

12 LEAD ECG INTERPRETATION in
Acute Coronary Syndromes
& Sudden Arrhythmia
Death Syndromes (ACS & SADS)

Key West 2018

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Electrophysiology Lab Case Studies



EP Catheters within the heart used for obtaining the Electrogram (the "internal ECG") Tracing and for Pace-mapping, an integral component of an EP study



Author Wayne Ruppert conducting Pace-mapping during EP study at the St Joseph's Hospital Heart Institute, Pediatric Electrophysiology Program, Tampa, FL in 2004

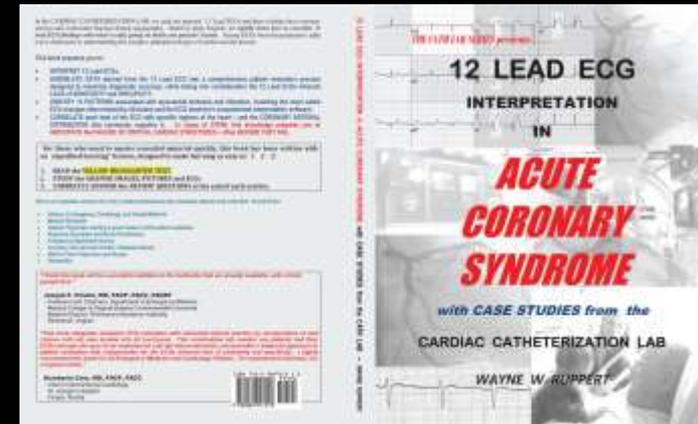


Paramedics Christ Megoulas and Wayne Ruppert, Hershey, PA Fire Department, 1982

Observation Medicine ECG Course

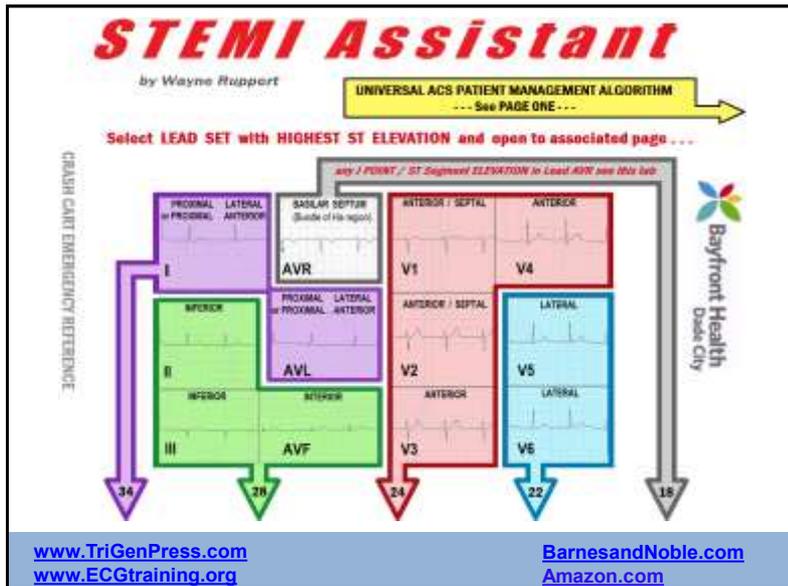
BASIS:

- Current ACC/AHA Guidelines and Recommendations
- Multiple additional recent Evidence-Based Publications
- ECGs from case files of the author, Wayne Ruppert
- Graphic art / images from published textbooks authored by Wayne Ruppert



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IDENTIFICATION	Download ACC 20th Congress - Serial 12 Lead ECG Interpretation Part 1
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SO OF ASIAN NARRATOR	Download QT Monitoring Protocol - Patients on QT Prolonging Meds - 2018
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	Download ACLS 2015 Algorithm Cheat Sheets
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	Download Basic ECG Course Handout - 4 slides per page

PROGRAM CONTENTS**SESSION TWO*****THE ACUTE CORONARY SYNDROMES***

- STEMI
- NSTEMI
- UNSTABLE ANGINA / OBSTRUCTIVE C.A.D.

+ ARRHYTHMIA SYNDROME**The EKG in PERSPECTIVE**

1. Much development in the 1950s and 60s, and at that time, EKGs were the primary diagnostic tool.
2. Today we have better diagnostic tools (e.g. ECHO, CARDIAC CATH, EP STUDIES) that sometimes conflict with traditional EKG-made diagnoses.
3. Some EKG findings are more accurate and reliable than others .

AND . . .

***Sometimes,
ECGs
LIE to us !***

***ECGs and USED CAR SALESMEN
often have MUCH in common !***



The EKG in PERSPECTIVE

PROBLEMS WITH EKGs . . .

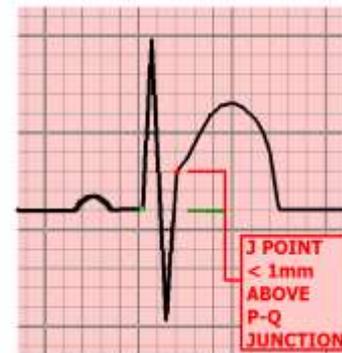
↓ **SENSITIVITY**
(FALSE NEGATIVES)

↓ **SPECIFICITY**
(FALSE POSITIVES)

AND . . .

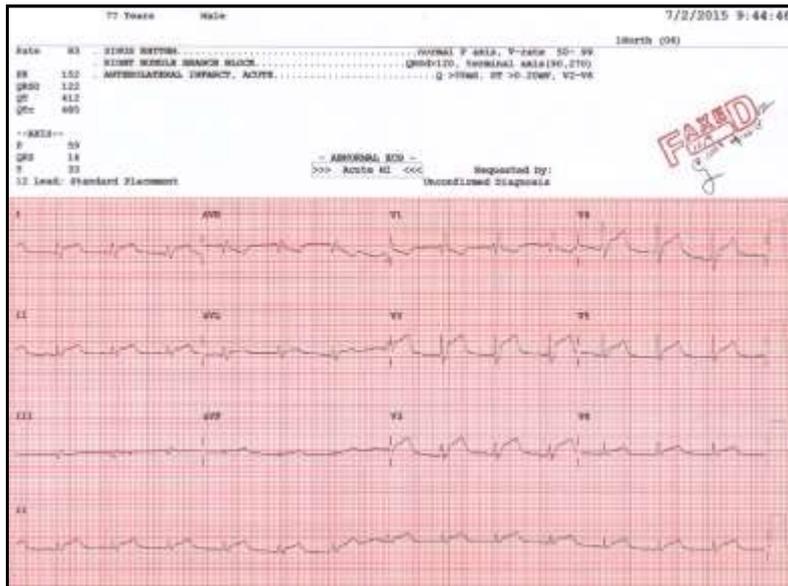
PROBLEMS WITH SPECIFICITY . . .

S-T SEGMENT ELEVATION - COMMON ETIOLOGIES:



CONDITION:

- ACUTE INFARCTION
- HYPERKALEMIA
- BRUGADA SYNDROME
- PULMONARY EMBOLUS
- INTRACRANIAL BLEED
- MYOCARDITIS / PERICARDITIS
- L. VENT. HYPERTROPHY
- PRINZMETAL'S ANGINA
- L. BUNDLE BRANCH BLOCK
- PACED RHYTHM
- EARLY REPOLARIZATION & "MALE PATTERN" S-T ELEV.



Patient:

- Asymptomatic
- Troponin normal
- Cardiac Cath angiography = "no obstructive CAD."
- Discharge diagnosis:

EARLY REPOLARIZATION. This degree of ST Elevation in early repolarization is VERY RARE: The only such ECG I have seen in approximately 13,000 cardiac catheterizations.

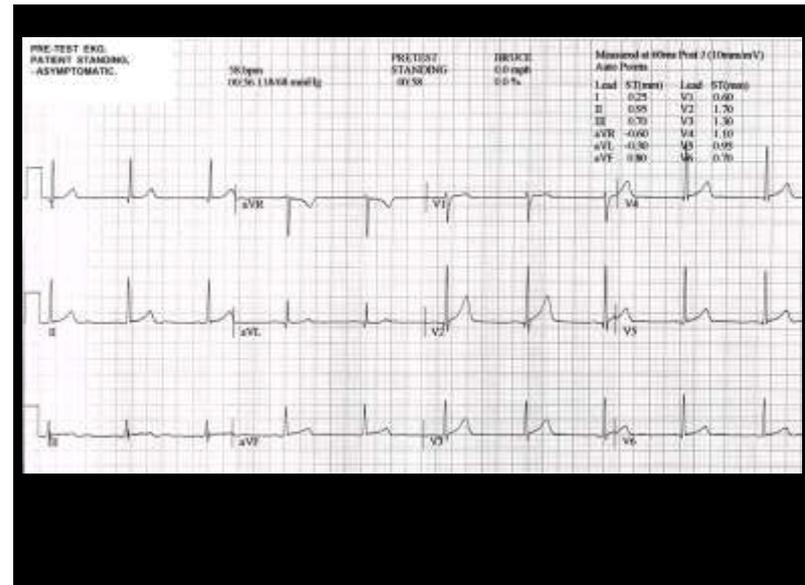


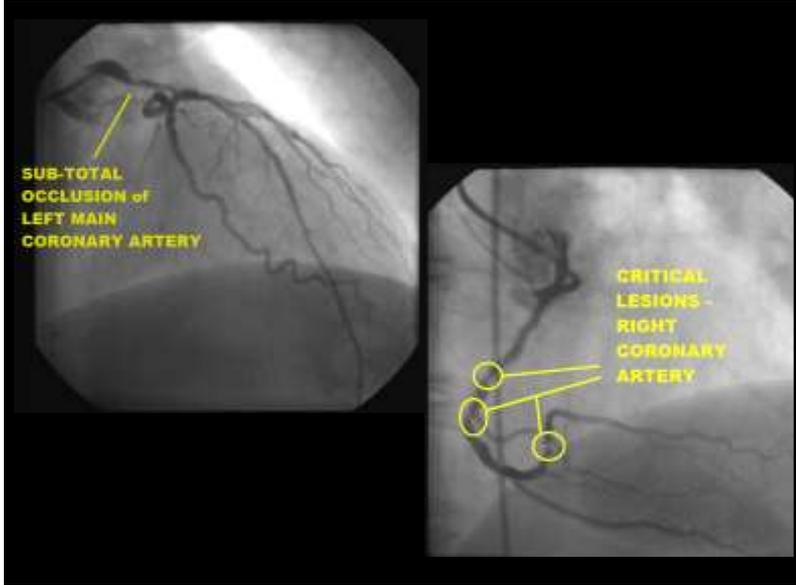
EKGs in PERSPECTIVE, con't:

One of the **MOST MISLEADING** scenarios of all is when the EKG **APPEARS PERFECTLY NORMAL** . . .

. . . but **MASKS** serious, **LIFE - THREATENING** CONDITIONS.

*that is why **YOU** must do a **THOROUGH PATIENT EVALUATION** . . . and have a **HIGH INDEX OF SUSPICION** !!!*





PROBLEMS WITH SENSITIVITY ...

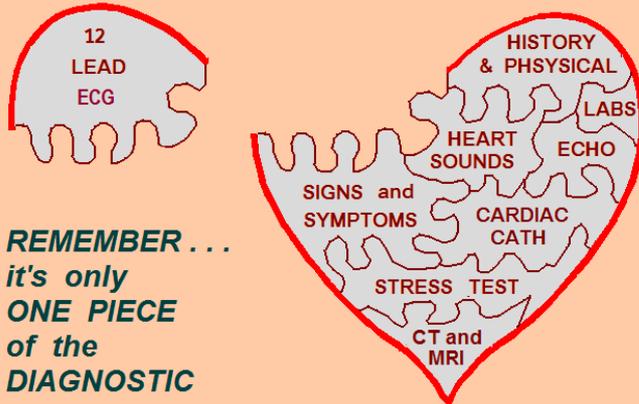
NORMAL ECG.

But

PR	QT	QTc	QTd	QTm	QTs	QTJ	QTJT	QTJTc
160	380	40	380	380	380	380	380	380

LETHAL TRIPLE VESSEL DISEASE

**REMEMBER . . . Keep the ECG Results in
PROPER PERSPECTIVE**



**REMEMBER . . .
it's only
ONE PIECE
of the
DIAGNOSTIC
PUZZLE !**

**Despite the ECG's problematic
issues with
Lack of Sensitivity
&
Lack of Specificity,
*The 12 Lead ECG remains
one of our QUICKEST, most cost-
efficient front-line Triage Tools
that we have today.***

- **We utilize ACS Risk Stratification to compensate for the ECG's lack of sensitivity and specificity, to aid us in clinical decision-making and to improve our diagnostic accuracy.**



HEART 		
HEART score for chest pain patients		
History	Highly suspicious	2
	Moderately suspicious	1
	Slightly suspicious	0
ECG	Significant ST-deviation	2
	Non specific repolarisation disturbance / LBTB / PM	1
	Normal	0
Age	≥ 65 years	2
	> 45 and < 65 years	1
	≤ 45 years	0
Risk factors	≥ 3 risk factors or history of atherosclerotic disease*	2
	1 or 2 risk factors	1
	No risk factors known	0
Troponin	≥ 3x normal limit	2
	> 1 and < 3x normal limit	1
	≤ 1x normal limit	0
		Total

*Risk factors for atherosclerotic disease:

Hypercholesterolemia	Cigarette smoking
Hypertension	Positive family history
Diabetes Mellitus	Obesity

RISK FACTORS

for the development of

CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE:

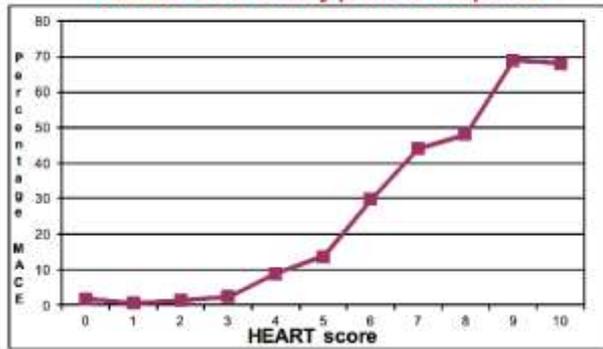
- 🔥 **HEREDITY**
- 🔥 **↑ LDL and ↓ HDL CHOLESTEROL PROFILES**
- 🔥 **SMOKING**
- 🔥 **DIABETES MELLITUS**
- **OBESITY**
- **PHYSICAL INACTIVITY**
- **HYPERTENSION**
- **AGE - OVER 65**
- **MALE**
- **HIGH STRESS**

per the AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

Score	% pts	MACE/n	MACE	Death	Policy
0-3	32%	38/1993	1.9%	0.05%	Discharge
4-6	51%	413/3136	13%	1.3%	Observation Risk management
7-10	17%	518/1045	50%	2.8%	Observation Treatment, CAG

Heart Score Reliability

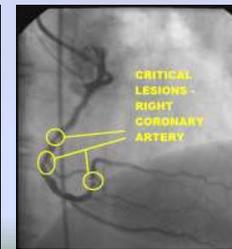
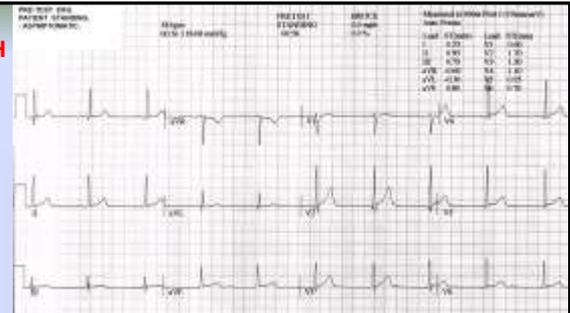
HEART score reliably predicts endpoints



PROBLEMS WITH SENSITIVITY...

NORMAL ECG.

But.....



LETHAL TRIPLE VESSEL DISEASE

HEART

HEART score for chest pain patients		
History	Highly suspicious	2
	Moderately suspicious	1
	Slightly suspicious	0
ECG	Significant ST-deviation	2
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	Normal	0
Age	≥ 65 years	2
	> 45 and < 65 years	1
	≤ 45 years	0
Risk factors	≥ 3 risk factors or history of atherosclerotic disease*	2
	1 or 2 risk factors	1
	No risk factors known	0
Troponin	≥ 3x normal limit	2
	> 1 and < 3x normal limit	1
	≤ 1x normal limit	0
Total		

*Risk factors for atherosclerotic disease:
 Hypercholesterolemia Cigarette smoking
 Hypertension Positive family history
 Diabetes Mellitus Obesity

H = chest pain = 2

E = ECG normal = 0

A = 63 = 1

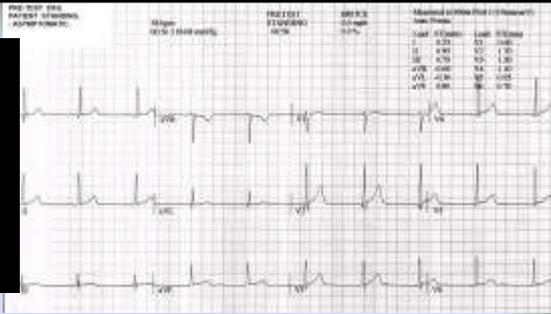
R = 3 risk fctrs = 2

T = Trop. NL = 0

HEART Score: = 5

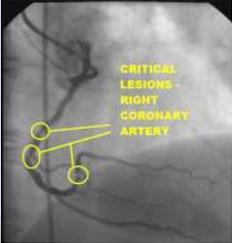
HEART SCORE:

5





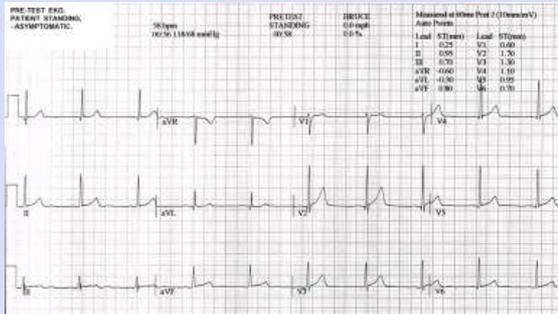
SUB-TOTAL OCCLUSION OF LEFT MAIN CORONARY ARTERY



CRITICAL LESIONS - RIGHT CORONARY ARTERY

Outcome:

Successful Emergency Bypass Surgery



- 2 patients with the above ECG.
- Patient 1 HEART Score of "0"
 - Patient 2 HEART Score of "7"

Should they get the same care ??

Symptoms



TYPICAL SYMPTOMS of *ACUTE CORONARY SYNDROME:*

- ✓ **CHEST PAIN** - DESCRIBED AS...
 - "HEAVINESS, PRESSURE, DULL PAIN, TIGHTNESS"
 - CENTERED IN CHEST, SUBSTERNAL
 - MAY RADIATE TO SHOULDERS, JAW, NECK, LEFT or RIGHT ARM
 - NOT EFFECTED by:
 - MOVEMENT
 - POSITION
 - DEEP INSPIRATION
- ✓ **SHORTNESS OF BREATH**
 - MAY or MAY NOT BE PRESENT
- ✓ **NAUSEA / VOMITING**
 - MAY or MAY NOT BE PRESENT

INFARCTION

- - - "Classic Symptoms" - - -



QUICK ASSESSMENT "SHORT FORM"

- SUBSTERNAL CHEST PAIN**
(HAVE PATIENT POINT TO WORST PAIN)
- DESCRIBED AS "DULL PAIN,"
"PRESSURE," or "HEAVINESS"**
- DOES NOT CHANGE WITH
DEEP BREATH**

stable angina	vs.	unstable angina
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. SYMPTOMS START DURING PHYSICAL EXERTION.2. SYMPTOMS ARE "PREDICTABLE"		<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. SYMPTOMS MAY START AT ANY TIME, EVEN DURING REST2. SYMPTOMS ARE <u>NEW</u>, <u>DIFFERENT</u>, or <u>WORSE</u> THAN PREVIOUS EPISODES

BEWARE of the patient with
"INTERMITTENT CHEST PAIN" 

ATYPICAL SYMPTOMS of ACS

???

Acute MI patients who present without chest pain* are SHREWD:

- Stroke (previous history of)
- Heart failure (previous history of)
- Race (non-white)
- Elderly (age 75+)
- Women
- Diabetes mellitus

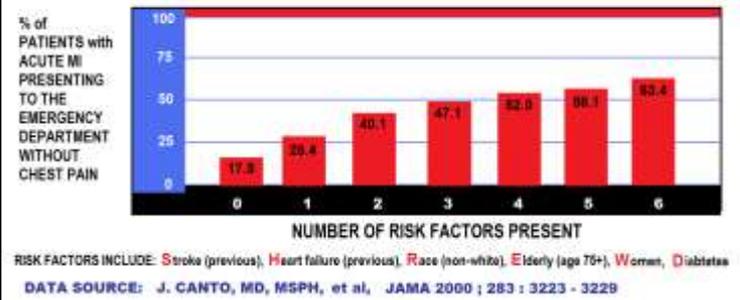
* The information listed in the table to the immediate left resulted from a study conducted by John G. Canto, MD, MSPH, et. al., of the University of Alabama. The study consisted of 434,877 patients diagnosed with AMI between 1994 and 1998 in 1,674 US hospitals. Study results were published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* on June 28, 2000, Vol. 283, No. 24, pages 3223-3229

Common atypical complaints associated with AMI without chest pain include:

- Malaise (weakness)
- Indigestion
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Syncope
- Fatigue
- Abdominal pain
- Cold sweats
- Elevated heart rate
- Dyspnea

BOOK PAGE: 70

Effect of Having Multiple Risk Factors for AMI Without Chest Pain

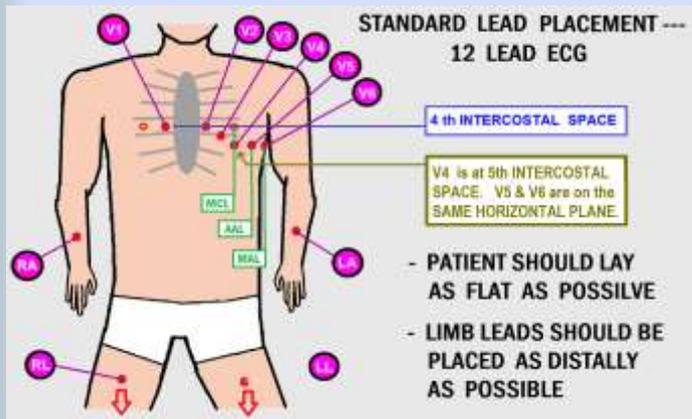




OBTAINING THE 12 LEAD ECG

And have it interpreted by a
physician or mid-level provider
...within 10 minutes !

Obtaining the 12 Lead ECG



Obtaining the 12 Lead ECG

- Limb leads should be on the limbs.

Obtaining the 12 Lead ECG

- Limb leads should be on the limbs.
- **When emergency circumstances dictate that limb leads be placed on patient's torso, the words "LIMB LEADS ON PATIENT'S TORSO" should be noted on the ECG.**

Obtaining the 12 Lead ECG

Recent AHA/ACC/HRS literature indicates QRS AMPLITUDE, Q WAVE DURATION, AXIS and WAVEFORM DEFLECTION can be altered when limb leads are placed on the patient's torso (Mason-Likar lead placement).

Therefore every effort should be made to place limb leads on the limbs.

AHA/ACC/HRS Scientific Statement

Recommendations for the Standardization and Interpretation of the Electrocardiogram Part I: The Electrocardiogram and Its Technology

affected by monitoring lead placement; however, tracings that use torso electrodes differ in important ways from the standard 12-lead ECG. In addition to body position differences that affect the ECG,¹⁰⁹ monitoring electrodes placed on the trunk do not provide standard limb leads, and distortion of the central terminal alters the augmented limb leads and the precordial leads.^{110,111} Tracings with Mason-Likar and other alternative lead placement may affect QRS morphology more than repolarization compared with the standard ECG; these differences can include false-negative and false-positive infarction criteria.^{81,812} Motion artifact of the limbs is a particular problem for routine recording in neonates, infants, and

Kligfield et al. Standardization and Interpretation of the ECG, Part I

AHA/ACC/HRS Scientific Statement

Recommendations for the Standardization and Interpretation of the Electrocardiogram Part I: The Electrocardiogram and Its Technology

Recommendations

ECGs recorded with torso placement of the extremity electrodes cannot be considered equivalent to standard ECGs for all purposes and should not be used interchangeably with standard ECGs for serial comparison. Evaluation of the effect of torso placement of limb leads on waveform amplitudes and

Kligfield et al. Standardization and Interpretation of the ECG, Part I

Leads V1 & V2 on 12 Lead ECG:

- Proper lead placement of precordial Leads V1 and V2 are 4th intercostal space on opposite sides of the sternum.
- Incorrect placement of Leads V1 and V2 will result in: reduction of R wave amplitude (resulting in poor R wave progression) leading to misdiagnosis of previous anterior / septal infarction.

AHA/ACC/HRS Scientific Statement

Recommendations for the Standardization and Interpretation of the Electrocardiogram Part I: The Electrocardiogram and Its Technology

the often profound alterations in waveforms that can result from precordial electrode misplacement.^{85,86} A common error is superior misplacement of V₁ and V₂ in the second or third intercostal space. This can result in reduction of initial R-wave amplitude in these leads, approximating 0.1 mV per interspace, which can cause poor R-wave progression or erroneous signs of anterior infarction.⁸⁷ Superior displacement of the V₁ and V₂ electrodes will often result in rSr' complexes with T-wave inversion, resembling the complex in lead aVR. It also has been shown that in patients with low diaphragm position, as in obstructive pulmonary disease,^{88,89}

Kilgfield et al. Standardization and Interpretation of the ECG, Part I

Initial 12 Lead ECG

- **Obtain and interpret within 10 minutes of patient presentation**

Initial 12 Lead ECG

- Obtain and interpret within 10 minutes of patient presentation
- **Interpreted by physician / advanced practitioner**

Initial 12 Lead ECG

- Obtain and interpret within 10 minutes of patient presentation
- Interpreted by physician / advanced practitioner
- **Determines presence of STEMI and/or other imminent life-threatening condition**

Initial 12 Lead ECG

- Obtain and interpret within 10 minutes of patient presentation
- Interpreted by physician / advanced practitioner
- Determines presence of STEMI and/or other imminent life-threatening condition
- **Should be compared to any previously recorded ECGs in the patient's medical records**

Initial 12 Lead ECG, continued:

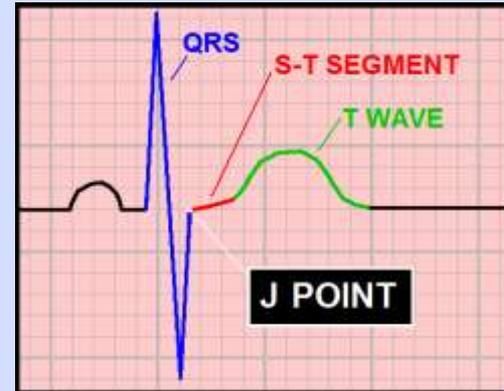
- **Additional Serial ECGs should be compared to the BASELINE ECG for determining the presence of Dynamic J Point, ST-Segment and T Wave Changes**

Initial 12 Lead ECG, continued:

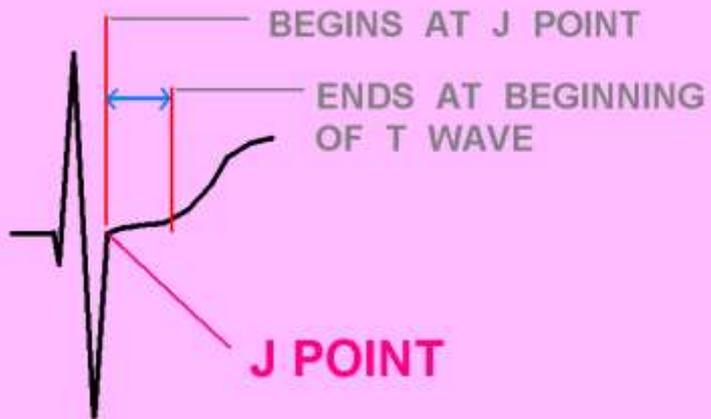
- Additional Serial ECGs should be compared to the BASELINE ECG for determining the presence of Dynamic J Point, ST-Segment and T Wave Changes
- **Serves as “footprint” for determining ECG lead(s) to be used during Continuous ECG Monitoring**
 - Ischemia
 - QT interval

Normal ECG – No ACS Indicators

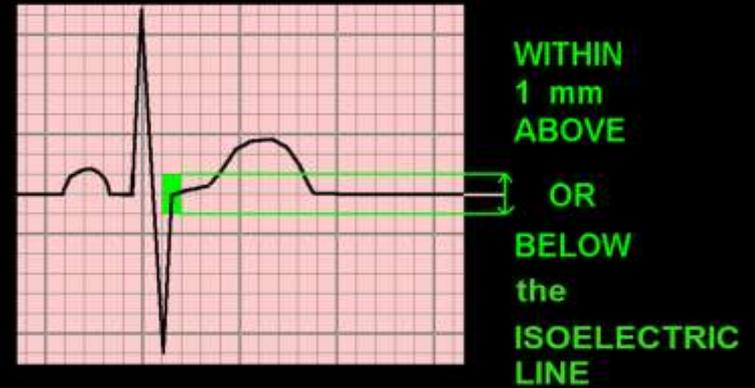
Defining NORMAL – QRS <120ms:



THE S-T SEGMENT

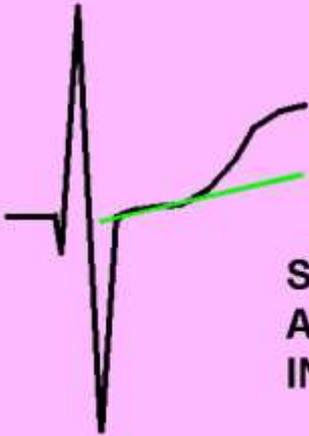


THE J POINT SHOULD BE ..



