

# Perspective of LAAO (Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion)

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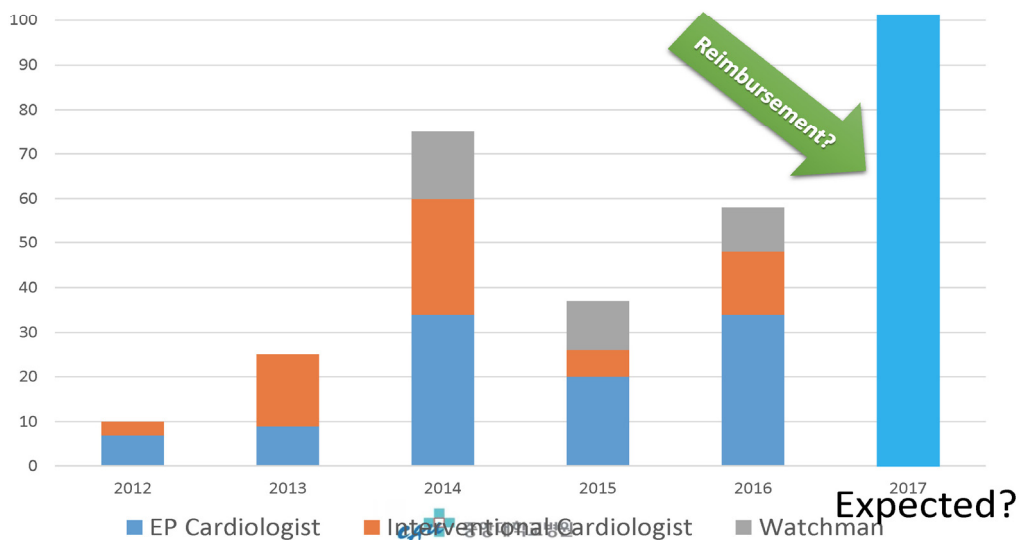


