

# AAPA Bootcamp 2023

## Hospital Diagnostics Workshop

Brian Wolfe, MD

Frances Lorenzi, PA-C

Erin Szemak, DNP, APRN, RN, AGACNP-BC

Rudolph Moravek, PA-C

# Disclosure

- I/we have no relevant relationships with ineligible companies to disclose within the past 24 months.

# Our team!



# Overarching objectives for the whole session

- At the conclusion of the session participants should be able to:
  1. Independently and systematically review ECGs that will be encountered in hospital practice
  2. Independently and systematically review chest radiographs that will be encountered in hospital practice
  3. Interpret common acid base, liver test and antibody testing encountered in hospital practice



Let's meet our patient

# Theresa S. Wift

- 67-year-old morbidly obese female with a past medical history of cirrhosis due to chronic hepatitis C virus infection, obstructive sleep apnea without CPAP use, hypertension and hyperlipidemia presenting with shortness of breath, cough, chest pain, and abdominal pain. You are called to come evaluate and admit the patient to the hospital.
- As you walk into the room, you see T. S. Wift sitting up on the bed with a continuous albuterol nebulizer running and multiple colleagues walking out including the lab tech, ECG tech, and x-ray tech, all saying they just got the labs, ECG, and chest x-ray the ED ordered.

# Chest X-Ray Interpretation

Frannie Lorenzi, MMS, PA-C

Assistant Professor

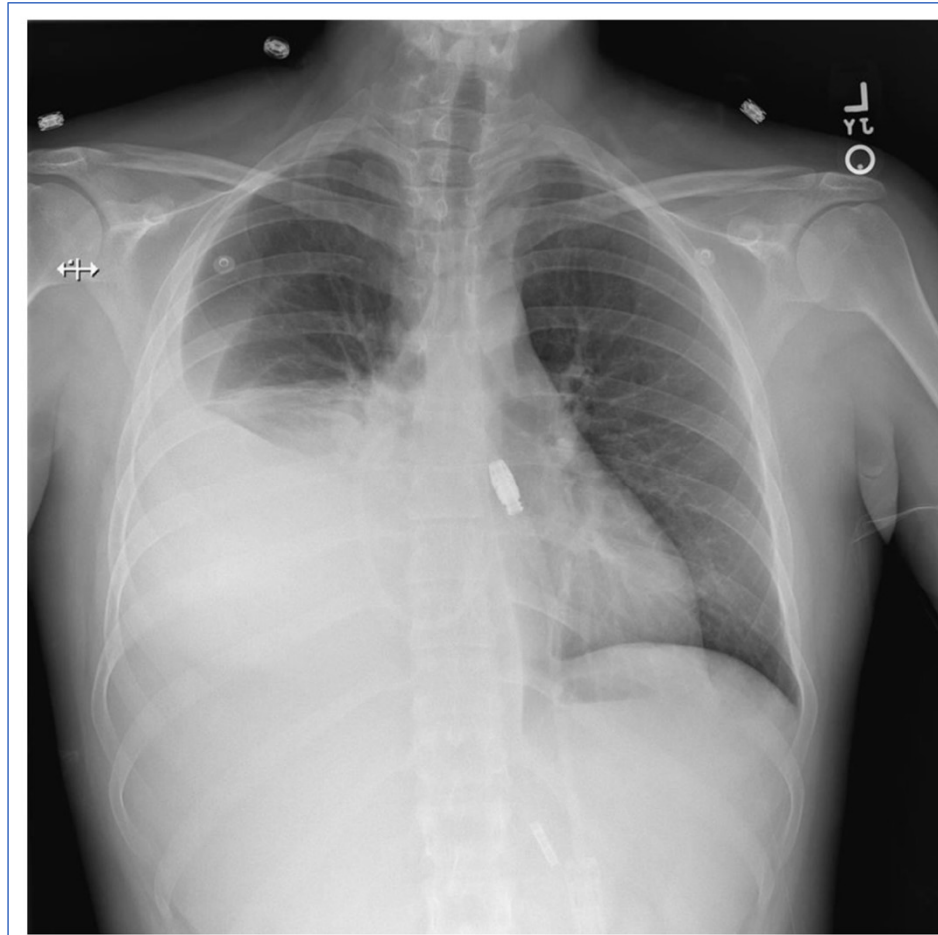
University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine

# Objectives

- Identify techniques and common terminology used for chest radiographs
- Learn a standardized sequence of chest x-ray interpretation
- Recognize common chest radiograph abnormalities

## Bring it back to our case...

- Theresa S. Wift is a 67-year-old morbidly obese female with a past medical history of cirrhosis due to chronic hepatitis C virus infection, obstructive sleep apnea without CPAP use, hypertension and hyperlipidemia presenting with shortness of breath, cough, chest pain, and abdominal pain. You are called to come evaluate and admit the patient to the hospital.
- We've working up some of her labs, now the chest Xray returns
- As you are reviewing the Chest Xray, you are getting more information from T. S. Wift. She states, "Call it what you want... I can't breathe, I'm breathless... I'm feel so cold that I can't even stay warm in my cardigan!"