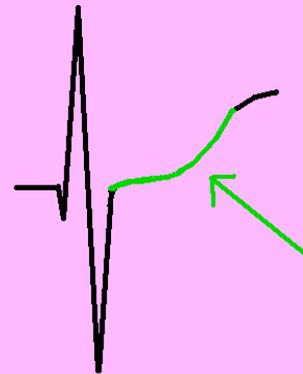
HEART Score criteria is J Point should be less than 0.5mm

THE S-T SEGMENT



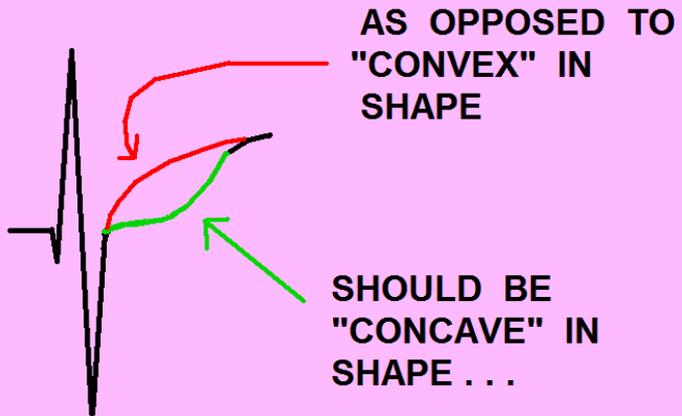
SHOULD HAVE
A "SLIGHT POSITIVE"
INCLINATION

THE S-T SEGMENT



SHOULD BE
"CONCAVE" IN
SHAPE . . .

THE S-T SEGMENT



**Evaluating the ECG for ACS:
A TWO-STEP process:**

Evaluating the ECG for ACS:

A TWO-STEP process:

STEP 1: Evaluate QRS Width

Evaluating the ECG for ACS:

A TWO-STEP process:

STEP 1: Evaluate QRS Width

**STEP 2: Evaluate J Points, ST-Segment and T waves
in EVERY Lead**

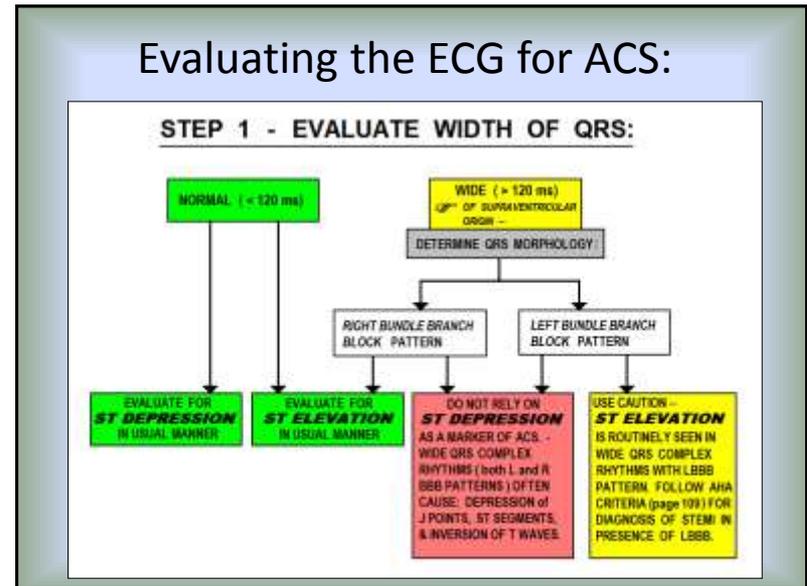
STEP 1 – evaluate QRS width:

- QRS is **ABNORMALLY WIDE** (>120 ms),
 - indicates **DEPOLARIZATION ABNORMALITY** (e.g. “bundle branch block, Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome, etc).

STEP 1 – evaluate QRS width:

- QRS is **ABNORMALLY WIDE** (>120 ms),
 - indicates **DEPOLARIZATION ABNORMALITY** (e.g. “bundle branch block, Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome, etc).
 - **DEPOLARIZATION ABNORMALITIES** in turn cause **REPOLARIZATION ABNORMALITIES**, which alters the: *J Points, ST-Segments and/or T Waves.*

CONDITIONS THAT INCREASE QRS DURATION RESULT IN SECONDARY REPOLARIZATION ABNORMALITIES:		
RIGHT BUNDLE BRANCH BLOCK		LEFT BUNDLE BRANCH BLOCK
W.P.W BYPASS TRACT, LEFT LATERAL WALL 49 y/o MALE		SAME PATIENT AS ON LEFT - IMMEDIATELY AFTER RF ABLATION OF BYPASS TRACT
W.P.W BYPASS TRACT, RIGHT ANTERIOR LATERAL WALL 14 y/o MALE		SAME PATIENT AS ON LEFT - IMMEDIATELY AFTER RF ABLATION OF BYPASS TRACT
PACEMAKER - RIGHT VENTRICULAR APEX		PACEMAKER TURNED OFF HERE
RIGHT VENTRICULAR HYPERTROPHY (Strain Pattern)		LEFT VENTRICULAR HYPERTROPHY (Strain Pattern)
VENTRICULAR TACHYCARDIA FOCUS: LEFT FASCICULAR, 17 y/o FEMALE		VENTRICULAR TACHYCARDIA FOCUS: RIGHT VENTRICULAR APEX



Wide QRS present:
QRSd > 120ms

- Determine RIGHT vs. LEFT Bundle Branch Block Pattern

Simple "Turn Signal Method" . . .

THE "TURN SIGNAL METHOD" for identifying BUNDLE BRANCH BLOCK

V1



USE LEAD V1 for this technique

To make a **RIGHT TURN**
you push the turn signal lever **UP**

THINK:

"QRS points UP = RIGHT BUNDLE BRANCH BLOCK"



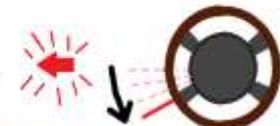
V1



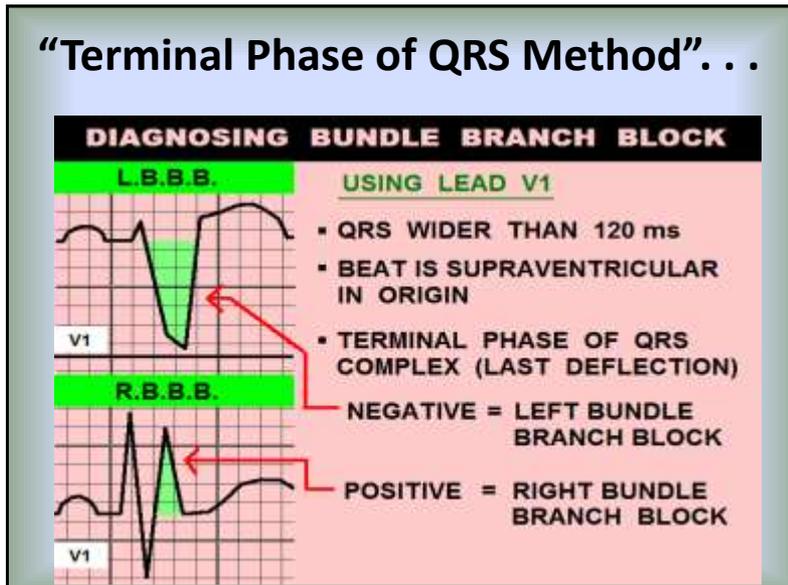
To make a **LEFT TURN**
you push the turn signal lever **DOWN**

THINK:

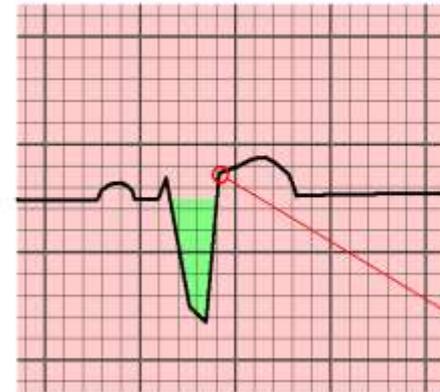
"QRS points DOWN = LEFT BUNDLE BRANCH BLOCK"



“Terminal Phase of QRS Method” . . .



DIAGNOSING LBBB IN LEAD V1:



- QRS GREATER THAN 120 ms (.12)
- EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS NOT VENTRICULAR BEAT
- TERMINAL PHASE (LAST PART) OF QRS COMPLEX IS NEGATIVE DEFLECTION
- S-T SEGMENTS ARE NORMALLY ALWAYS ELEVATED !

DIAGNOSING RBBB IN LEAD V1:

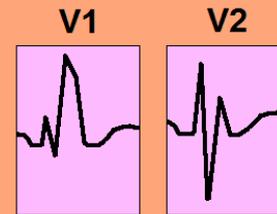


- WIDER THAN 120 ms (.12)
(or 3 little boxes)
- TERMINAL PHASE (LAST PART) OF QRS COMPLEX IS POSITIVE DEFLECTION

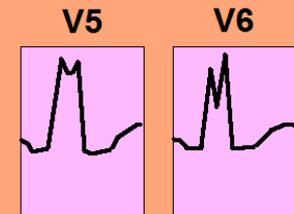
DIAGNOSING BUNDLE BRANCH BLOCK

USING LEADS V1, V2, and V5, V6:

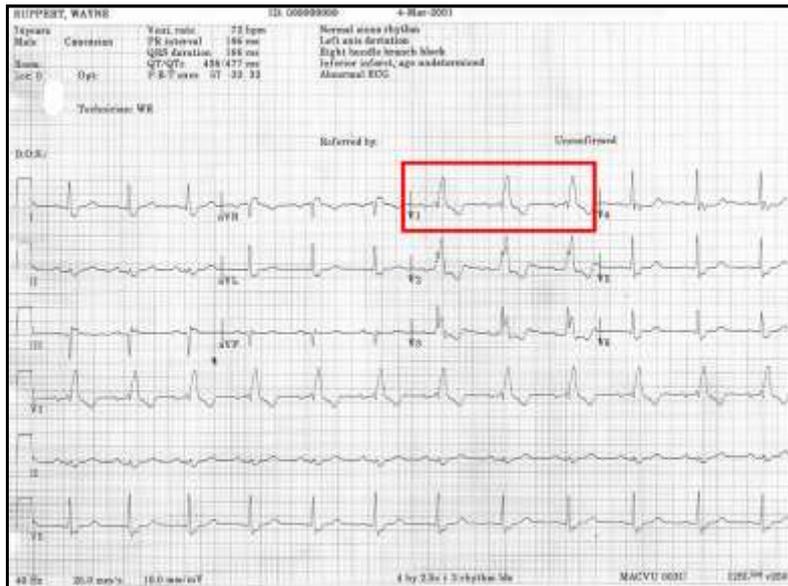
LOCATING RsR' or RR' COMPLEXES:



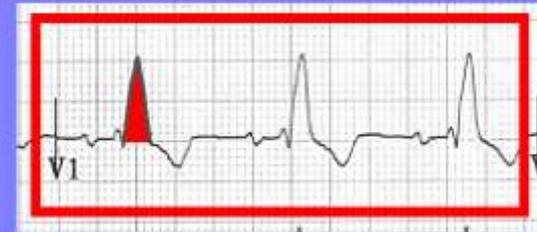
RIGHT BUNDLE
BRANCH BLOCK



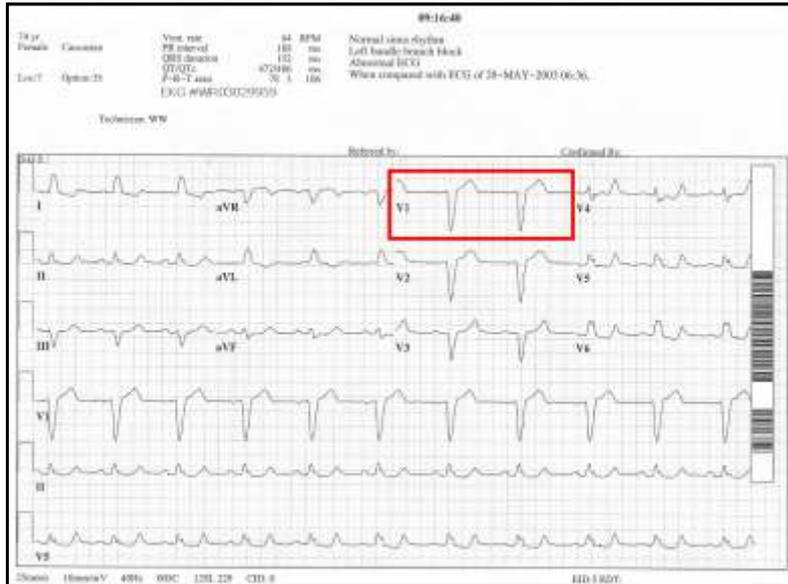
LEFT BUNDLE
BRANCH BLOCK



**TERMINAL PHASE OF QRS IS
POSITIVE**



**= RIGHT BUNDLE
BRANCH BLOCK**

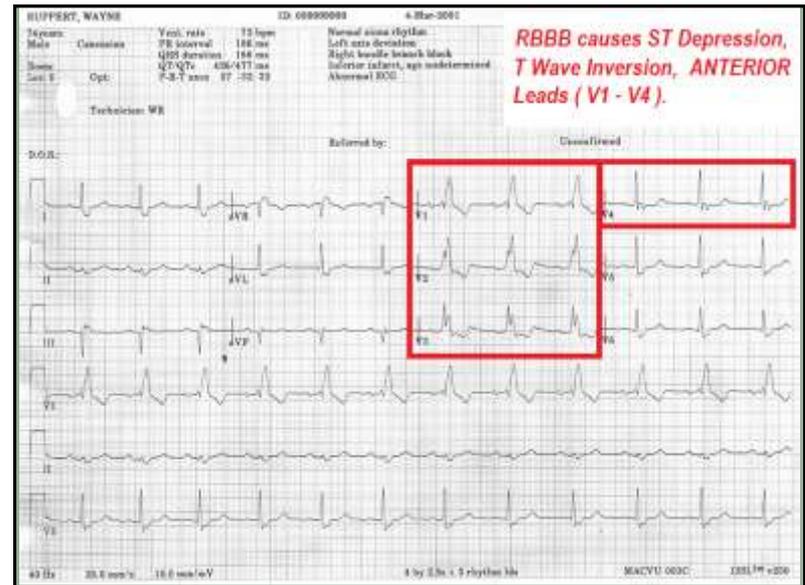


**TERMINAL PHASE OF QRS IS
NEGATIVE**

**= LEFT BUNDLE
BRANCH BLOCK**

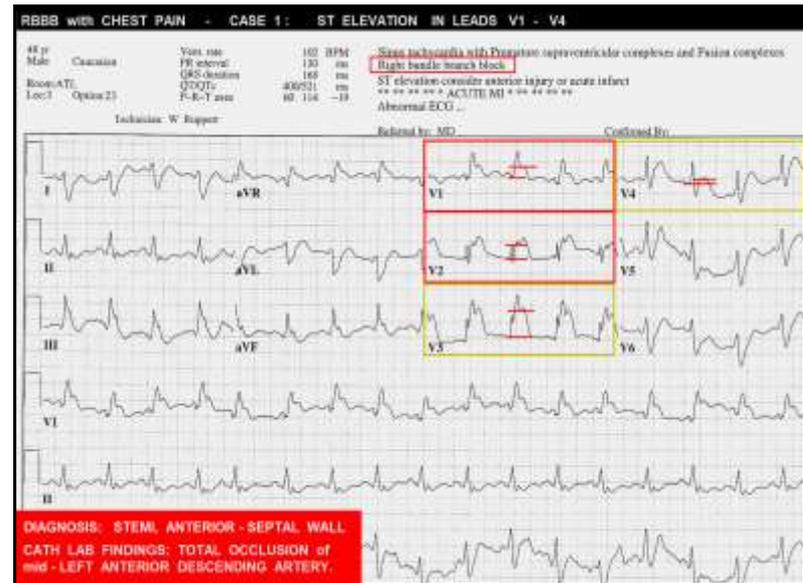
Wide QRS present: (QRSd > 120ms)

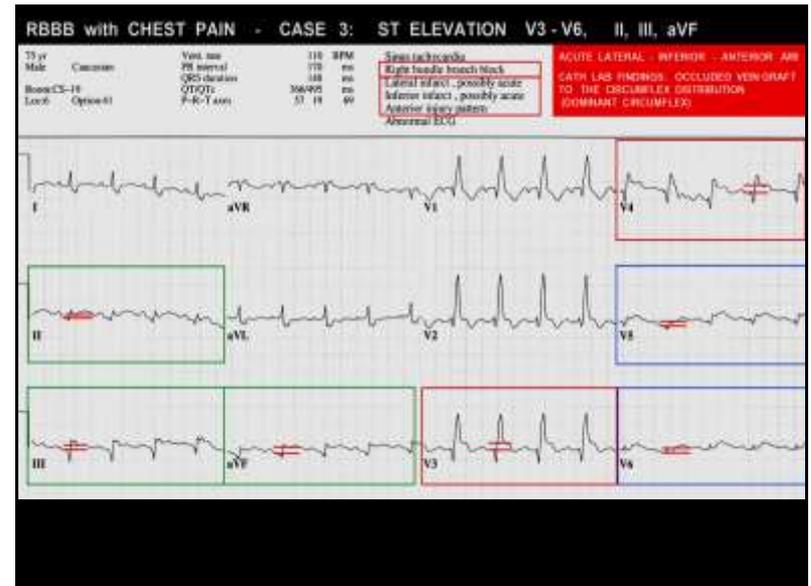
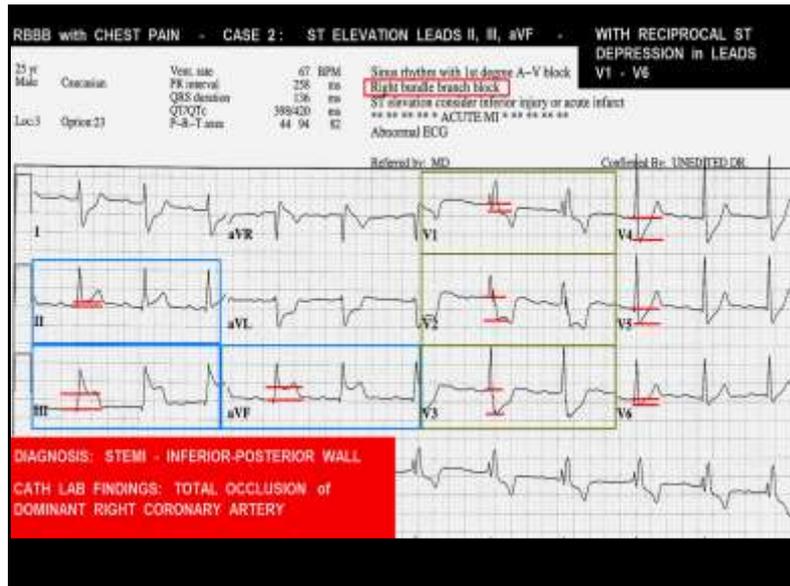
- **When RIGHT Bundle Branch Block pattern is present:**
 - Precordial Leads typically demonstrate ST Depression and T wave Inversion



Wide QRS present: (QRSd > 120ms)

- **When RIGHT Bundle Branch Block pattern is present:**
 - Precordial Leads typically demonstrate ST Depression and T wave Inversion
 - **DOES NOT MASK STEMI; when ST Elevation is noted, CONSIDER STEMI !!**





Wide QRS present:

(QRSd > 120ms)

- **When LBBB QRS pattern is present:**

Wide QRS present:

(QRSd > 120ms)

- **When LBBB QRS pattern is present:**
 - **ST-Segment Elevation is typically noted in Precordial Leads**

Wide QRS present:

(QRSd > 120ms)

- **When LBBB QRS pattern is present:**
 - ST-Segment Elevation is typically noted in Precordial Leads
 - *Can cause up to 5mm of J Point Elevation in normally calibrated ECG (1mm=10mv)*

Wide QRS present:

(QRSd > 120ms)

- **When LBBB QRS pattern is present:**
 - ST-Segment Elevation is typically noted in Precordial Leads
 - *Can cause up to 5mm of J Point Elevation in normally calibrated ECG (1mm=10mv)*
 - *Does NOT typically cause ST elevation in INFERIOR Leads (II, III and AVF).*

Diagnosis of STEMI with LBBB pattern:

2013 ACC/AHA Guideline for Management of STEMI

- *ST Elevation of 0.1mv (1mm) or more in leads with Positive Deflection QRS complexes*

Diagnosis of STEMI with LBBB pattern:

2013 ACC/AHA Guideline for Management of STEMI

- *ST Elevation of 0.1mv (1mm) or more in leads with Positive Deflection QRS complexes*
- *ST Elevation of 0.5mv (5mm) or more in leads with Negative Deflection QRS complexes*

Diagnosis of STEMI with LBBB pattern:

2013 ACC/AHA Guideline for Management of STEMI

- *ST Elevation of 0.1mv (1mm) or more in leads with Positive Deflection QRS complexes*
- *ST Elevation of 0.5mv (5mm) or more in leads with Negative Deflection QRS complexes*
- *ST Segment Changes as compared with those of older ECGs with LBBB*

Diagnosis of STEMI with LBBB pattern:

2013 ACC/AHA Guideline for Management of STEMI

- *ST Elevation of 0.1mv (1mm) or more in leads with Positive Deflection QRS complexes*
- *ST Elevation of 0.5mv (5mm) or more in leads with Negative Deflection QRS complexes*
- *ST Segment Changes as compared with those of older ECGs with LBBB*
- *Convex ST Segment*

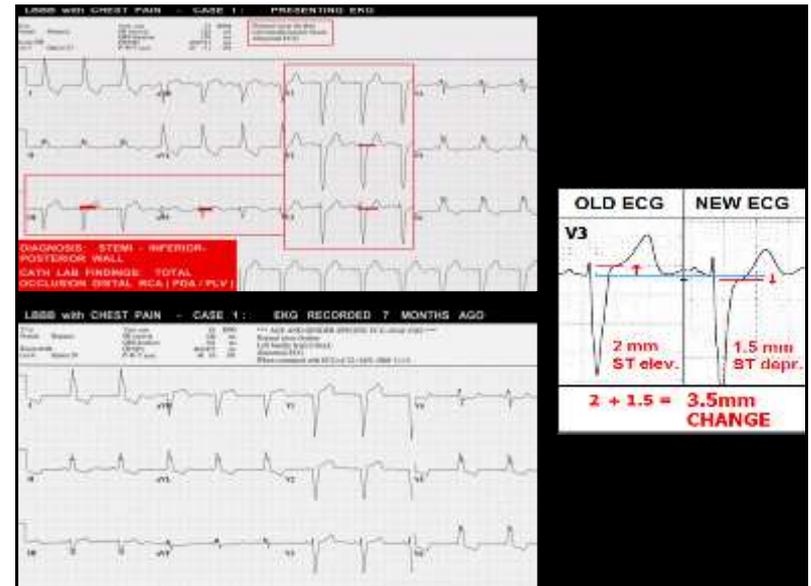
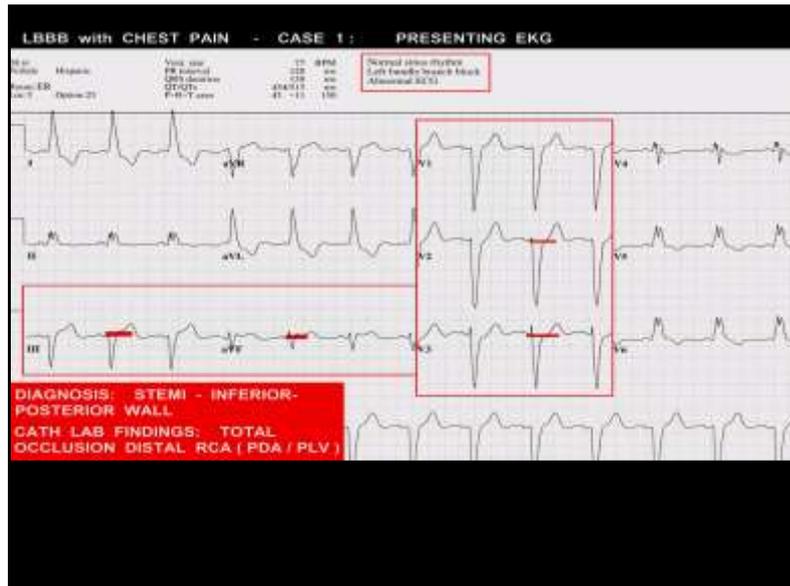


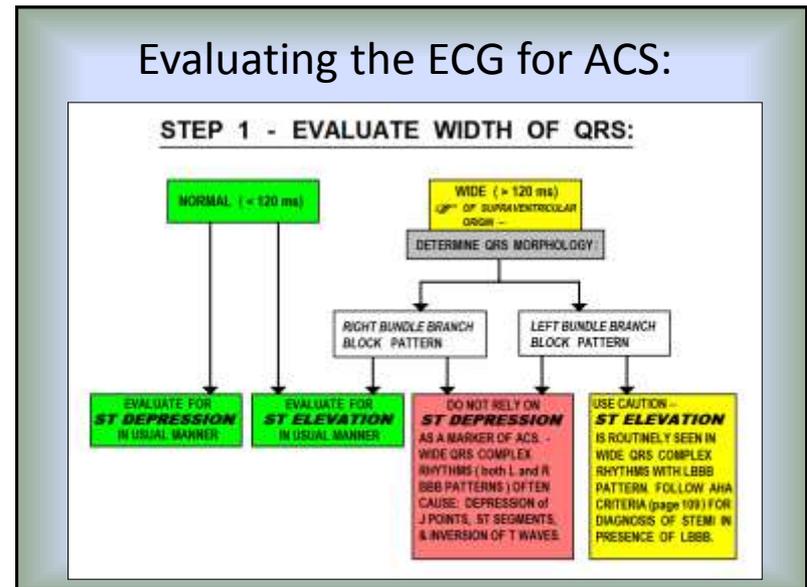
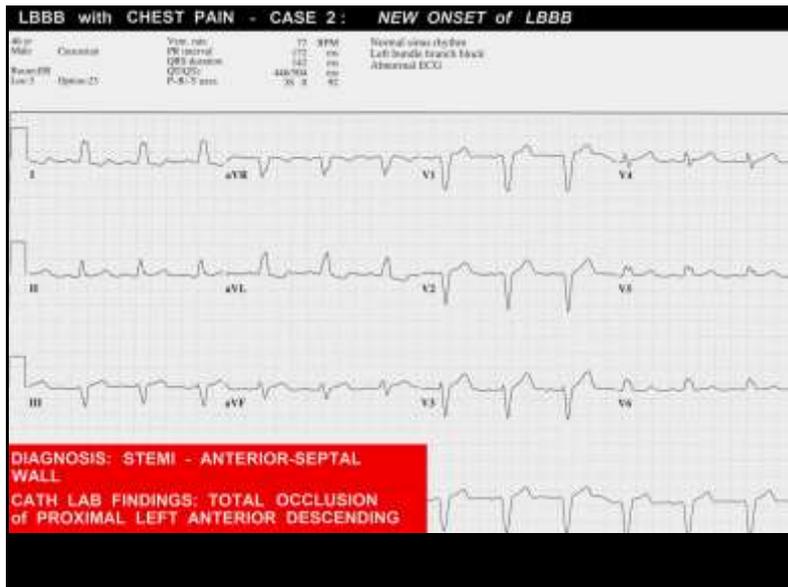
**HELPFUL INDICATORS FOR
ECG DIAGNOSIS OF STEMI in the
presence of LBBB:**

- ST ELEVATION > 5 mm
- COMPARE J POINT, ST SEGMENTS and T WAVES of previous ECG with LBBB to NEW ECG.
- CONVEX ST SEGMENT = poss. MI
CONCAVE ST SEGMENT = normal
- CONCORDANT ST changes (1 mm or > ST DEPRESSION V1 - V3 or ST ELEVATION LEADS II, III, AVF)
- ST ELEVATION in LEADS II, III, and/or AVF

N. ENGL. J. MED v 348; p933 - 940 - Zimetbaum, et. al.

[“Electrocardiographic Diagnosis of Evolving Acute Myocardial Infarction in the Presence of Left Bundle-Branch Block” Birnbaum et al, N Engl J Med 1996; 334:481-487](#)





Evaluating the ECG for ACS:

Patients with Normal Width QRS
(QRSd < 120ms)

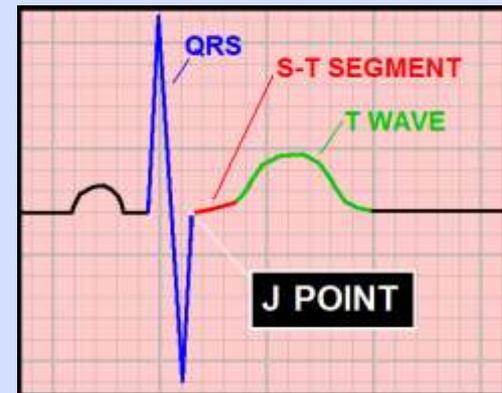
STEP 2 - EVALUATE the EKG for ACS

THE EKG MARKERS USED FOR DETERMINING THE PRESENCE OF ACUTE CORONARY SYNDROME INCLUDE:

- J POINTS
- ST SEGMENTS
- T WAVES

CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZE THESE MARKERS IN EVERY LEAD OF THE 12 LEAD EKG, TO DETERMINE IF THEY ARE NORMAL or ABNORMAL.

Defining NORMAL – QRS <120ms:



When QRS duration is NORMAL (< 120 ms):

NORMAL ST - T WAVES

- WHEN QRS WIDTH
IS NORMAL (< 120 ms)



ASSESS:

- J POINT: ISOELECTRIC (or < 1 mm dev.)
- ST SEG: SLIGHT, POSITIVE INCLINATION
- T WAVE: UPRIGHT, POSITIVE

 in EVERY LEAD EXCEPT aVR !!

