**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

**Manuscript NO:** 45262

**Manuscript Type:** ORIGINAL ARTICLE

***Observational Study***

**Successful totally transthoracic echocardiography guided transcatheter device closure of atrial septal defect in pregnant women**

Chen Q *et al*. Device closure of ASD in pregnant women

Qiang Chen, Hua Cao, Gui-Can Zhang, Liang-Wan Chen, Fan Xu

**Qiang Chen, Hua Cao, Gui-Can Zhang, Liang-Wan Chen, Fan Xu,** Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, Union Hospital, Fujian Medical University, Fuzhou 350001, Fujian Province, China

**ORCID number:** Qiang Chen (0000-0003-3768-9000); Hua Cao (0000-0001-5480-1610); Liang-Wan Chen (0000-0002-3432-9707); Gui-Can Zhang (0000-0003-4155-5021); Fan Xu (0000-0002-4847-1720).

**Author contributions:** Chen Q and Cao H contributed equally to this study and are co-first authors; Chen Q and Cao H contributed to study conception and design; Zhang GC and Xu F contributed to data acquisition, analysis, and interpretation, and writing of the article; Chen Q, Cao H, Zhang GC, Chen LW, and Xu F contributed to the editing and final approval of the article.

**Sponsored by** Chinese National and Fujian Provincial Key Clinical Specialty Construction Programs.

**Institutional review board statement:** The present study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Fujian Medical University, China and adhered to the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki.

**Informed consent statement:** All patients were counseled on the potential maternal and fetal risks associated with the pregnancy, and all signed a consent form to undergo transcatheter device closure of ASD.

**Conflict-of-interest statement:** None.

**STROBE statement:** The authors have read the STROBE Statement-checklist of items, and the manuscript was prepared and revised according to the STROBE Statement-checklist of items.

**Open-Access:** This article is an open-access article which was selected by an in-house editor and fully peer-reviewed by external reviewers. It is distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial (CC BY-NC 4.0) license, which permits others to distribute, remix, adapt, build upon this work non-commercially, and license their derivative works on different terms, provided the original work is properly cited and the use is non-commercial. See: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

**Manuscript source:** Unsolicited manuscript

**Corresponding author: Qiang Chen, MD, Doctor,** Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, Union Hospital, Fujian Medical University, No. 29 Xinquan Road, Fuzhou 350001, Fujian Province, China. chenqiang2228@163.com

**Fax:** +86-591-83344034

**Received:** December 20, 2018

**Peer-review started:** December 20, 2018

**First decision:** January 19, 2019

**Revised:** February 1, 2019

**Accepted:** February 18, 2019

**Article in press:** February 18, 2019

**Published online:** March 26, 2019

**Abstract**

***BACKGROUND***

Transcatheter device closure of atrial septal defect (ASD) guided by fluoroscopy and/or transesophageal echocardiography is a mature technology. Little study has focused on whether the technology can be guided totally by transthoracic echocardiography (TTE), even in pregnant women with ASD.

***AIM***

To evaluate the safety and efficacy of totally TTE guided transcatheter device closure of ASD in pregnant women.

***METHODS***

Six pregnant women (gestational age 20-26 wk) with ASD underwent transcatheter device closure totally guided by TTE at our cardiac center from January 2015 to August 2017. A routine transcatheter procedure without fluoroscopy or intubation and a domestic occluder were used in this study.

***RESULTS***

All patients had successful closure with good clinical results, and the overall immediate complete closure rate was 100%. The size of the occluder deployed ranged from 20 to 32 mm (26.7 ± 4.3 mm), the procedure time ranged from 30 to 50 min (41.7 ± 7.5 min), and the length of hospital stay was 2-3 d (mean 2.2 ± 0.4 d). There were no serious cardiovascular related complications, and transient arrhythmias occurred in one patient during the procedure. During the follow-up period (3 mo to 2 years), no occluder dislodgement, residual fistulas, or thromboses occurred. All of the patients underwent vaginal delivery between 36 and 38 wk of gestation.

***CONCLUSION***

Totally TTE guided transcatheter device closure of ASD in pregnant women may be safe and effective.

