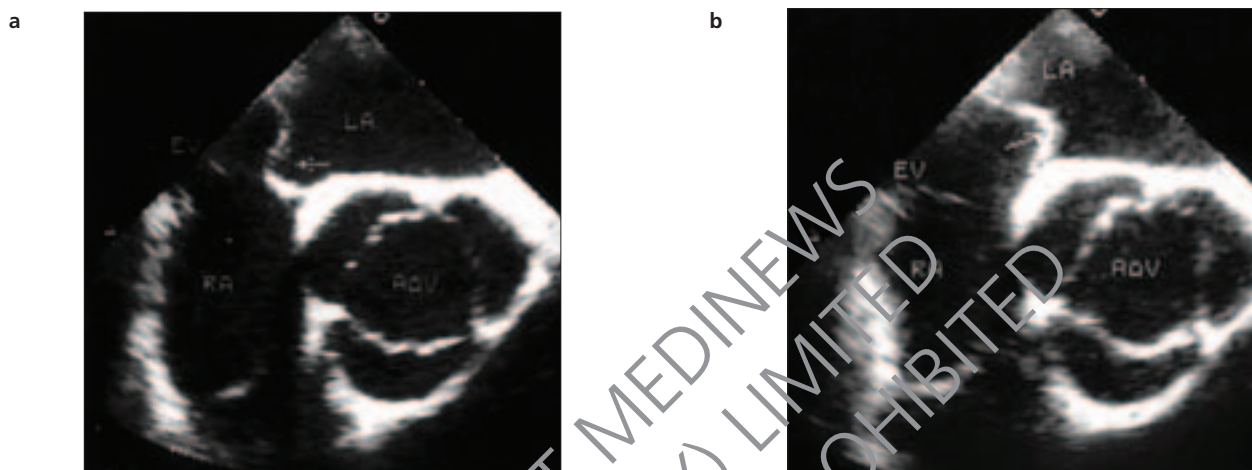


Cerebral and pulmonary embolic disease in association with an atrial septal aneurysm

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Figure 1. Intra-atrial septal bowing towards the right atrium (a) and left atrium (b) on trans-oesophageal echocardiography



Key: LA = left atrium; RA = right atrium; AoV = aortic valve; EV = eustachian valve

This image shows a non-communicative atrial septal aneurysm (ASA), as seen on trans-oesophageal echocardiography, in a 57-year-old man with multiple cerebral and pulmonary emboli. He was a non-smoker, with no risk factors for cardiovascular disease. An electrocardiogram showed sinus rhythm. An ultrasound Doppler of both legs excluded deep vein thrombus and a thrombophilia screen was negative.

Atrial septal aneurysms are well recognised to be associated with non-haemorrhagic stroke and transient ischaemic attacks. This image serves as a reminder that, although uncommon, cerebral and pulmonary emboli can both occur with an ASA. This patient has been treated, accordingly, with life-long warfarin.

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