한국의 중앙에서 세계의 중앙으로  
Toward the University of the world from Chung-Ang of Korea

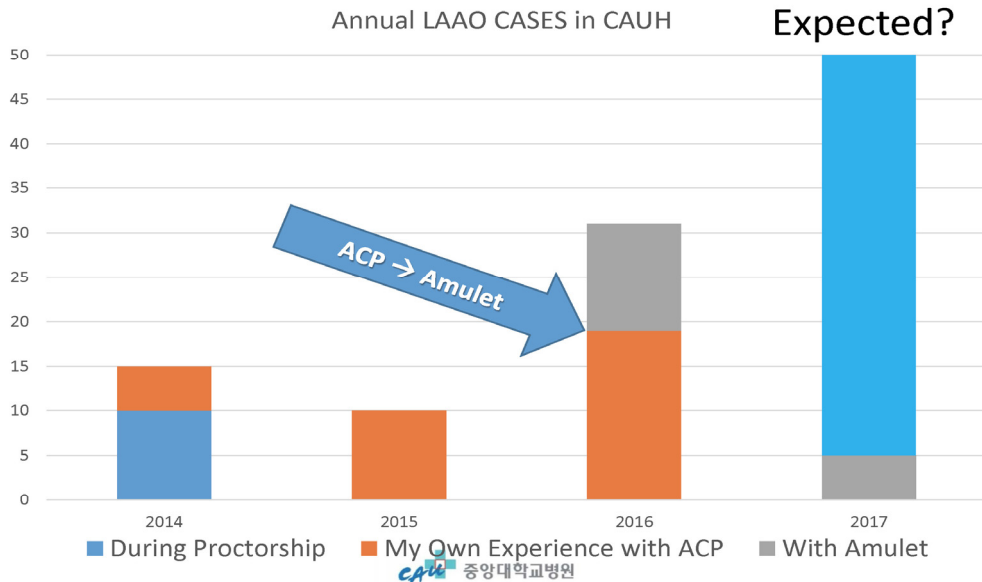


## LAAO in KOREA

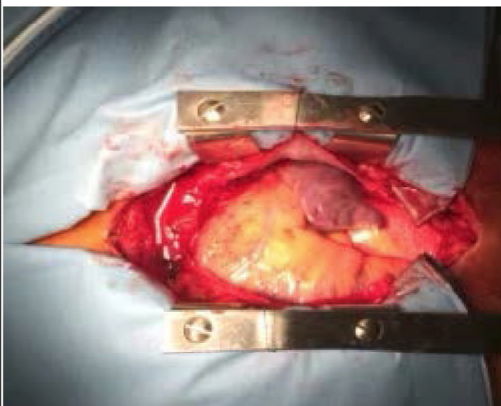
Annual LAAO CASES in KOREA



## Chung-Ang LAAO Experience



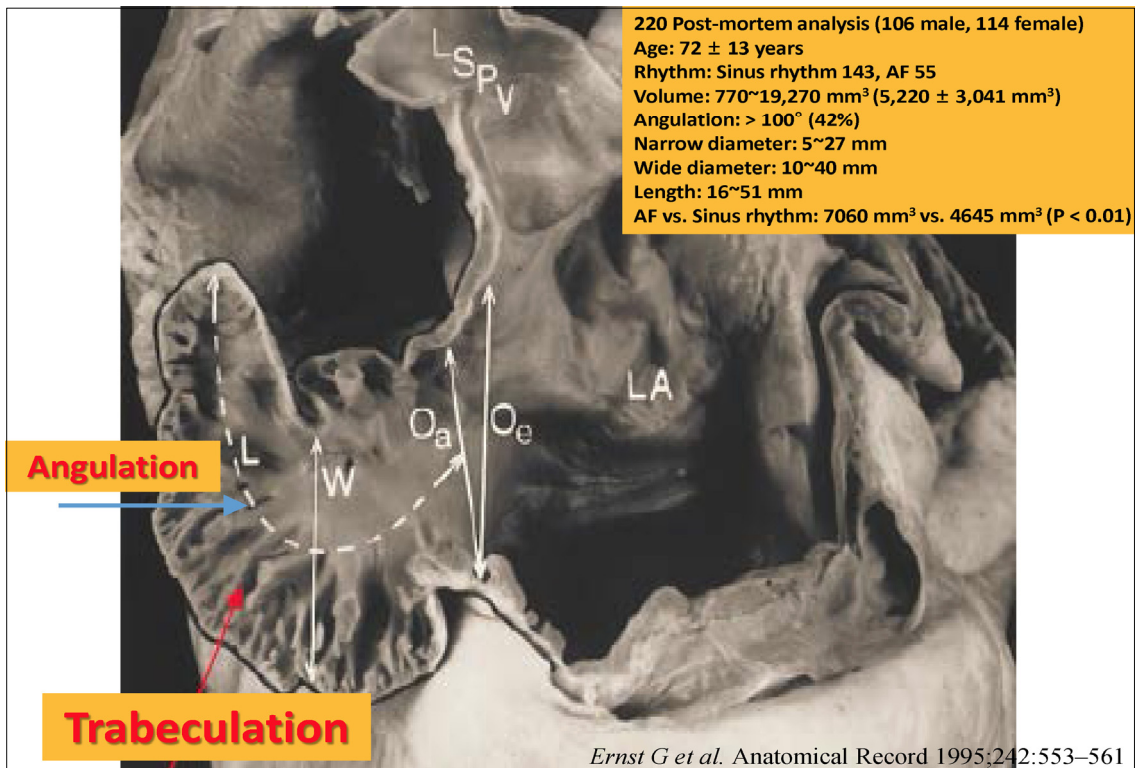
## LAA During AF



Courtesy of Prof. J Hong



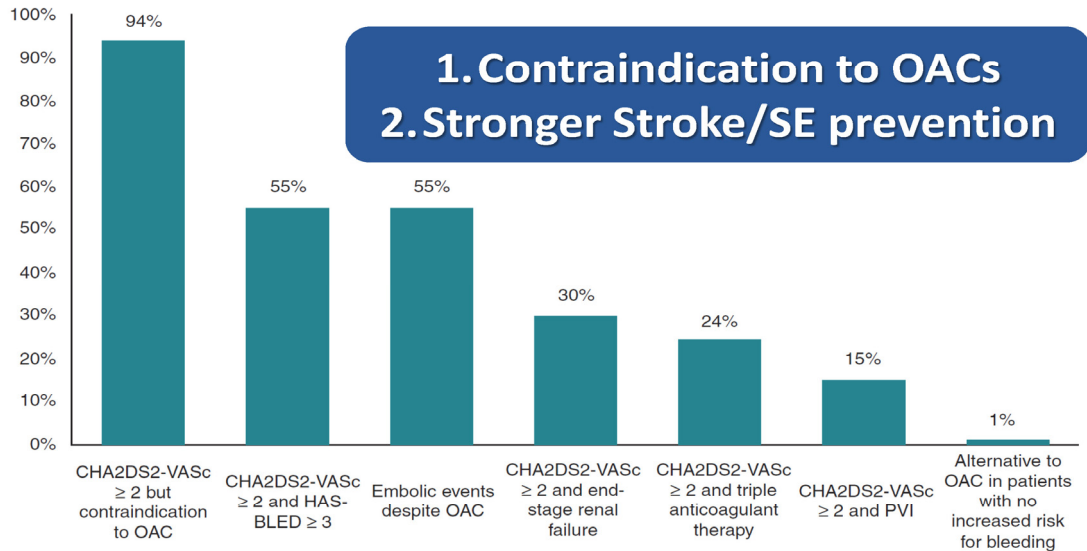
Most **thrombi (90%)** in NVAF develop **in LAA**



# WHEN

is LAAO necessary?

## LAAO Major Indications in EU



### CASE Examples

## We Perform LAAO in Patients Such as...

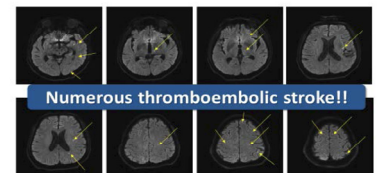
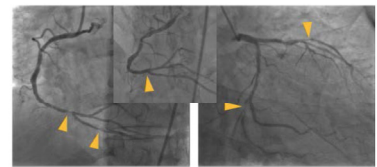
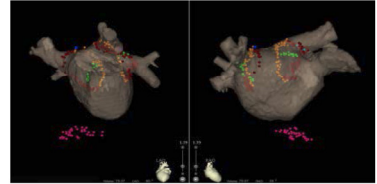
1. Persistent AF with ESRD on HD, major bleeding
2. Persistent AF with traumatic SDH
3. Paroxysmal AF with severe depression
4. Paroxysmal AF with recurrent stroke during OAC
5. Persistent AF with severe pulmonary fibrosis
6. Persistent AF with malignant thrombi
7. Persistent AF with prior PCI (esp. DES)
8. Persistent AF with liver cirrhosis
9. Persistent AF after PV isolation
10. Etc.