**Key words:** Congenital heart disease; Septal defects; Cardiac intervention; Pregnant

**© The Author(s) 2019.** Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc. All rights reserved.

**Core tip:** We want to report our experience about the feasibility and safety of totally transthoracic echocardiography guided transcatheter device closure of atrial septal defect (ASD) in pregnant women. Device closure of ASD guided by fluoroscopy and echocardiography is mature with proven results and remains the preferred treatment option in most of hospitals. But for pregnant women with ASD, our procedure described in this study may be performed as another choice.

**Citation:** Chen Q, Cao H, Zhang GC, Chen LW, Xu F. Successful totally transthoracic echocardiography guided transcatheter device closure of atrial septal defect in pregnant women. *World J Clin Cases* 2019; 7(6): 734-741

**URL:** https://www.wjgnet.com/2307-8960/full/v7/i6/734.htm

**DOI:** https://dx.doi.org/10.12998/wjcc.v7.i6.734

**INTRODUCTION**

Atrial septal defect (ASD) is one of the most common congenital heart diseases[1]. For various reasons, some female patients are diagnosed with ASD during pregnancy. Some of these patients were unable to continue pregnancy because of their cardiac dysfunction. Closing the ASD is necessary for such patients to have improved cardiac function and continue the pregnancy[2]. Traditional treatment includes surgical repair using a pericardial patch, which needs cardiopulmonary bypass, and a sternotomy with greater associated maternal and fetal risks[3]. Transcatheter device closure guided by echocardiography and fluoroscopy has been another method used for these patients recently; however, the largest drawback of this procedure is X-ray radiation exposure, which may not be appropriate for pregnant women[4,5]. To overcome these shortcomings, we proposed a method in pregnant women in which the transcatheter technique was totally guided by transthoracic echocardiography (TTE). There are rare reports of the safety and clinical improvement associated with transcatheter closure of ASD during pregnancy[6-8]. This report describes the details and outcomes of pregnant women who underwent successful totally TTE guided transcatheter closure of ASD.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The present study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Fujian Medical University, China and adhered to the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki. Additionally, all patients were counseled on the potential maternal and fetal risks associated with the pregnancy, and all signed a consent form to undergo transcatheter device closure of ASD.

Six patients were enrolled in our cardiac center between January 2015 and August 2017. The patients were aged 23 to 32 years (26.3 ± 2.5 years) and were between 20 and 26 wk of gestation. Their weights ranged from 70 to 85 kg (75.5 ± 5.2 kg). All device closure procedures were performed between 20 and 26 wk of gestation. All patients were diagnosed as having secundum ASD by TTE. The size of the ASD, as measured by TTE, ranged from 16 to 28 mm (mean 21.7 ± 4.3 mm). The inclusion and exclusion criteria were the same as the routine criteria used for transcatheter device closure of ASD.

The New York Heart Association (NYHA) functional class was I before pregnancy in all patients, and it worsened as the pregnancy progressed. By the second trimester, all patients were experiencing chest tightness, palpitations, shortness of breath, and exercise intolerance. Color Doppler ultrasound revealed hemodynamically significant left-to-right shunts and significant right chamber enlargement. All patients had mild-to-moderate pulmonary hypertension. No other X-ray studies were performed in these patients. Routine examinations included standard electrocardiogram and blood tests. Ultrasound of the fetus demonstrated normal fetal development at gestation. Multidisciplinary team meetings were conducted to discuss patient management, including physicians from cardiology, obstetrics, cardiac surgery, and anesthesiology departments, to make a decision as to whether to perform transcatheter closure totally guided by TTE in this study.

In this study, a domestic ASD occluder (manufactured by Shan Dong Visee Medical Apparatus Co. Ltd. of China) was used, which was similar to the Amplatzer ASD occluder and less expensive than the latter. It was made from an alloy of nickel and titanium. The diameter of the ASD and the circumferential margins adjacent to the defect were adequately assessed upon TTE. The size of the occluder was chosen to allow for a 4 to 6 mm excess of the maximum ASD diameter (Figure 1).

