Downward force on a standard transseptal needle and non-deflectable sheath from a superior approach can dislodge the contact site on the fossa ovalis.

Use of a steerable sheath and stiff pigtail RF wire supported LA catheterization without difficulty.

To better engage the fossa in two patients, the Agilis™ EPI sheath was exchanged for the SupraCross® sheath.

- SupraCross® sheath had a smoother sheath-dilator transition than the Agilis™ sheath.
- SupraCross® sheath had a more flexible distal end that can be easily bent with the dilator in place for a tighter angle of deflection than the Agilis™ sheath (Figure 1).

Technical considerations for performing AF ablation from the superior approach include:

- ICE images are inverted compared to standard view; descending aorta can be used as a reference.
- Superio-anterior transseptal puncture improves catheter contact and stability in the left atrium.
- Left axillary vein access may improve operator ergonomics over right internal jugular vein.

Figure 1. Graphical reconstruction of sheath curvature presented in Liang et al using the (A) Agilis™ EPI sheath or (B) SupraCross® sheath with flexible dilator.