Left atrial appendage perforation during interventional occluder implantation

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During interventional left atrial appendage (LAA) closure, the occluder perforated the LAA (Fig. 1). Pericardial effusion was seen in the transoesophageal echocardiography. After median sternotomy, the occluder could be identified (Fig. 2). The LAA was ligated without cardiopulmonary bypass and the occluder including the introduction set was removed via the groin.

Figure 1: Contrast medium exit into the pericardium (A) during interventional left atrial appendage (B) occlusion (C: perforation).

Figure 2: Intraoperative view: perforated left atrial appendage (A) with the occluder in situ (B).