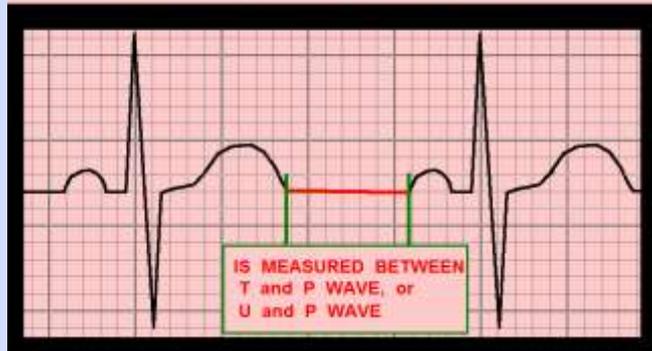
THE J POINT SHOULD BE ..



WITHIN
1 mm
ABOVE

OR
BELOW
the
ISOELECTRIC
LINE

THE ISOELECTRIC LINE



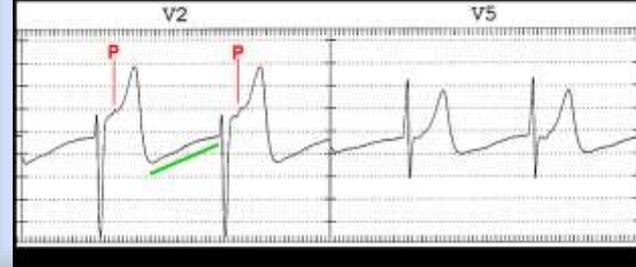
...the "flat line" between ECG complexes, when there is no detectable electrical activity ...

The Isoelectric Line -

it's not always isoelectric !

THE ISOELECTRIC LINE

EKG from 13 y/o girl in ACCELERATED JUNCTIONAL RHYTHM. note: upsloping T-P interval, and P buried in T waves.



THE P-Q JUNCTION

... is the POINT
where the P-R
SEGMENT ends
and the QRS
COMPLEX BEGINS.

Used for POINT
OF REFERENCE
for measurement of
the J-POINT and
the S-T SEGMENT -



— as per the A.H.A., A.C.C., and WANG, ASINGER, and
MARRIOTT, N.E.J.M. vol. 349:2128-2135 Nov. 27, 2003

Use the P-Q junction as a reference
point for measuring the J Point and
ST-Segment when “iso-electric line is

not
iso-electric !

THE P-Q JUNCTION

... is the POINT
where the P-R
SEGMENT ends
and the QRS
COMPLEX BEGINS.

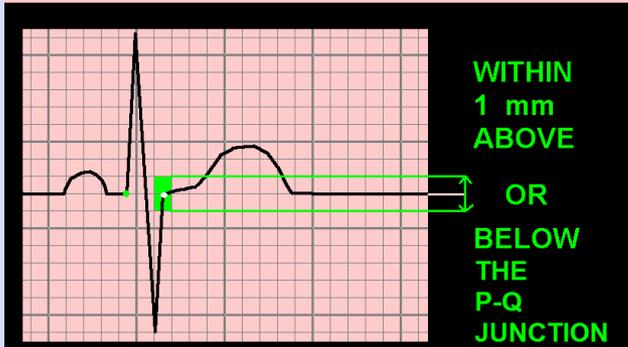
Used for POINT
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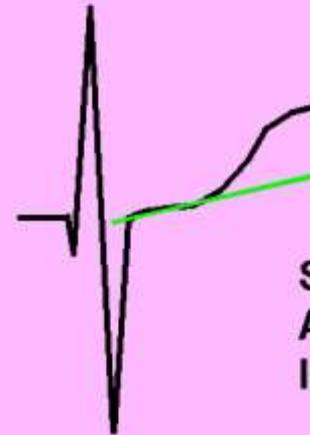
— as per the A.H.A., A.C.C., and WANG, ASINGER, and
MARRIOTT, N.E.J.M. vol. 349:2128-2135 Nov. 27, 2003

Defining NORMAL:

THE J POINT SHOULD BE ..

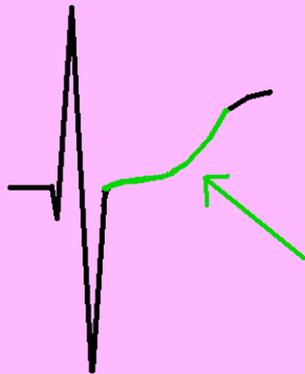


THE S-T SEGMENT



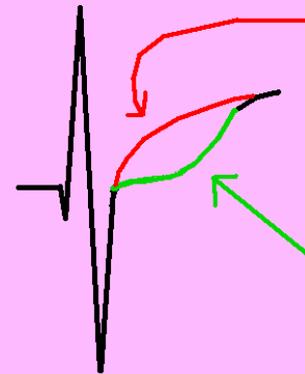
SHOULD HAVE
A "SLIGHT POSITIVE"
INCLINATION

THE S-T SEGMENT



SHOULD BE
"CONCAVE" IN
SHAPE ...

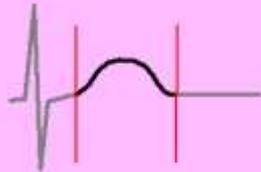
THE S-T SEGMENT



AS OPPOSED TO
"CONVEX" IN
SHAPE

SHOULD BE
"CONCAVE" IN
SHAPE ...

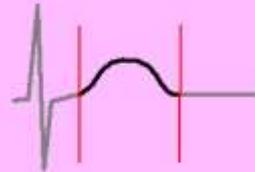
THE T WAVE



- SHOULD BE A "NICE," ROUNDED, CONVEX SHAPE

- SHOULD BE SYMMETRICAL

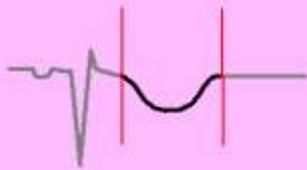
THE T WAVE



- SHOULD BE A "NICE," ROUNDED, CONVEX SHAPE

- SHOULD BE SYMMETRICAL
- SHOULD BE UPRIGHT IN ALL LEADS, EXCEPT AVR

THE T WAVE

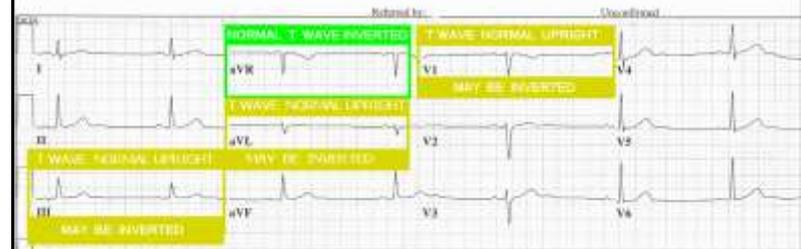


LEAD AVR

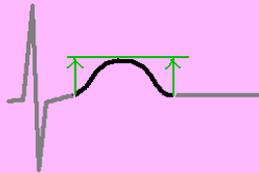
- REMEMBER, IN LEAD AVR
EVERYTHING
IS
"UPSIDE-DOWN"

Normal Variants: *T Wave Inversion*

Leads where the T WAVE may be
INVERTED:



THE T WAVE



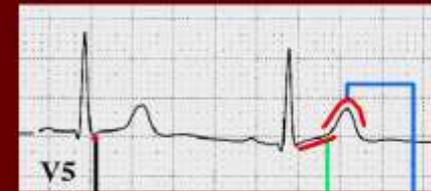
AMPLITUDE GUIDELINES:

- IN THE LIMB LEADS, SHOULD BE LESS THAN 1.0 mv (10 mm)
- IN THE PRECORDIAL LEADS, SHOULD BE LESS THAN 0.5 mv (5 mm)
- SHOULD NOT BE TALLER THAN R WAVE IN 2 OR MORE LEADS.

When QRS duration is NORMAL (< 120 ms):

NORMAL ST - T WAVES

- WHEN QRS WIDTH IS NORMAL (< 120 ms)



ASSESS:

- J POINT: ISOELECTRIC (or < 1 mm dev.)
- ST SEG: SLIGHT, POSITIVE INCLINATION
- T WAVE: UPRIGHT, POSITIVE

 *in EVERY LEAD EXCEPT aVR !!*

**ECG Indicators
of ACS
in Patients with
Normal Width QRS Complexes
(QRS duration < 120 ms)**

Multiple patterns of

ABNORMAL:

- J Point
- ST-Segment
- T Wave

configurations may indicate ACS.

Remember, "IF IT'S NOT
NORMAL, it's
ABNORMAL!"

BOOK PAGE: 83

EKG PATTERNS of ACS & ISCHEMIA		
<small>- J POINT, ST SEGMENT, AND T WAVE ABNORMALITIES -</small>		
↑	ST SEGMENT ELEVATION @ J POINT	ACUTE MI ACUTE PERICARDITIS / MYOCARDITIS EARLY REPERFUSION
↑	FLAT or CONVEX J-T APEX SEGMENT	ACUTE MI ISCHEMIA
↑	HYPER-ACUTE T WAVE	HYPERKALEMIA VASCULAR/RENAL ISCHEMIA ACUTE MI HYPERTROPHY
↑	DEPRESSED J pt DOWNWARD ST and INVERTED T	ACUTE (NON-Q WAVE) MI ACUTE MI - (ELECTROLYTE) ISCHEMIA
↑	INVERTED T WAVE	MYOCARDITIS ELECTROLYTE IMBAL. ISCHEMIA
↑	SHARP S-T T ANGLE	ACUTE MI (NOT COMMON) ISCHEMIA
↑	BIPHASIC T WAVE (WELLEN'S)	BIG-TOEAL LAD LESION VASCOPULM HYPERTROPHY
↑	DEPRESSED J POINT with UPSLOPING ST	ISCHEMIA
↑	DOWNWARD ST SEGMENT	ISCHEMIA
?	FLAT S-T SEGMENT = 128 ms	ISCHEMIA
?	LOW VOLTAGE T WAVE WITH NORMAL QRS	ISCHEMIA
?	UNUSUAL POLARITY OPPOSITE THAT OF T WAVE	ISCHEMIA

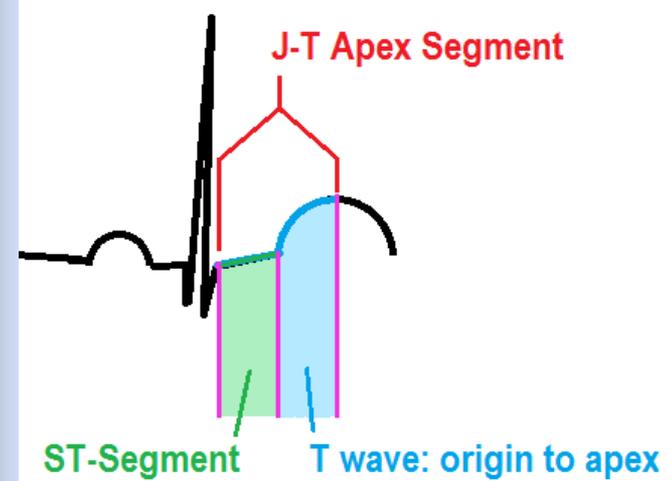
PATTERNS of ACS & ISCHEMIA			
- J POINT, ST SEGMENT, and T WAVE ABNORMALITIES -			
! FLAT or CONVEX J-T APEX SEGMENT			ACUTE MI EARLY PHASE
! HYPER-ACUTE T WAVE			ACUTE MI EARLY PHASE
! S-T SEGMENT ELEVATION at J POINT			ACUTE MI
! DEPRESSED J pt. DOWNSLOPING ST and INVERTED T			- ACUTE (NON-Q WAVE) MI - ACUTE MI - (RECIPROCAL CHANGES) - ISCHEMIA

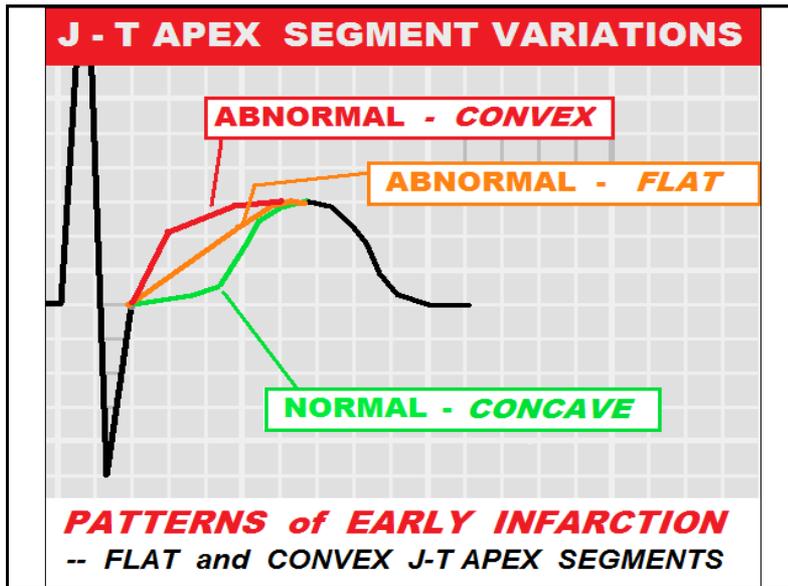
PATTERNS of ACS & ISCHEMIA			
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! S-T SEGMENT ELEVATION at J POINT			ACUTE MI
! DEPRESSED J pt. DOWNSLOPING ST and INVERTED T			- ACUTE (NON-Q WAVE) MI - ACUTE MI - (RECIPROCAL CHANGES) - ISCHEMIA



***ECG Patterns associated with
"EARLY PHASE MI:"***

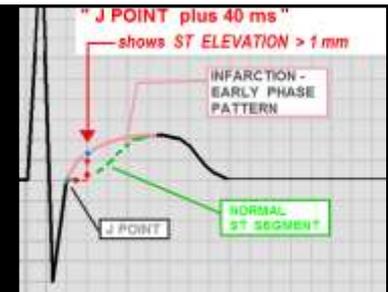
- ***J-T Apex abnormalities***
- ***Hyper-Acute T Waves***
- ***ST-T Wave Changes***



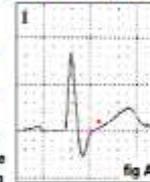


WHEN EVALUATING
 for
 ST SEGMENT
 ELEVATION

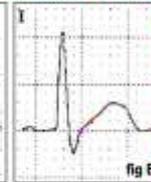
From:
 AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION
 ACLS 2005 REVISIONS



During NORMAL STATES of PERFUSION, the J POINT is ISOELECTRIC and the ST SEGMENT has a CONCAVE appearance. When measured 40 ms beyond the J POINT (noted by the RED DOT), the ST SEGMENT elevation is less than 1mm.



During a 20 second BALLOON OCCLUSION of the patient's LAD during routine PTCA, the ST segment assumes a CONVEX shape. When measured 40 ms beyond the J POINT, the ST segment is elevated > 1 mm. This phenomenon is seen routinely in the cath lab prior to the occurrence of ST ELEVATION at the J POINT during PTCA and STENTING.



Both figures were recorded from a 54 year old male while resting (figure A), and during PTCA of the Left Anterior Descending artery (figure B).

ABNORMAL J-T APEX SEGMENT

FLAT J-T APEX SEGMENT
 → CONSIDER EARLY PHASE of ACUTE MI

LEAD II 41 y/o FEMALE
 In ER C/O CHEST PAIN x 30 minutes.
 • **FLAT J-T APEX SEGMENT**
 • **NO ST ELEVATION at J POINT!**

1839 hrs

STEMI - INFERIOR WALL
 11 MINUTES LATER, S-T ELEVATION at the J POINT IS NOTED.
 • **CATH LAB FINDINGS:**
 TOTAL OCCLUSION of the RIGHT CORONARY ARTERY

1850 hrs

ABNORMAL J-T APEX SEGMENT

CONVEX J-T APEX SEGMENT
 → CONSIDER EARLY PHASE of ACUTE MI!

LEAD I 53 y/o MALE
 † yr. PRIOR TO MI
 NORMAL EKG
 CONCAVE J-T APEX SEGMENT

0732 hrs

STEMI LATERAL WALL
 • **CONVEX J-T APEX SEGMENT**
 • **MINIMAL ST ELEVATION at J POINT**

15 MINUTES LATER, S-T ELEVATION at the J POINT IS NOTED.
 • **CATH LAB FINDINGS:**
 TOTAL OCCLUSION OF CIRCUMFLEX ARTERY

0747 hrs

CASE STUDY: ABNORMAL J-T APEX SEGMENTS**CHIEF COMPLAINT and SIGNIFICANT HISTORY:**

56 y/o MALE presents to ED with complaint of "INTERMITTENT SUBSTERNAL & SUB-EPIGASTRIC PRESSURE" x 3 HOURS. PMHx of ESOPHAGEAL REFLUX. NO other significant past medical history.

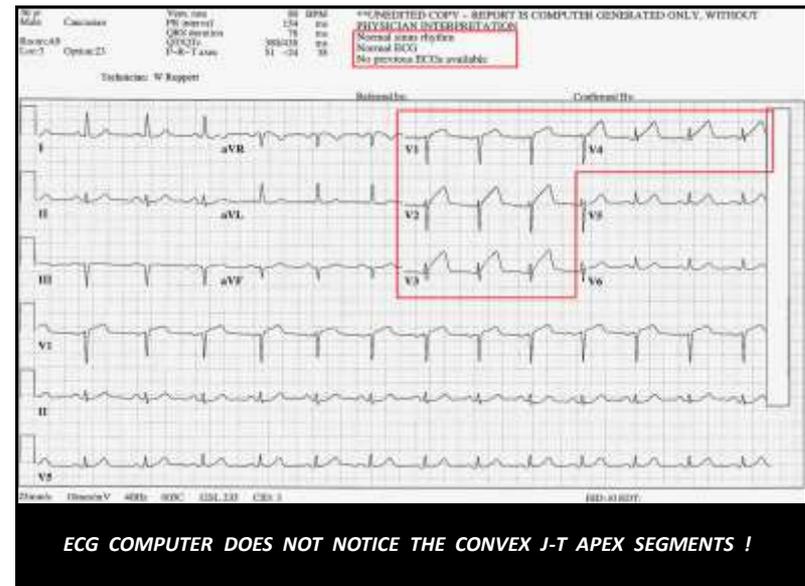
RISK FACTOR PROFILE:

- ☛ FAMILY HISTORY - father died of MI at age 62
- ☑ PREVIOUS CIGARETTE SMOKER - quit 15 years ago.
- ☑ CHOLESTEROL - DOES NOT KNOW; "never had it checked."
- ☑ OBESITY

PHYSICAL EXAM: Patient supine on exam table, mildly anxious, currently complaining of "mild indigestion," skin is warm, pale, dry; REST OF EXAM is UNREMARKABLE.

VITAL SIGNS: BP 142/94, P 80, R 20, SAO2 98%

LABS: JUST OBTAINED, RESULTS NOT AVAILABLE YET.



measurement of S-T elevation



S-T elevation at J point = 0.5 mm

ACUTE MI = S-T elev. > 1.0 mm

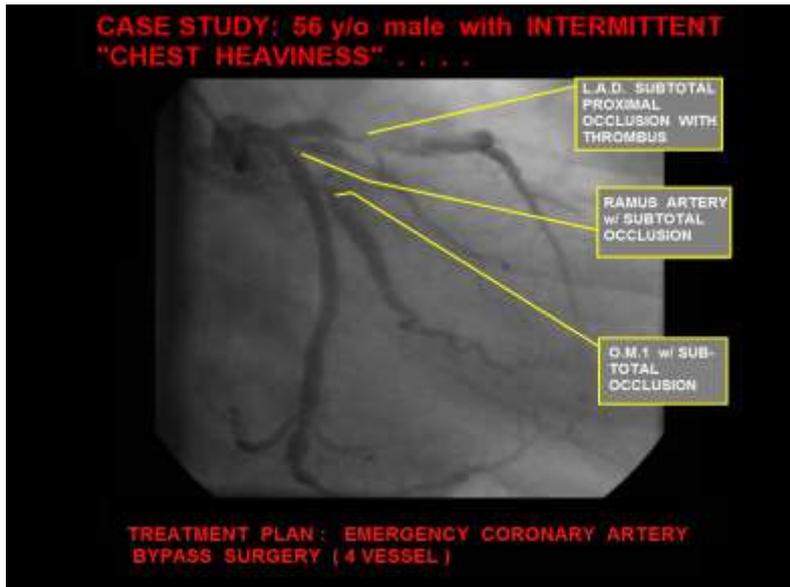
measurement of S-T elevation
by "J point + .04" method



S-T elevation at J point = 0.5 mm

S-T elevation at J + .04 = 2.0 mm

ACUTE MI = S-T elev. > 1.0 mm

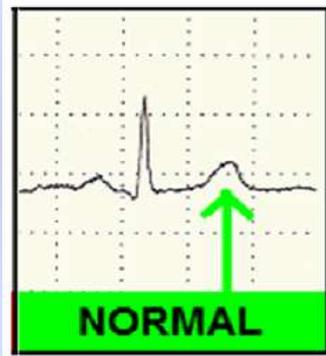
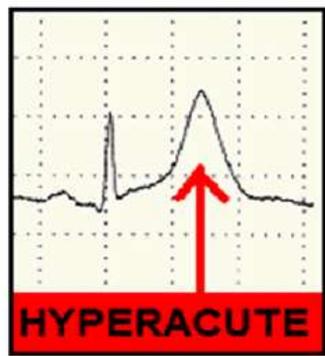


PATTERNS of ACS & ISCHEMIA

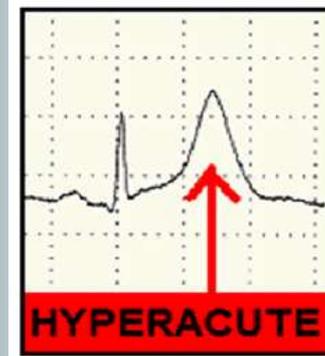
- J POINT, ST SEGMENT, and T WAVE ABNORMALITIES -

! FLAT or CONVEX J-T APEX SEGMENT			ACUTE MI EARLY PHASE
! HYPER-ACUTE T WAVE			ACUTE MI EARLY PHASE
! S-T SEGMENT ELEVATION at J POINT			ACUTE MI
! DEPRESSED J pt. DOWNSLOPING ST and INVERTED T			- ACUTE (NON-Q WAVE) MI - ACUTE MI - (RECIPROCAL CHANGES) - ISCHEMIA

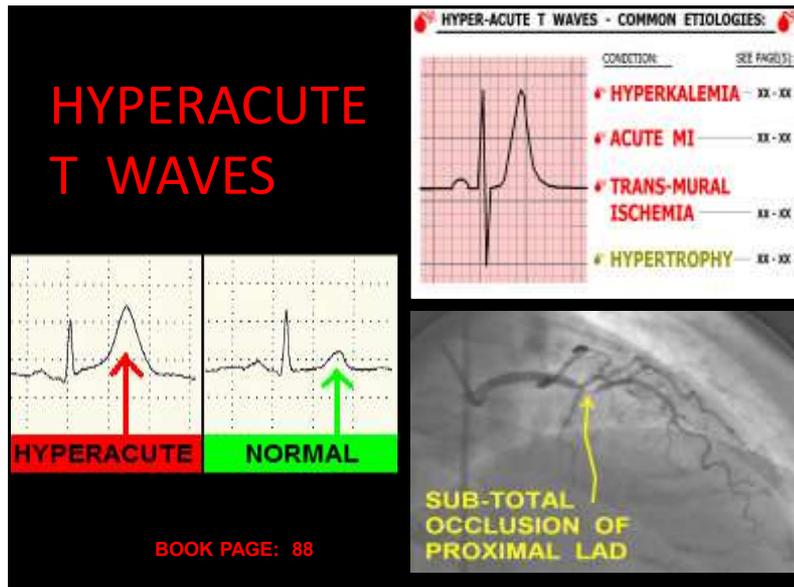
T waves should not be HYPERACUTE



HYPERACUTE T Waves may indicate:



- **Early phase Acute MI**
- **Transmural ischemia** (usually seen in one region of the ECG)
- **Hyperkalemia** (seen globally across ECG)
- **Hypertrophy**



Helpful Clue: Hyper-Acute T Waves

- **GLOBAL Hyper-acute T Waves** (in leads viewing multiple myocardial regions / arterial distributions) **favors HYPERKALEMIA**

CASE STUDY: HYPERACUTE T WAVES**CHIEF COMPLAINT and SIGNIFICANT HISTORY:**

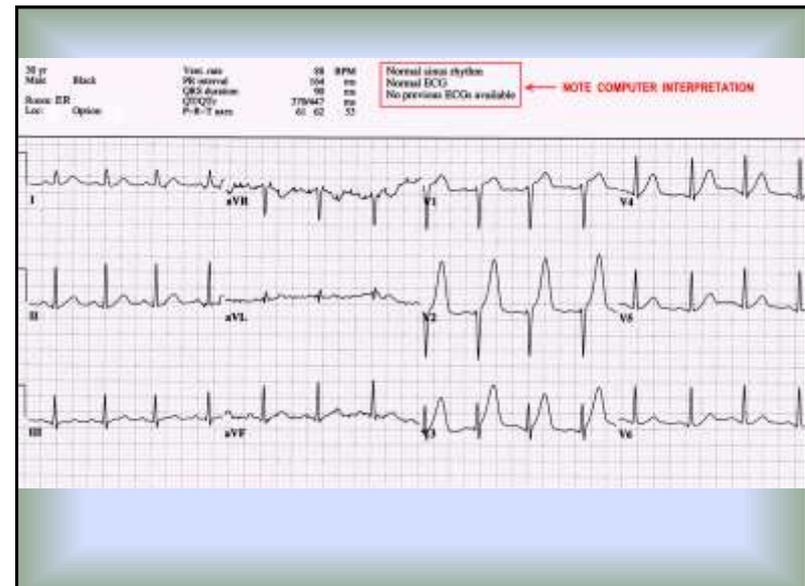
30 y/o male presents to ER via EMS, c/o sudden onset of dull chest pain x 40 min. Pain level varies, not effected by position, movement or deep inspiration. No associated symptoms.

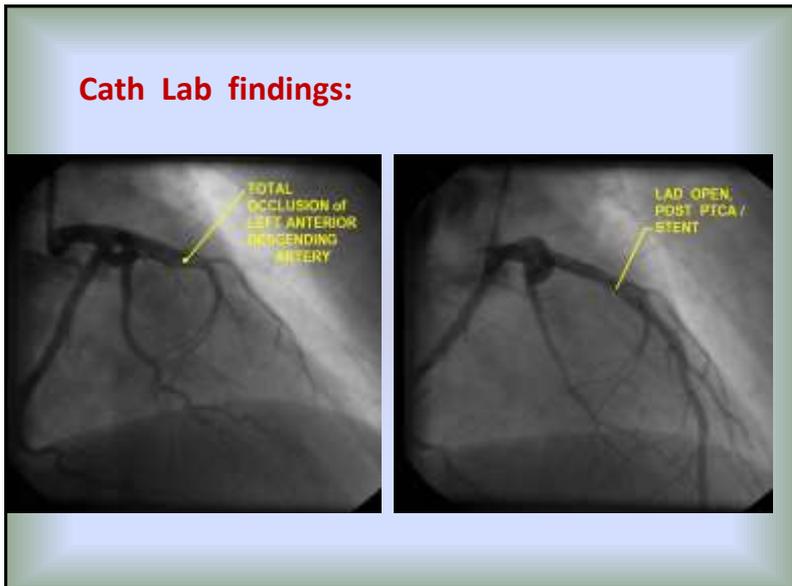
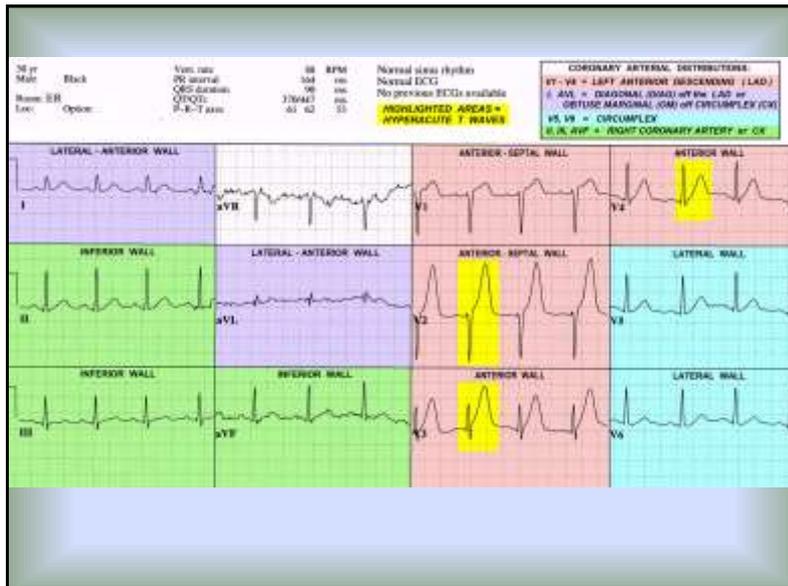
RISK FACTOR PROFILE: NONE. CHOLESTEROL UNKNOWN.