## CASE 01

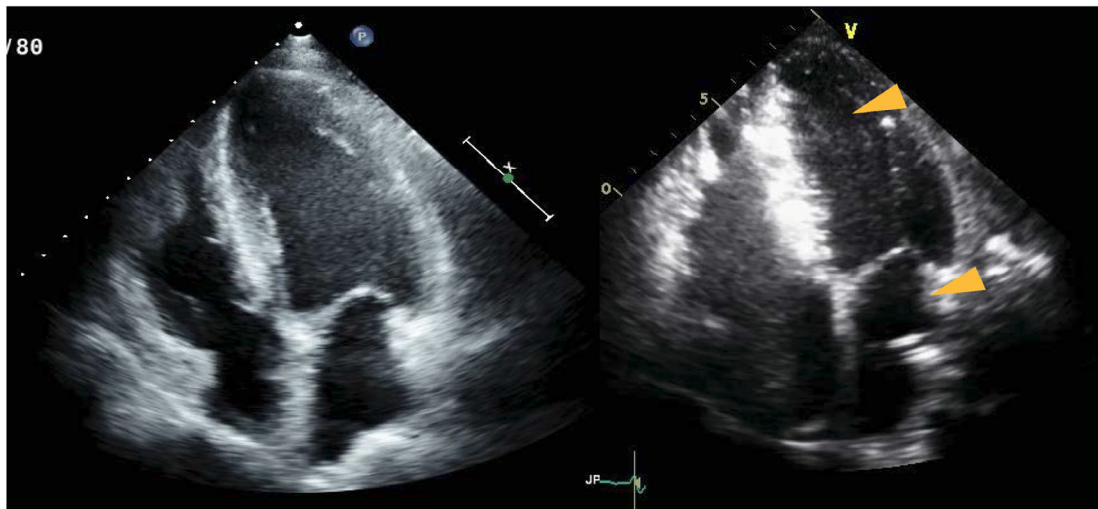
# M/61, Paroxysmal AF

- Drug refractory AF especially during dialysis
- 1. RFCA for AF – Successful RFCA itself (2017.3.28.)
- 2. 3 Vessel disease
  - Prior PCI with DES (3 stents, 2016.1.11.)
- VKA + Single APT
- GI bleeding → 약제 임의 중단 (4일간)
- Ischemic stroke & stress cardiomyopathy



## CASE 01

# Echocardiography



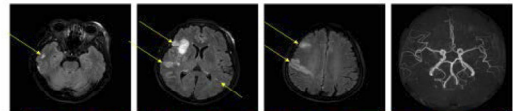
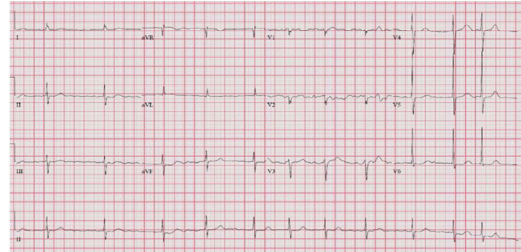
LVEF = 55%

LVEF = 35%, **LV & LA thrombi**

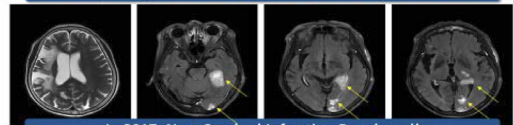
## CASE 02

# F/77, Persistent AF

- Persistent AF
- s/p Cbr infarction (1st stroke - 2011.10.31)
- CHA2DS2-VASc = 5  
(Age>75, Stroke, Female)
- HASBLED = 3 (Stroke, Bleeding, Elderly)
- Maintained VKA since 2011
- **Drug refractory LAA thrombi**
- VKA → NOAC switch
- Recurrent embolic stroke (2017.4.15.)



In 2011, Multiple Infarction with Intact Cerebral Vasculature!!



In 2017, New Cerebral Infarction Developed!

## CASE 02

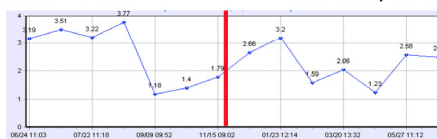
# Transesophageal Echocardiography



In 2013,  
On VKA, TTR < 60%

In 2014, (6 M later)  
On VKA, TTR > 60%

In 2015, (10 M later)  
On DE 150 mg



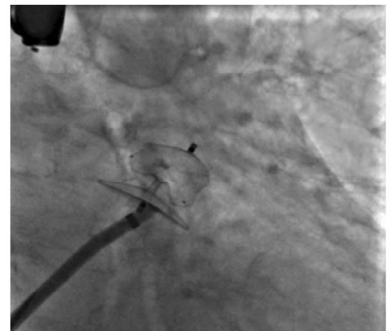
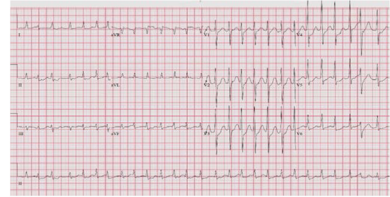
VKA switch to  
Dabigatran 150 mg

Recommend LAAO,  
Refused!

## CASE 03

# F/88, Paroxysmal AF

- ESRD on HD (DM nephropathy, 20Y)
- CHA2DS2-VASc= 6 (CHF, HTN, Age>75, DM, Female)
- HASBLED = 5 (HTN, ESRD, Elderly, Bleeding, Drug-ASA)
- s/p PCI with DES (2009)
- Multiple rib Fx & Hemothorax (2014)
- Two months after LAAO, ASA 100 mg
- Femur neck Fx (2016)
- Acute pancreatitis (2017)
- No bleeding or SEE



