

Supplementary Material

Transesophageal echocardiographic assessment of the aorta

After examination of the cardiac structures, the transducer was gradually withdrawn immediately above the aortic valve to obtain serial short-axis images of the ascending aorta (with a single-plane probe). With a counterclockwise rotation of the entire probe in the transverse plane, a short-axis image of the descending aorta was obtained (40–45 cm from the incisors). The probe was then rotated clockwise to study the proximal arch and, in some patients, the distal part of the ascending aorta. The TEEs of all subjects were reviewed by an experienced cardiologist without any information about the subjects or the causes of the stroke.