PHYSICAL EXAM: Patient is supine on exam table, CAO x 4, anxious, restless, skin pale, cool, dry. Patient c/o chest pressure, "7" on 1 - 10 scale, uneffected by position, movement, deep inspiration. Lungs clear. HS: NL S1, S2, no rubs, murmurs, gallops

VITAL SIGNS: BP 136/88 P 90 R 20 SAO2 98%

DIAGNOSTIC TESTING: 1st TROPONIN I - ultra: <0.07





Dynamic ST-T Wave Changes:

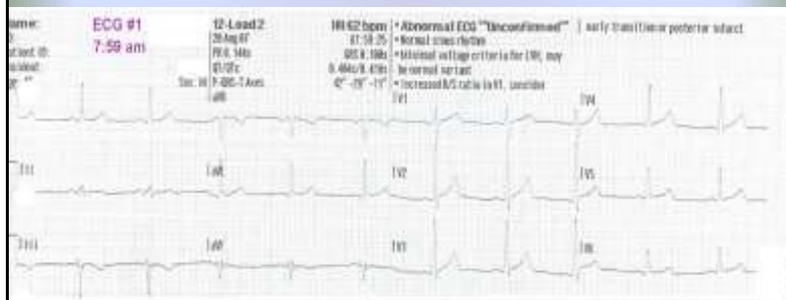
- Other than HEART RATE related variations (which affect intervals), ***J Points, ST-Segments and T Waves SHOULD NOT CHANGE.***

Dynamic ST-T Wave Changes:

- Other than HEART RATE related variations (which affect intervals), ***J Points, ST-Segments and T Waves SHOULD NOT CHANGE.***
- ***When changes to J Points, ST-Segments and/or T waves are NOTED, consider EVOLVING MYOCARDIAL ISCHEMIA and/or EARLY PHASE MI, until proven otherwise.***

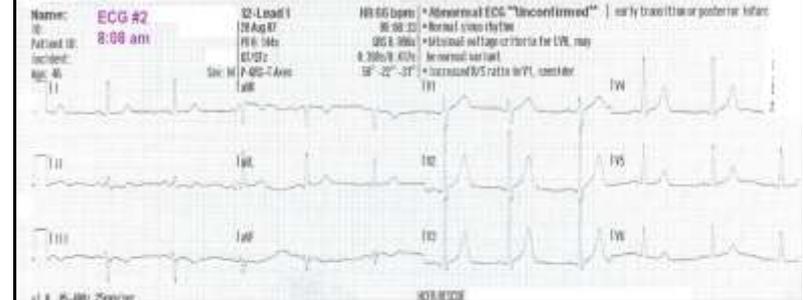
46 year old male

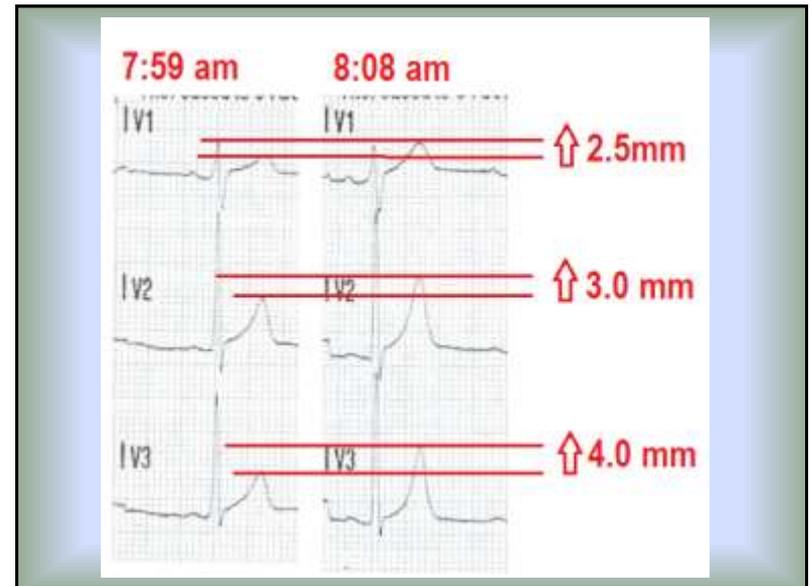
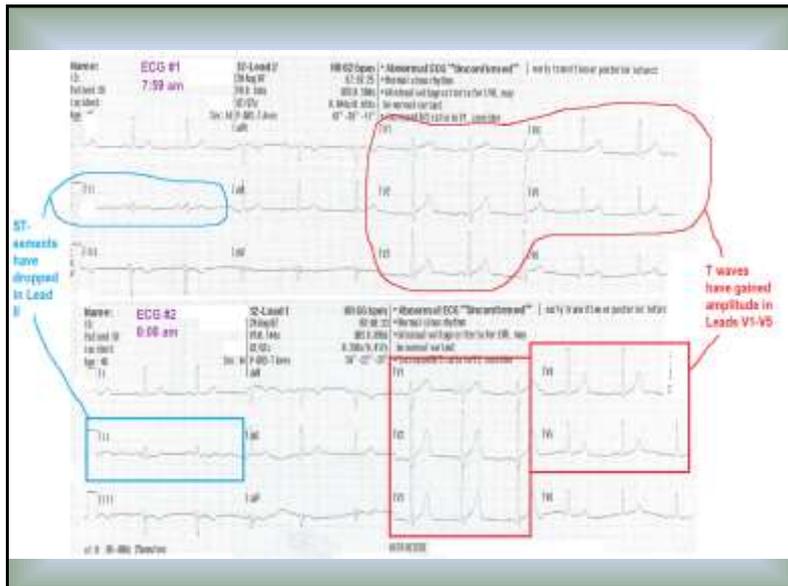
- Exertional dyspnea X “several weeks”
- Intermittent chest pressure X last 3 hours. Currently pain free.



46 year old male: ECG 1

- Chest pressure has returned, “5” on 1-10 scale. 2nd ECG obtained due to “change in symptoms”:





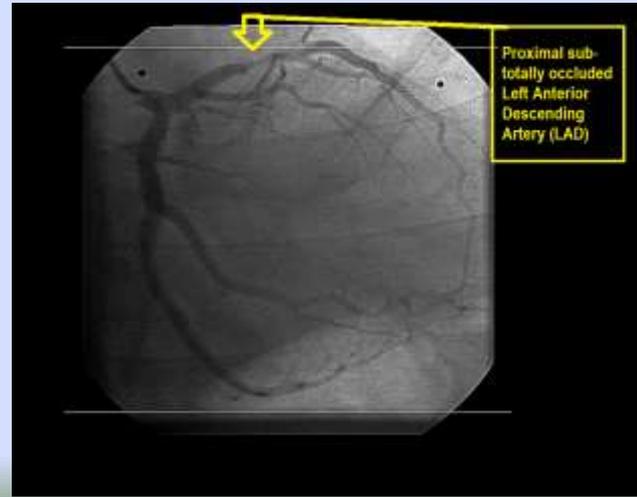
ST-Segment Depression

7:59 am

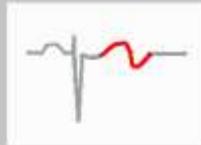
8:08 am



Cath Lab Angiography:



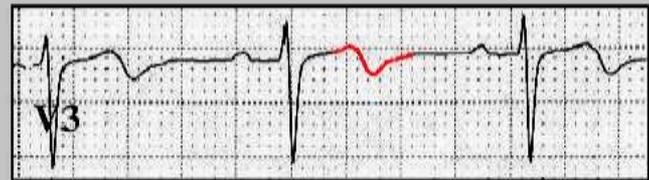
ISCHEMIA



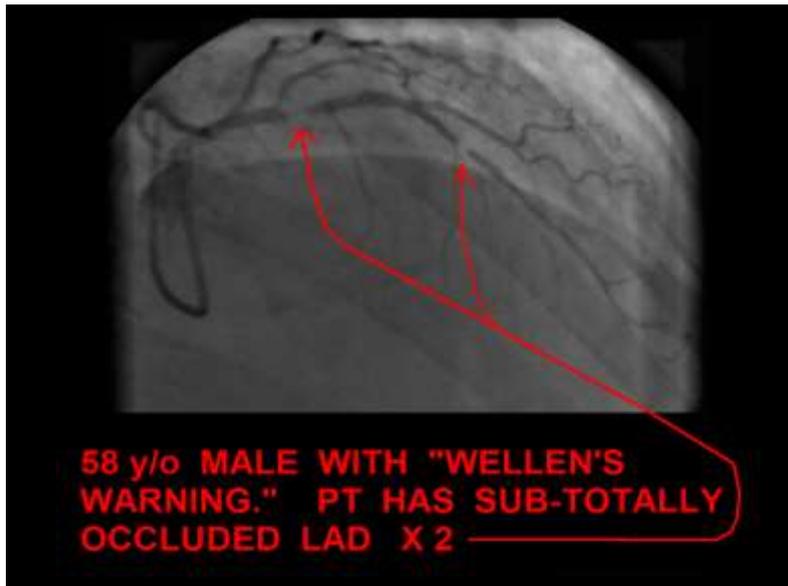
BI-PHASIC T WAVE

- SUB-TOTAL OCCLUSION of LEFT ANTERIOR DESCENDING ARTERY (when noted in V1-V4)
- LEFT VENTRICULAR HYPERTROPHY
- COCAINE INDUCED VASOSPASM

BI-PHASIC T WAVES



58 y/o MALE WITH SUB-TOTAL OCCLUSIONS OF THE LEFT ANTERIOR DESCENDING ARTERY



Classic "Wellen's Syndrome:"

- Characteristic T wave changes
 - Biphasic T waves
 - Inverted T waves
- History of anginal chest pain
- Normal or minimally elevated cardiac markers
- ECG without Q waves, without significant ST-segment elevation, and with normal precordial R-wave progression

Wellen's Syndrome ETIOLOGY:

- Critical Lesion, Proximal LAD
- Coronary Artery Vasospasm
- Cocaine use (vasospasm)
- Increased myocardial oxygen demand
- Generalized Hypoxia / anemia / low H&H

Wellen's Syndrome EPIDEMIOLOGY & PROGNOSIS:

- Present in 14-18% of patients admitted with unstable angina
- 75% patients not treated developed extensive Anterior MI within 3 weeks.
- *Median Average time from presentation to Acute Myocardial Infarction – 8 days*

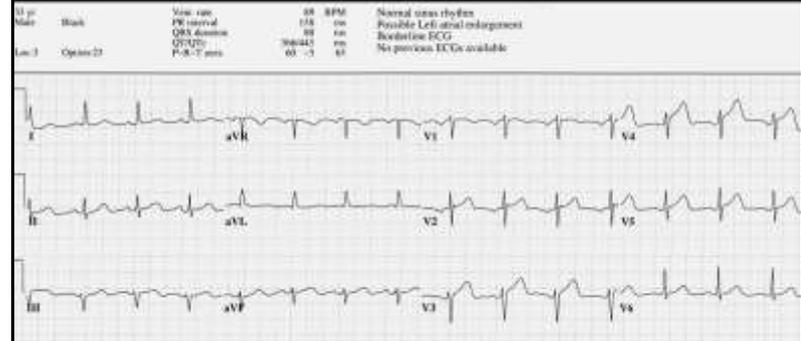
Sources: [H Wellens et. Al, Am Heart J 1982; v103\(4\) 730-736](#)

Wellen's Syndrome Case Study

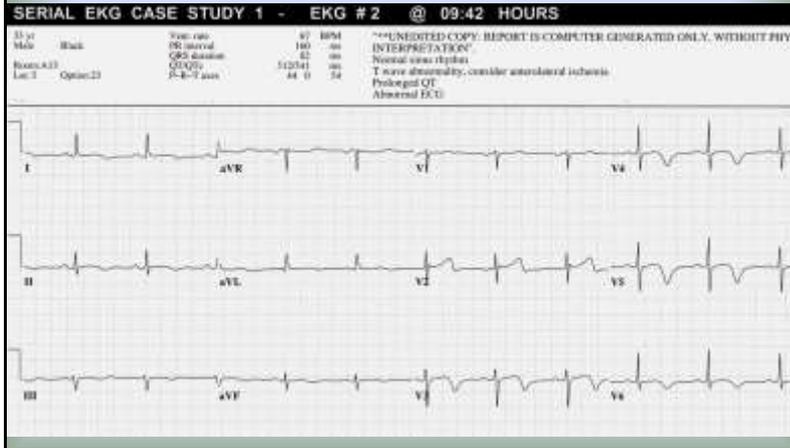
- 33 y/o male
- Chief complaint "sharp, pleuritic quality chest pain, intermittent, recent history lower respiratory infection with productive cough."
- ED physician attributed the ST elevation in precordial leads to "early repolarization," due to patient age, gender, race (African American) and concave nature of ST-segments.

Wellen's Syndrome Case Study

SERIAL EKG CASE STUDY 1 - EKG #1 @ 06:22 HOURS



Wellen's Syndrome Case Study

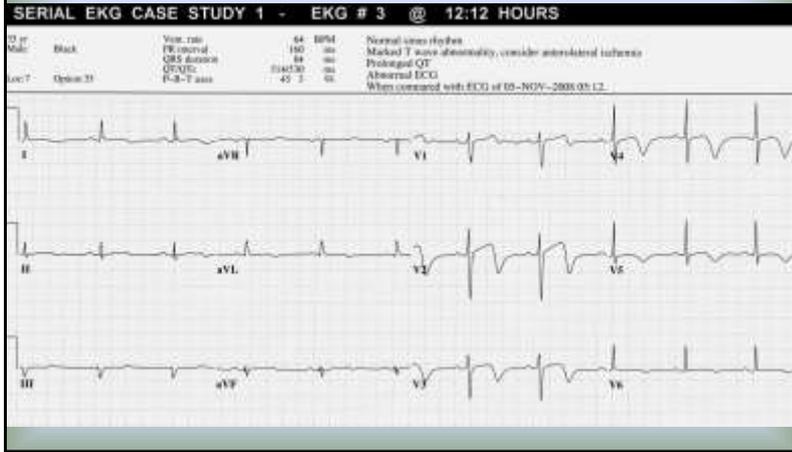


***DYNAMIC ST-T Wave Changes
ARE PRESENT !!***

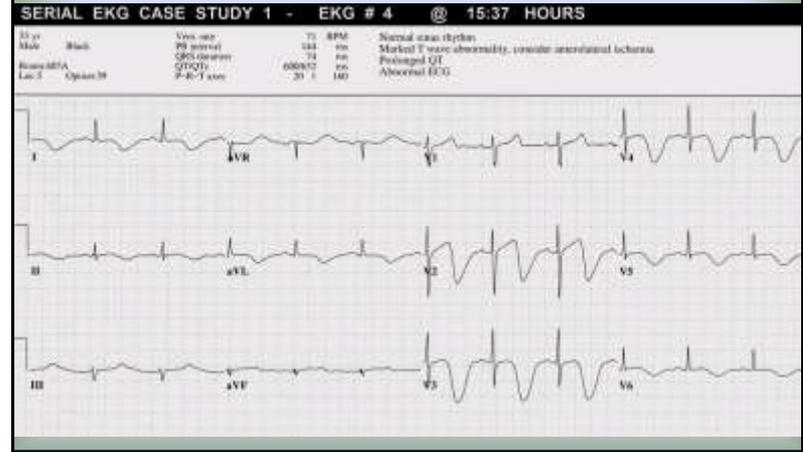
NOW

***is the time for the
STAT CALL
to the
CARDIOLOGIST !!!!***

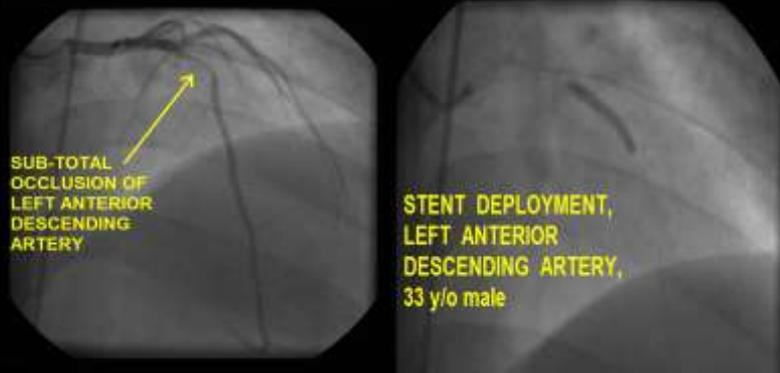
Wellen's Syndrome Case Study



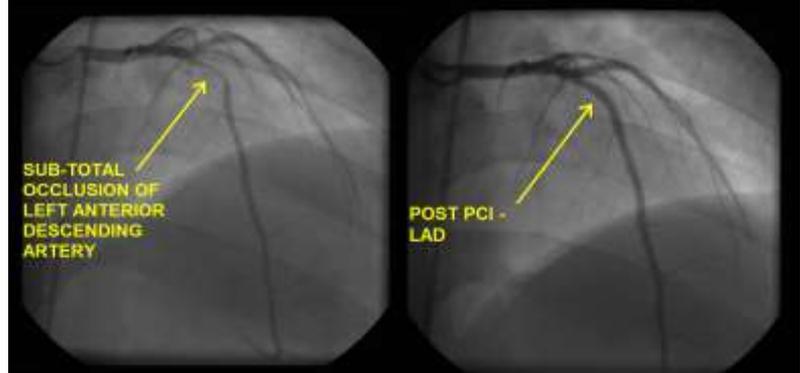
Wellen's Syndrome Case Study



Wellen's Syndrome Case Study

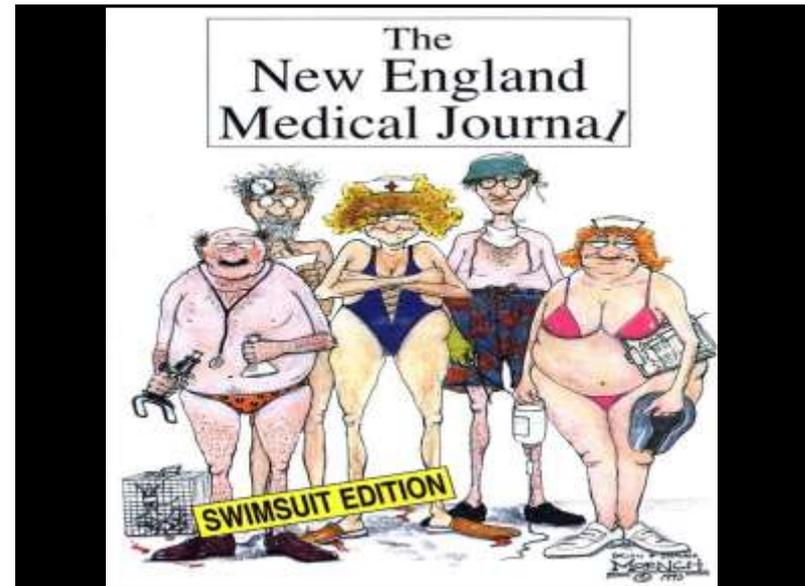


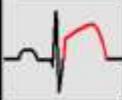
Wellen's Syndrome Case Study



Additional Resources:

- [Wellen's Syndrome, NEJM case study](#)



PATTERNS of ACS & ISCHEMIA			
- J POINT, ST SEGMENT, and T WAVE ABNORMALITIES -			
! FLAT or CONVEX J-T APEX SEGMENT			ACUTE MI EARLY PHASE
! HYPER-ACUTE T WAVE			ACUTE MI EARLY PHASE
! S-T SEGMENT ELEVATION at J POINT			ACUTE MI
! DEPRESSED J pt. DOWNSLOPING ST and INVERTED T			- ACUTE (NON-Q WAVE) MI - ACUTE MI - (RECIPROCAL CHANGES) - ISCHEMIA

Abnormal ST Elevation Criteria: ACC/AHA 2009 "Standardization and Interpretation of the ECG, Part VI Acute Ischemia and Infarction," Galen Wagner, et al

Recommendations

1. For men 40 years of age and older, the threshold value for abnormal J-point elevation should be 0.2 mV (2 mm) in leads V_2 and V_3 and 0.1 mV (1 mm) in all other leads.
2. For men less than 40 years of age, the threshold values for abnormal J-point elevation in leads V_2 and V_3 should be 0.25 mV (2.5 mm).
3. For women, the threshold value for abnormal J-point elevation should be 0.15 mV (1.5 mm) in leads V_2 and V_3 and greater than 0.1 mV (1 mm) in all other leads.
4. For men and women, the threshold for abnormal J-point elevation in V_4R and V_5R should be 0.05 mV (0.5 mm), except for males less than 30 years of age, for whom 0.1 mV (1 mm) is more appropriate.
5. For men and women, the threshold value for abnormal J-point elevation in V_3 through V_6 should be 0.05 mV (0.5 mm).
6. For men and women of all ages, the threshold value for abnormal J-point depression should be -0.05 mV (-0.5 mm) in leads V_2 and V_3 and -0.1 mV (-1 mm) in all other leads.

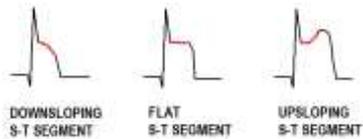
ST SEGMENT ELEVATION:

S-T SEGMENTS ELEVATE WITHIN SECONDS OF CORONARY ARTERY OCCLUSION:



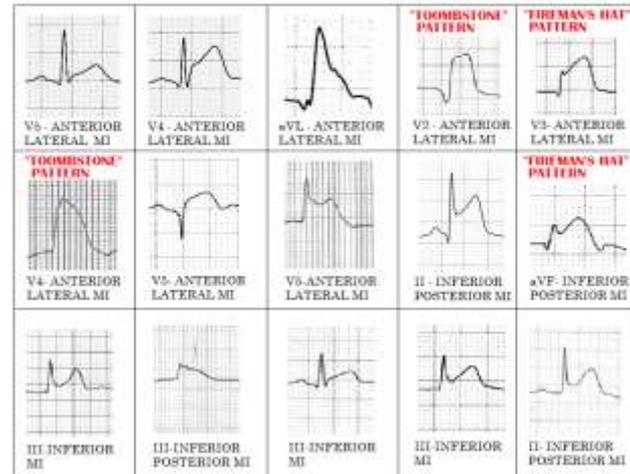
IN THIS CASE, a normal response to balloon occlusion of the RIGHT CORONARY ARTERY during PTCA in the CARDIAC CATH LAB

3 COMMON PATTERNS of ST SEGMENT ELEVATION From ACUTE MI:



ST SEGMENT ELEVATION in ACUTE MI:

The following examples are from patients with ACUTE MI, as confirmed by discovery of total arterial occlusion in the Cath Lab:



Reciprocal S-T Segment Depression *may or may not* be present during STEMI.

Reciprocal S-T Segment Depression *may or may not* be present during STEMI.

The presence of S-T Depression on an EKG which exhibits significant S-T elevation is a fairly reliable indicator that STEMI is the diagnosis.

Reciprocal S-T Segment Depression *may* or *may not* be present during STEMI.

The presence of S-T Depression on an EKG which exhibits significant S-T elevation is a fairly reliable indicator that STEMI is the diagnosis.

However the *lack of Reciprocal S-T Depression* DOES NOT rule out STEMI.

ACUTE MI

COMPLICATIONS TO ANTICIPATE FOR ALL MI PATIENTS :

-  LETHAL DYSRHYTHMIAS
-  CARDIAC ARREST
-  FAILURE OF STRUCTURE(S) SERVED BY THE BLOCKED ARTERY

STEMI

- **Correlation of ECG Leads with Coronary Arterial Anatomy and the STRUCTURES SERVED by the OCCLUDED ARTERY**

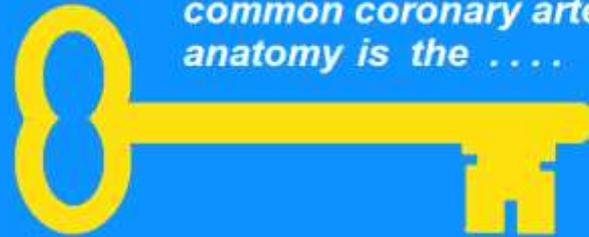
STEMI

- **Correlation of ECG Leads with Coronary Arterial Anatomy and the STRUCTURES SERVED by the OCCLUDED ARTERY**
 Will serve as a “crystal ball,” allowing you to ANTICIPATE complications of STEMI

STEMI

- Correlation of ECG Leads with Coronary Arterial Anatomy and the STRUCTURES SERVED by the OCCLUDED ARTERY
 Will serve as a “crystal ball,” allowing you to ANTICIPATE complications of STEMI
 **BEFORE they occur !!**

“Having knowledge of common coronary artery anatomy is the



to understanding the PHYSIOLOGICAL CHANGES that occur during ACUTE MI.”

“an INVALUABLE ASSET for ALL MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS who provide direct care to STEMI patients !”

INTERPRET THE EKG, THEN:

- 0 → IDENTIFY THE AREA OF THE HEART WITH A PROBLEM...
- 0 → RECALL THE ARTERY WHICH SERVES THAT REGION...
- 0 → RECALL OTHER STRUCTURES SERVED BY THAT ARTERY...
- 0 → ANTICIPATE FAILURE OF THOSE STRUCTURES...
- 0 → **INTERVENE APPROPRIATELY!**

3 STEMI Case Studies,
excerpts from "[12 Lead ECG Interpretation in ACS with Case Studies from the Cardiac Cath Lab.](#)"

CASE STUDY 1 - STEMI**CHIEF COMPLAINT and SIGNIFICANT HISTORY:**

72 y/o male, c/o CHEST "HEAVINESS," started 20 minutes before calling 911. Pain is "8" on 1-10 scale, also c/o mild shortness of breath. Has had same pain "intermittently" x 2 weeks.

RISK FACTOR PROFILE:

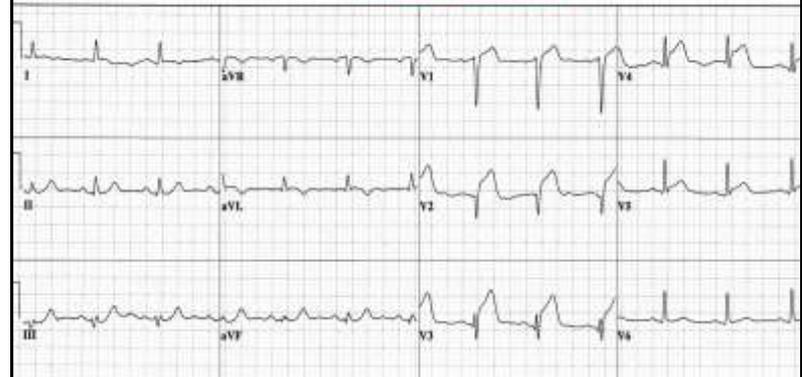
- 🔴 FAMILY HISTORY - father died of MI at age 77
- 🔴 FORMER CIGARETTE SMOKER - smoked for 30 year - quit 27 years ago
- 🔴 DIABETES - oral meds and diet controlled
- 🔴 HIGH CHOLESTEROL - controlled with STATIN meds
- 🔴 AGE: OVER 65

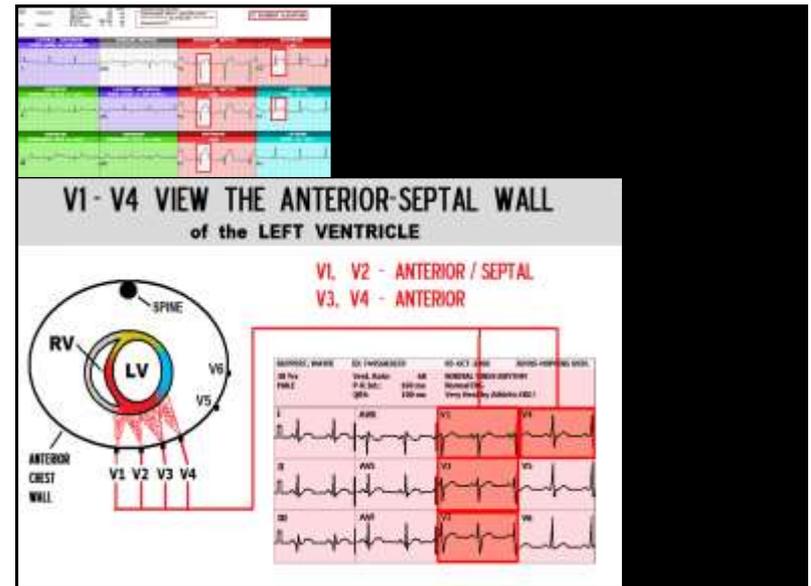
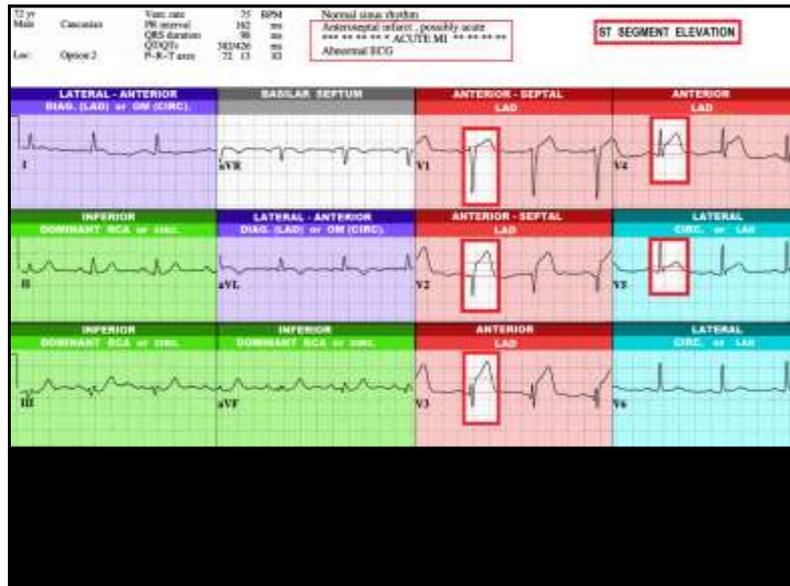
PHYSICAL EXAM: Patient calm, alert, oriented X 4, skin cool, dry, pale.
No JVD, Lungs clear bilaterally. Heart sounds normal S1, S2. No peripheral edema.