## CONTENTS

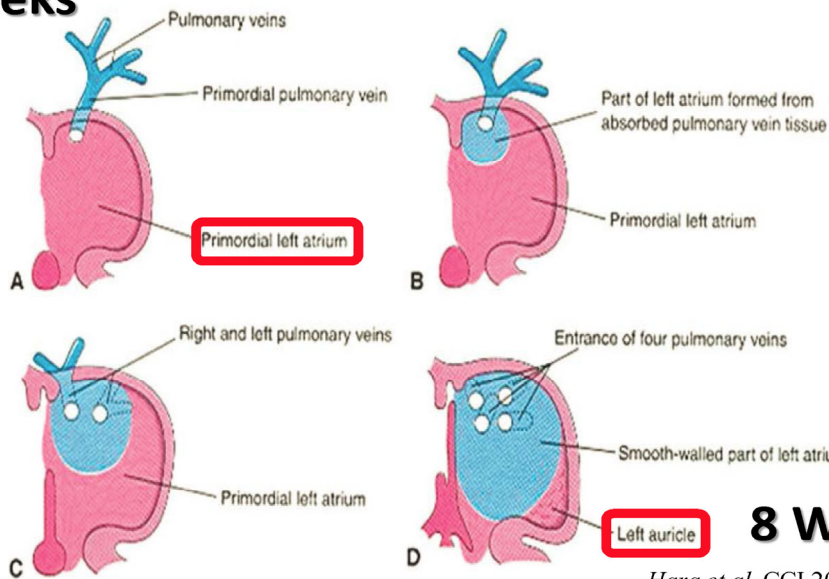
1. Which device is better?
2. Safe & Simple procedure
3. What is desirable procedural endpoint
4. Who can benefit most?
5. Post-procedural anti-thrombotic therapy

# 1. Which Device Is Better?

## Development of LAA



5 Weeks



8 Weeks

Hara et al. CCI.2009;74:234-242

## Various Shapes of LAA



cactus

cauliflower

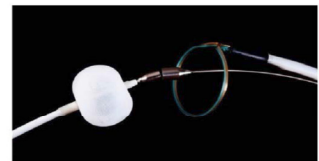
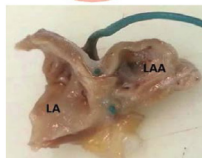
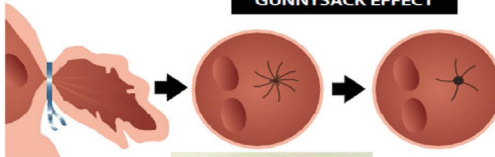
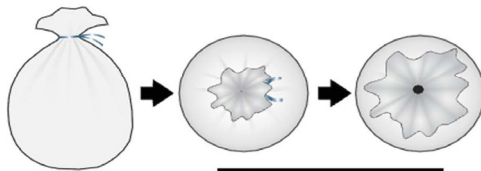
chicken wing

windsock

## Pros & Cons by Device Type (1)

### Epicardial Ligation

- percutaneous or thoracoscopy



### Pros

Virtually all type of LAA can be closed  
Irrespective of shape or thrombi (**One for all?**)

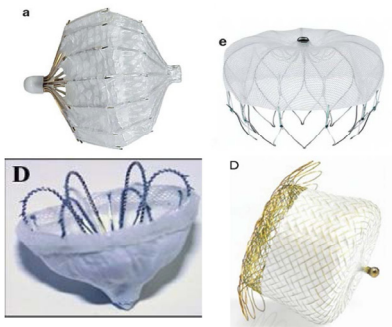
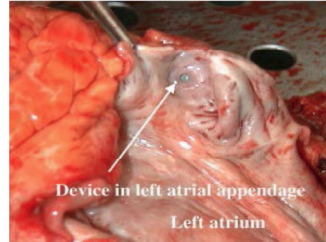
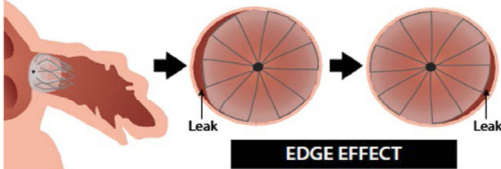
### Cons

Intolerable for thoracoscopic procedure with  
general anesthesia  
Recanalization (Gunnysack effect)  
Technical issue - dry pericardial tap...



## Pros & Cons by Device Type (2)

### WATCHMAN DEVICE (Ball type)



#### Pros

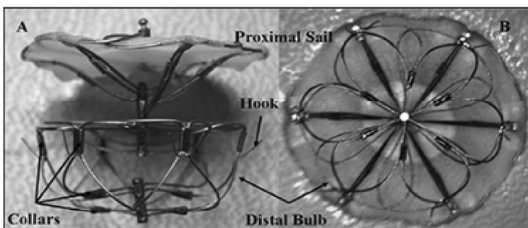
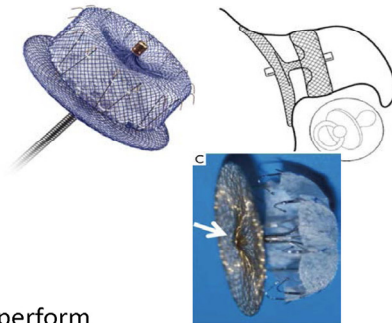
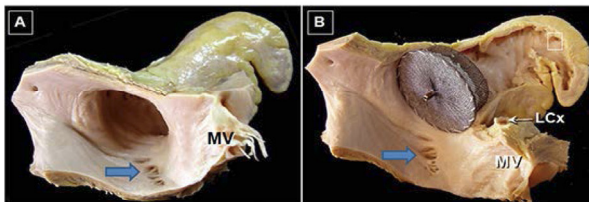
Easy to perform

#### Cons

- Incomplete sealing (peri-device leakage)
- Dead space (most LAA have angulation)
- Single barrier
- Cannot fully cover anatomical ostium

## Pros & Cons by Device Type (3)

### LOBE & DISC TYPE DEVICE (ACP, Amulet)



#### Pros

- Easy to perform
- With ICE, can be done under local anesthesia
- More suitable for angulated anatomy
- More complete sealing
- Double cover

#### Cons

Various implantation options and outcomes

## 2. Safe & Simple Procedure

### Many Ways to LAA Exclusion

1. Intra-procedural transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) under general anesthesia (G/A)  
– generally adopted?
2. Micro-TEE under light sedation  
– Not available in Korea
- 3. Fluoroscopic guidance only strategy under L/A**
4. Intra-cardiac echocardiography (ICE) under local anesthesia (L/A)
- 5. Pre-procedural computed tomographic (CT) assessment with #4 strategy under L/A**



