Malposition of a venous extracorporeal life support cannula in a patent foramen ovale

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A 29-year-old patient with patent foramen ovale (PFO) and arteriovenous-malformation developed Eisenmenger’s syndrome with subsequent multiorgan failure. Percutaneous veno-arterial extracorporeal life support was established via the groin (Fig. 1).

Transoesophageal echocardiography revealed a malposition of the venous cannula in the PFO (Fig. 2). The position of the cannula was corrected immediately.

Figure 1: The post-interventional chest X-ray showed the cannula in the correct position (A), on the next day, the tip was seen projecting into the right atrium with a left lateral tilt (B) (arrows).

Figure 2: Transoesophageal echocardiography revealed at 0° (A) and 90° (B) degree angulations, the tip of the cannula in the PFO (arrows).