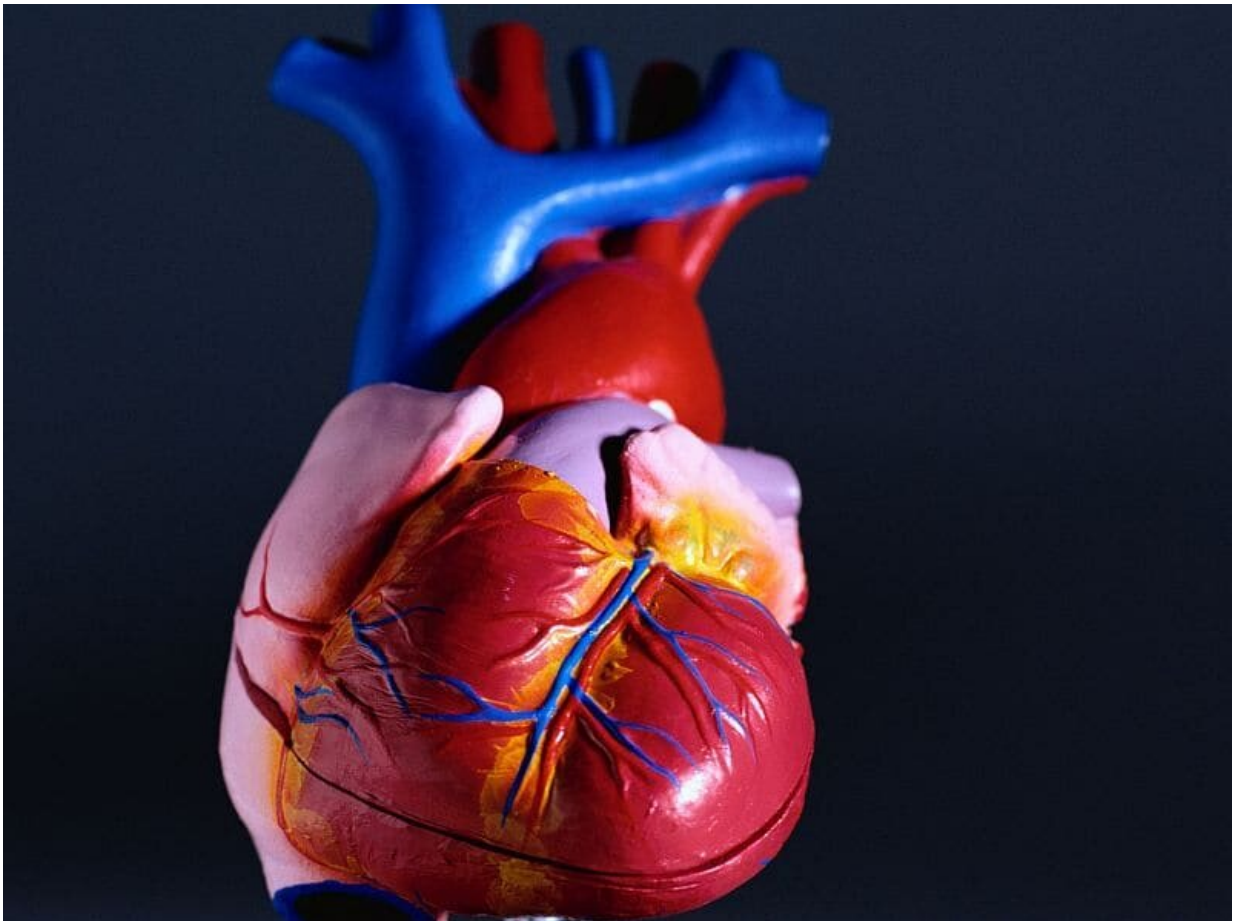


Residual shunt after patent foramen ovale closure linked to higher risk for stroke

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The presence of a residual shunt after patent foramen ovale (PFO)

closure is associated with an increased risk for recurrent stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA), according to a study published online May 12 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Wenjun Deng, Ph.D., from Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, and colleagues examined the long-term association of a residual [shunt](#) with recurrent neurologic events after percutaneous PFO closure. A total of 1,078 patients with PFO-attributable cryptogenic stroke undergoing percutaneous PFO closure were followed for up to 11 years.

The researchers found that the presence of a residual shunt versus complete closure was associated with an increased incidence of [recurrent stroke](#) or TIA (2.32 versus 0.75 events per 100 patient-years; hazard ratio, 3.05; 95 percent [confidence interval](#), 1.65 to 5.62; P increased risk for [stroke](#) or TIA recurrence (hazard ratio, 4.50; 95 percent confidence interval, 2.20 to 9.20; P

"We suggest that patients with a moderate or large residual shunt be followed long term with multidisciplinary care," the authors write.

One author disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical and medical device industries.

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