# Fluoroscopic Guidance Only Strategy

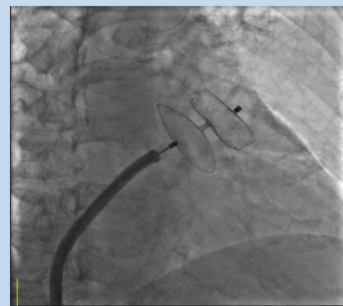
- Procedure **without G/A**
- Shorter procedure time
- **Non-inferior** procedural/clinical outcomes (SEE)



Atriography Measure



Land Lobe - Check anchoring



Expand disc - Tug test (3 times)

## Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion (LAAO) Without Intra-procedural Trans-Esophageal Echocardiography (TEE), Is It Feasible Approach? Single Center Experience

Seung Yong Shin<sup>1</sup>, Hong Euy Lim<sup>2</sup>, Ju Hyun Song<sup>1</sup>, Yong Hyun An<sup>1</sup>, Jin-Seok Kim<sup>2</sup>, Jeong-Min Kim<sup>2</sup>, Kwang-Yeol Park<sup>2</sup>, Moon Ki Jung<sup>1</sup>, Young Kim<sup>1</sup>, Iksung Cho<sup>1</sup>, Hoyoun Won<sup>1</sup>, Wang-Soo Lee<sup>1</sup>, Kwang Je Lee<sup>1</sup>, Sang Wook Kim<sup>1</sup>, Tae Ho Kim<sup>1</sup>, Chee Jeong Kim<sup>1</sup>

1 Cardiovascular and Arrhythmia Center, Chung-Ang University Hospital, Seoul, Korea. 2 Department of Cardiology, Korea University Guro Hospital, Seoul, Korea 3 Department of Neurology, Chung-Ang University Hospital, Seoul, Korea

### BACKGROUND

Left atrial appendage occlusion (LAAO) is frequently performed alternative antithrombotic treatment in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation who are intolerable to traditional oral anticoagulation. Because LAAO procedure is assisted by trans-esophageal echocardiography (TEE), general anesthesia is usually required. However, in high risk patients with multiple co-morbidities, who are not tolerable for general anesthesia, LAAO procedure without TEE under local anesthesia was tried and successfully performed without any serious complications.

### OBJECTIVE

The aim of this study is to investigate the safety and feasibility of LAAO without TEE and to test the differences in long term results according to the intra-procedurally used imaging modalities.

### METHODS

Between May 2014 and November 2016, all consecutive patients who underwent LAAO in Chung-Ang University Hospital, were included and analyzed retrospectively. The procedures were performed using the Amplatzer cardiac plug or Amulet device (St. Jude). Pre-procedural TEE was performed in all patients and LAA anatomy was carefully examined.

According to the intra-procedurally used imaging modalities, patients were divided into 2 groups (group 1: with intra-procedural TEE, group 2: without intra-procedural TEE). Between two groups, baseline characteristics, procedure related complications, clinical outcomes were compared.

### RESULTS

Forty one patients were enrolled and analyzed. Mean follow-up period was 310 ± 253 days.

Table 1. Baseline characteristics

Variable	With TEE (n = 10)	Without TEE (n = 31)	P value
Age (yr)	72.3 ± 11.3	76.7 ± 6.4	0.266
Male (n, %)	3 (30.0)	13 (41.9)	0.712
Non-paroxysmal AF (n, %)	4 (40.0)	24 (77.4)	0.413
HF (n, %)	4 (40.0)	12 (38.7)	1.000
HTN (n, %)	10 (100.0)	30 (96.8)	1.000
DM (n, %)	3 (30.0)	4 (12.9)	0.332
First stroke or TIA (n, %)	3 (30.0)	15 (48.4)	0.467
Ischemic heart disease (n, %)	3 (30.0)	7 (22.6)	0.683
CHADS <sub>2</sub> score (point)	2.5 ± 1.6	2.8 ± 1.3	0.392
CHA <sub>2</sub> DS <sub>2</sub> -VASc score (point)	4.6 ± 1.8	4.9 ± 1.7	0.633
Major bleeding (n, %)	4 (40.0)	19 (61.3)	0.289
Liver disease (n, %)	0 (0.0)	2 (6.5)	1.000
Chronic kidney disease (n, %)	5 (50.0)	14 (45.2)	1.000
eGFR (ml/min)	50.8 ± 36.8	57.4 ± 22.5	0.524
HASBLED score (point)	3.7 ± 1.9	3.8 ± 1.1	0.869
Echocardiography			
LVEF (%)	58.1 ± 7.8	57.4 ± 9.4	0.830
LAA (mm)	45.1 ± 10.1	49.2 ± 7.4	0.175

Data are presented as mean ± SD (interquartile deviation). TEE, trans-esophageal echocardiography; AF, atrial fibrillation; HF, heart failure; HTN, hypertension; DM, diabetes mellitus; TIA, transient ischemic attack; CHADS<sub>2</sub>, CHADS<sub>2</sub> score; CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc, CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc score; HF, heart failure; DM, diabetes mellitus; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; HASBLED, Hypertension, Abnormal renal/liver function, Bleeding, Labile INR, Bleakily (age > 75), Drugs (aspirin, NSAIDs, etc.), LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; LAA, left atrium.