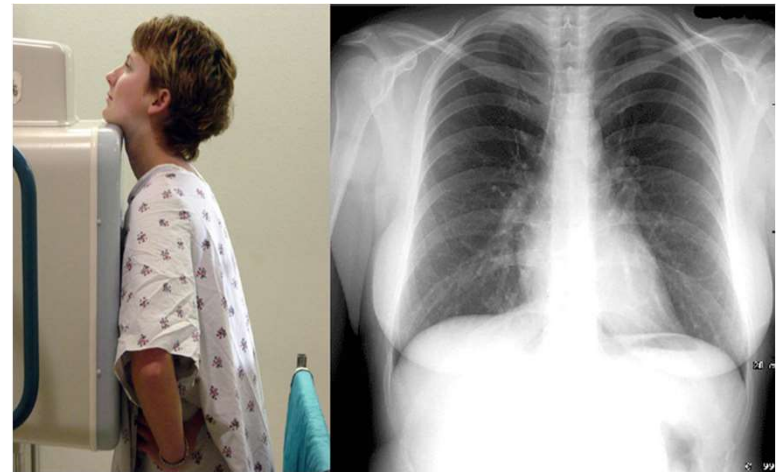
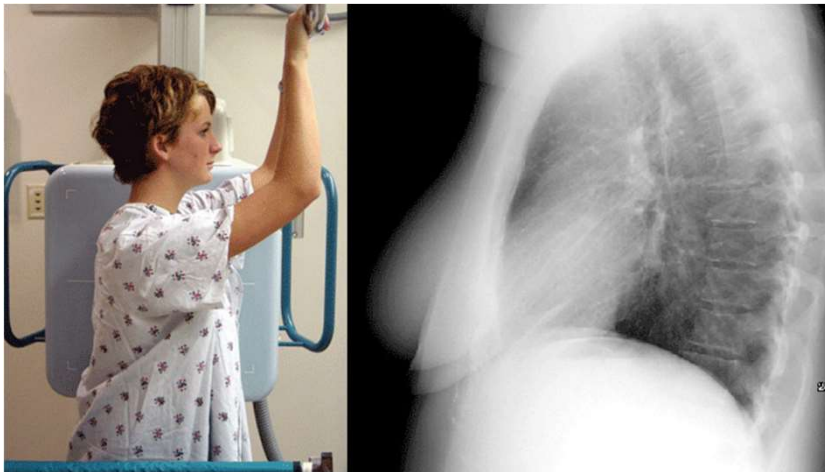


Source: Allaham H, Hudhud D, Salzer W. [redacted]: a peritoneal dialysis dilemma. BMJ Case Rep. 2018.

# CXR Techniques: Posterior-Anterior & Lateral

This is a “Standard XRay”