Local anesthesia (2% lidocaine was injected into the puncture site of the right groin) was used in all patients. The echo probe was placed at the xiphoid, apex, and parasternal side to guide the entire procedure. Intravenous heparin was administered to all patients, and the activated clotting time was monitored and maintained at a time longer than 250 s during the procedure. The right femoral vein was punctured with a sheath into the vein. Then, a multifunctional catheter and a guidewire were inserted into the venous sheath and advanced through the inferior vena cava to the right atrium. Under the guidance of real-time TTE, the multifunctional catheter and a guidewire were passed through the ASD to the left atrium (Figure 2A). Then, the multifunctional catheter was withdrawn (Figure 2B). A delivery sheath was inserted along the guidewire into the left atrium, and the inner core and the guidewire were withdrawn together. From various views of TTE, the tip of the sheath was located in the left atrium (Figure 2C); then, an appropriate occluder was delivered carefully through the sheath by pushing a rod. The left and right atrial discs of the occluder were released, in turn, and the occluder was successfully implanted (Figure 2D). The occluder’s position and the possible occurrence of a residual shunt were reassessed by TTE. Aspirin was used as an antithrombotic therapy post-procedure in all patients[9]. Fetal heart monitoring was completed three times a day during the hospital stay.

**RESULTS**

Successful occlusion was achieved in all patients (clinical data are shown in Table 1). The operative time ranged from 30 to 50 min (41.7 ± 7.5 min), the occluder size ranged from 20 to 32 mm (26.7 ± 4.3 mm), and the length of hospital stay was 2-3 d (mean 2.2 ± 0.4 d). The overall complete closure rate was 100%. There were no fatal complications related to occluder dislodgement, residual shunt, complete atrioventricular block, or thrombosis-related diseases. There were no deaths or serious cardiovascular related complications during hospitalization. During the procedure, one patient experienced transient arrhythmia that spontaneously recovered in a short period of time.

Over the follow-up period (3 mo to 2 years), the patients were regularly assessed by physical examination, TTE, and ECG. Symptoms improved significantly with respect to the pre-operative status. The complete closure rate was 100%. There were no episodes of endocarditis, thromboembolism, device disruption, heart valves distortion, or permanent rhythm disturbances. All of the patients experienced significant improvement in their symptoms and underwent vaginal delivery between 36 and 38 wk of gestation. All the infants (two males and four females) were healthy, with no cardiac or other congenital anomalies. Their birth weight ranged from 3.2 to 4.2 kg and Apgar scores after vaginal delivery ranged from 7 to 10. No cardiopulmonary resuscitation or hospitalization in NICU was needed in all infants.

**DISCUSSION**

ASD is one of the most common congenital acyanotic heart diseases, with many patients remaining asymptomatic until adulthood. Because of the lack of medical knowledge and poor economic or health conditions, many women are diagnosed with ASD during pregnancy or even when heart failure occurs, especially in rural and remote mountainous areas[10].During pregnancy, the maternal circulating blood volume may increase by an average of 50% by late pregnancy; in addition, hemodilution, increasing tissue fluid and decreasing systemic vascular resistance, may occur, substantially impacting cardiac output and heart rate. The corresponding right ventricular volume overload as a result of an ASD is aggravated during pregnancy, and its continued development, to a serious extent, may trigger ventricular failure[11]. A retrospective study showed that surgical closure of ASD before pregnancy was recommended, even in cases of apparently good hemodynamic conditions, with low rates of surgical complications in spite of the higher incidence of obstetrical problems[2]. Considering these factors, the risks for pregnant women with ASD are clearly much higher than those of the rest of the population.

Closure of ASD during pregnancy requires a thorough clinical assessment because some patients can tolerate normal pregnancy and vaginal delivery well. For some patients with large and hemodynamically significant defects, progressive symptoms may develop during pregnancy, requiring further intervention[12]. Yap *et al*[13] concluded that women with an unrepaired ASD were at higher risk of neonatal events than women with a repaired ASD. Another paper confirmed that women with an unrepaired ASD were at higher risk of pre-eclampsia, small-for-gestational-age births, and fetal mortality than pregnant women in the general population[2]. The indications for intervention include heart failure, pulmonary hypertension with severe hemodynamic compromise, NYHA class > II, and recurrent stroke prior to pregnancy[14-16].