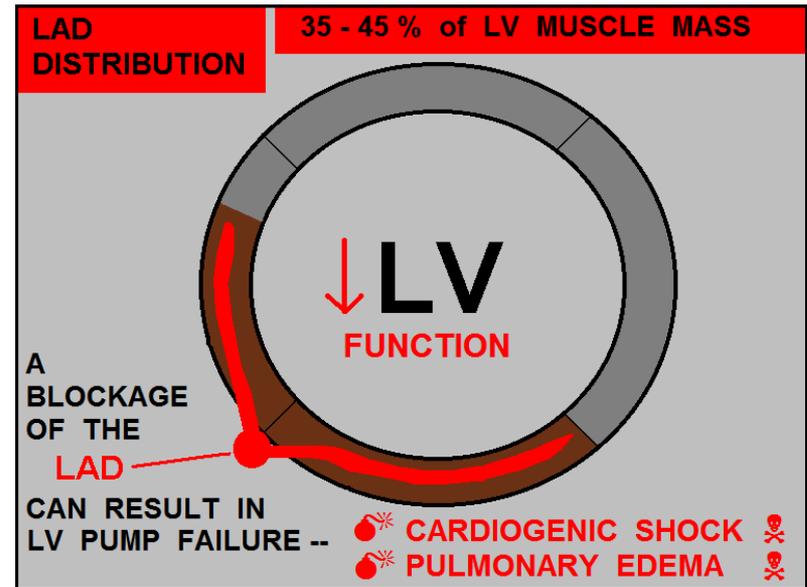
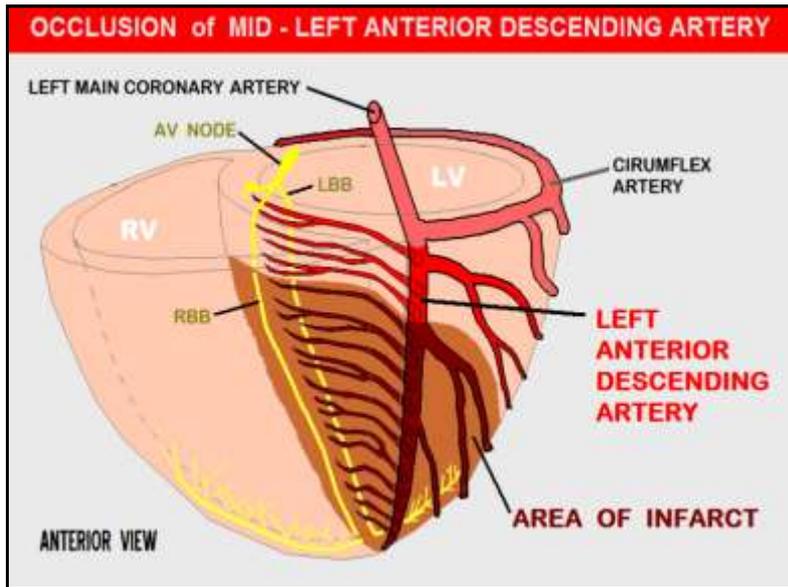
VITAL SIGNS: BP: 100/64, P: 75, R: 20, SAO2: 94%

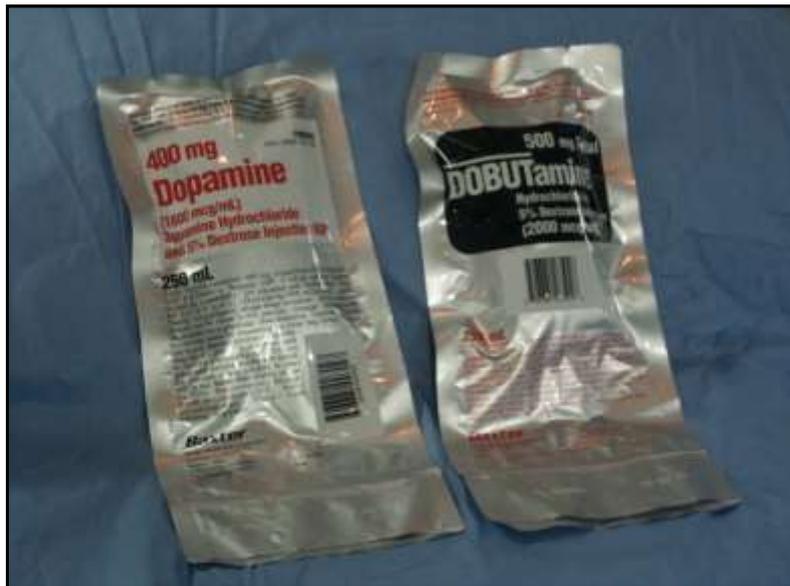
LABS: FIRST TROPONIN: 6.4

72 yr	Male	Caucasian	Weight (kg)	75	BP/HR	100/64 / 75	* EVALUATE ECG for indicators of ACS: - ST SEGMENT ELEVATION / DEPRESSION - HYPERCALCEMIA WAVES - CONVER ST SEGMENTS - OTHER ST SEGMENT / T WAVE ABNORMALITIES
ECG	Normal	QRS duration	96	ms			
ECG	Normal	PR-T axis	30/42	ms			
ECG	Normal	PR-T axis	72	ms			









LEFT ANTERIOR DESCENDING ARTERY (LAD)

- ANTERIOR WALL OF LEFT VENTRICLE

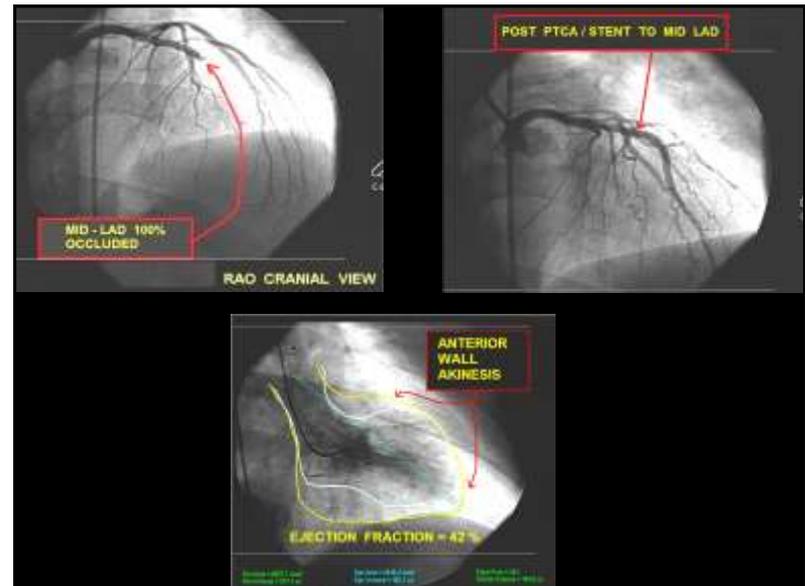
🩸* 35 - 45 % OF LEFT VENTRICLE MUSCLE MASS

- SEPTUM, ANTERIOR 2/3

🩸* BUNDLE BRANCHES

- ANTERIOR-MEDIAL PAPILLARY MUSCLE

ANTICIPATED COMPLICATIONS of ANTERIOR-SEPTAL WALL STEMI & POSSIBLE INDICATED INTERVENTIONS:	
- CARDIAC ARREST	BCLS / ACLS
- CARDIAC DYSRHYTHMIAS (VT / VF)	ACLS (antiarrhythmics)
- PUMP FAILURE with CARDIOGENIC SHOCK	INOTROPE THERAPY: -DOPAMINE / DOBUTAMINE / LEVOPHED - INTRA-AORTIC BALLOON PUMP (use caution with fluid challenges due to PULMONARY EDEMA)
- PULMONARY EDEMA	- CPAP - ET INTUBATION (use caution with diuretics due to pump failure and hypotension)
- 3rd DEGREE HEART BLOCK - NOT RESPONSIVE TO ATROPINE	TRANSCUTANEOUS or TRANSVENOUS PACING



CASE STUDY 2: STEMI**CHIEF COMPLAINT and SIGNIFICANT HISTORY:**

46 y/o Female walks into ED TRIAGE, with chief complaint of EPIGASTRIC PAIN, NAUSEA and WEAKNESS. Symptoms have been intermittent for last two days. She was awakened early this morning with the above symptoms, which are now PERSISTENT.

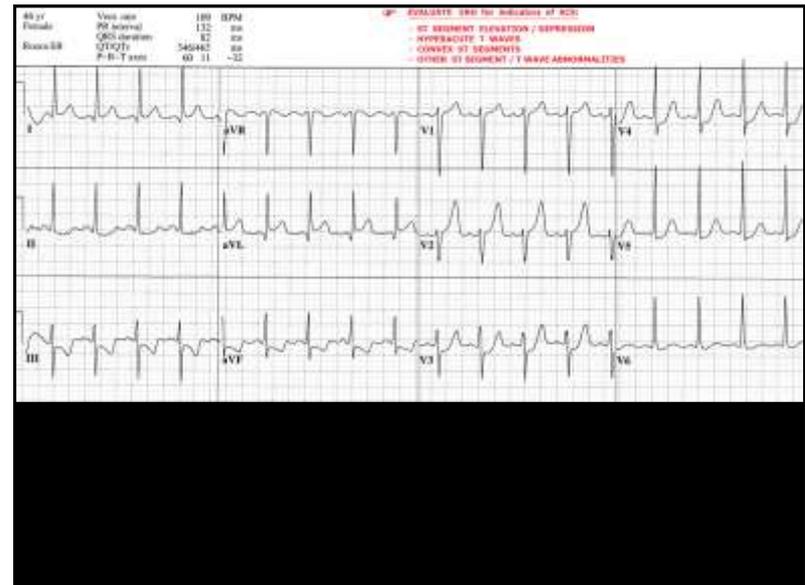
RISK FACTOR PROFILE:

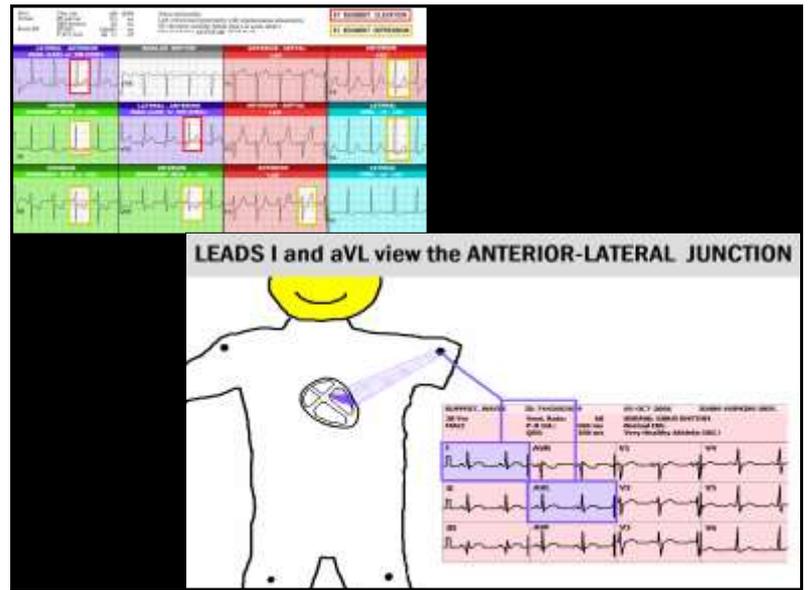
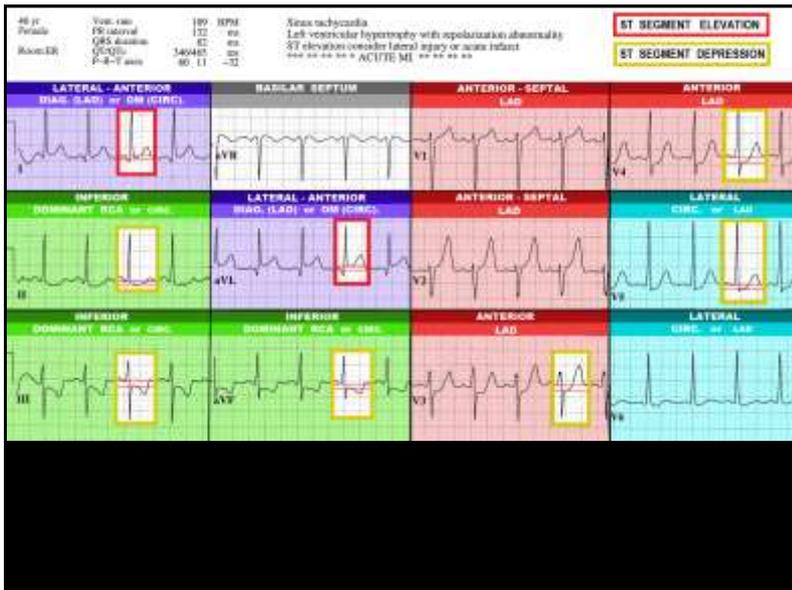
- 🔴 FAMILY HISTORY - father died of CAD, older brother had CABG, age 39
- 🔴 DIABETES - diet controlled
- 🔴 HYPERTENSION

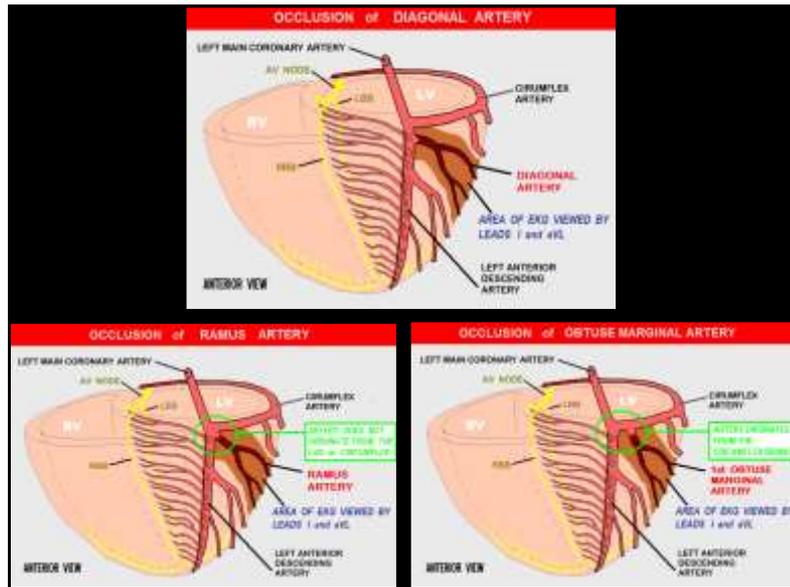
PHYSICAL EXAM: Pt CADx4, anxious, SKIN cold, clammy, diaphoretic. No JVD.
Lungs: clear, bilaterally. Heart Sounds: Normal S1, S2.

VITAL SIGNS: BP: 168/98, P: 110, R: 24, SAO2: 97% on O2 4 LPM via nasal canula

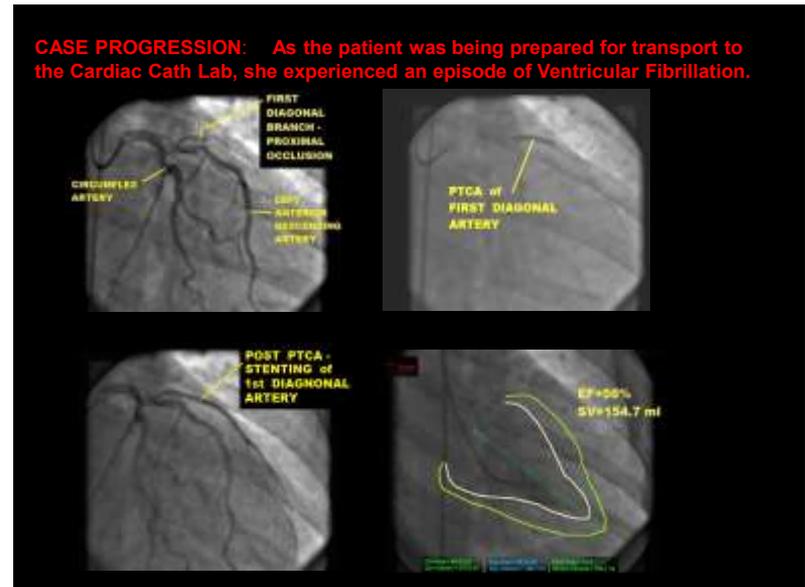
LABS: TROPONIN ultra = 2.8







CASE PROGRESSION: As the patient was being prepared for transport to the Cardiac Cath Lab, she experienced an episode of Ventricular Fibrillation.



CASE STUDY 3: STEMI**CHIEF COMPLAINT and SIGNIFICANT HISTORY:**

29 y/o male presents to the ER c/o "HEAVY CHEST PRESSURE" x 30 minutes. The patient states he was playing football with friends after eating a large meal. Pt. also c/o nausea. Denies DIB.

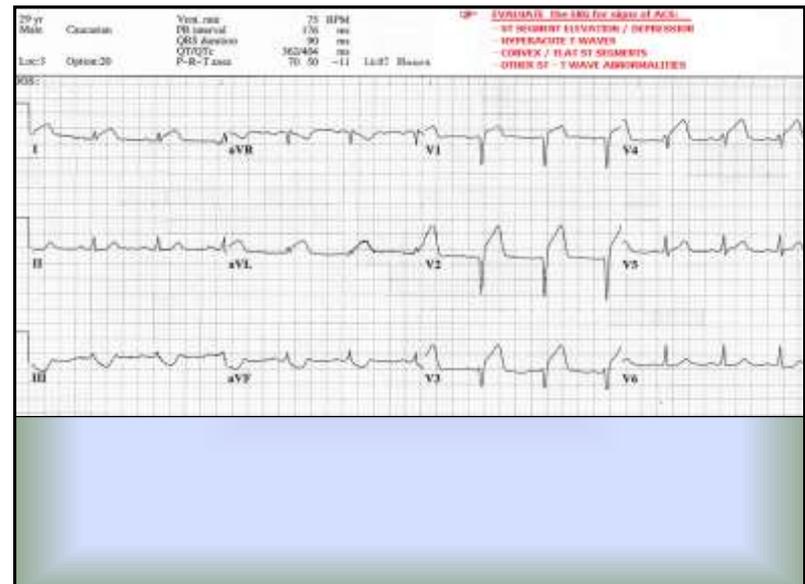
RISK FACTOR PROFILE:

- 🔴 **FAMILY HISTORY** - father died of MI age 46
- 🔴 **CURRENT CIGARETTE SMOKER**
- 🔴 **"MILD" HYPERTENSION** - untreated
- ☑️ **CHOLESTEROL** - unknown - "never had it checked."

PHYSICAL EXAM: Patient alert, oriented X 4, skin cool, dry, pale. Patient restless. No JVD, Lungs clear bilaterally. Heart sounds normal S1, S2. No peripheral edema.

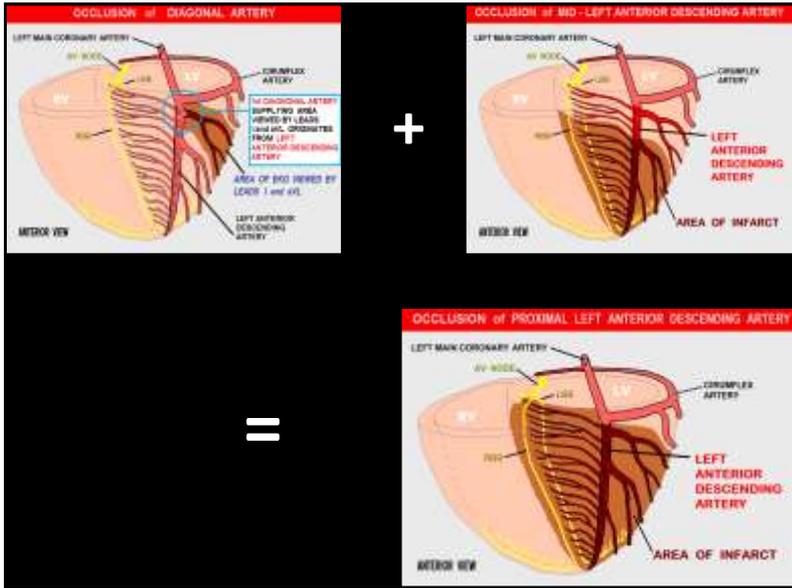
VITAL SIGNS: BP: 104/78, P: 76, R: 20, SAO2: 96%

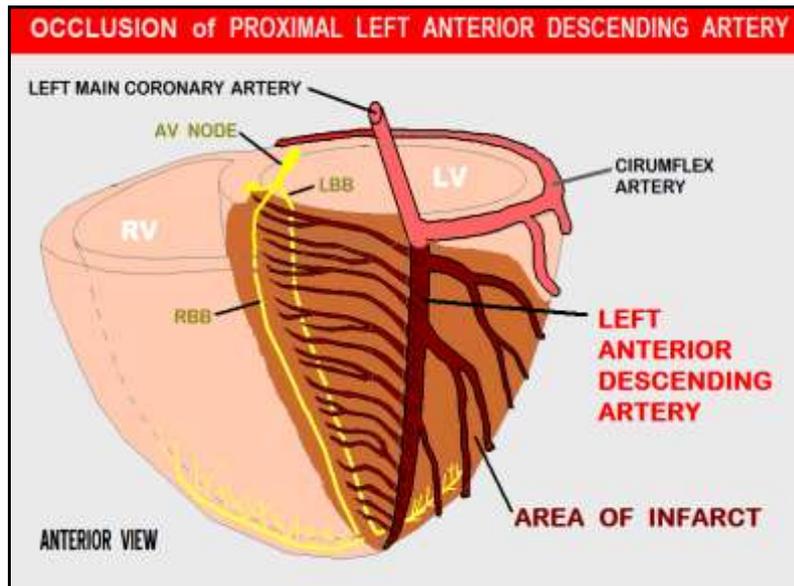
LABS: INITIAL CARDIAC MARKERS - NEGATIVE





- Reciprocal ST Depression is NOW PRESENT
- Additional ST Elevation is present in Leads I, AVL



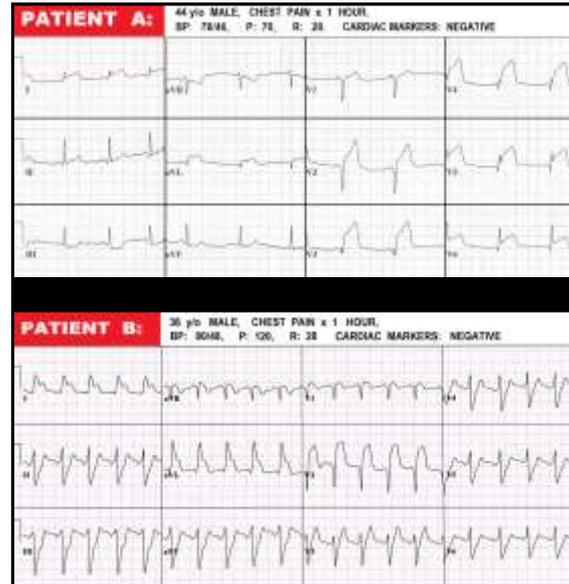


ANTICIPATED COMPLICATIONS of ANTERIOR-SEPTAL WALL STEMI & POSSIBLE INDICATED INTERVENTIONS:	
- CARDIAC ARREST	BCLS / ACLS
- CARDIAC DYSRHYTHMIAS (VT / VF)	ACLS (antiarrhythmics)
- PUMP FAILURE with CARDIOGENIC SHOCK	INOTROPE THERAPY: -DOPAMINE / DOBUTAMINE / LEVOPHED - INTRA-AORTIC BALLOON PUMP (use caution with fluid challenges due to PULMONARY EDEMA)
- PULMONARY EDEMA	- CPAP - ET INTUBATION (use caution with diuretics due to pump failure and hypotension)
- 3rd DEGREE HEART BLOCK - NOT RESPONSIVE TO ATROPINE	TRANSCUTANEOUS or TRANSVENOUS PACING

CASE STUDY 4: CRITICAL DECISIONS SCENARIO

As per current AHA recommendations, your hospital's policy is to send every STEMI patient to the Cardiac Catheterization Lab for emergency PCL.

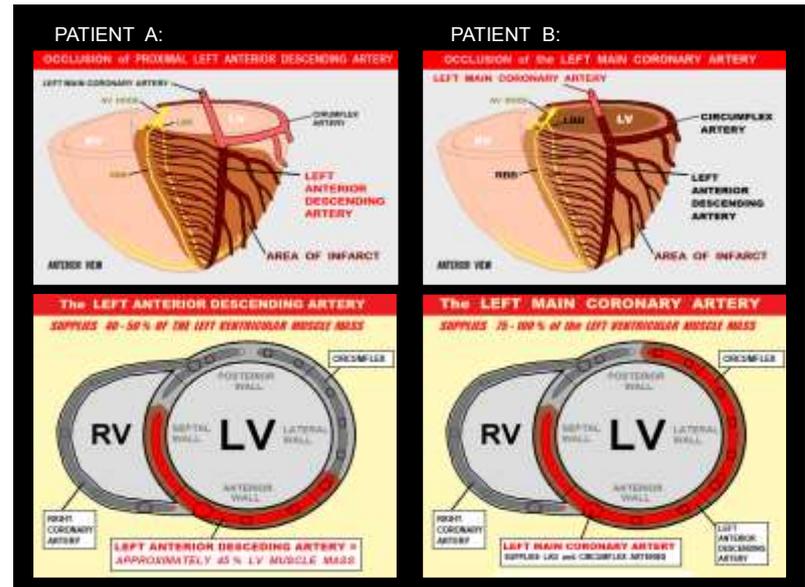
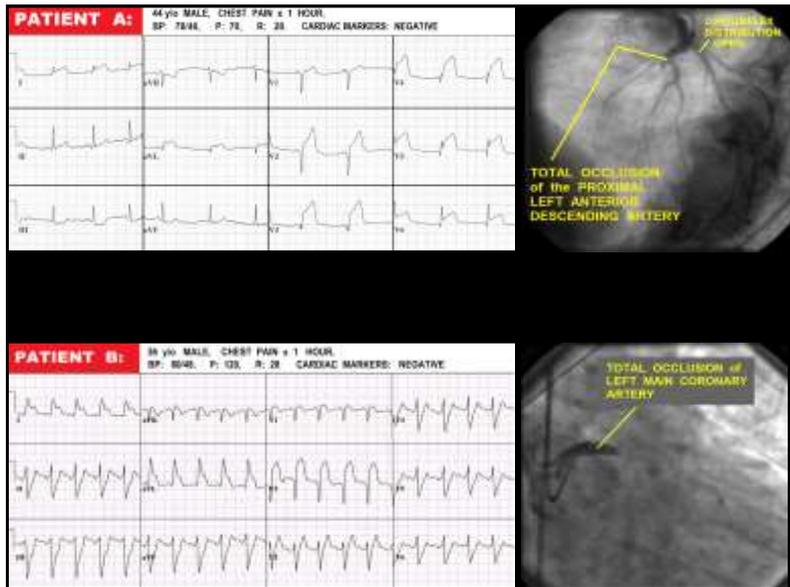
You are the ranking medical officer on duty in the ED when two acute STEMI patients arrive, ten minutes apart. The Cath Lab has one lab open, and can take ONE patient immediately. Both patients duration of symptoms and state of hemodynamic stability are similar.



WHO SHOULD GO TO THE CATH LAB FIRST ?

And

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH THE PATIENT WHO DID NOT GO TO THE CATH LAB ?



