

Total eclipse in the heart

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Answer

Aorto-right atrial tunnel (ARAT)

The entrance of the tunnel arises from one of the coronary cusps of the aorta. Because this structure may arise from the non-coronary cusp, this is not considered to be a coronary fistula [1]. The tunnel connects with the right atrium. Closing the ARAT with vascular plugs is achieved as follows: The entrance of the tunnel is visualised from the aorta. A wire is passed down and snared in the right atrium or superior caval vein and a body loop is formed. Careful positioning of a delivery sheath from the venous side into the tunnel is performed, without traction on the entrance of the tunnel or the aorta. Large size vascular plugs are often needed.

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References

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