Retrieval of dislodged ASD device

A D Pathinayaka, N Hussain, DVT Harischandra

Teaching Hospital Karapitiya, Galle, Sri Lanka

Correspondence: Dr Ayesha Pathinayake; ayeshadulanjalee1982@gmail.com
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Background:

A 39 year old male who had a large ostium secondum Atrial Septal Defect (ASD) was undergoing device closure in the cardiology catheterization laboratory when the Amplatzer devise became dislodged. It could not be retrieved percutaneously. Emergency cardiac surgery was performed and the ASD device was retrieved from the pulmonary artery and the ASD was closed with autologous pericardium.

Question: What is a useful instrument to retrieve the devise that is shown in the image (fig 1)?

Fig 1: Surgical retrieval of the Amplatzer device
Images in surgery

Answer Desjardins forceps

Discussion

Trans-catheter closure of ostium secundum ASDs is the standard procedure in most medical centers. It is a procedure with minimal complications and a short duration of recovery, but it is not totally risk free. There is a risk of 1.2 % of ASD device dislodgement during the procedure [1]. If the device embolises to the left or right ventricular out flow tracts or beyond, and it cannot be retrieved percutaneously, then surgical removal is indicated [2]. This is not an uncommon emergency operation for the senior registrar in cardiothoracic surgery to be called to perform from time to time.

The Desjardins forceps (fig 2) is usually used by the general surgeons to remove of gallstones and sometimes by the gynaecologists to remove endometrial polyps. Cardiothoracic surgeons have reportedly used it for emboleectomy in acute pulmonary embolism in the pulmonary artery [3]. We routinely use the Desjardins forceps to retrieve dislodged ASD devices as its orientation is useful to negotiate the pulmonary artery.

A Desjardins forceps is a useful instrument to have in the one’s instrument armamentarium when retrieving a dislodged ASD device.

References


Fig 2: Desjardins forceps