1. Beams pass from from posterior to anterior
2. Heart size is better estimated because it is closer to the detector



## Techniques: Anterior-Posterior

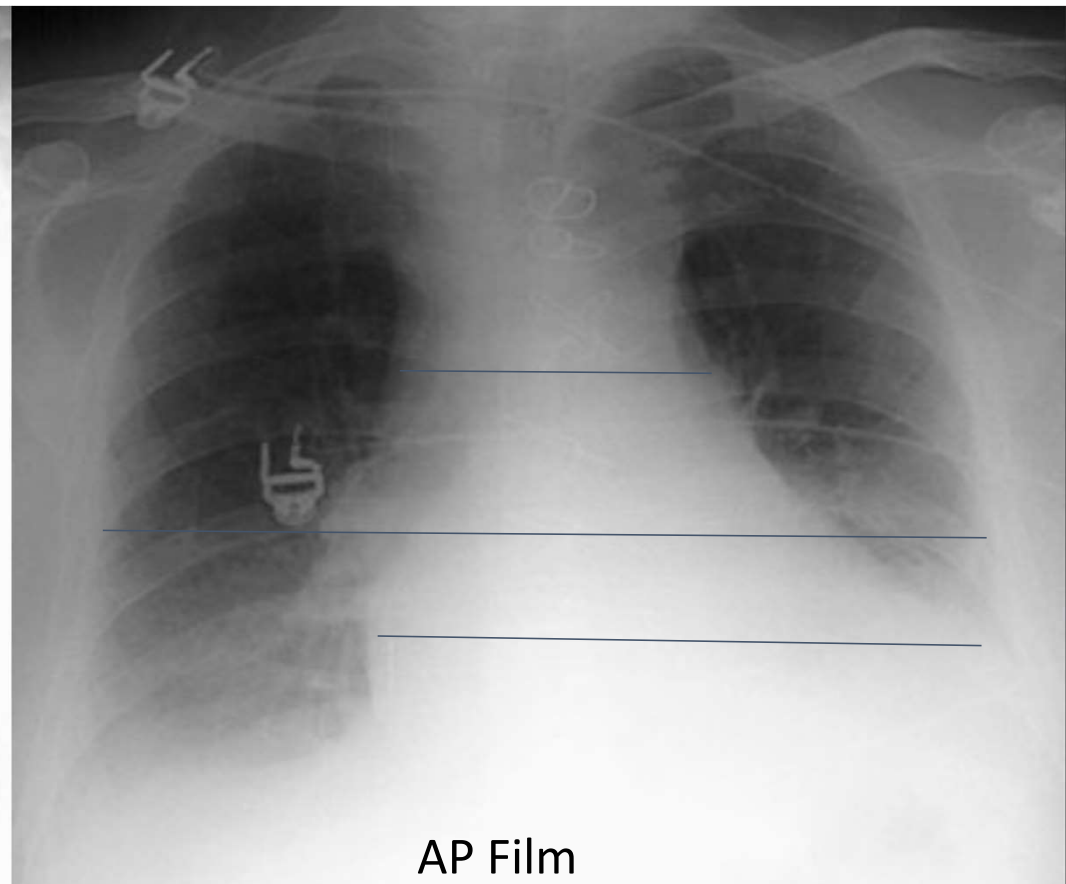
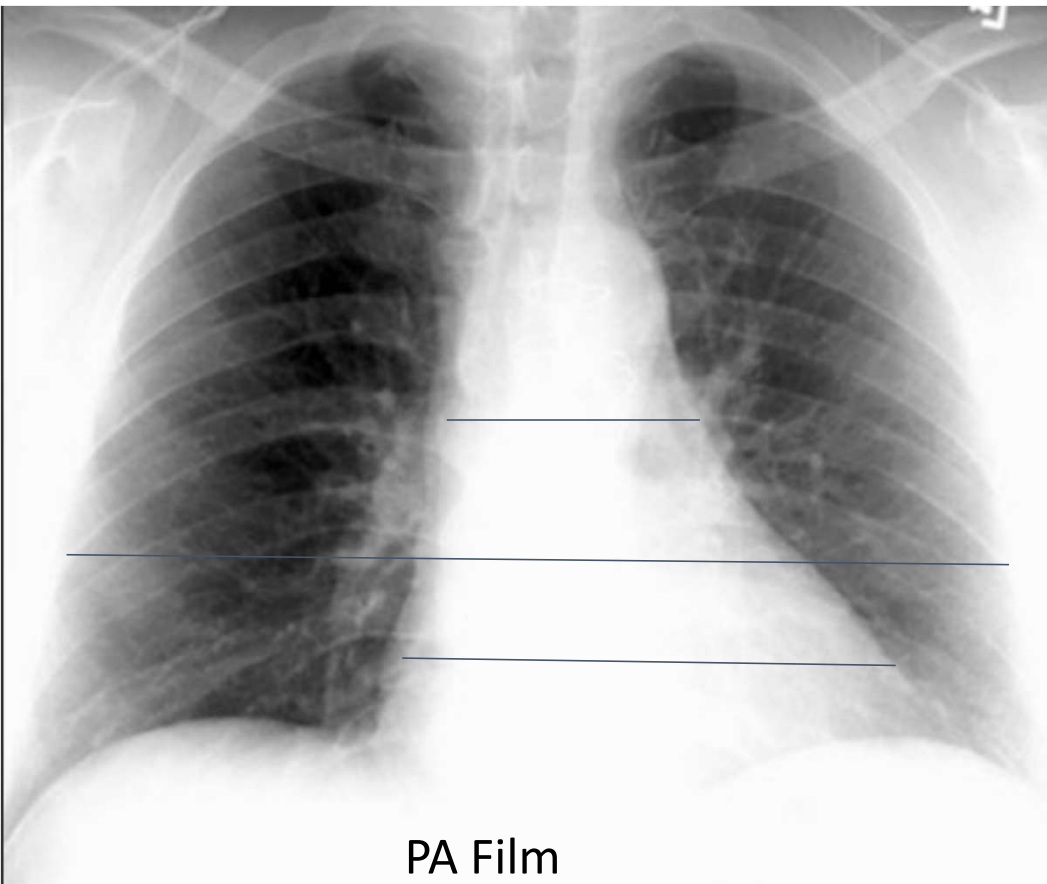
This is what a lot of our patients will get when they are laying in bed or too ill to go down for CXR.