It is necessary to close ASD during preschool age. Both surgical patch repair and transcatheter device closure have been proved satisfactory in terms of short- and long-term results in most patients with ASD. Traditional surgical thoracotomy patch repair has been successfully performed during pregnancy in terms of successful maternal and fetal outcomes. However, cardiopulmonary bypass may lead to some inevitable and unpredictable consequences for both mothers and fetuses, including systemic inflammatory responses and multiple organ dysfunction. In addition, the large surgical scar is unacceptable for many women[17,18].With the development and application of various new occluders in recent years, transcatheter device closure of ASD has gained popularity worldwide and may be considered a standard treatment. Transcatheter device closure has many attractive advantages including the absence of scar, a lack of pain, and a short hospital stay[4,5]. However, its greatest drawbacks are that both doctors and patients are exposed to X-ray radiation, which may lead to radiation-related damage. There have been sporadic reports focused on transcatheter device closure of ASD in pregnant women, guided by fluoroscopy and echocardiography[6-8]. In a previous report, we performed transcatheter device closure of ASD guided totally by TTE, and we used this procedure in pregnant women with local anesthesia[9].

Ionizing radiation was used in the process of transcatheter device closure of ASD in the previous method, where there was exposure to both the mother and the doctors. According to the literature, radiation use is associated with congenital malformations in the fetus and mental and growth retardation or embryonic death, as well as an increased rate of leukemia, brain tumors, and childhood malignancies during the first trimester[19-21]. Some reports tried to confirm a reduction of ionizing radiation by choosing the appropriate time that it can be used safely in pregnancy, with very low exposure to the mother and the fetus[22,23]. However, we continue to believe that radiological procedures should be avoided as much as possible during pregnancy. Based on this idea and our previous experience, we used TTE instead of fluoroscopy in these procedures and obtained satisfactory results that can eliminate the risks of radiation. The use of local anesthesia, endotracheal intubation, and general anesthesia were not needed. Our results suggest that TTE should play an important role during this procedure as the only guiding tool, although it is well known that the accuracy of TTE is lower than that of transesophageal echocardiography (TEE). Many experts had proved that TTE can be used as a reliable tool for the measurement of the diameter of ASD and for guidance during device closure by skilled hands, taking the place of TEE in some circumstances[24]. Azhar reported that TTE had the same efficacy in transcatheter closure of ASD compared with TEE and had superior safety, including a significant reduction of procedural time and fluoroscopy times as well as less use of general anesthesia[25]. Pan *et al*[26] concluded their experience of using TTE guidance as the only imaging tool for the process of percutaneous ASD closure. Their method avoided fluoroscopy and endotracheal intubation and was associated with satisfactory results and lower costs[26]. We also used TTE to guide transthoracic device closure of ASD in a previous study and obtained satisfactory results. We found that TTE achieved satisfactory imaging that was comparable to that of TEE in the general population. Local anesthesia eliminated the need for the moderate–deep sedation or general anesthesia required for TEE.

Therefore, we used the same method in pregnant women as Pan’s procedure. First, we inserted a multifunctional catheter and a guidewire into the inferior vena cava. The tip of the catheter was usually clearly displayed in the subxiphoid acoustic window by TTE. Then, the catheter was advanced into the right atrium. Through the apical four chamber view, the parasternal long axis view, and the subxiphoid acoustic window, the tip of the catheter was usually not easy to locate. There have been difficulties in this section without fluoroscopy. We marked the length of the catheter that measured the distance from the puncture point to the apex of the heart. The insertion should be careful and as slow as possible to effectively prevent cardiac rupture. During the procedure, constant communication with the sonologist can help the operator adjust the catheter. The catheter should be dynamically rotated and adjusted to make the tip clear in the TTE; then, it can be advanced into the left atrium. The subsequent steps were similar to those of the routine method.

