

# EPICARDIAL CLIP CLOSURE OF THE LEFT ATRIAL APPENDAGE: REPLY

Fabrizio Rosati<sup>1</sup>, Gijs de Maat<sup>2</sup>, Mattia A. E. Valente<sup>2</sup>, Massimo Mariani<sup>3</sup>, and Stefano Benussi<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Brescia

<sup>2</sup>University Medical Centre Groningen

<sup>3</sup>UMCG

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## Abstract

Epicardial surgical clip is showed to be a safe and effective tool in order to achieve a complete left atrial appendage (LAA) exclusion thus reducing the risk of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation. Historically, other methods as surgical ligation, internal oversewing or external stapling showed to be largely ineffective with an incidence of LAA residual flow ranging from 25% to 35% thus, increasing per se 5- to 10-fold the risk of stroke. Epicardial LAA exclusion by means of external clip could be potentially released under transesophageal echocardiographic guidance thus increasing the procedural success rate of complete closure with no residual stump left.

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