Table 2. Procedure related outcomes

Variable	With TEE (n = 10)	Without TEE (n = 31)	P value
TEE			
LAA flow impairment (Grade 1-4)	1.9 ± 1.1	2.5 ± 6.8	0.141
SEC (Grade 0-4)	1.3 ± 1.6	1.7 ± 1.2	0.394
Device size			
Left size (mm)	25.1 ± 5.0	27.0 ± 2.5	0.198
Disc size (mm)	30.4 ± 6.0	32.9 ± 4.2	0.249
Total procedure time (min)	163.5 ± 39.8	142.2 ± 48.2	0.242
Net procedure time (min)	112.2 ± 30.8	98.6 ± 41.0	0.368
Fluoroscopy time (min)	26.9 ± 6.9	18.7 ± 11.7	0.067
Fluoroscopy dose (mGy)	1369.9 ± 1152.4	2552.1 ± 9649.4	0.665
Any procedural complications (n, %)	0 (0.0)	2 (6.5)	1.000
Vascular complication (n, %)	0 (0.0)	1 (3.2)	
Pericardial effusion (n, %)	0 (0.0)	1 (3.2)	
Device migration (n, %)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	
Stroke or TIA (n, %)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	
Any follow-up events (n, %)	1 (10.0)	4 (12.9)	1.000
Pericardial effusion (n, %)	0 (0.0)	3 (9.7)	
Device migration (n, %)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	
Device thrombosis (n, %)	1 (10.0)	0 (0.0)	
Stroke or TIA (n, %)	0 (0.0)	1 (3.2)*	

Data are presented as mean ± SD (interquartile deviation). TEE, trans-esophageal echocardiography; LAA, left atrial appendage; flow grade 1 = 30 mm/s, 2 = 30-50 mm/s, 3 = 50-70 mm/s, 4 = > 70 mm/s; SEC, spontaneous echo contrast; 0, none, 1, mild, 2, moderate, 3, severe, 4, thrombus; \* 1 minor stroke at 3 months - right to left shunt with atrial septal anastomosis - follow-up TEE showed no persistent leakage.

### CONCLUSION

Without intra-procedural TEE, LAAO can be performed with safety similar to LAAO with intra-procedural TEE and procedure related outcomes and clinical outcomes are not inferior to LAAO with intra-procedural TEE. In addition, general anesthesia can be omitted in LAAO without intra-procedural TEE and complications related with general anesthesia can be avoided in elderly patients with high risk for general anesthesia.



Atriography Measure, Land Lobe Check anchoring, Expand disc Tug test (3 times)

- Presented in LAAO Frankfurt in 2016

## Baseline Characteristics

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## Procedure Related Outcomes

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<b>Vascular complication (n, %)</b>	<b>0 (0.0)</b>	<b>1 (3.2)</b>	
<b>Pericardial effusion (n, %)</b>	<b>0 (0.0)</b>	<b>1 (3.2)</b>	
<b>Device migration (n, %)</b>	<b>0 (0.0)</b>	<b>0 (0.0)</b>	
<b>Stroke or TIA (n, %)</b>	<b>0 (0.0)</b>	<b>0 (0.0)</b>	
<b>Any follow up events (n, %)</b>	<b>1 (10.0)</b>	<b>4 (12.9)</b>	<b>1.000</b>
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<b>Device migration (n, %)</b>	<b>0 (0.0)</b>	<b>0 (0.0)</b>	
<b>Device thrombosis (n, %)</b>	<b>1 (10.0)</b>	<b>0 (0.0)</b>	

LA: left atrium, LAA: left atrial appendage, SEC: spontaneous echo contrast, LAA flow: grade 1: > 50 cm/sec; 2: 30~50 cm/sec; 3: 10~30 cm/sec; 4: < 10 cm/sec, SEC (spontaneous echo contrast): 0: none; 1: mild; 2: moderate; 3: severe; 4: thrombus, \*: 1 minor stroke at 3 months – might be related with incomplete endothelialization – follow-up TEE revealed no peridevice leakage

## Cardiac CT & 3D Image Support

- Especially useful in analyzing & planning in patients with complex LAA anatomy
- Can improve procedural outcomes
  - Pre-procedural device size expectation
  - **Best choice** among possible outcomes
  - Pre-procedural test performed *ex vivo*
  - Minimize trial and errors *in vivo*
- Enhanced procedural safety
  - Shorter / more concentrated procedure time
  - Fewer peri-procedural complications

## 3D Printing of LAA



# Pre-procedural Simulation

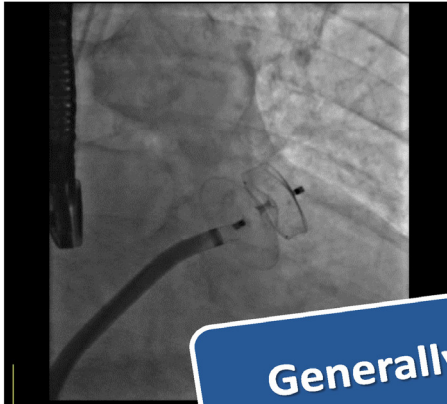


## 3. What is Desirable Procedural Endpoints?

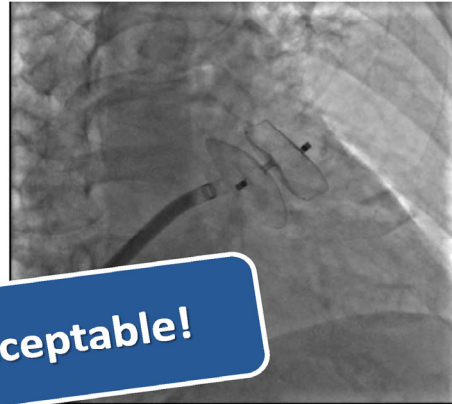
## Acceptable Endpoints

- Stable anchoring of device
- Complete sealing w/o leakage

Minimize or eliminate  
**Dead Space**  
→ **Better (?)**



VS.