In our case series, device closure was successful in all patients, and the closure rate was 100%. All patients obtained the same clinical result as the other routine transcatheter procedure. The most striking difference was that this approach did not require radiation, making it more attractive for pregnant women. Our technique can simplify the procedure, and the learning curve was short. With the skilled operators, the average operative time was no more than 1 h, which was acceptable to most operators and patients. However, the operator should be familiar with intracardiac structure, especially the 3D spatial structure of cardiac anatomy, which can compensate for the shortage of 2D imaging of TTE.

There were some shortcomings in our study. The number of cases was small. In addition, our method was not a widely used method. Most doctors perform transtheter device closure of ASD with X-ray assistance. There are few cardiac centers using this procedure.

In conclusion, this small case series demonstrated that totally TTE guided transcatheter closure of ASD in pregnant patients was achieved safely and effectively. This method avoids surgical scars, cardiopulmonary bypass, and X-ray exposure, and provides satisfactory outcomes for mothers and fetuses.

**ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS**

***Research background***

Transcatheter device closure of atrial septal defect (ASD) guided by fluoroscopy and/or transesophageal echocardiography is a mature technology. Little study has focused on whether the technology can be guided totally by transthoracic echocardiography (TTE), even in pregnant women with ASD.

***Research motivation***

To evaluate the safety and efficacy of totally TTE guided transcatheter device closure of ASD in pregnant women.

***Research objectives***

We want to prove that our procedure may be performed as another choice for pregnant women with ASD.

***Research methods***

Six pregnant women (gestational age 20-26 wk) with ASD underwent transcatheter device closure totally guided by TTE at our cardiac center from January 2015 to August 2017. A routine transcatheter procedure without fluoroscopy or intubation and a domestic occluder were used in this study.

***Research results***

All six patients had successful closure with good clinical results, and the overall immediate complete closure rate was 100%. The size of the occluder deployed ranged from 20 to 32 mm (26.7 ± 4.3 mm), the procedure time ranged from 30 to 50 min (41.7 ± 7.5 min), and the length of hospital stay was 2-3 d (mean 2.2 ± 0.4 d). There were no serious cardiovascular related complications.

***Research conclusions***

Totally TTE guided transcatheter device closure of ASD in pregnant women may be safe and effective.

***Research perspectives***

Transcatheter device closure of ASD totally guided by TTE may be an alternative treatment for pregnant women with ASD.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We highly acknowledge the contribution by the participating doctors: Xu-Dong Sun, Feng Lin, Qi-Min Wang, Zhong-Yao Huang, Han-Fan Qiu, Xiao-Fu Dai, Xue-Shan Huang, Hui Zhang, and Zeng-Chun Wang. Also, we wish to extend our gratitude to Xiu-Jun Wang and her colleagues.

**REFERENCES**

1 **Geva T**, Martins JD, Wald RM. Atrial septal defects. *Lancet* 2014; **383**: 1921-1932 [PMID: 24725467 DOI: 10.1016/S0140-6736(13)62145-5]

2 **Actis Dato GM**, Rinaudo P, Revelli A, Actis Dato A, Punta G, Centofanti P, Cavaglià M, Barbato L, Massobrio M. Atrial septal defect and pregnancy: a retrospective analysis of obstetrical outcome before and after surgical correction. *Minerva Cardioangiol* 1998; **46**: 63-68 [PMID: 9677799]

3 **Luo H**, Wang J, Qiao C, Zhang X, Zhang W, Song L. Evaluation of different minimally invasive techniques in the surgical treatment of atrial septal defect. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg* 2014; **148**: 188-193 [PMID: 24100102 DOI: 10.1016/j.jtcvs.2013.08.017]

4 **Aytemir K**, Oto A, Özkutlu S, Canpolat U, Kaya EB, Yorgun H, Şahiner L, Sunman H, Ateş AH, Kabakçı G. Transcatheter interatrial septal defect closure in a large cohort: midterm follow-up results. *Congenit Heart Dis* 2013; **8**: 418-427 [PMID: 23601507 DOI: 10.1111/chd.12057]

5 **Hoashi T**, Yazaki S, Kagisaki K, Kitano M, Kubota SM, Shiraishi I, Ichikawa H. Management of ostium secundum atrial septal defect in the era of percutaneous trans-catheter device closure: 7-Year experience at a single institution. *J Cardiol* 2015; **65**: 418-422 [PMID: 25113951 DOI: 10.1016/j.jjcc.2014.07.009]

