As far as secondary stroke prevention by PFO closure is concerned, it has to be kept in mind that the annual risk of stroke due to PFO is low compared with other stroke mechanisms. Therefore, PFO should not be considered a cause of stroke until a thorough workup has excluded alternative mechanisms. Such workup should be postponed in patients with active COVID-19.

In summary, we argue against PFO screening in patients with COVID-19. In our opinion, the “less is more” approach is fully justified both on clinical grounds and to protect medical personnel from the unnecessary risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST None declared.

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