**Generally, acceptable!**

 중앙대학교병원

## 4. Who Can Benefit Most?



# Left Atrial Structure and Function After Percutaneous Left Atrial Appendage Transcatheter Occlusion (PLAATO)

## Six-Month Echocardiographic Follow-Up

Ibrahim R. Hanna, MD,\* Paul Kolm, PhD,\* Randolph Martin, MD, FACC,\* Mark Reisman, MD, FACC,† William Gray, MD, FACC,† Peter C. ...

Atlanta, Georgia; and Seattle, Washington

### OBJECTIVES

This study was designed to evaluate the effect of transcatheter occlusion of the left atrial appendage (LAA) on the structure and function of the left atrium (LA) and left upper pulmonary vein (LUPV).

**PLAATO achieved an adequate seal of the neck of LAA w/o significant effect on the structure of the LA and LUPV**

### CONCLUSIONS

PLAATO achieved an adequate seal of the neck of the left atrial appendage without significant effect on the structure or function of the LA and LUPV. (J Am Coll Cardiol 2004;43:1868-72) © 2004 by the American College of Cardiology Foundation

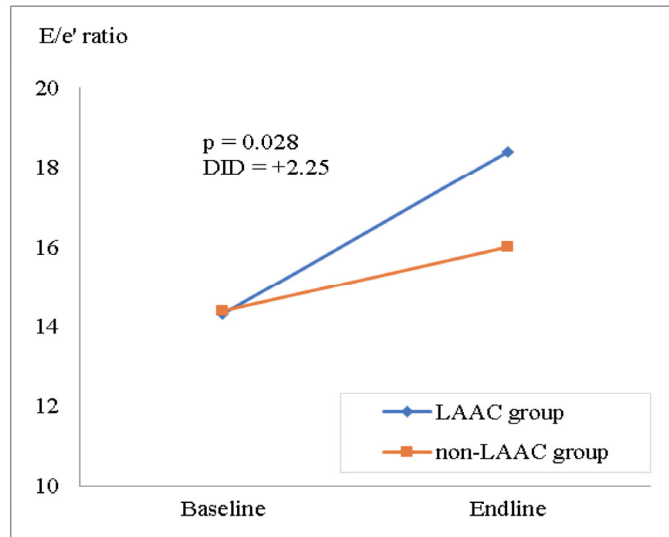
## LAA Exclusion Can Worsen HF

Variables	LAAC group (n=47)	Non-LAAC group (n=141)	P value
Age (year)	75.1 ± 9.9	74.7 ± 9.7	0.799
Male (n, %)	20 (42.6%)	60 (42.6%)	1.000
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	24.4 ± 3.8	24.3 ± 3.7	0.953
Paroxysmal AF (n, %)	13 (27.7%)	34 (24.1%)	0.627
HAS-BLED score	2.55 ± 1.41	2.23 ± 1.34	0.156
CHA <sub>2</sub> DS <sub>2</sub> -VAsE score	3.83 ± 1.98	3.32 ± 1.65	0.082
Labile INR (n, %)	6 (12.8%)	20 (14.2%)	0.807
Bleeding (n, %)	8 (17.0%)	23 (16.3%)	0.910
Stroke or TIA (n, %)	21 (44.7%)	49 (34.8%)	0.223
Hypertension (n, %)	32 (68.1%)	92 (65.2%)	0.722
Diabetes mellitus (n, %)	6 (12.8%)	21 (14.9%)	0.719
Congestive heart failure (n, %)	14 (29.8%)	35 (24.8%)	0.502
Chronic kidney disease (n, %)	5 (10.6%)	13 (9.2%)	0.775
Vascular diseases (n, %)	7 (14.9%)	14 (9.9%)	0.349

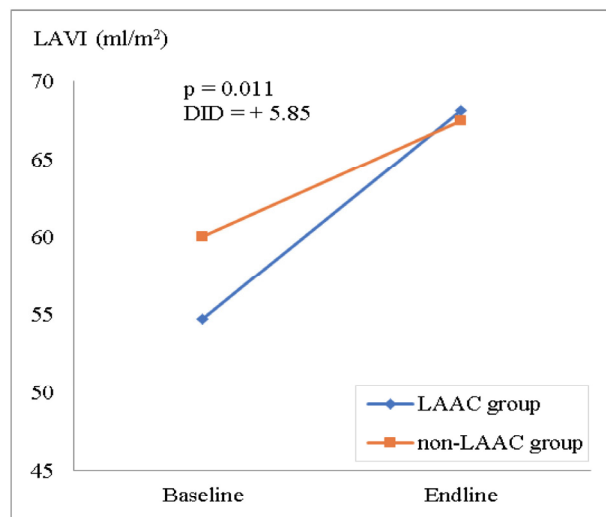
**Abbreviations:** TEE: transesophageal echocardiography; LAAC: left atrial appendage closure; BMI: body mass index; INR: international normalized ratio; TIA: transient ischemic attack; AF: atrial fibrillation; bpm: beats per minute; EF: left ventricular ejection fraction;

- 47 LAAO vs. 141 Non-LAAO
- Retrospective Difference-in-Different analysis for hemodynamic changes before and after LAAO