6 **Houser L**, Zaragoza-Macias E, Jones TK, Aboulhosn J. Transcatheter closure of atrial septal communication during pregnancy in women with Ebstein's anomaly of the tricuspid valve and cyanosis. *Catheter Cardiovasc Interv* 2015; **85**: 842-846 [PMID: 25511470 DOI: 10.1002/ccd.25787]

7 **Orchard EA**, Wilson N, Ormerod OJ. Device closure of atrial septal defect during pregnancy for recurrent cerebrovascular accidents. *Int J Cardiol* 2011; **148**: 240-241 [PMID: 19942309 DOI: 10.1016/j.ijcard.2009.10.049]

8 **Soydemir DF**, Johnston T, Clarke B. Percutaneous closure of an atrial septal defect during pregnancy using an Amplatzer occlusion device. *J Obstet Gynaecol* 2005; **25**: 715-716 [PMID: 16263552 DOI: 10.1080/01443610500304307]

9 **Cao H**, Chen Q, Zhang GC, Chen LW, Qiu ZH, Lu H. Percutaneous device closure of atrial septal defect with totally transthoracic echocardiography guide, without x-ray machine. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2016; **95**: e5256 [PMID: 27858888 DOI: 10.1097/MD.0000000000005256]

10 **Liu H**, Huang T, Zhao W, Shen Y, Lin J. Pregnancy outcomes and relative risk factors among Chinese women with congenital heart disease. *Int J Gynaecol Obstet* 2013; **120**: 245-248 [PMID: 23245675 DOI: 10.1016/j.ijgo.2012.09.025]

11 **Piesiewicz W**, Goch A, Binikowski Z, Faflik U, Krasomski G, Goch JH. Changes in the cardiovascular system during pregnancy in women with secondary atrial septal defect. *Kardiol Pol* 2004; **60**: 218-228 [PMID: 15156217]

12 **Niwa K**. Adult Congenital Heart Disease with Pregnancy. *Korean Circ J* 2018; **48**: 251-276 [PMID: 29625509 DOI: 10.4070/kcj.2018.0070]

13 **Yap SC**, Drenthen W, Meijboom FJ, Moons P, Mulder BJ, Vliegen HW, van Dijk AP, Jaddoe VW, Steegers EA, Roos-Hesselink JW, Pieper PG; ZAHARA investigators. Comparison of pregnancy outcomes in women with repaired versus unrepaired atrial septal defect. *BJOG* 2009; **116**: 1593-1601 [PMID: 19681849 DOI: 10.1111/j.1471-0528.2009.02301.x]

14 **Warnes CA**. Pregnancy and Delivery in Women With Congenital Heart Disease. *Circ J* 2015; **79**: 1416-1421 [PMID: 26040336 DOI: 10.1253/circj.CJ-15-0572]

15 **Davidson WR Jr**. Pregnancy in Adult Congenital Heart Disease: Special Delivery. *JAMA Cardiol* 2017; **2**: 671-672 [PMID: 28403448 DOI: 10.1001/jamacardio.2017.0365]

16 **Ladouceur M**, Benoit L, Basquin A, Radojevic J, Hauet Q, Hascoet S, Moceri P, Le Gloan L, Amedro P, Lucron H, Richard A, Gouton M, Nizard J. How Pregnancy Impacts Adult Cyanotic Congenital Heart Disease: A Multicenter Observational Study. *Circulation* 2017; **135**: 2444-2447 [PMID: 28606952 DOI: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.116.027152]

17 **Salazar E**, Espinola N, Molina FJ, Reyes A, Barragán R. Heart surgery with cardiopulmonary bypass in pregnant women. *Arch Cardiol Mex* 2001; **71**: 20-27 [PMID: 11565358]

18 **Manivannan S**, Dadlani G, Parsons M, Crisan L, Belogolovkin V, Sastry N, Guglin M. Surgical repair of atrial septal defect with severe pulmonary hypertension during pregnancy: a case report with literature review. *Cardiol Young* 2012; **22**: 493-498 [PMID: 22717278 DOI: 10.1017/S1047951112000492]

