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Septally located left atrial hematoma as a consequence of a steam pop

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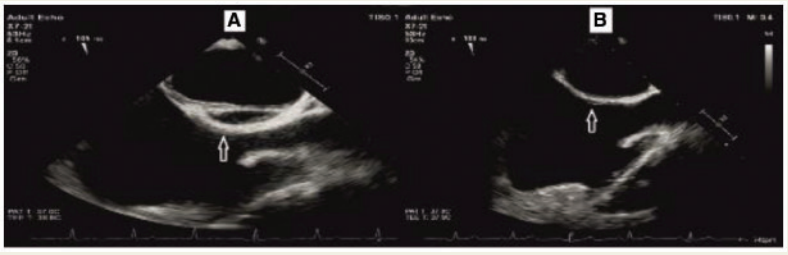
The patient underwent point-by-point isolation of pulmonary veins (PV) with an irrigated, 3.5-mm-tip catheter (ThermoCool® SF NAV, Biosense Webster Inc., Diamond Bar, CA, USA) using an irrigation rate of 15 mL/min in power-controlled mode (30 W). During the isolation of right superior PV at the anterior-septal aspect an audible steam pop occurred. Two-dimensional transesophageal echocardiography (2D-TEE) revealed septally located hematoma with dimensions of 19.2 × 10.2 mm (*A*; white arrow). Five months after the index procedure the left atrial hematoma disappeared completely (*B*; white arrow). In comparison with other left atrial hematomas reported as a complication of PV isolation (mostly located in the posterior wall), in our case the hematoma was located septally and was a consequence of a steam pop.



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