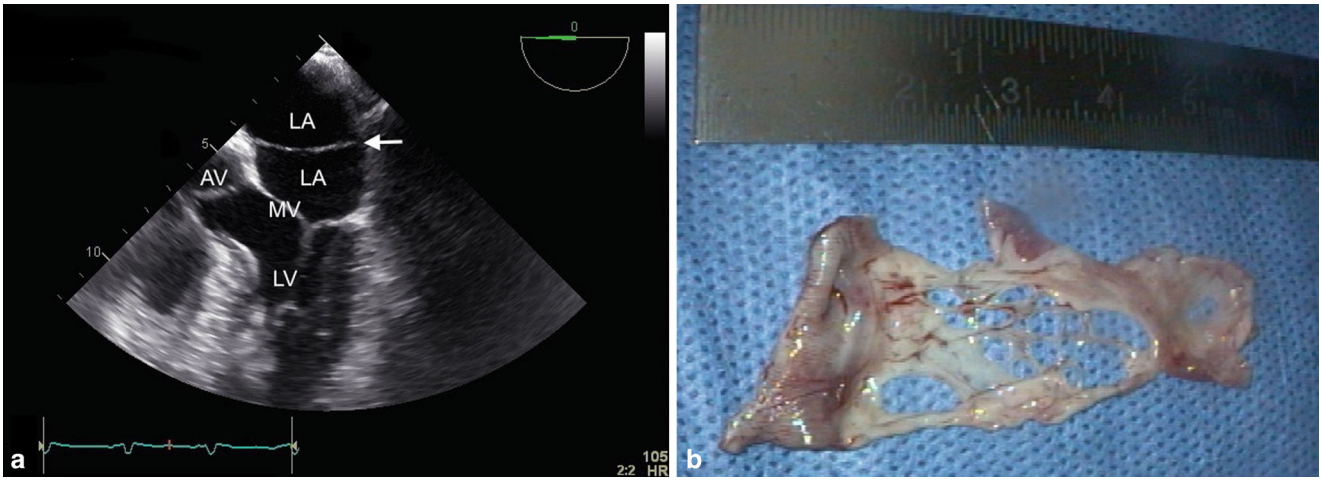


Fig. 1 **a** Transoesophageal echocardiographic image of the left atrium (LA), the left ventricle (LV), aortic valve (AV) and the mitral valve (MV). The arrow points to the fibromuscular membrane. **b** Postoperative image of the resected fibromuscular membrane with multiple fenestrations

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