## Appendix Table 1. Variables of Interest.

Category	Variable
Clinical Variables	Age (at time of stroke)
	Sex
	Coronary artery disease
	Diabetes
	Hypertension
	Hyperlipidemia
	Prior spells: number, date(s), event(s)
	Smoking status: current
	Body Mass Index
	Index event: stroke or TIA
	Index event: date
	Medication at index event: statin, antiplatelet, anticoagulant, CP/HRT
Echocardiographic Variables	Mobility of septum: normal, hypermobile
	PFO size: large, not large
	Shunt at rest: yes, no
Neuroradiology Variables	Index stroke seen: yes, no

Location: superficial, deep  Size: large, small/not seen  Multiple: yes, no (not seen = single)  Prior stroke: yes, no  Warfarin (anticoagulant, Coumadin)  Antiplatelets  Date of last follow-up  Duration of follow-up  Recurrent stroke  Recurrent TIA  Date of recurrent event  Death  Date of death  Cause of death  PFO closure (treatment)  Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety)  Major Bleeding (safety)  Procedural complication (safety)  Intent-to-treat group (closure vs. medical therapy vs. excluded)  As-treated group (closure vs. medical therapy vs. excluded)		
Multiple: yes, no (not seen = single) Prior stroke: yes, no  Warfarin (anticoagulant, Coumadin) Antiplatelets Date of last follow-up Duration of follow-up Recurrent stroke Recurrent TIA Date of recurrent event Death Date of death Cause of death PFO closure (treatment) Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety) Major Bleeding (safety) Procedural complication (safety)  Cohort Designation and Randomization  Marfarin (anticoagulant, Coumadin) Antiplatelets Date of last follow-up Recurrent TIA Date of death Cause of death PFO closure (treatment) Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety) Intent-to-treat group (closure vs. medical therapy) Per-protocol group (closure vs. medical therapy vs. excluded)		Location: superficial, deep
Treatment Variables  Warfarin (anticoagulant, Coumadin)  Antiplatelets  Date of last follow-up  Duration of follow-up  Recurrent stroke  Recurrent TIA  Date of recurrent event  Death  Date of death  Cause of death  PFO closure (treatment)  Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety)  Major Bleeding (safety)  Procedural complication (safety)  Cohort Designation and Randomization  Warfarin (anticoagulant, Coumadin)  Antiplatelets  Date of last follow-up  Recurrent stroke  Recurrent TIA  Date of recurrent event  Death  Date of death  Cause of death  PFO closure (treatment)  Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety)  Major Bleeding (safety)  Procedural complication (safety)  Cohort Designation and Randomization  Per-protocol group (closure vs. medical therapy vs. excluded)		Size: large, small/not seen
Treatment Variables  Antiplatelets  Date of last follow-up  Duration of follow-up  Recurrent stroke  Recurrent TIA  Date of recurrent event  Death  Date of death  Cause of death  PFO closure (treatment)  Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety)  Major Bleeding (safety)  Procedural complication (safety)  Cohort Designation and Randomization  Warfarin (anticoagulant, Coumadin)  Antiplatelets  Antiplatelets  Date of last follow-up  Recurrent TIA  Date of recurrent event  Death  Date of death  PFO closure (treatment)  Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety)  Major Bleeding (safety)  Procedural complication (safety)  Cohort Designation and Randomization  Per-protocol group (closure vs. medical therapy vs. excluded)		Multiple: yes, no (not seen = single)
Treatment Variables Antiplatelets  Date of last follow-up Duration of follow-up Recurrent stroke Recurrent TIA Date of recurrent event Death Date of death Cause of death PFO closure (treatment) Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety) Major Bleeding (safety) Procedural complication (safety)  Cohort Designation and Randomization  Antiplatelets Antiplatel		Prior stroke: yes, no
Date of last follow-up Duration of follow-up Recurrent stroke Recurrent TIA Date of recurrent event Death Date of death Cause of death PFO closure (treatment) Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety) Major Bleeding (safety) Procedural complication (safety)  Cohort Designation and Randomization  Partial Fibrollogue (closure vs. medical therapy vs. excluded)	Treatment Variables	Warfarin (anticoagulant, Coumadin)
