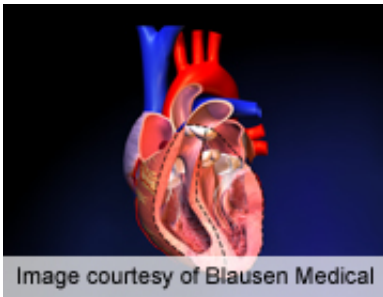


Patent foramen ovale closure cost-effective over long term

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For patients with patent foramen ovale (PFO) and cryptogenic stroke, PFO closure is associated with higher costs but seems to be cost-effective over the long term when modeling medical treatment costs, according to research published in the Nov. 15 issue of *The American Journal of Cardiology*.

(HealthDay)—For patients with patent foramen ovale (PFO) and cryptogenic stroke, PFO closure is associated with higher costs but seems to be cost-effective over the long term when modeling medical treatment costs, according to research published in the Nov. 15 issue of *The American Journal of Cardiology*.

Christopher A. Pickett, M.D., from Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, and colleagues examined the cost-effectiveness of PFO closure using pooled weighted outcome and complication rates from published randomized controlled trials, Medicare cost tables, and wholesale medication prices. The authors calculated the incremental cost

per life-year gained and per quality-adjusted life-year gained by PFO closure. They used the commonly accepted cost-effectiveness threshold of

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