1. Beams pass anterior to posterior
2. Patients are closer to the beam and heart is further away from the detector so heart is magnified

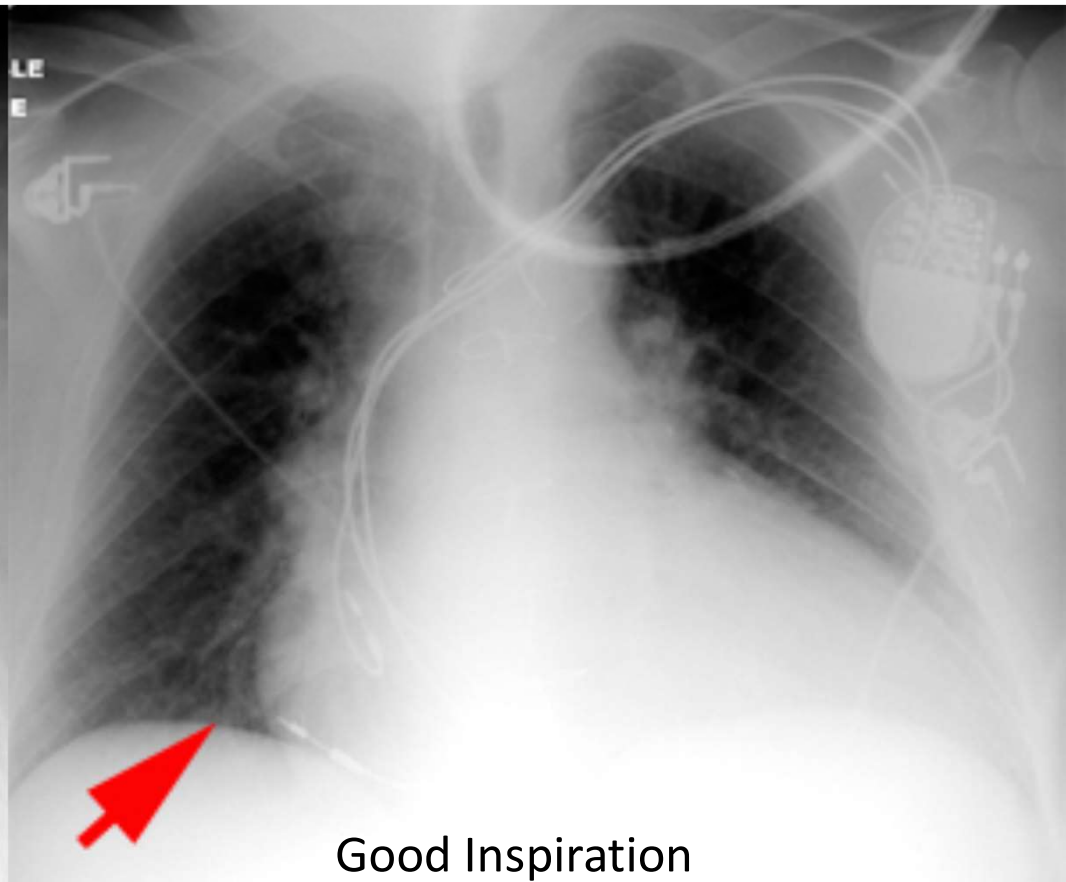
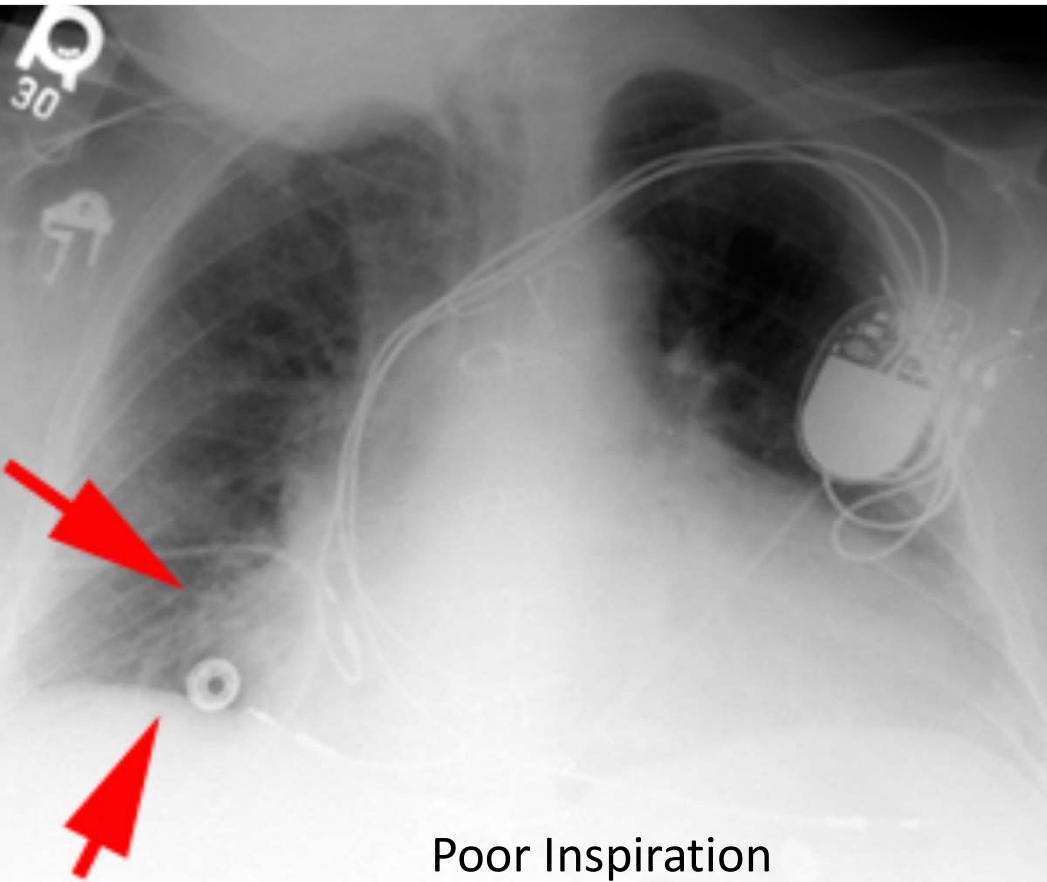