Pollow-Up Variables  Follow-Up Variables  Follow-Up Variables  Follow-Up Variables  Date of recurrent event  Death  Date of death  Cause of death  PFO closure (treatment)  Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety)  Major Bleeding (safety)  Procedural complication (safety)  Intent-to-treat group (closure vs. medical therapy)  Cohort Designation and Randomization  Per-protocol group (closure vs. medical therapy vs. excluded)		Antiplatelets
Recurrent Stroke Recurrent TIA  Date of recurrent event  Death Date of death Cause of death PFO closure (treatment) Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety) Major Bleeding (safety) Procedural complication (safety)  Intent-to-treat group (closure vs. medical therapy)  Cohort Designation and Randomization  Recurrent Stroke Recurrent TIA  Date of recurrent event  Death  Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety)  Intent-to-treat group (closure vs. medical therapy)	Follow-Up Variables	Date of last follow-up
Follow-Up Variables  Peath Date of recurrent event  Death Date of death Cause of death PFO closure (treatment) Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety) Major Bleeding (safety) Procedural complication (safety)  Cohort Designation and Randomization  Recurrent TIA  Date of recurrent event  Death  Atrial Fibrillation  Intent-to-death  Date of death Date of death Cause of death PFO closure (treatment)  Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety)  Major Bleeding (safety) Procedural complication (safety)  Per-protocol group (closure vs. medical therapy) vs. excluded)		Duration of follow-up
Follow-Up Variables  Death  Date of death  Cause of death  PFO closure (treatment)  Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety)  Major Bleeding (safety)  Procedural complication (safety)  Intent-to-treat group (closure vs. medical therapy)  Cohort Designation and Randomization  Per-protocol group (closure vs. medical therapy vs. excluded)		Recurrent stroke
Follow-Up Variables  Date of death  Cause of death  PFO closure (treatment)  Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety)  Major Bleeding (safety)  Procedural complication (safety)  Cohort Designation and Randomization  Per-protocol group (closure vs. medical therapy vs. excluded)		Recurrent TIA
Follow-Up Variables  Date of death  Cause of death  PFO closure (treatment)  Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety)  Major Bleeding (safety)  Procedural complication (safety)  Intent-to-treat group (closure vs. medical therapy)  Cohort Designation and Randomization  Per-protocol group (closure vs. medical therapy vs. excluded)		Date of recurrent event
Date of death  Cause of death  PFO closure (treatment)  Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety)  Major Bleeding (safety)  Procedural complication (safety)  Intent-to-treat group (closure vs. medical therapy)  Cohort Designation and Randomization  Per-protocol group (closure vs. medical therapy vs. excluded)		Death
PFO closure (treatment)  Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety)  Major Bleeding (safety)  Procedural complication (safety)  Intent-to-treat group (closure vs. medical therapy)  Cohort Designation and Randomization  Per-protocol group (closure vs. medical therapy vs. excluded)		Date of death
Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety)  Major Bleeding (safety)  Procedural complication (safety)  Intent-to-treat group (closure vs. medical therapy)  Cohort Designation and Randomization  Per-protocol group (closure vs. medical therapy vs. excluded)		Cause of death
Major Bleeding (safety)  Procedural complication (safety)  Intent-to-treat group (closure vs. medical therapy)  Cohort Designation and Randomization  Per-protocol group (closure vs. medical therapy vs. excluded)		PFO closure (treatment)
Procedural complication (safety)  Intent-to-treat group (closure vs. medical therapy)  Cohort Designation and Randomization  Per-protocol group (closure vs. medical therapy vs. excluded)		Atrial Fibrillation, all and after 45 days (safety)
Cohort Designation and Randomization  Intent-to-treat group (closure vs. medical therapy)  Per-protocol group (closure vs. medical therapy vs. excluded)		Major Bleeding (safety)
Cohort Designation and Randomization  Per-protocol group (closure vs. medical therapy vs. excluded)		Procedural complication (safety)
Randomization Per-protocol group (closure vs. medical therapy vs. excluded)	_	Intent-to-treat group (closure vs. medical therapy)
		Per-protocol group (closure vs. medical therapy vs. excluded)
		As-treated group (closure vs. medical therapy vs. excluded)

CP, contraceptive pill; HRT, hormone replacement therapy; PFO, patent foramen ovale; TIA indicates transient ischemic attack.