19 **Brent RL**. Saving lives and changing family histories: appropriate counseling of pregnant women and men and women of reproductive age, concerning the risk of diagnostic radiation exposures during and before pregnancy. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2009; **200**: 4-24 [PMID: 19121655 DOI: 10.1016/j.ajog.2008.06.032]

20 **Miglioretti DL**, Johnson E, Williams A, Greenlee RT, Weinmann S, Solberg LI, Feigelson HS, Roblin D, Flynn MJ, Vanneman N, Smith-Bindman R. The use of computed tomography in pediatrics and the associated radiation exposure and estimated cancer risk. *JAMA Pediatr* 2013; **167**: 700-707 [PMID: 23754213 DOI: 10.1001/jamapediatrics.2013.311]

21 **Pearce MS**, Salotti JA, Little MP, McHugh K, Lee C, Kim KP, Howe NL, Ronckers CM, Rajaraman P, Sir Craft AW, Parker L, Berrington de González A. Radiation exposure from CT scans in childhood and subsequent risk of leukaemia and brain tumours: a retrospective cohort study. *Lancet* 2012; **380**: 499-505 [PMID: 22681860 DOI: 10.1016/S0140-6736(12)60815-0]

22 **Orchard E**, Dix S, Wilson N, Mackillop L, Ormerod O. Reducing ionizing radiation doses during cardiac interventions in pregnant women. *Obstet Med* 2012; **5**: 108-111 [PMID: 27582866 DOI: 10.1258/om.2012.120006]

23 **Pierce T**, Hovnanian M, Hedgire S, Ghoshhajra B. Imaging of Cardiovascular Disease in Pregnancy and the Peripartum Period. *Curr Treat Options Cardiovasc Med* 2017; **19**: 94 [PMID: 29134367 DOI: 10.1007/s11936-017-0593-8]

24 **Vidaillet HJ Jr**, Skelton TN, Kisslo KB, Kisslo J, Bashore TM. Echocardiographic guidance of cardiac catheterization for atrial septal defect in pregnancy. *Am J Cardiol* 1986; **58**: 1133-1134 [PMID: 3776875]

25 **Azhar AS**. Safety and efficacy of transthoracic versus transesophageal echocardiography in transcatheter closure of atrial septal defects. Reporting a single center experience from Saudi Arabia. *Saudi Med J* 2016; **37**: 1196-1205 [PMID: 27761557 DOI: 10.15537/smj.2016.11.15617]

26 **Pan XB**, Ou-Yang WB, Pang KJ, Zhang FW, Wang SZ, Liu Y, Zhang DW, Guo GL, Tian PS, Hu SS. Percutaneous Closure of Atrial Septal Defects Under Transthoracic Echocardiography Guidance Without Fluoroscopy or Intubation in Children. *J Interv Cardiol* 2015; **28**: 390-395 [PMID: 26077469 DOI: 10.1111/joic.12214]