ECG Clues... for IDENTIFYING STEMI CAUSED BY LEFT MAIN CORONARY ARTERY occlusion:

- ST ELEVATION in ANTERIOR LEADS (V1-V4) and LATERAL LEADS (V5 & V6)
- ST DEPRESSION or ISOELECTRIC POINTS may be seen in V LEADS... mainly V2 and/or V3 caused by COMPETING FORCES of ANTERIOR vs. POSTERIOR WALL AC.
- NOTE: It is very unusual to see ST DEPRESSION in V LEADS with below
- ST ELEVATION in AVR is GREATER THAN ST ELEVATION in V1
- ST ELEVATION in LEAD I and AVL (caused by NO FLOW to DIAGONAL / OBTUSE MARGINAL BRANCHES)
- ST DEPRESSION in LEADS II, III, and AVF (in case of LMCA occlusion of DOMINANT CIRCUMFLEX, leads II, III, and AVF may show ST ELEVATION or ISOELECTRIC POINTS)
- ST NEW / PRESUMABLY NEW BBIBL, and/or LEFT ANTERIOR BRANCH BLOCK

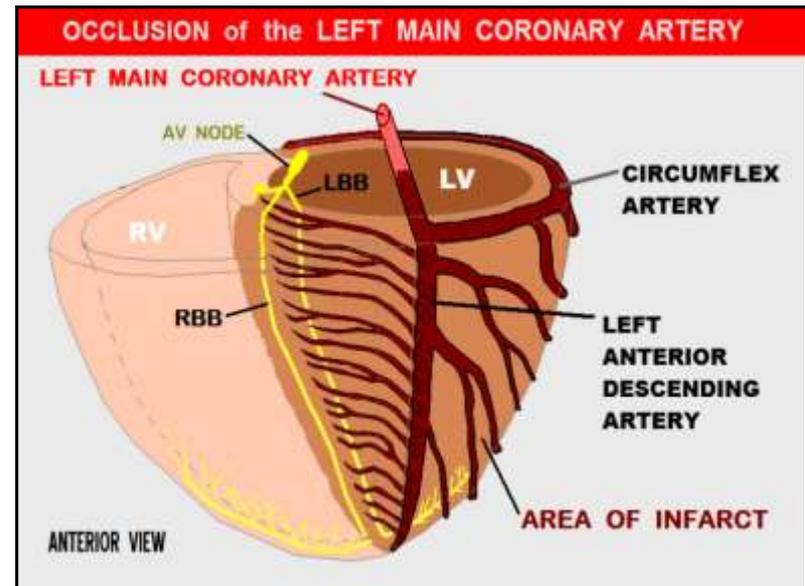
800 CLUES OF ACUTE STEMI CAUSED BY LEFT MAIN CORONARY ARTERY OCCLUSION:

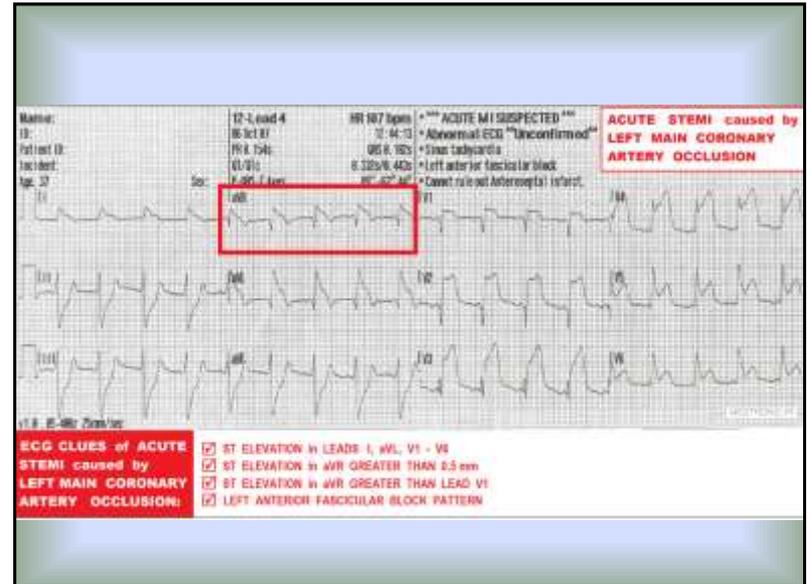
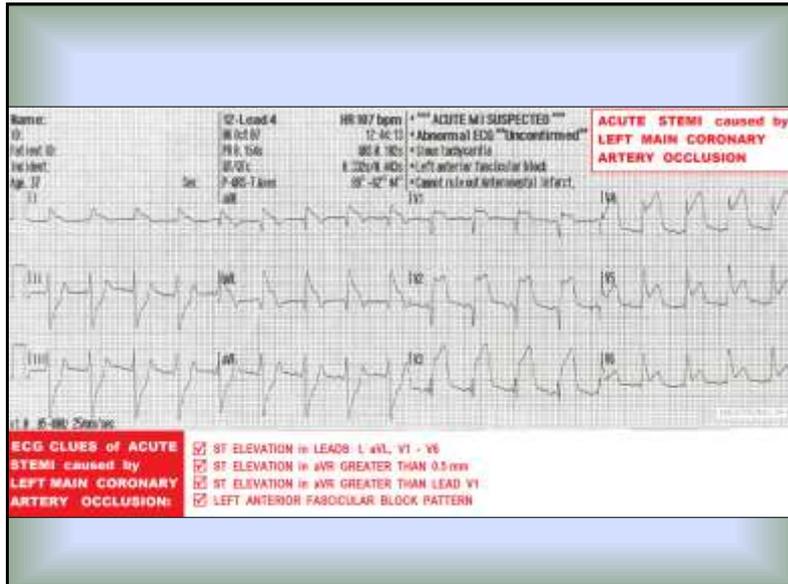
- ST ELEVATION in AVR (2mm) + ST ELEVATION in V1 (2mm)
- ST ELEVATION in II, III, and AVF OR DEPRESSION in II, III, and AVF OR DEPRESSION in V1
- LEFT BRANCH BUNDLE BLOCK PATTERN
- ST SEGMENT ELEVATION
- ST SEGMENT DEPRESSION

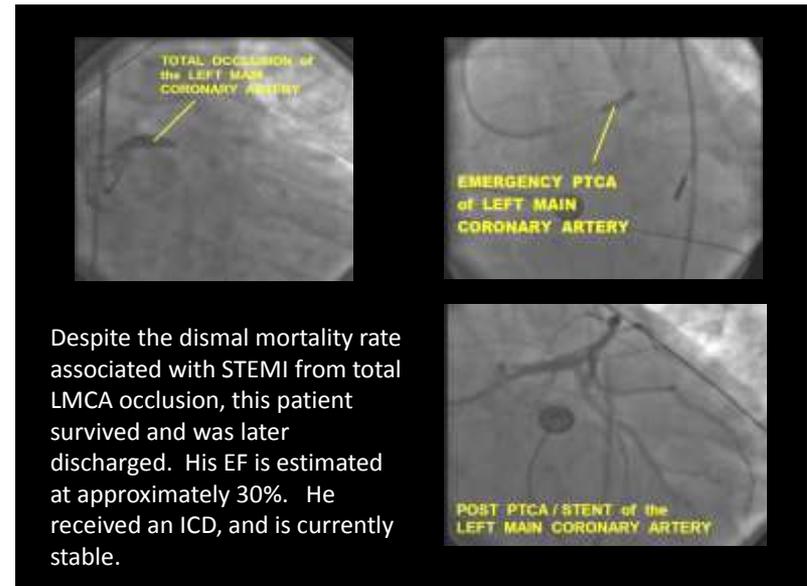
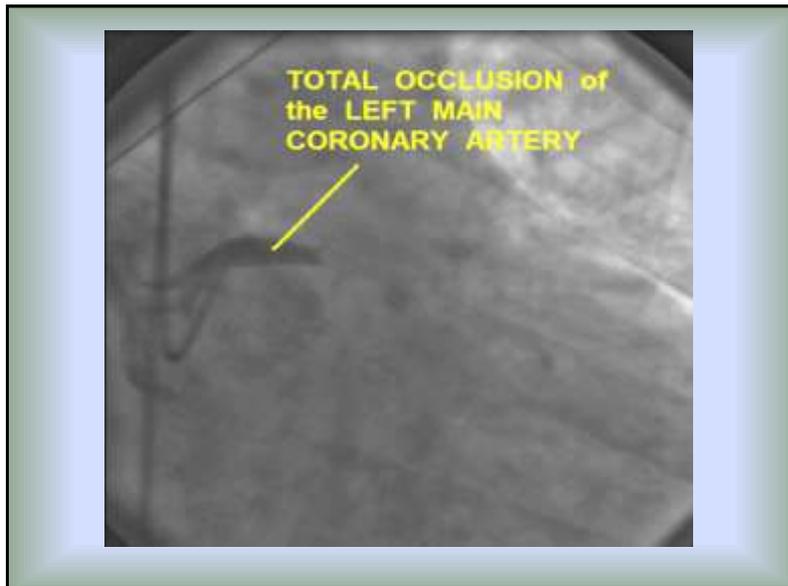
Lead AVR Views the BASILAR SEPTUM (region of the Bundle of His)

SUPPER, WAYNE	DOB: 7/4/58 (59)	05-OCT-2006	JOHNS HOPKINS UNIV.
38 Yrs	Vert. Kater: 68		
MALE	P-R Int.: 180 ms	Normal ECG	NORMAL SINUS RHYTHM
	QRS: 100 ms		Very Healthy Athletic ECG!

In STEMI with ST-Segment Elevation in Lead AVR, This is indicative of Left Main Coronary Artery Occlusion . . .







CASE STUDY 4: CRITICAL DECISIONS SCENARIO**CONCLUSIONS:**

QUESTION 1: WHICH PATIENT SHOULD BE TAKEN FIRST FOR IMMEDIATE CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION for EMERGENCY PCI ?

ANSWER: PATIENT B was taken emergently to the Cardiac Cath Lab - both the ED physician and the Interventional Cardiologist correctly identified the EKG patterns of LMCA occlusion.

QUESTION 2: WHAT COURSE OF ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH THE PATIENT NOT CHOSEN TO BE SENT TO THE CATH LAB FIRST?

ANSWER: PATIENT A received thrombolytic therapy in the ED. It was determined that THROMBOLYTIC THERAPY would achieve the FASTEST ROUTE to REPERFUSION –
– by at least 60 minutes.

ECG Clues ... for IDENTIFYING STEMI CAUSED BY LEFT MAIN CORONARY ARTERY occlusion:

- ☑ ST ELEVATION in ANTERIOR LEADS (V1 - V4) and LATERAL LEADS (V5 & V6)
- ☑ ST DEPRESSION or ISOELECTRIC J POINTS may be seen in V LEADS ... mainly V2 and/or V3 caused by *COMPETING FORCES* of ANTERIOR vs. POSTERIOR WALL MI ⁺⁺
 - NOTE: it is very unusual to see ST DEPRESSION in V LEADS with isolated ANTERIOR WALL MI when caused by occluded LAD.
- ☑ ST ELEVATION in AVR is GREATER THAN ST ELEVATION in V1 ⁺⁺
- ☑ ST ELEVATION in AVR GREATER THAN 0.5 mm
- ☑ ST ELEVATION in LEAD I and AVL (caused by NO FLOW to DIAGONAL / OBTUSE MARGINAL BRANCHES) ⁺
- ☑ ST DEPRESSION in LEADS II, III, and AVF (in cases of LMCA occlusion of DOMINANT CIRCUMFLEX, leads II, III, and AVF may show ST ELEVATION or ISOELECTRIC J POINTS) ⁺⁺
- ☑ NEW / PRESUMABLY NEW RBBB, and/or LEFT ANTERIOR FASCICULAR BLOCK ⁺⁺

⁺⁺ Kurisu et al. HEART 2004, SEPTEMBER: 99 (9): 1059-1060

⁺ Yamaji et al. JACC vol 38, No. 5, 2001, November 5, 2001:1348-54

[Yamaji et al, JACC vol 38, No 5, 2001: 1348-54](#)

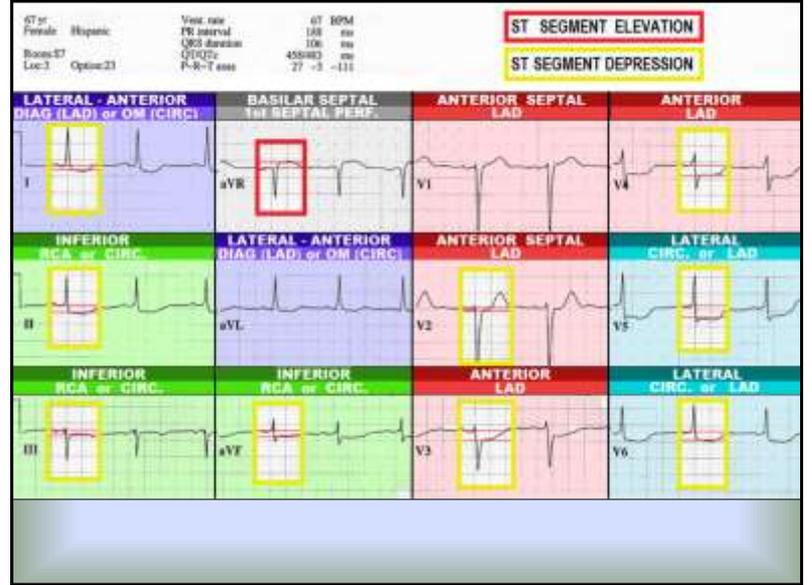
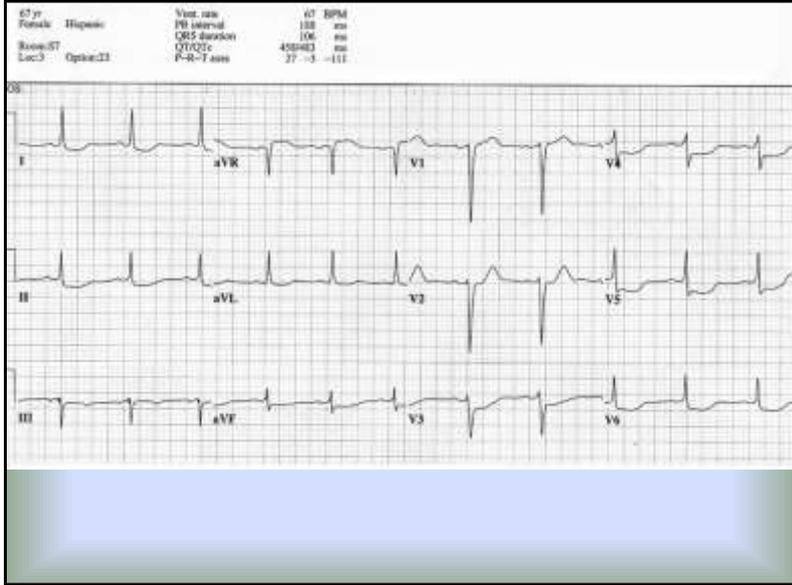
[Electrocardiogram patterns in acute left main occlusion: J Electrocardiol. 2008 Nov-Dec;41\(6\):626-9.](#)

In patients without STEMI, ST Elevation in AVR, when seen with global indications of ischemia (ST Depression in 8 leads or more), is indicative of advanced multi-vessel disease or significant Left Main Coronary Artery stenosis

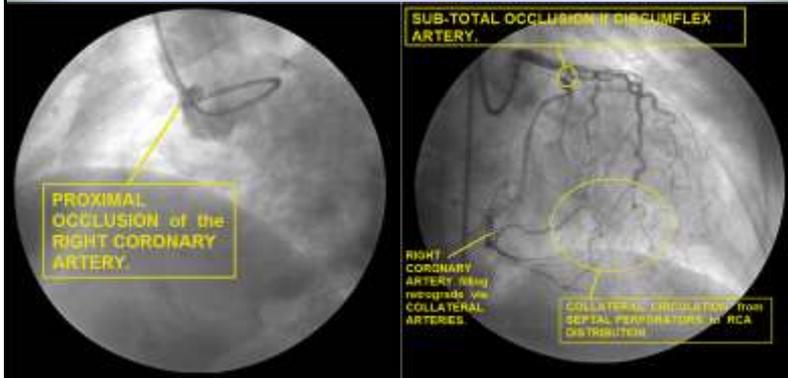
“In patients with:

- **Angina at rest**
- **ST Elevation in AVR and ST Depression in 8 or more ECG leads (global ischemia), it is reported with a *75% predictive accuracy* of 3-vessel or left main coronary artery stenosis” . . .**

- [Wagner et al, 2009 ACC/AHA Standardization and Interpretation of the ECG, Part VI, ACS.](#)



**Critical Triple Vessel Disease =
STAT Coronary Artery Bypass
Surgery**



ANTICIPATED COMPLICATIONS of GLOBAL ISCHEMIA with POSSIBLE NSTEMI -- INTERVENTIONS to be CONSIDERED:	
Patients with CHEST PAIN at REST and this ECG presentation have a 75% incidence of severe LMCA STENOSIS and/or TRIPLE - VESSEL DISEASE -- in such cases Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery (CABG) is frequently indicated.	PREHOSPITAL: if patient has no hospital preference consider transport to Chest Pain Center WITH Open Heart Surgery capabilities IF nearby. HOSPITAL: consider use of SHORT-ACTING intravenous GP IIb/IIIa receptor agonists
- ACTIVE CHEST PAIN	ACUTE CHEST PAIN PROTOCOL
- ISCHEMIA - CONSIDER DYSRHYTHMIAS	ACLS PROTOCOL
- INCREASED PROBABILITY of IMMEDIATE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION	1. AGGRESSIVE SERIAL TROPONIN and SERIAL ECG PROTOCOLS (2014 AHA / ACC / NSTE-ACS Guidelines) 2. Positive TROPONIN: consider STAT / early Cardiac Catheterization

Excerpt from ***STEMI Assistant***

CASE STUDY 7 - STEMI**CHIEF COMPLAINT and SIGNIFICANT HISTORY:**

46 yr. old MALE arrives in ER, C/O SUDDEN ONSET OF CHEST PRESSURE 45 MINUTES AGO. PAIN IS CONSTANT, PRESSURE-LIKE, AND NOT EFFECTED BY POSITION, MOVEMENT or DEEP INSPIRATION. ALSO C/O D.I.B.

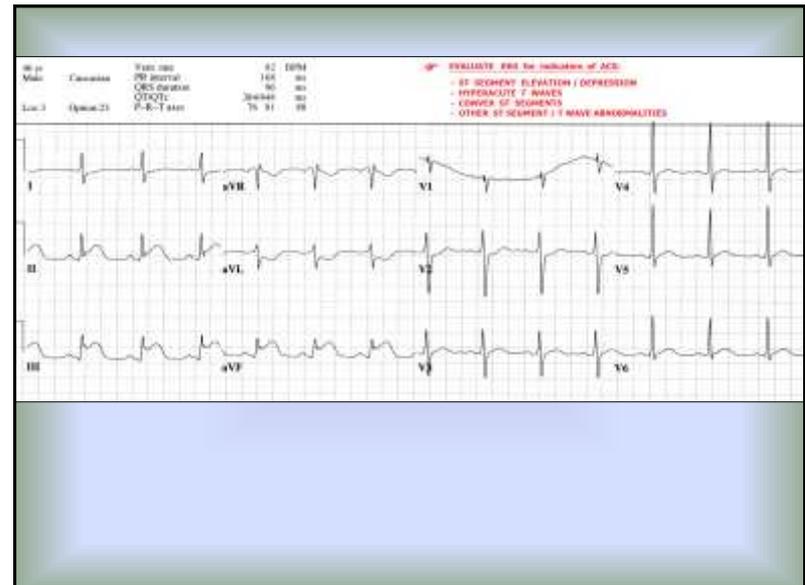
RISK FACTOR PROFILE:

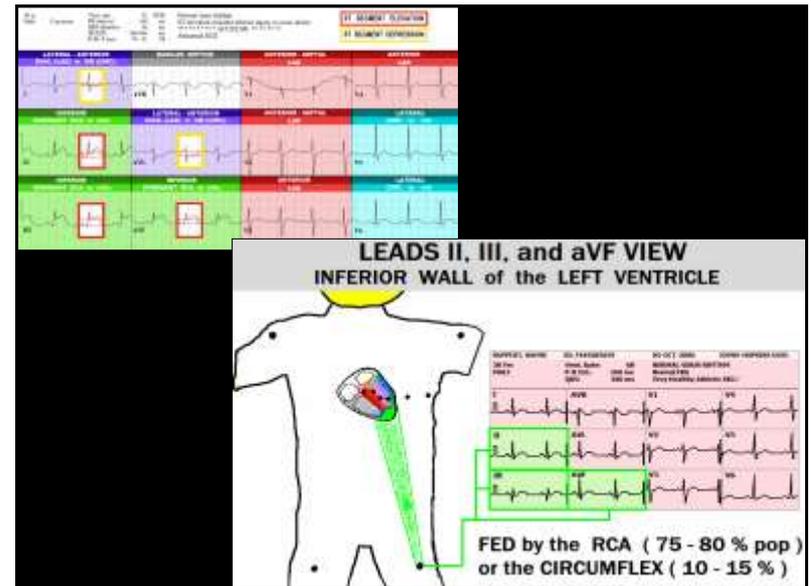
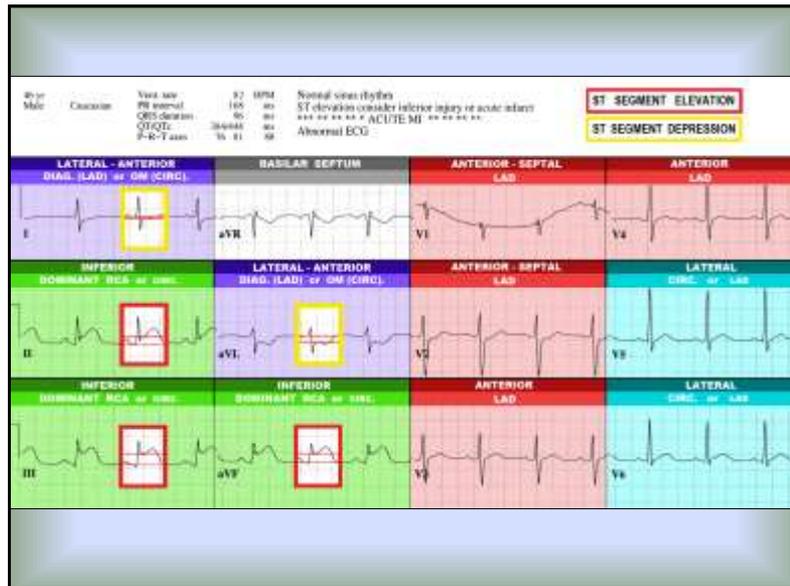
- 🔴 CURRENT CIGARTE SMOKER x 18 YEARS
- 🔴 HYPERTENSION
- 🔴 HIGH LDL CHOLESTEROL

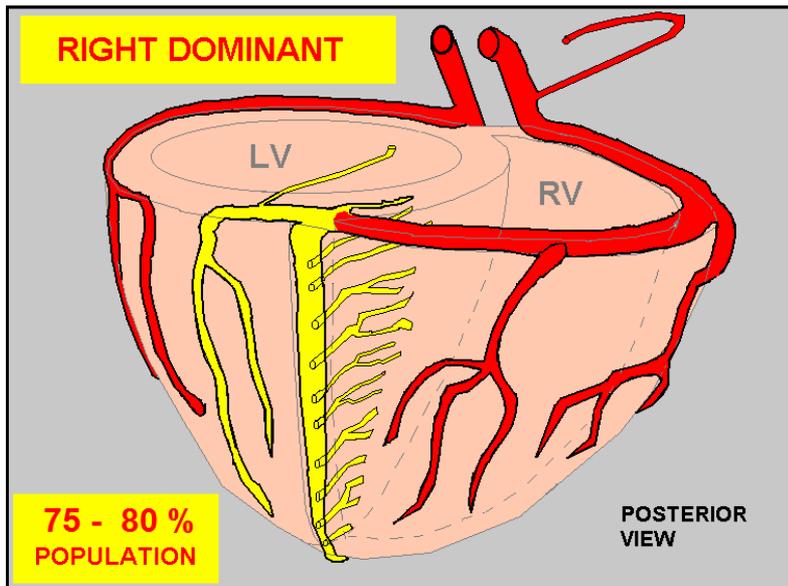
PHYSICAL EXAM: Patient is alert & oriented x 4, skin warm, dry, color normal. Non-anxious
Lungs clear, normal S1, S2. No JVD, No ankle edema.

VITAL SIGNS: BP: 136/88 P: 88 R: 20 SAO2: 100% on 4 LPM O2

LABS: TROPONIN: < .04



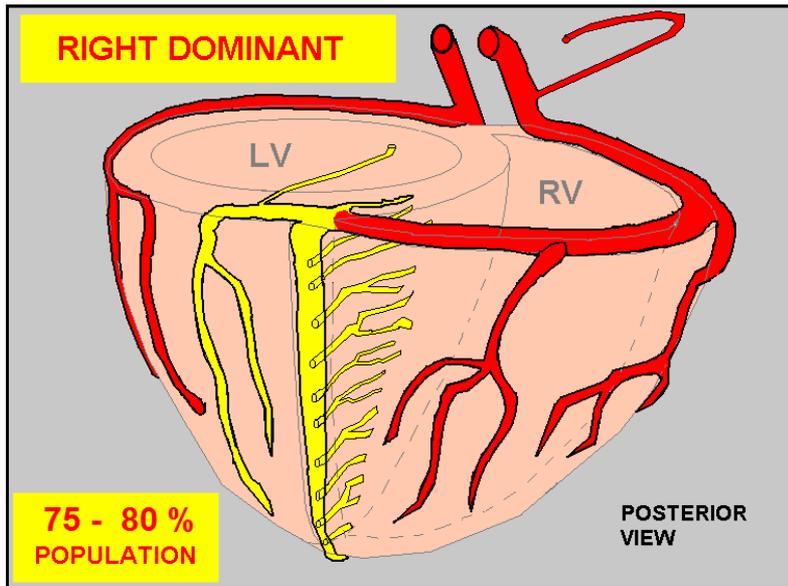




HELPFUL HINT... MEMORIZE THIS!

RIGHT CORONARY ARTERY (RCA) RIGHT DOMINANT SYSTEMS

- ▶ **RIGHT ATRIUM**
- ▶ **SINUS NODE** (55% of the population)
- ▶ **RIGHT VENTRICLE** - 100 % of muscle mass
- ▶ **LEFT VENTRICLE:** 15 - 25 % of muscle mass
 - **INFERIOR WALL**
 - approx. 1/2 of **POSTERIOR WALL**
- ▶ **AV NODE**



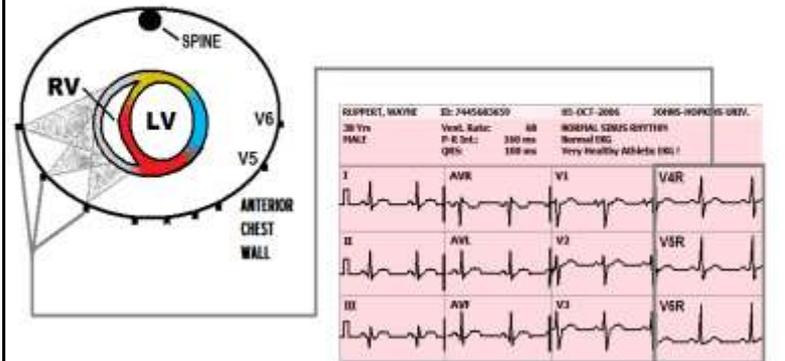
A standard
12 LEAD EKG
Does NOT show the
RIGHT VENTRICLE

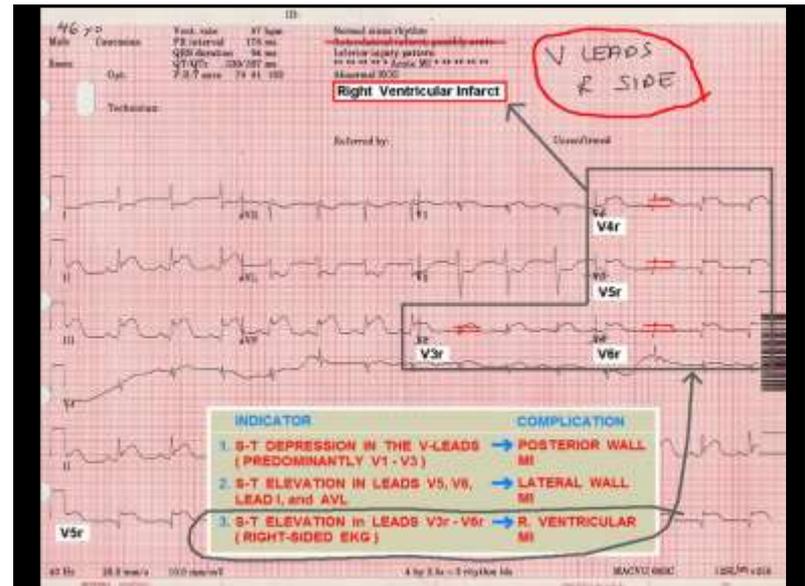
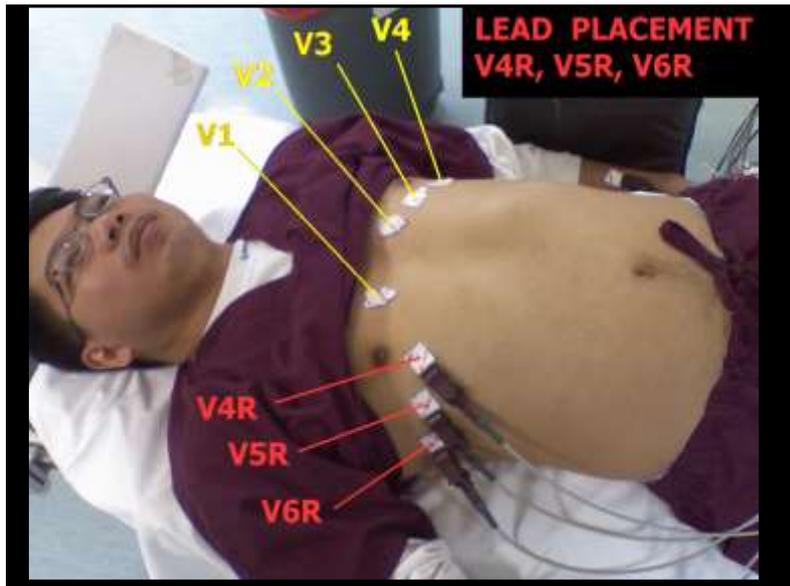
To see the
RIGHT VENTRICLE ...

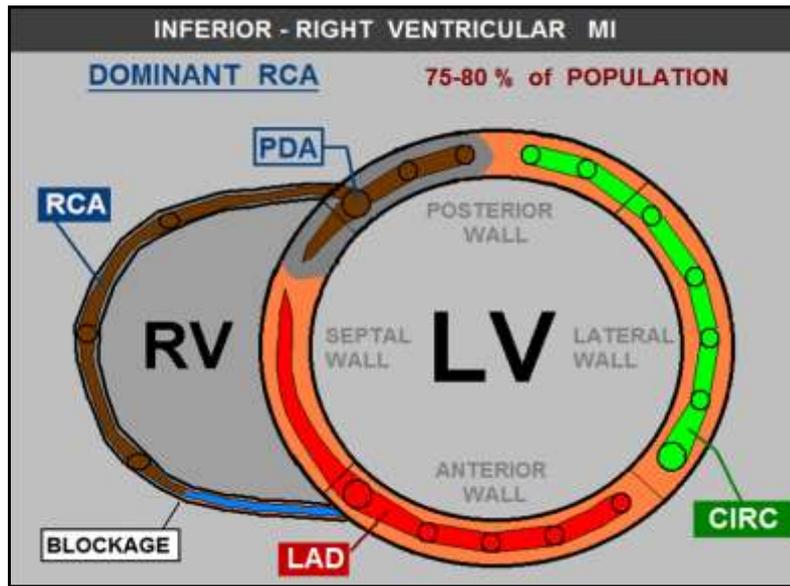
... such as in cases of
INFERIOR WALL M.I.

👉 You must do a
RIGHT - SIDED EKG !!