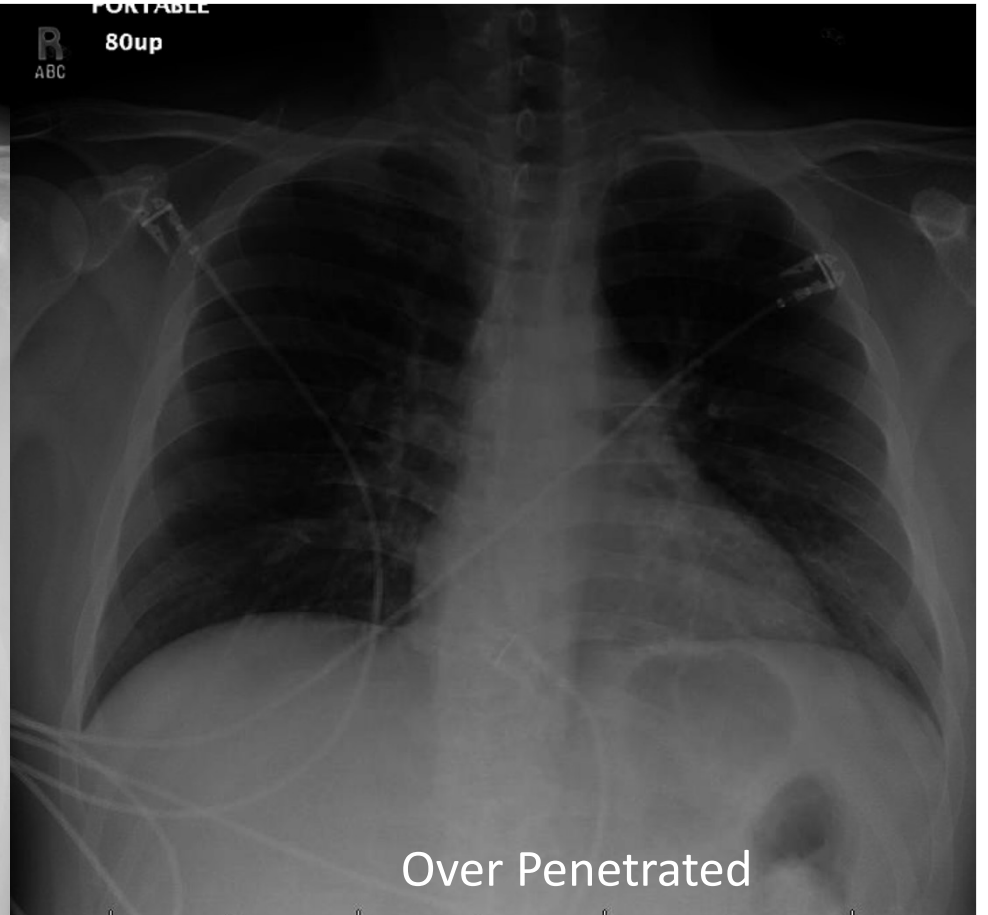
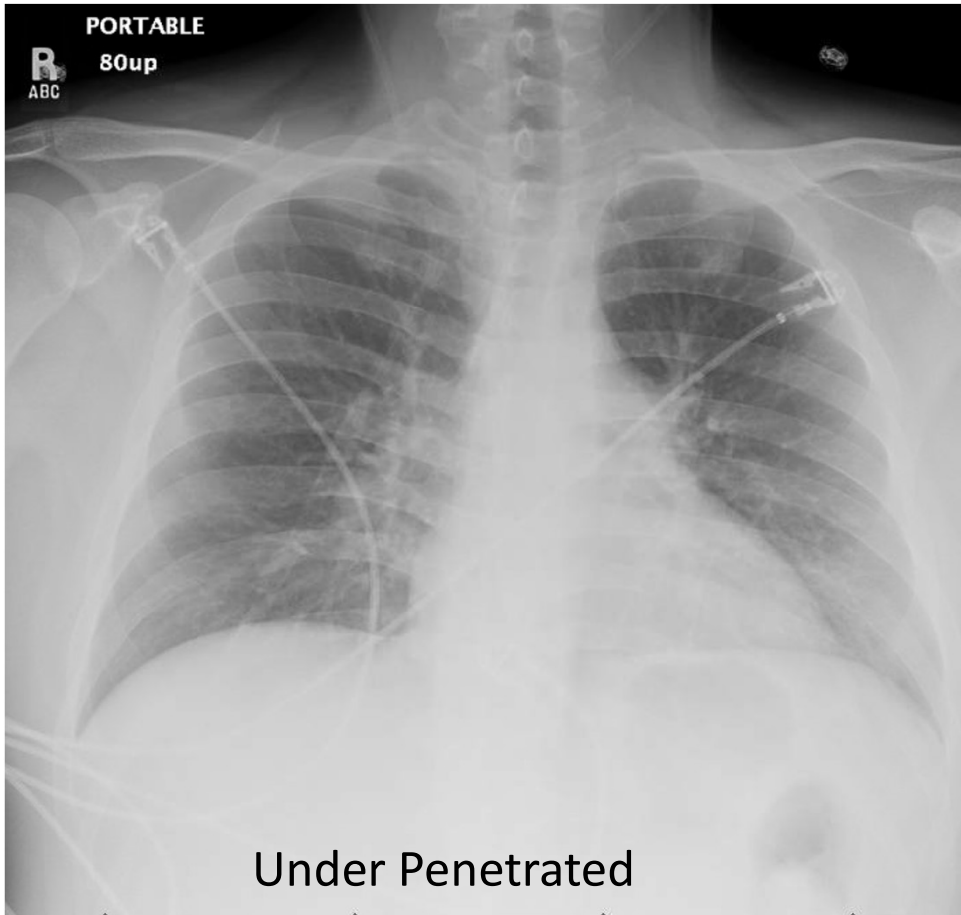