**P-Reviewer:** Zafrakas M **S-Editor:** Ji FF **L-Editor:** Wang TQ **E-Editor:** Wu YXJ

**Specialty type:** Medicine, research and experimental

**Country of origin:** China

**Peer-review report classification**

Grade A (Excellent): 0

Grade B (Very good): B

Grade C (Good): 0

Grade D (Fair): 0

Grade E (Poor): 0

**Table 1 Clinical data of patients in this study**

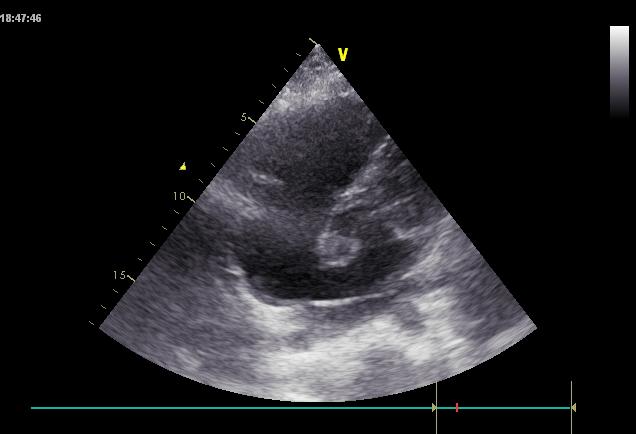
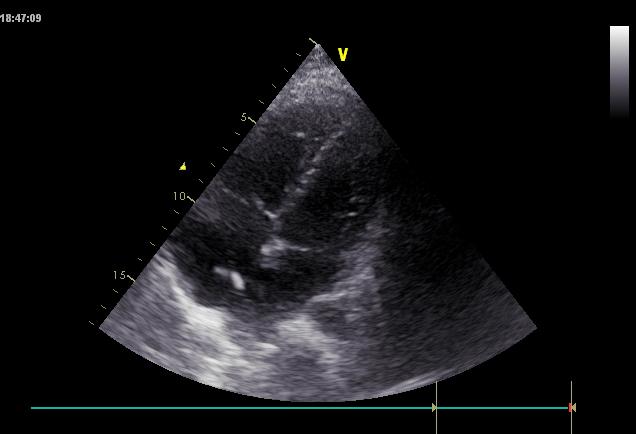
|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** |  |
| No. of patients | 6 |
| Age (yr) | 26.3 ± 2.5 |
| Body weight (kg) | 75.5 ± 5.2 |
| Gestation (wk) | 20-26 |
| ASD size (mm) | 21.7 ± 4.3 |
| Occluder size (mm) | 26.7 ± 4.3 |
| Operative time (min) | 41.7 ± 7.5 |
| Hospital stay (d) | 2.2 ± 0.4 |
| Follow-up (yr) | 1.1 ± 0.3 |
| Successful occlusion rate | 100% |
| Fluoroscopy time (min) | 0 |

ASD: Atrial septal defect.

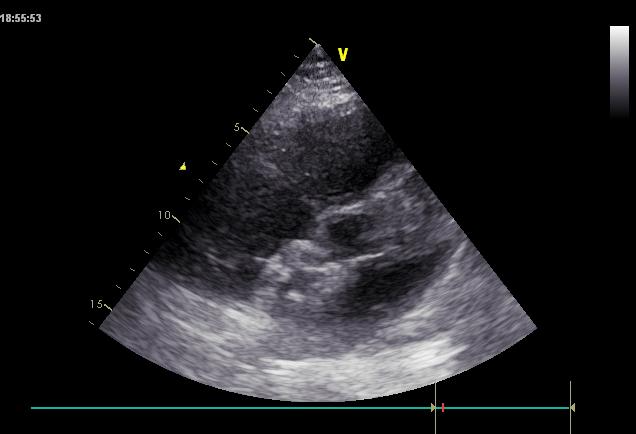
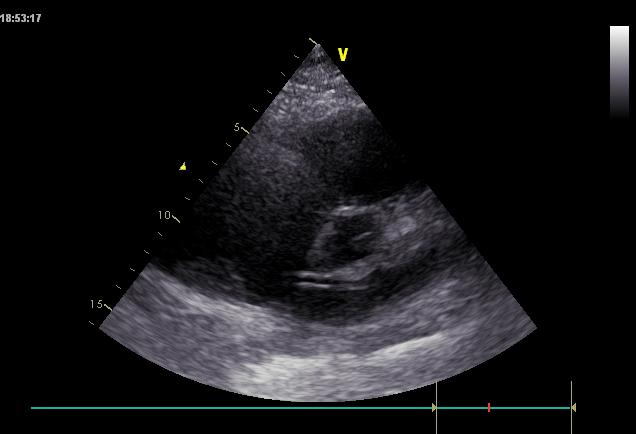
1

**Figure 1 The domestic atrial septal defect occluder used in this study.**

A B



C D



**Figure 2 Transthoracic echocardiography showing the process of transcatheter device closure of atrial septal defect.** A: A multifunctional catheter was advanced into the left atrium under the guidance of echocardiography; B: A guidewire was inserted into the left atrium; C: A delivery sheath was inserted into the left atrium; D: The occluder was released.