V4R - V6R VIEW THE RIGHT VENTRICLE



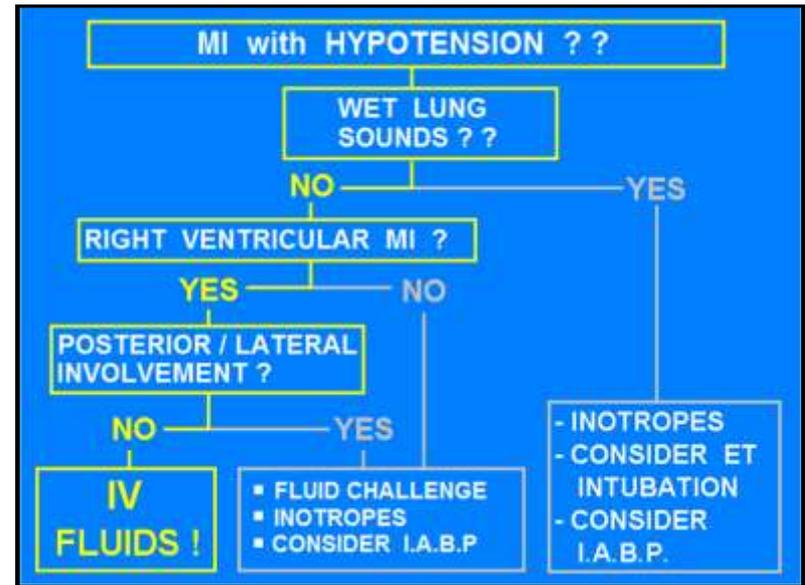


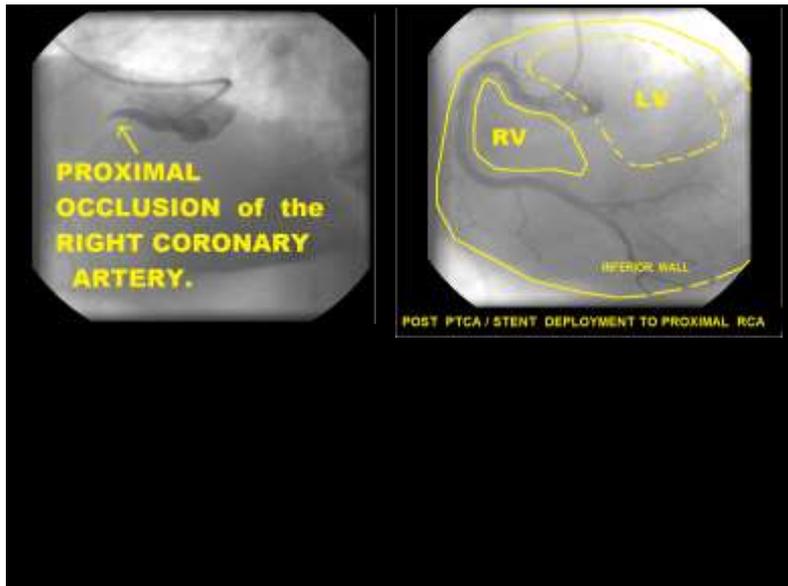


ANTICIPATED COMPLICATIONS of INFERIOR WALL STEMI secondary to RCA Occlusion & POSSIBLE INDICATED INTERVENTIONS:

- CARDIAC ARREST	BCLS / ACLS
- CARDIAC DYSRHYTHMIAS (VT / VF)	ACLS (antiarrhythmics)
- SINUS BRADYCARDIA	ATROPINE 0.5mg, REPEAT as needed UP TO 3mg. (follow ACLS and/or UNIT protocols)
- HEART BLOCKS (1st, 2nd & 3rd Degree HB)	ATROPINE 0.5mg, REPEAT as needed UP TO 3mg, Transcutaneous Pacing, (follow ACLS and/or UNIT protocols)
- RIGHT VENTRICULAR MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The standard 12 Lead ECG does NOT view the Right Ventricle. - You must do a RIGHT-SIDED ECG to see if RV MI is present. - Do NOT give any Inferior Wall STEMI patient NITRATES or DIURETICS until RV MI has been RULED OUT.
- POSTERIOR WALL INFARCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - POSTERIOR WALL MI presents on the 12 Lead ECG as ST DEPRESSION in Leads V1 - V3. - POSTERIOR WALL MI is NOT PRESENT ON THIS ECG.

If this patient becomes
HYPOTENSIVE





IN *EVERY* CASE of

INFERIOR WALL STEMI

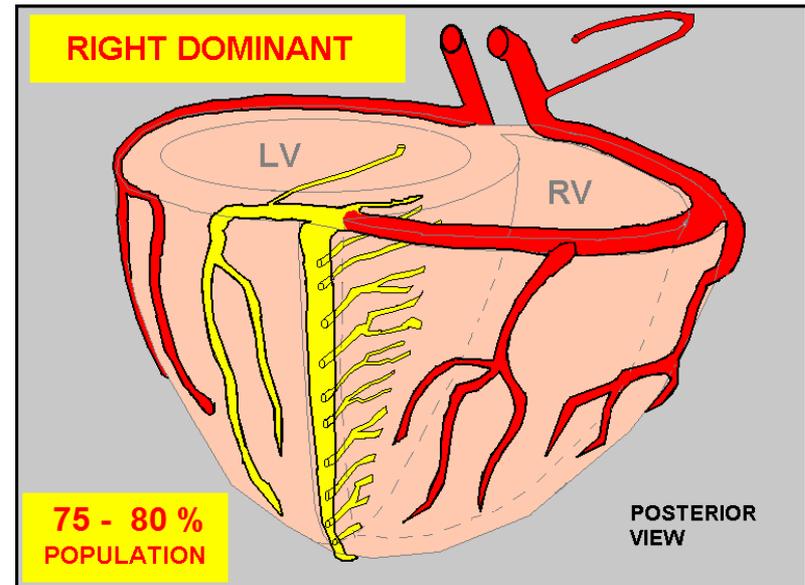
You must first *RULE OUT*
RIGHT VENTRICULAR MI
BEFORE giving any:

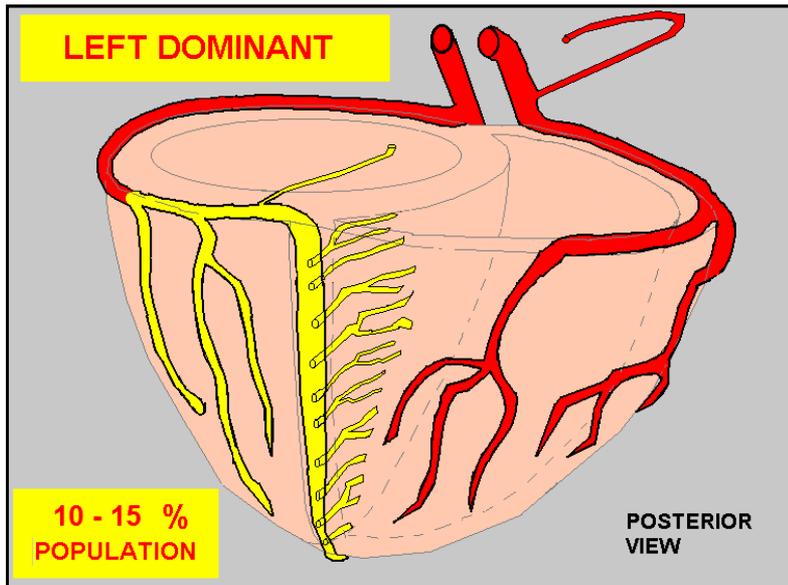
- NITROGLYCERIN
- Diuretics

**Nitroglycerin & Diuretics
are
CLASS III CONTRINDICATED
in
RIGHT VENTRICULAR MI !!***

**They precipitate SEVERE
HYPOTENSION**

* A.H.A. ACLS 2010 / 2015





CASE STUDY 9 - STEMI

CHIEF COMPLAINT and SIGNIFICANT HISTORY:

42 y/o MALE arrived via EMS, c/o "HEAVY CHEST PRESSURE," SHORTNESS of BREATH X 40 min. He has experienced V-FIB and been DEFIBRILLATED multiple times

RISK FACTOR PROFILE:

- 🚬 CIGARETTE SMOKER
- 🩺 HYPERTENSION
- 🩺 HIGH LDL CHOLESTEROL

PHYSICAL EXAM: Patient is alert & oriented x 4, ANXIOUS, with COOL, PALE, DIAPHORETIC SKIN, C/O NAUSEA, and is VOMITING. LUNG SOUNDS: COARSE CRACKLES, BASES, bilaterally

VITAL SIGNS: BP: 80/40 P: 70 R: 32 SAO2: 92% on 15 LPM O2

LABS: TROPONIN: < .04

SHOCK ASSESSMENT		
LOC:	ANXIOUS RESTLESS LETHARGIC UNCONSCIOUS	AWAKE ALERT & ORIENTED
SKIN:	PALE / ASHEN CYANOTIC COOL DIAPHORETIC	NORMAL HUE WARM DRY
BREATHING:	TACHYPNEA	NORMAL
PULSE:	WEAK / THREADY TOO FAST or SLOW	STRONG
STATUS:	🔥 SHOCK 🔥	NORMAL

42 yr Male Caucasian
 Vitals: HR 100, RR 20, SpO2 98%, P-R-T axis 14 28 81

EVALUATE EKG for indicators of ACS:

- ST SEGMENT ELEVATION / DEPRESSION
- HYPERACUTE T WAVES
- CONVEX ST SEGMENTS
- OTHER ST SEGMENT / T WAVE ABNORMALITIES

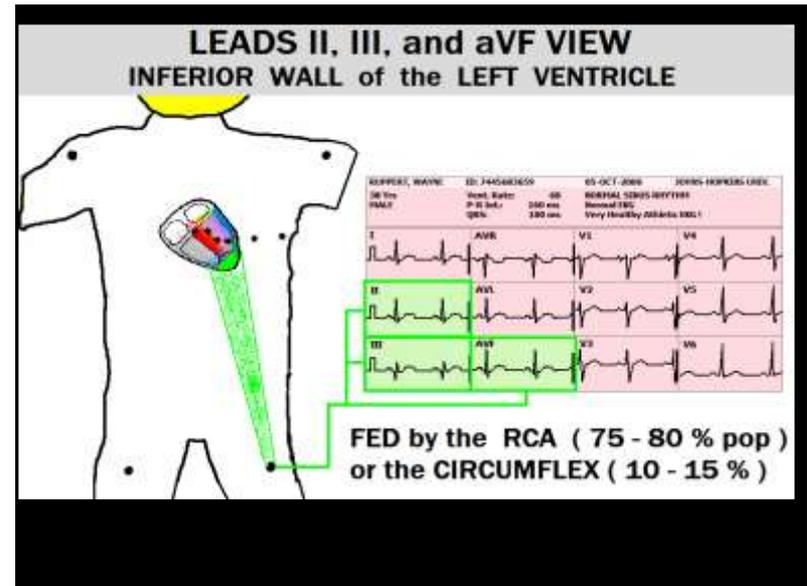
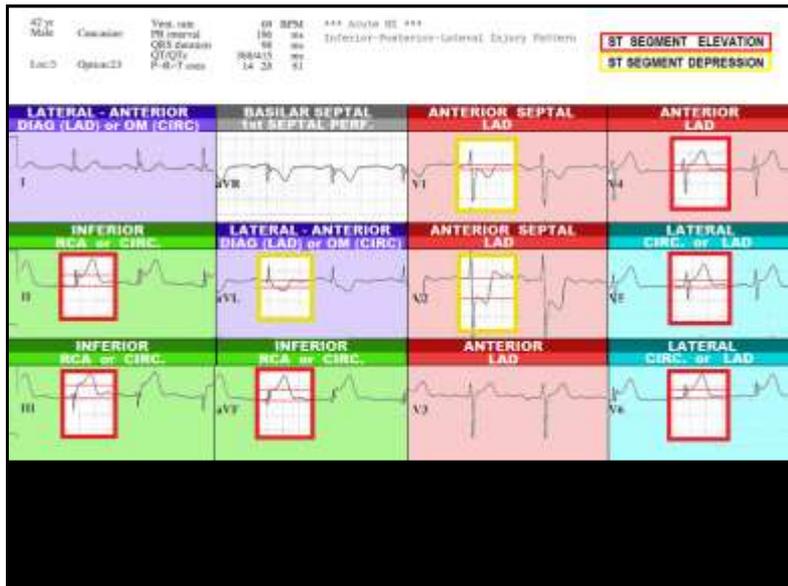
CASE STUDY QUESTIONS:

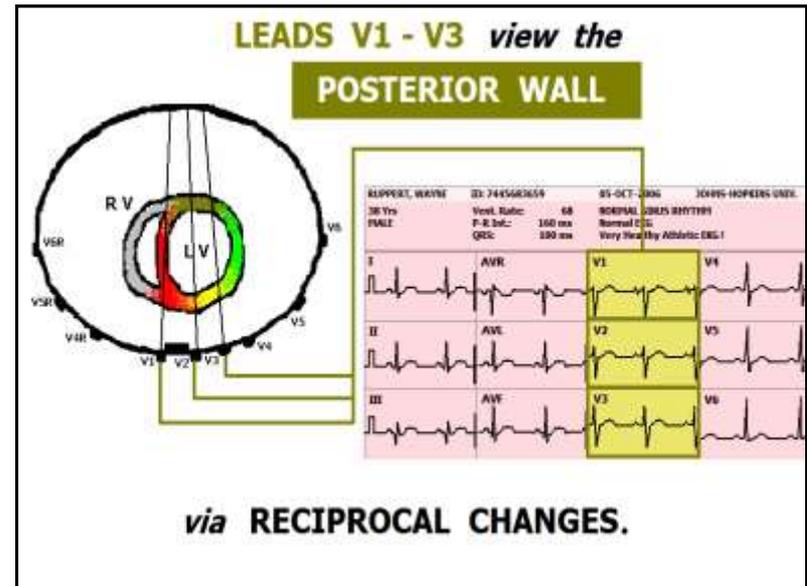
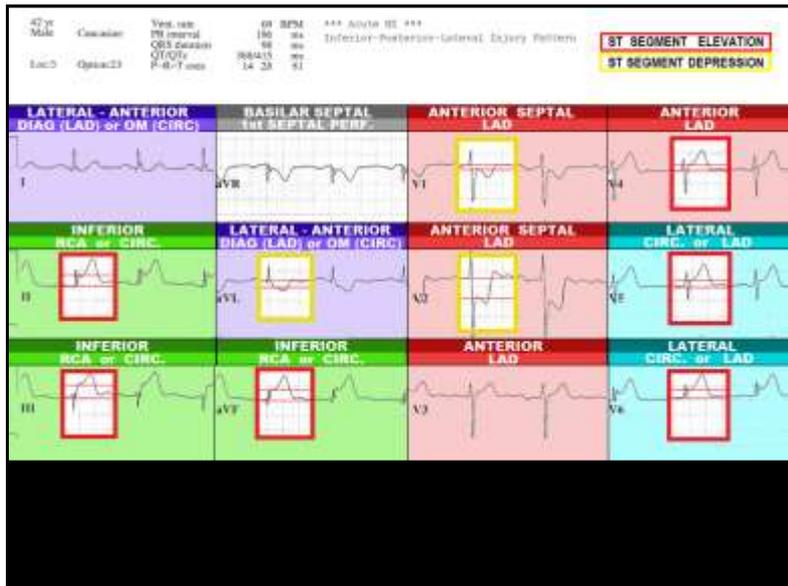
NOTE LEADS WITH ST ELEVATION: _____ NOTE LEADS WITH ST DEPRESSION: _____

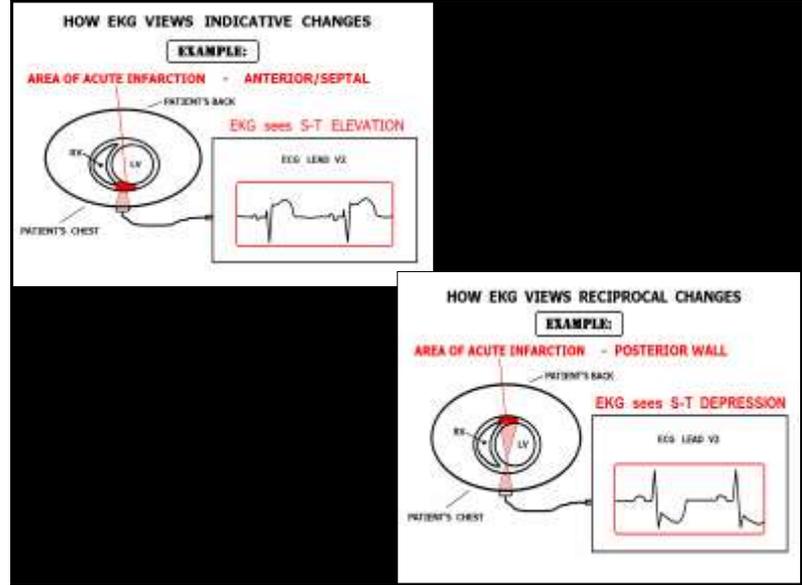
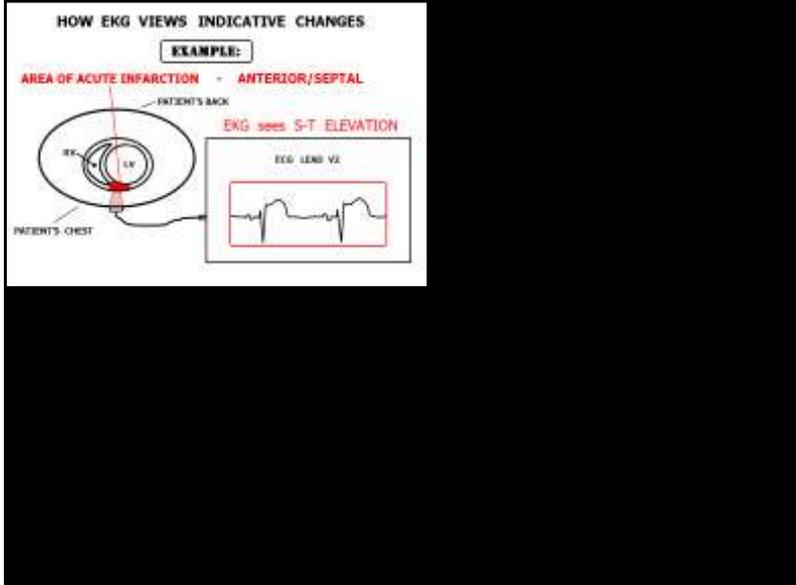
WHAT IS THE SUSPECTED DIAGNOSIS ? _____

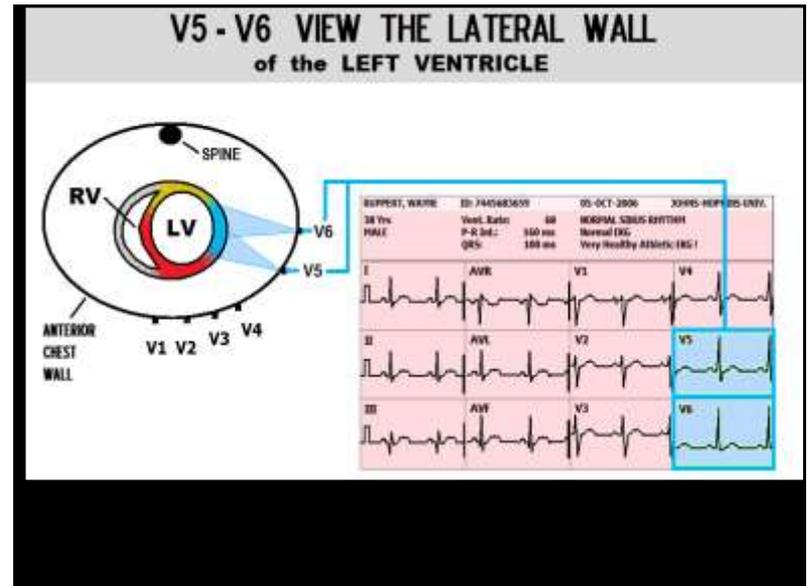
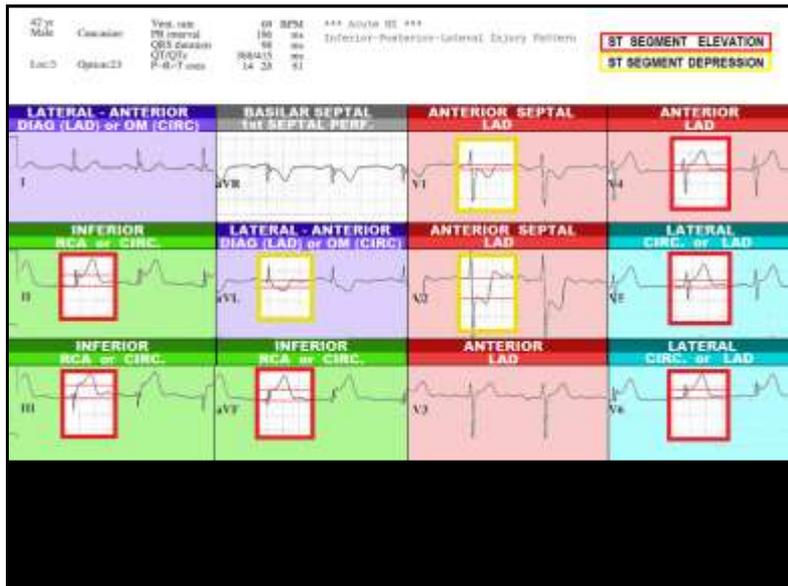
WHAT IS THE "CULPRIT ARTERY" – if applicable ? _____

LIST ANY CRITICAL STRUCTURES COMPROMISED: _____ LIST ANY POTENTIAL COMPLICATIONS: _____



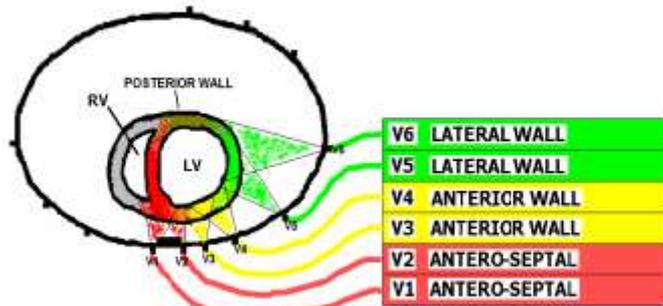






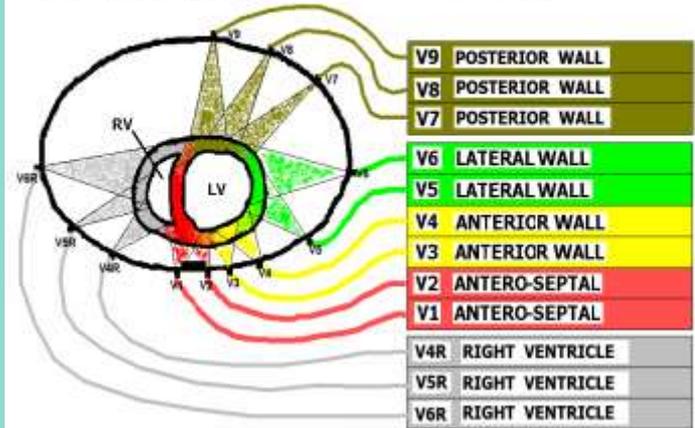
THE 12 LEAD ECG HAS TWO MAJOR BLIND SPOTS . .

CHEST LEADS V1 - V6
WHAT EACH LEAD "SEES" . . .



THE 18 LEAD ECG COVERS THE ENTIRE HEART . .

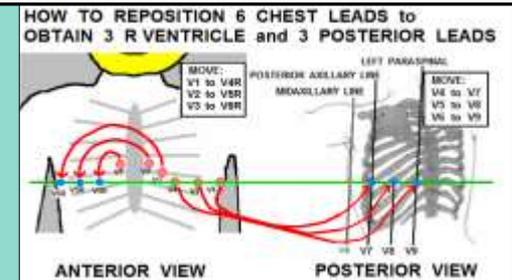
CHEST LEADS V1 - V6 PLUS V4R, V5R, V6R, and V7, V8, V9
WHAT EACH LEAD "SEES" . . .



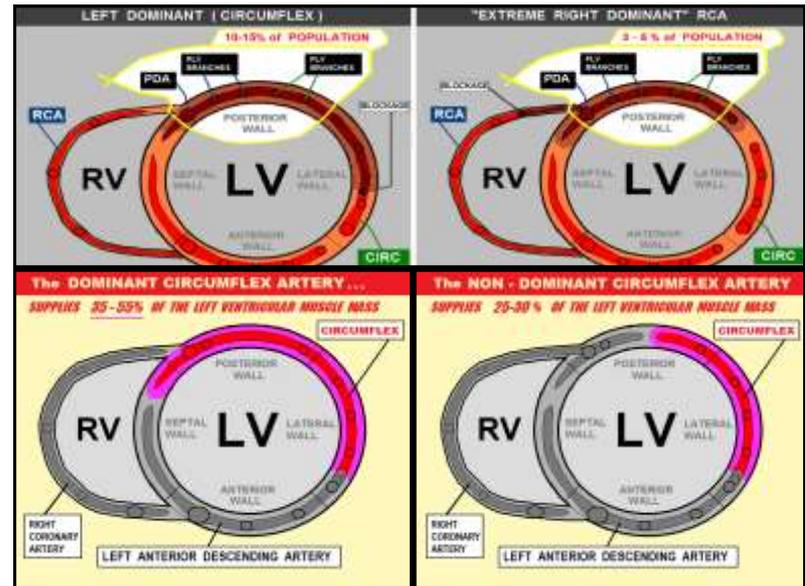
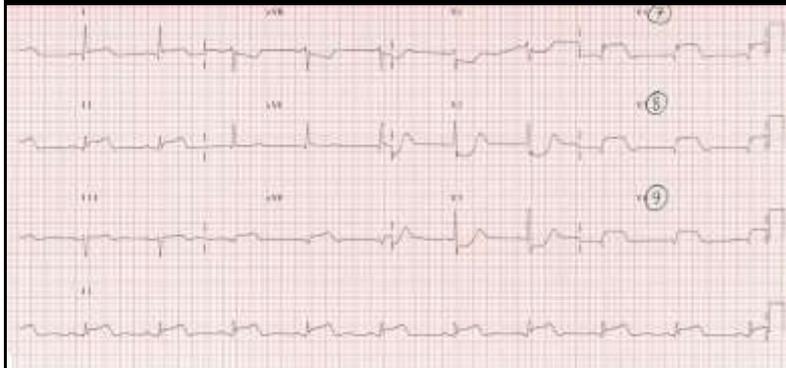
INDICATIONS for 18 Lead ECG with 12 Lead machine – after you obtain 12 Lead, reposition CHEST LEADS to this configuration, then print !

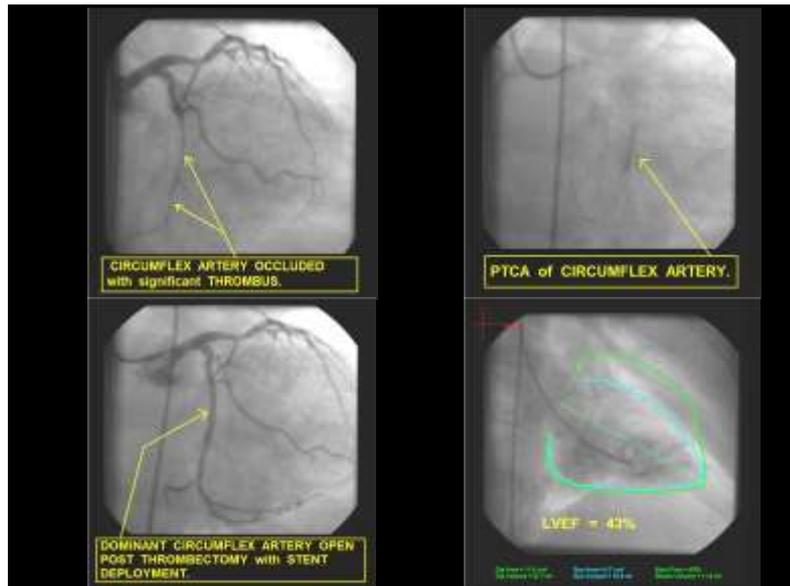
- INFERIOR WALL MI
- ST Depression in LEADS V1-V4

To do 18 Lead ECG with 12 Lead machine – after you obtain 12 Lead, reposition CHEST LEADS to this configuration, then print !



Posterior wall STEMI – ST Elevation
V7 – V9





CASE STUDY SUMMARY		
ST ELEVATION: II, III, aVF, V5, V6	ST DEPRESSION: V1 - V3, POSSIBLY I and aVL	
SUSPECTED DIAGNOSIS: ACUTE INFERIOR - POSTERIOR - LATERAL MI		
SUSPECTED "CULPRIT ARTERY" (if applicable): OCCLUSION of DOMINANT CIRCUMFLEX ARTERY		
IMMEDIATE CONCERNS FOR ALL STEMI PATIENTS:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BE PREPARED TO MANAGE SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST (PRIMARY V-FIB / V-TACH, BRADYCARDIAS / HEART BLOCKS) • STAT REPERFUSION THERAPY: THROMBOLYTICS vs. CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION and PCI • CONSIDER NEEDS FOR ANTI-PLATELET and ANTI-COAGULATION THERAPY 		
CRITICAL STRUCTURES COMPROMISED:	POTENTIAL COMPLICATIONS:	POSSIBLE CRITICAL INTERVENTIONS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 - 55% of LV MUSCLE MASS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → POSSIBLE SEVERE LV PUMP FAILURE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → INOTROPIC AGENTS → ET INTUBATION → I.A.B.P. INSERTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SA NODE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → SINUS BRADYCARDIA / SINUS ARREST 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → ATROPINE → TRANSCUTANEOUS PACING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AV NODE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → HEART BLOCKS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → ATROPINE → TRANSCUTANEOUS PACING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT of PAPILLARY MUSCLE INSERTION to BASE of LV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → ACUTE PAPILLARY MUSCLE TEAR and MITRAL VALVE REGURGITATION (7 - 10 DAYS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → INOTROPIC AGENTS → DIURETICS → EMERGENCY SURGERY



[CLICK HERE](#) to download "A SHORT Course in LONG QT Syndrome," a focused excerpt from:

American College of Cardiology
Accreditation Services
University of Colorado at Boulder (formerly Denver)

19th CONGRESS MIAMI
May 25-27, 2016
www.aacg.org/congress

Elements of Sudden Cardiac Death Prevention Programs

The American College of Cardiology
Accreditation Services
19th Congress – Miami, FL – May 25, 2016

Wayne Ruppert, CVT, CCCC, NREMT-P

To download presentation in PDF: visit: www.ECGtraining.org select: "Downloads - PDF"

Brief, focused ECG excerpts from the “19th Congress, American College of Cardiology Accreditation Services” national conference, Miami, 2016.....