# Heart size difference



# Inspiration Differences

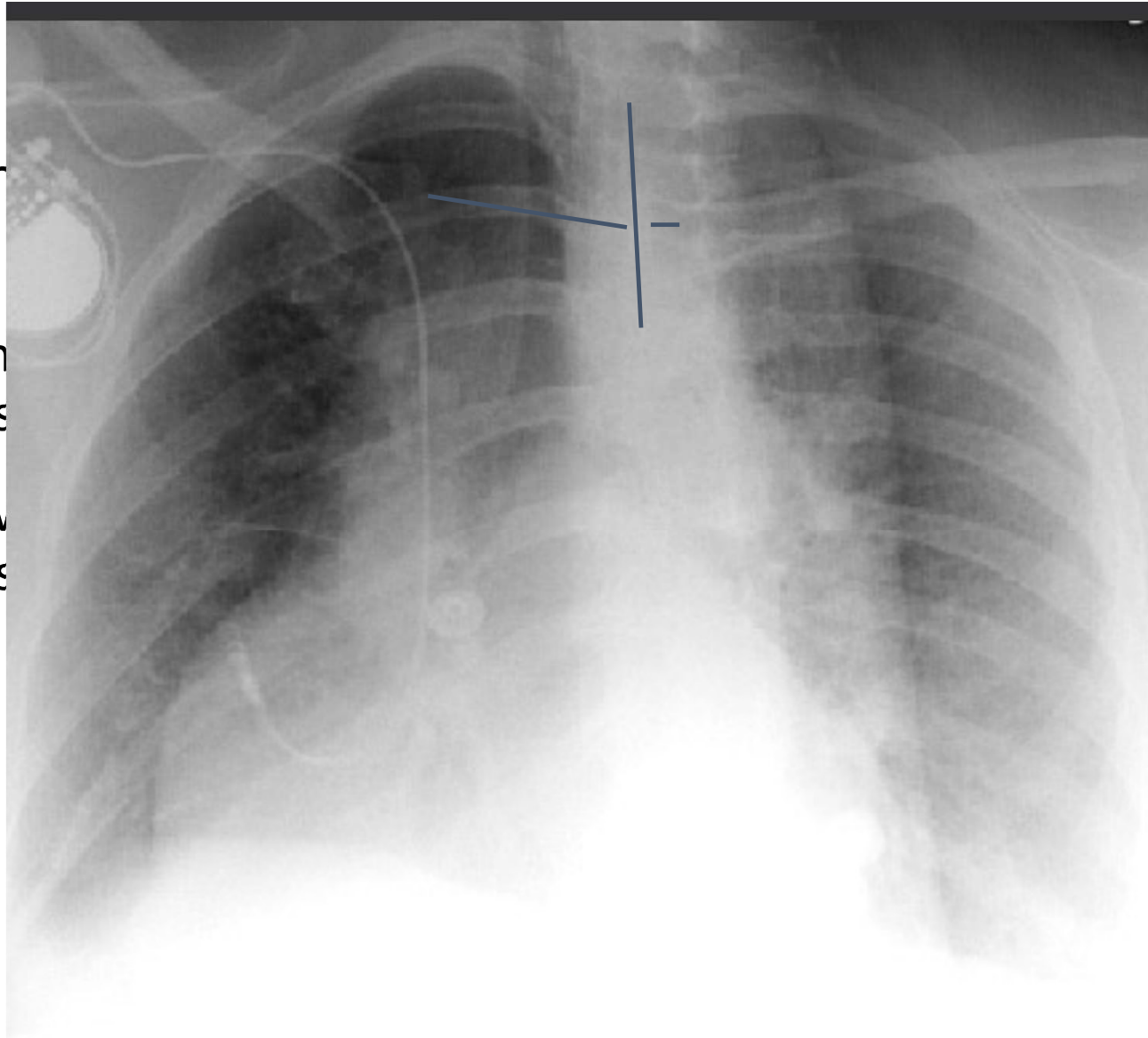


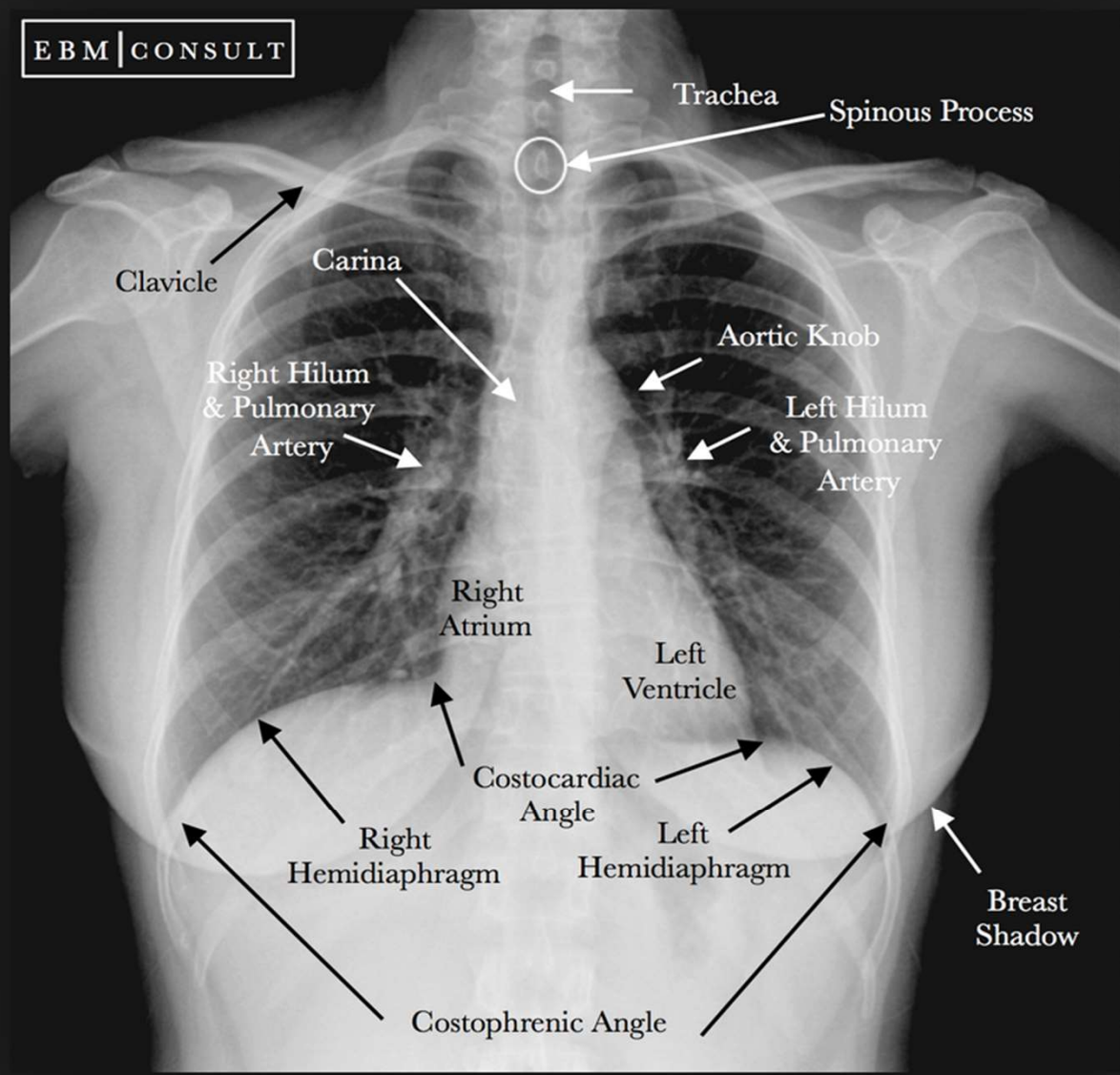


Rotation

- The spine
- Clavicles

Why do w  
-It's





- Apex of Lung
- 1st Rib
- Trachea
- Tracheal Bifurcation
- Superior Vena Cava
- Thoracic Vertebrae
- Right Atrium Border
- Right Cardiophrenic Angle
- Inferior Vena Cava
- Right Hemidiaphragm
- Right Costophrenic Angle