## E/E' Elevation After LAAO

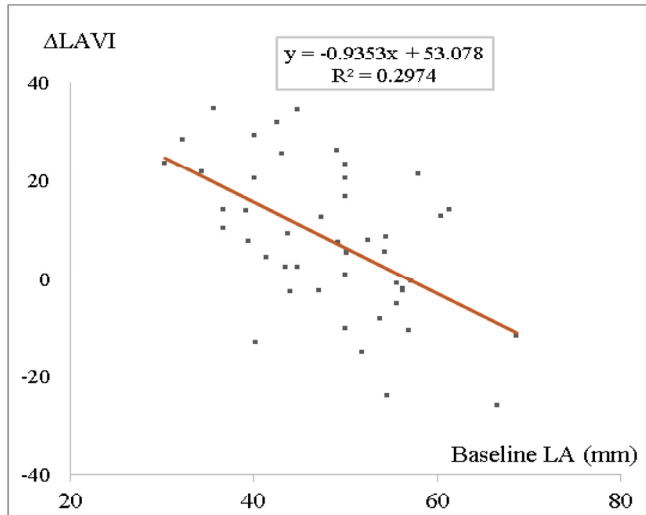


## More LA Remodeling After LAAO





## The Smaller LA, The Worse



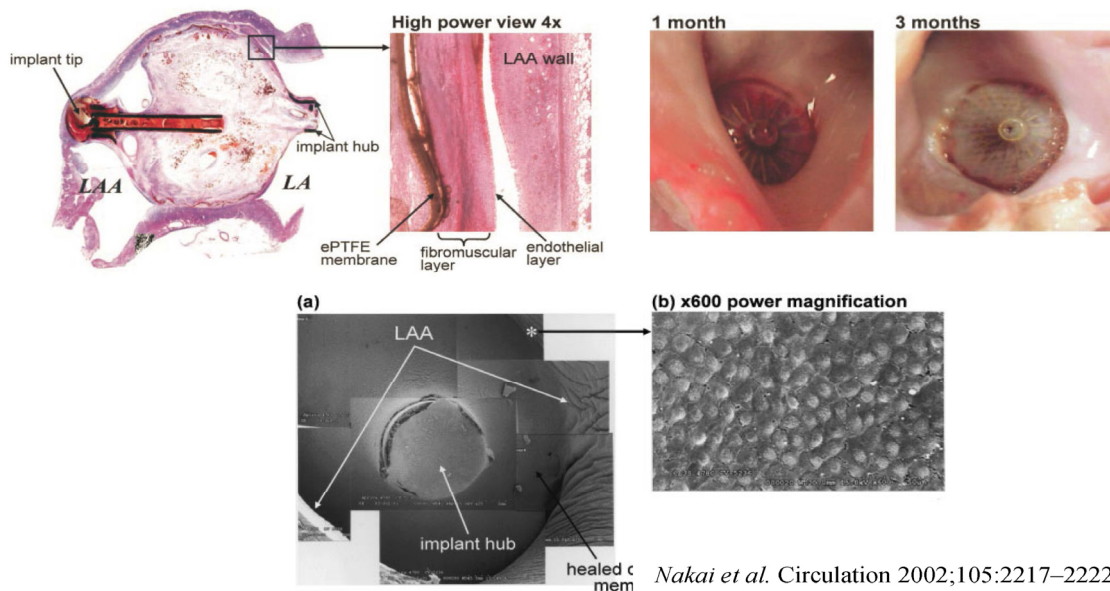
- **Smaller LA** will experience the worse deterioration of the diastolic function after LAAO
- Patients with paroxysmal AF without LA enlargement (**less remodeled LA**) are more likely to experience the worsening of heart failure after LAAO

## 5. Post-procedural Anti-thrombotic Therapy

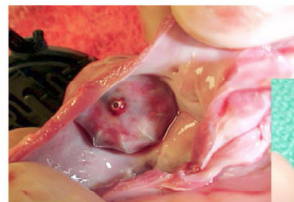
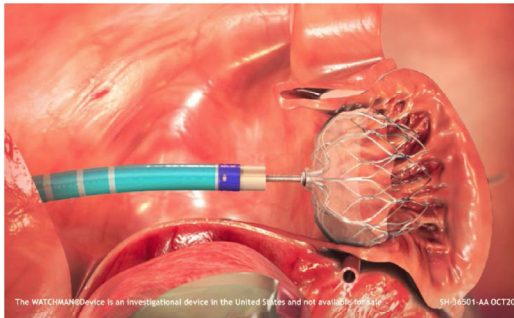
# Switch from OAC to APT

- **No General Rule!**
- Timing (6 weeks)
- Procedural outcome
  - Peri-device leakage
  - Endothelialization
- Blood stasis (HF worsening)
- Indication for procedure

## Endothelialization After LAA Occlusion -PLAATO Device, Canine Model-



# Endothelialization After WATCHMAN In Canine Model



Implanted device



45 days

Complete endothelialization

## Endothelialization vs. Stasis?



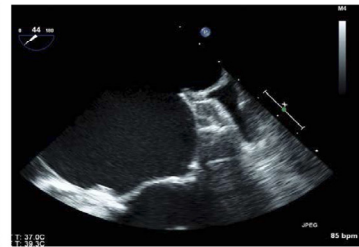
### Indication for LAAO

- Recurrent stroke & major bleeding during OAC
  - Successful LAAO
  - 2 M & 12 M f/u TEE
  - Complete sealing w/o thrombi during single APT
- Endothelialization completion?



### At 18 M after LAAO,

- HF exacerbation during stress cardiomyopathy
- LVEF 65% → 28%
- **Thrombi** on disc surface
- OAC and HF management



### At 20 M after LAAO,

- (OAC for 2 M & HF Mx)
- LVEF 28% → 55%
- Thrombi disappeared
- OAC → APT
- No further thrombotic events up to 36 M after LAAO

## CONCLUSIONS

1. Although LAAO is a safe alternative for OAC, **safer and simpler ways** to close must be sought
2. **Imaging analysis support** plays important roles in planning & performing LAAO. More comprehensive imaging analysis tool would be sought & validated
3. **Ideal procedural endpoint** should be clarified by future studies (Minimize dead space, etc.)
4. Not only careful **patient selection** before LAAO but also **thorough following-up** after LAAO is important
5. **Individualization anti-thrombotic strategy** depending on patients' condition (indication for LAAO, procedural outcome – leakage, endothelialization, presence or worsening of HF, etc.) is important.