Prevalence

SADS Foundation Stats:

- Each year in the United States, 350,000 Americans die suddenly and unexpectedly due to cardiac arrhythmias. Almost 4,000 of them are young people under age 35. (CDC 2002)
- In 30%–50% of sudden cardiac deaths, it is the first clinically identified expression of heart disease
- [10-12% of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome \(SIDS\) cases are due to Long QT Syndrome.](#)
- LQTS is now known to be 3 times more common in the US than childhood leukemia.
- 1 in 200,000 high school athletes in the US will die suddenly, most without any prior symptoms—*JAMA* 1996; 276

The SADS Conditions:

- [Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy \(HCM\)](#)
- [Long QT Syndrome \(LQTS\)](#)
- [Short QT Syndrome \(SQTS\)](#)
- [Brugada Syndrome \(BrS\)](#)
- [Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Dysplasia \(ARVD\)](#)
- [Catecholaminergic Polymorphic Ventricular Tachycardia \(CPVT\)](#)
- [Wolff-Parkinson-White \(WPW\) Syndrome](#)
- [Commotio Cordis](#)
- **Less-common conditions (e.g. [Marfans](#), [Ehlers-Danlos](#), [Loeys-Dietz Syndromes](#))**

Estimated SADS Prevalence in US Population:

- HCM: 1/500 [J Am Coll Cardiol. 2014;64](#)
- BrS: 1/2,500 SADS Foundation
- LQTS: 1/2,500 [Lenhart,SE 2007 AHA Circ](#)
- ARVD: 1/10,000 SADS Foundation
- CPVT: 1/10,000 [US Nat'l Library of Medicine](#)
- WPW: 1/1,000 [Circulation.2011; 124: 746-757](#)

Prevalence

Sudden Deaths in Young Competitive Athletes

[B Maron et al; AHA Circulation.2009; 119: 1085-1092](#)

Analysis, causes of 1866 Deaths in the US, 1980 –2006:

- Cardiovascular: 56%
- Traumatic: 22%
- Commotio Cordis: 3%
- Heat Stroke: 2%
- Other: 17%

Prevalence

Adverse Drug Reactions: Torsades de Pointes secondary to QT prolonging medications:

- Occur in and out of hospital
- Underreported
- Medical community undereducated
- 7,000 in-hospital ADRs / year (all cause)
- Major issue with pharmaceutical industry, many drugs removed from market due to high incidence of TdP and TdP associated mortality

**Compared to sudden death from CAD,
SADS mortality prevalence is low,
HOWEVER**

- Nearly EVERY SADS death is a NEEDLESS TRAGEDY that could have been AVOIDED with appropriate screening and management.
- Many SADS victims are infants, children and young adults who are otherwise healthy.
- Sudden death is often the first symptom of SADS
- Diagnosed and managed properly, SADS patients can live long, productive and happy lives



**Leave the detailed ECG
diagnosis to the cardiologist.**



Leave the detailed ECG diagnosis to the cardiologist.

However every critical care nurse, paramedic or other professional who reads an ECG should be aware of some important clues . . .

Q - T INTERVAL

**- VARIES BASED
ON HEART RATE
AND SEX**

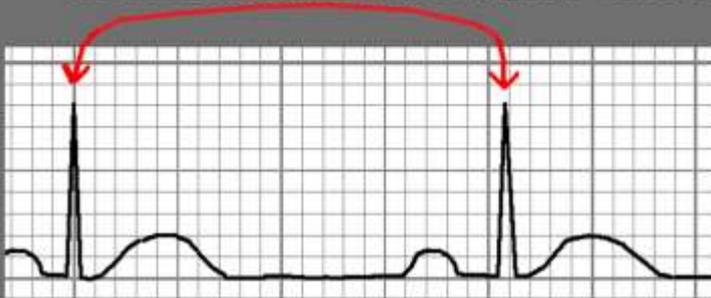


DETERMINING Q-T INTERVAL LIMITS

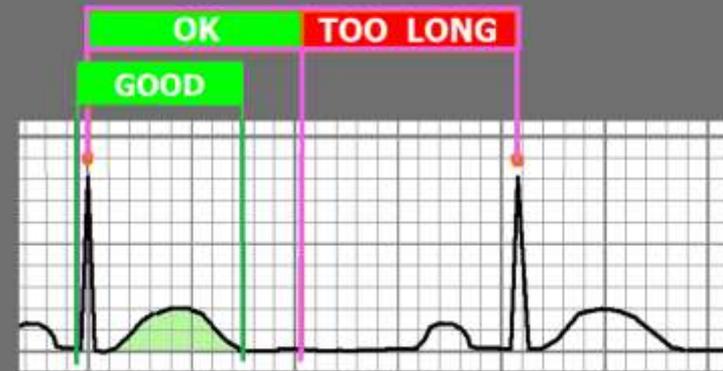
THE "QUICK PEEK" METHOD

☞ Relatively accurate method to quickly identify patients with abnormal QT Intervals.

- Applies to patients with normal heart rates (60-100) and narrow QRS (QRSd < 120ms)



The Q - T Interval should be LESS THAN 1/2 the R - R Interval



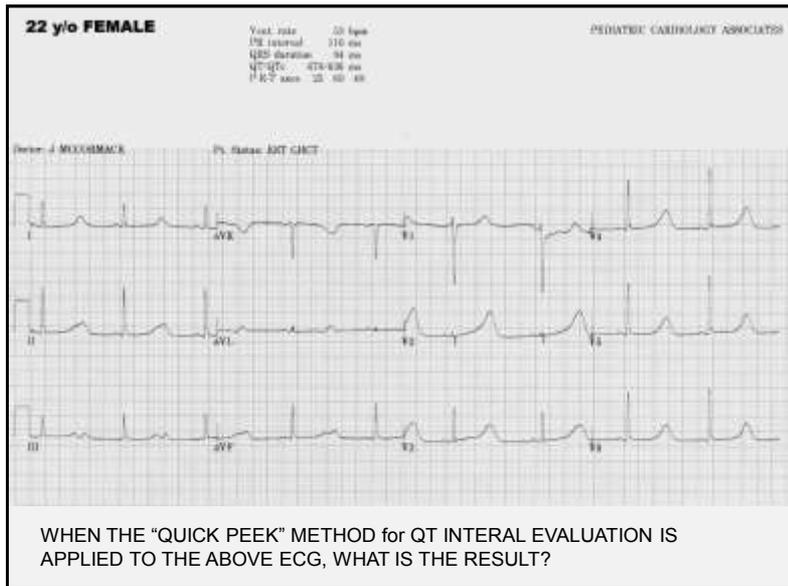
The Q - T Interval
should be LESS THAN 1/2 the
R - R Interval



Determining the QT / QTc

Method 1 – 12 Lead ECG Report:





QTc Values:

Too Short:	< 390 ms
Normal	
-Males:	390 - 450 ms
-Females:	390 - 460 ms
Borderline High	
-Males:	450 - 500 ms
-Females:	460 - 500 ms
High (All Genders):	500 - 600 ms
Critical High (associated with TdP):	600 + ms

SOURCE: "ACC/AHA/HRS Recommendations for Standardization and Interpretation of the ECG, Part IV: The ST Segment, T and U Waves, and the QT Interval" Rautaharju et al 2009

Dysrhythmia Associated with Mortality, Triggered by LQTS: *Torsades de Pointes*



Torsades de Pointes (TdP) – HEMODYNAMICS:

- Decreased – to – NO Cardiac Output
- Often patient PULSELESS during episode
- Patients often report SYNCOPE when TdP self-terminates.
- May DETERIORATE into VENTRICULAR FIBRILLATION and CARDIAC ARREST. (“Sudden Death”)

ECG Characteristics of TdP: The QRS Pattern of *Torsades de Pointes* resembles



a piece of Twisted Ribbon !



Etiology of Long QT Syndromes:**Congenital** (14 known subtypes)

Genetic mutation results in abnormalities of cellular ion channels

Acquired

Drug Induced

Metabolic/electrolyte induced

Very low energy diets / anorexia

CNS & Autonomic nervous system disorders

Miscellaneous

Coronary Artery Disease

Mitral Valve Prolapse

PROLONGED Q - T INTERVAL**THINK:**

- CHECK K+ AND MAG LEVELS
- POSSIBILITY OF TORSADES

- QUESTION MEDS THAT PROLONG Q-T

QT Prolongation -- *STAT Intervention:*

 [Avoidance of Meds that are known to prolong the QT Interval. Click here for current list from CREDIBLEMEDS.ORG](#)

Commonly used QT prolonging meds include:

-Amiodarone	-Ritalin	
-Procainamide	-Pseudoephedrine	
-Levaquin	-Haloperidol	
-Erythromycin	-Thorazine	
-Norpace	-Propulcid	
-Tequin	-Zofran	
-Benadryl	-Ilbutilide	<i>and MANY more!</i>

PATIENT 1: NORMAL

PATIENT 2: Genetic susceptibility; sensitivity to QT prolonging drugs:

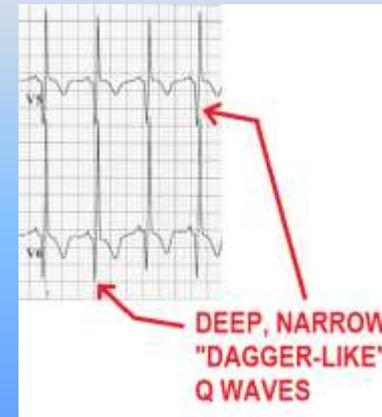


[Click here for link to paper by Kannankeril et al \(2010 Pharmacological Reviews\) that describes genetic susceptibility described above.](#)

ECG Indicators: Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

- ECG may be normal
- Deep, narrow (dagger-like) Q waves

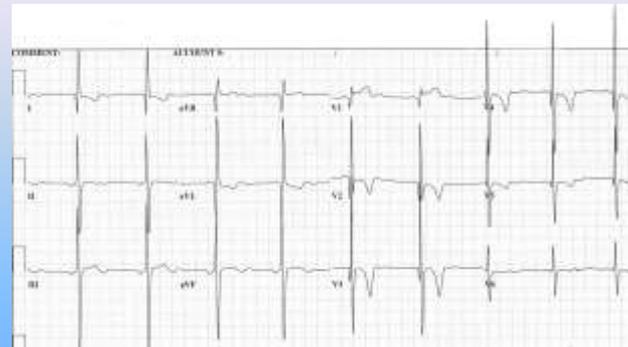
ECG Indicators: Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy



ECG Indicators: Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

- ECG may be normal
- Deep, narrow (dagger-like) Q waves
- Inverted T waves in multiple regions
- [Left Ventricular and possibly Left Atrial Hypertrophy](#)

Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM)



12 Lead ECG Traits:

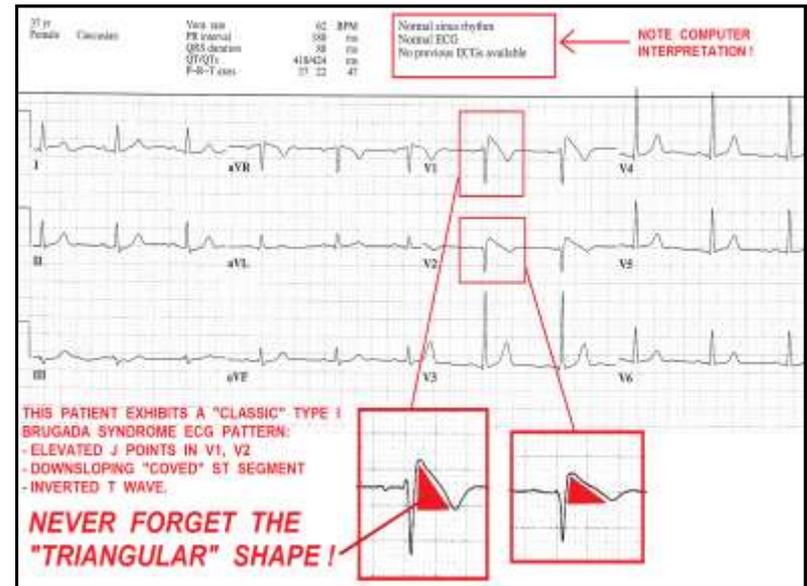
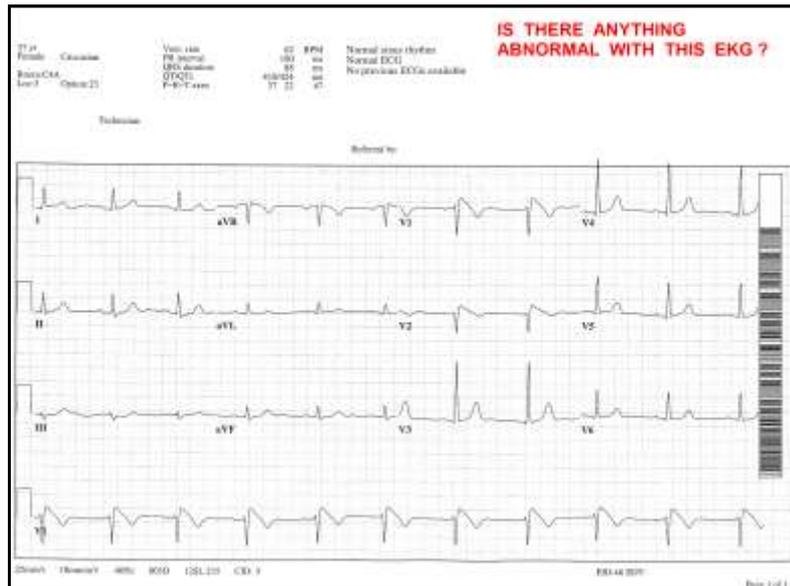
- QRS Height -- exceeds normal size, "spearing through QRS" in other leads
- Inverted T waves appear in multiple regions (ANTERIOR, LATERAL)
- BiPHASIC T waves in Inferior Leads.
- T WAVES are SYMMETRICAL .

ECG Indicators: Brugada Syndrome

BRUGADA SYNDROME

1. RBBB PATTERN
2. J POINT ELEVATION V1, V2 and possibly V3
3. DOWNWARD SLOPING S-T SEGMENT
4. INVERTED T WAVE
5. GIVES S-T SEGMENT A "TRIANGULAR" APPEARANCE





PATTERNS of S-T ELEVATION :



BEWARE of the

"TRIANGULAR"
SHAPED S-T SEGMENT
IN V1, V2, and some-
times also in V3 . . .
THINK - -



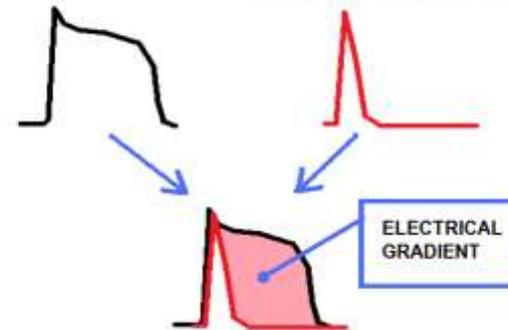
BRUGADA SYNDROME



MECHANISM OF PHASE 2 RE-ENTRY IN BRUGADA SYNDROME

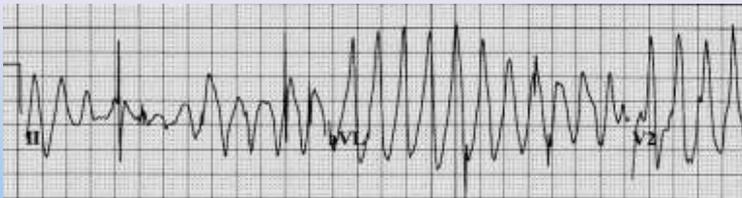
NORMAL ENDOCARDIAL
ACTION POTENTIAL

ALTERED (SHORTENED) ACTION
POTENTIAL OF EPICARDIAL CELLS



Trigger for Torsades de Pointes – ECTOPIC BEAT during
The "ELECTRICAL GRADIENT" phase shown above.

Brugada / Long QT Syndromes cause:



Torsades de Pointes:

- Decreased – to – NO Cardiac Output
- Often patient PULSELESS during episode
- Causes SYNCOPÉ
- Often DETERIORATES into VENTRICULAR FIBRILLATION and CARDIAC ARREST.

WIDE COMPLEX TACHYCARDIA
TORSADES de POINTES (QRS > 120 ms)

ABCs

NO PULSE	PULSE - UNSTABLE	PULSE - STABLE
GO TO V-FIB ALGORITHM	• IMMEDIATE DEFIBILLATION START IV / CONSIDER SEDATION	• O2 / IV / EKG • MAGNESIUM 30/500MG 1-2 gm OVER 5-60 min.

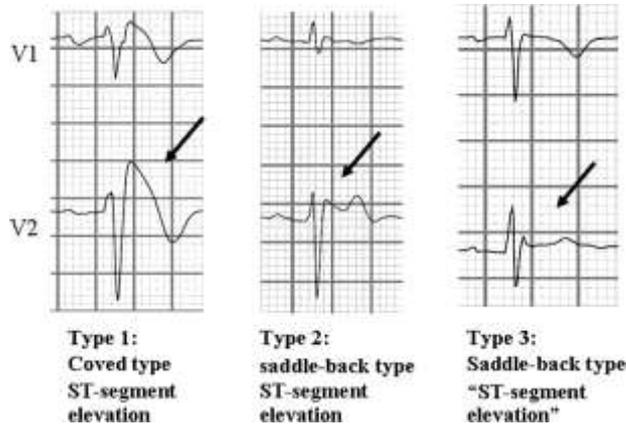
DO NOT give PROCAINAMIDE, AMIODARONE, or SOTALOL to patients with TORSADES or POLYMORPHIC VT !!!

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- EVALUATE BASELINE ECG RHYTHM FOR PROMISED Q-T INTERVAL.
- EVALUATE PATIENT'S MEDS FOR Q-T PROLONGING DRUGS
... IF PATIENT HAS BEEN RECEIVING ANY Q-T PROLONGING DRUGS, IMMEDIATELY DISCONTINUE AND CONTACT PHYSICIAN STAT.
- EVALUATE PATIENT HISTORY FOR PREVIOUS EVENTS OF "SYNCOPE OF UNKNOWN ETIOLOGY"
- EVALUATE PATIENT FOR FAMILY HISTORY FOR SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH

REPORT ANY ABNORMAL FINDINGS TO PHYSICIAN.

ECG abnormality diagnostic or suspected of Brugada syndrome.



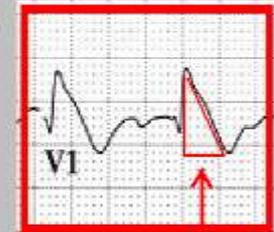
Yuka Mizusawa, and Arthur A.M. Wilde Circ Arrhythm
Electrophysiol. 2012;5:606-616



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BRUGADA SYNDROME

- SEVERAL VARIATIONS of this disorder are known to exist.
- CONCEALED and NON-CONCEALED.
- The NON-CONCEALED version HAS THE V1-V3 abnormality VISIBLE at all times.
- The CONCEALED version - pt. has a NORMAL EKG at most times - a DRUG STUDY, an EP STUDY, and / or GENETIC TESTING must be done to rule out or confirm diagnosis.



Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Dysplasia

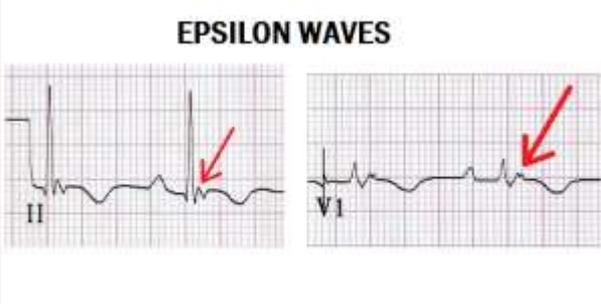
- A genetically acquired myocardial disease associated with paroxysmal ventricular arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death.
- Characterized pathologically by fibro-fatty replacement of the right ventricular myocardium.
- The second most common cause of sudden cardiac death in young people (after HOCM), causing *up to 20% of sudden cardiac deaths in patients < 35 yrs of age*.
- Typically inherited as an autosomal dominant trait, with variable penetrance and expression (there is an autosomal recessive form called [Naxos Disease](#), which is associated with woolly hair and skin changes).
- More common in men than women (3:1) and in people of Italian or Greek descent.
- Estimated to affect approximately 1 in 5,000 people overall.

From: 2014 ACC/AHA Guideline on Perioperative Cardiovascular Evaluation and Management of Patients Undergoing Noncardiac Surgery: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines

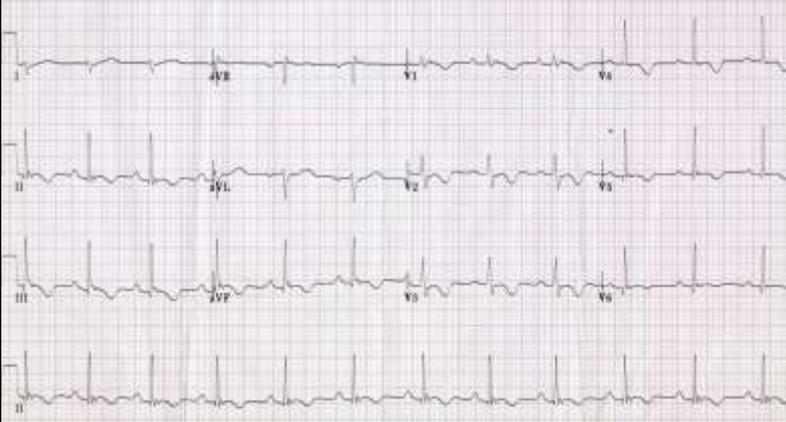
Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular (RV) Cardiomyopathy and/or Dysplasia:

In 1 autopsy study examining a series of 200 cases of sudden death associated with arrhythmogenic RV cardiomyopathy and/or dysplasia, death occurred in 9.5% of cases during the perioperative period. This emphasizes the importance of close perioperative evaluation and monitoring of these patients for ventricular arrhythmia. Most of these patients require cardiac electrophysiologist involvement and consideration for an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) for long-term management.

ARVD – 12 Lead ECG Indicators

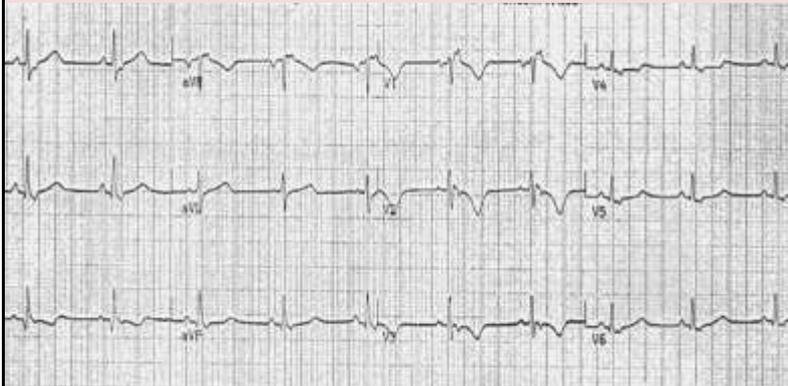


ARVD ECG 1

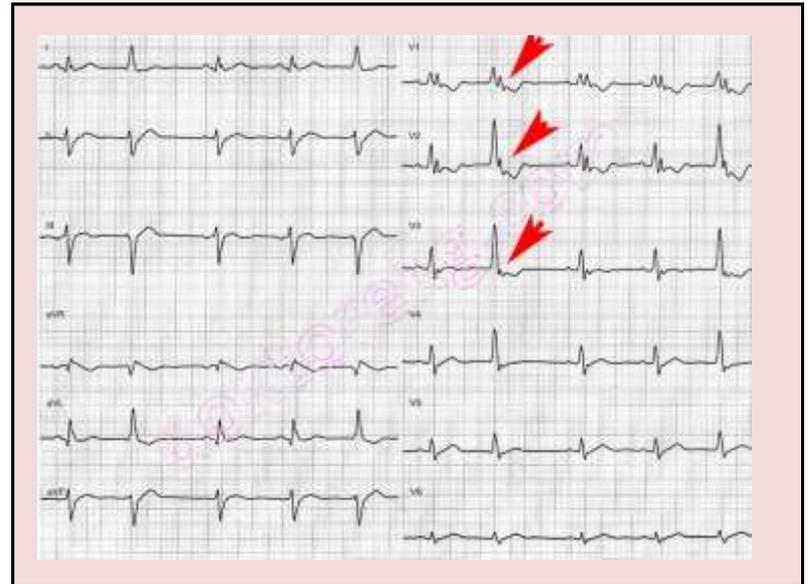


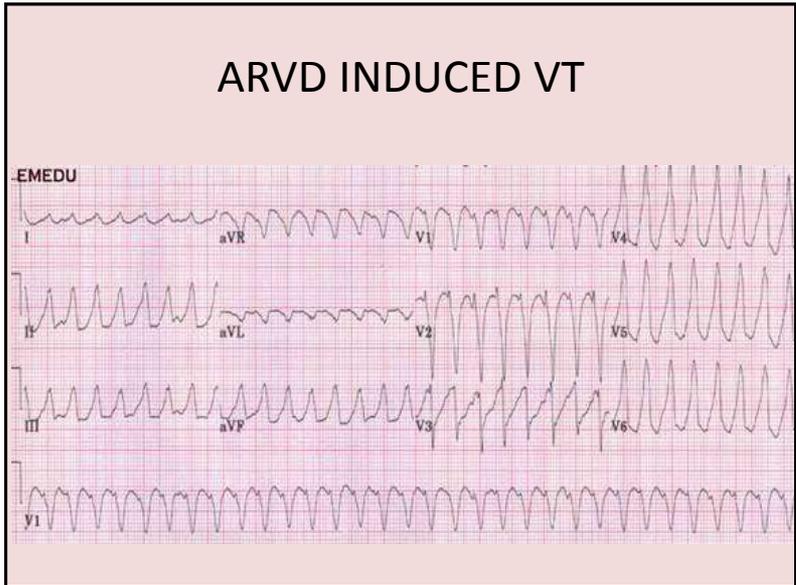
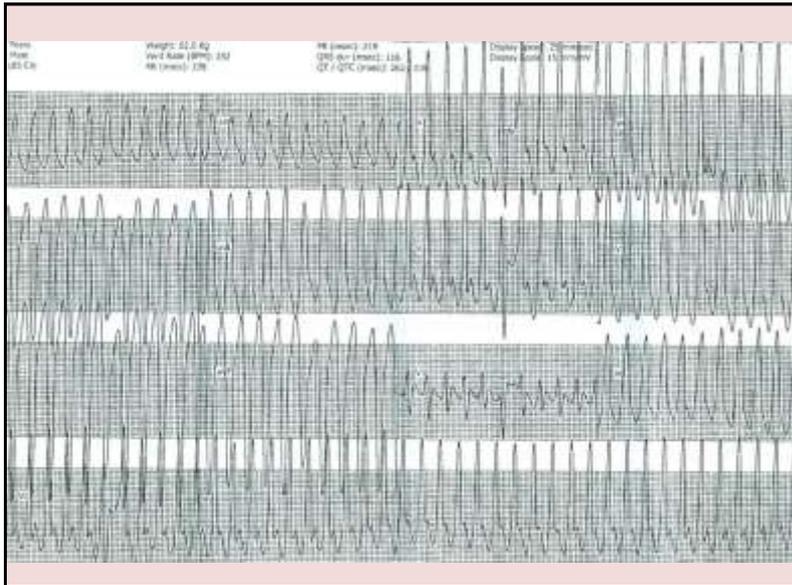
- 1. "Incomplete RBBB" Pattern
- 2. V1, V2 Rs pattern
- 3. Inverted T waves, symmetrical, - Global
- 4. Epsilon's waves

ARVD ECG 2



1. "Incomplete RBBB" Pattern
2. V1, V2 Rs pattern
3. Inverted T waves, symmetrical, - Global
4. Epsilon's waves





[CLICK HERE](#) to download "A SHORT Course in LONG QT Syndrome," a focused excerpt from:

American College of Cardiology
Accreditation Services
Improving the Quality of Cardiovascular Patient Care

19th CONGRESS MIAMI
May 25-27, 2016
www.acc.org/congress

Elements of Sudden Cardiac Death Prevention Programs

The American College of Cardiology
Accreditation Services
19th Congress – Miami, FL – May 25, 2016

Wayne Ruppert, CVT, CCCC, NREMT-P

To download presentation in PDF: visit: www.ECGtraining.org select: "Downloads - PDF"

Evidence Based Reference Sources

- [2016 ACC Interassociation Consensus Statement on Cardiovascular Care of College Student-Athletes](#)
- [2014 AHA/ACC Scientific Statement](#): Assessment of the 12-Lead ECG as a Screening Test for Detection of Cardiovascular Disease in Healthy General Populations of Young People (12–25 Years of Age)
- [AHA/ACCF/HRS Recommendations for the Standardization and Interpretation of the Electrocardiogram: Part IV: The ST Segment, T and U Waves, and the QT Interval : Circulation 2009 119: e241-e250](#)
- [AHA Circulation: Inherited Arrhythmias; Basic Science for Clinicians](#)
- [AHA ACC Scientific Statement Prevention of Torsade de Pointes in Hospital Settings](#)
- [AHA ACC QTc Behavior During Exercise and Genetic Testing for the Long-QT Syndrome](#)
- [Pharmacology Review: Drug Induced Long QT Syndromes](#)

Evidence Based Reference Sources, cont'

- [HRS/EHRA/APHRS Expert Consensus Statement on the Diagnosis and Management of Patients with Inherited Primary Arrhythmia Syndromes](#)
- [Genetic Determinants of Sudden Cardiac Death: AHA Circulation.2008; 118: 1854-1863](#)
- [AHA/ACCF/HRS Recommendations for the Standardization and Interpretation of the Electrocardiogram: Part III: Intraventricular Conduction Disturbances](#)
- [AHA/ACCF/HRS Recommendations for the Standardization and Interpretation of the Electrocardiogram : Part V: Electrocardiogram Changes Associated With Cardiac Chamber Hypertrophy](#)
- [Arrhythmogenic Disorders of Genetic Origin; Brugada Syndrome: Circulation: Arrhythmia and Electrophysiology.2012; 5: 606-616](#)

Other Reference Sources:

www.JACC.org

<http://circ.ahajournals.org/>



www.SADS.org

QUESTIONS ? ? ?

He's 58. She's 26. There's only one way to make this marriage last.

...the only way to make this marriage last...



My top two reasons for giving everything in life the best I have to offer.



JEREMY, ME, and DAD -- at LEE'S DINER, YORK, PA 2003