

For the First Time in the World, the Children's Heart Center Team at the American University of Beirut Medical Center Implants Three Umbrella-like "Occlutech" Devices to Close Holes in a Child's Heart

On March 7, 2018 the Children's Heart Center team at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) performed a cutting-edge procedure when they implanted three umbrella-like "Occlutech" devices delivered through catheterization to close three holes in a child's heart without resorting to surgery. The operation was performed on a 12 year-old boy who has three Atrial Septal Defects (ASDs) with a dilated right sided heart.

The first of its kind procedure was performed by a team led by the Director of the Children's Heart Center, Dr. Fadi Bitar, in addition to Pediatric Cardiologists Drs. Ziad Bulbul and Mariam Arabi, and Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Dr. Issam El Rassi in collaboration with Interventional and Structural Cardiologist, Dr. Fadi Sawaya, and Dr. Samar Taha from the Department of Anesthesiology.

The Director of the Children's Heart Center said, "Without the efforts of our multi-disciplinary team, such original endeavor would not have been possible." This achievement reiterates the Children's Heart Center's prominent role in presenting advanced development and providing high quality healthcare to children with congenital heart disease.

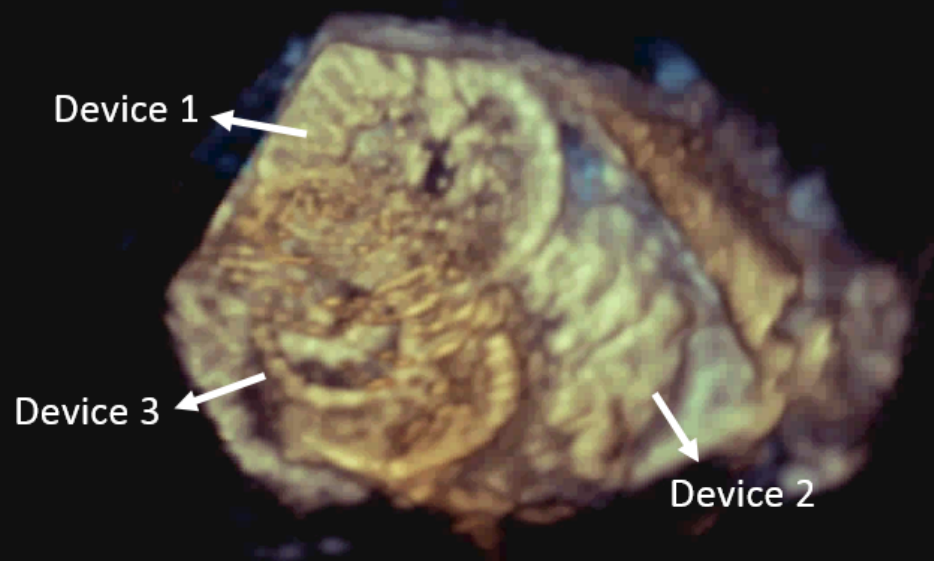
[Professor Bitar](#) asserted, "We are proud to pioneer such procedures in the world and reflect on our leading position in the region and beyond."

Atrial septal defect, a hole in the wall between the atria (the upper chambers of the heart), is a common Congenital Heart Defect (CHD) and is amenable to trans-catheter closure. Commonly, one umbrella like device is utilized to close the hole through a special catheter technique procedure; in some cases, two devices are utilized to close multiple holes. The procedure held at AUBMC is the first to be reported worldwide utilizing three Figulla[®] ASD Occluder (Occlutech) devices to close the holes in a child's heart. The patient was discharged from the Medical Center the next day following the procedure in excellent condition and will resume a normal life.

The [Children's Heart Center](#) at AUBMC, supported by the [Brave Heart Fund](#) is a leading center caring for congenital heart disease in Lebanon, the region and beyond. Its track record includes pioneering [new procedures](#) that are introduced to

treat children with a variety of heart diseases including the successful performance of the [first pediatric heart transplant](#) in the Levant area. In addition, the Center continuously seeks to distinguish itself through its innovative research program which reported worldwide discoveries relating to the genetic causes of CHD.

A 3-Dimensional Transesophageal Echocardiography showing the three devices closing the large holes (ASDs) in the heart



to close the large holes (ASDs) under fluoroscopy

