

Air embolism is a rare but potentially fatal complication of central venous catheterization. Venous air emboli can paradoxically enter the arterial circulation through a patent foramen ovale” Arcinas et al (2017).

Air embolism is a rare but potentially fatal complication of central venous catheterization. Venous air emboli can paradoxically enter the arterial circulation through a patent foramen ovale. Paradoxical shunting of air emboli through a patent foramen ovale can lead to cerebral air embolism and cause neurological compromise. An atrial septal aneurysm is redundant atrial tissue that protrudes towards either or both atria during the cardiac cycle. It significantly increases the risk of embolic stroke when associated with a patent foramen ovale.

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Reference:

Arcinas, L.A., Liu, S., Schacter, G.I. and Kass, M. (2017) Cerebral Air Embolism Following Central Venous Catheter Removal. The American Journal of Medicine. August 10th. .

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