- Clavicle
- Aortic Arch
- Descending Aorta
- Pulmonary Trunk
- Pulmonary Markings
- Left Atrium Border
- Heart
- Left Ventricle Border
- Left Cardiophrenic Angle
- Left Hemidiaphragm
- Left Costophrenic Angle
- Gas in Stomach

Trachea  
Spinous Process  
Clavicle  
Carina  
Right Hilum & Pulmonary Artery  
Aortic Knob  
Left Hilum & Pulmonary Artery  
Right Atrium  
Left Ventricle  
Costocardiac Angle  
Right Hemidiaphragm  
Left Hemidiaphragm  
Breast Shadow  
Costophrenic Angle

# Anatomy & Interpretation!

M- Man made

A - Asses Quality, Airway

B - Bones, Soft Tissue

C - Cardiac

D - Diaphragms

F - (Lung) Field & Fissures

G - Great Vessels, Gastric Bubble

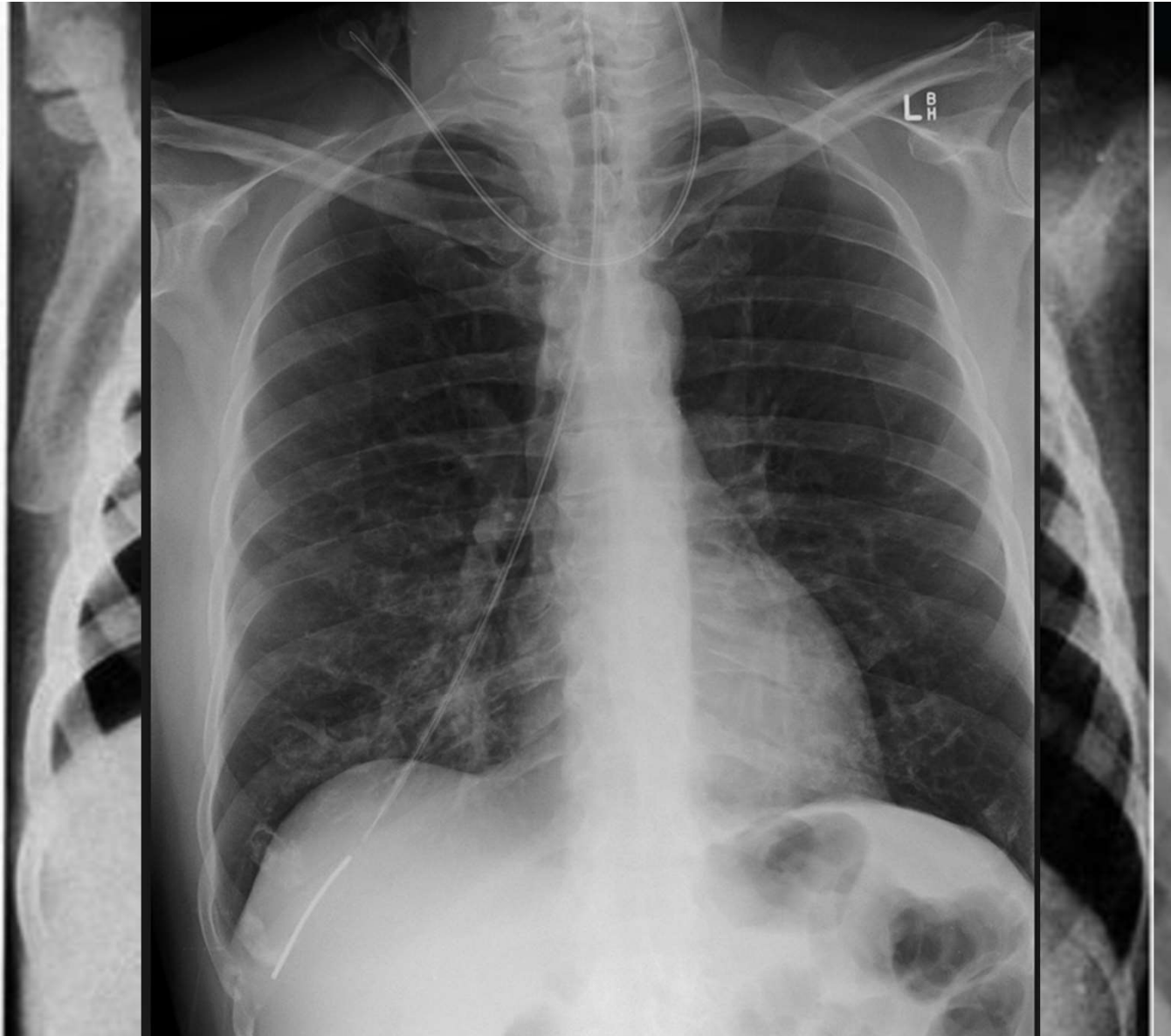
H - Hilum

I - Impression



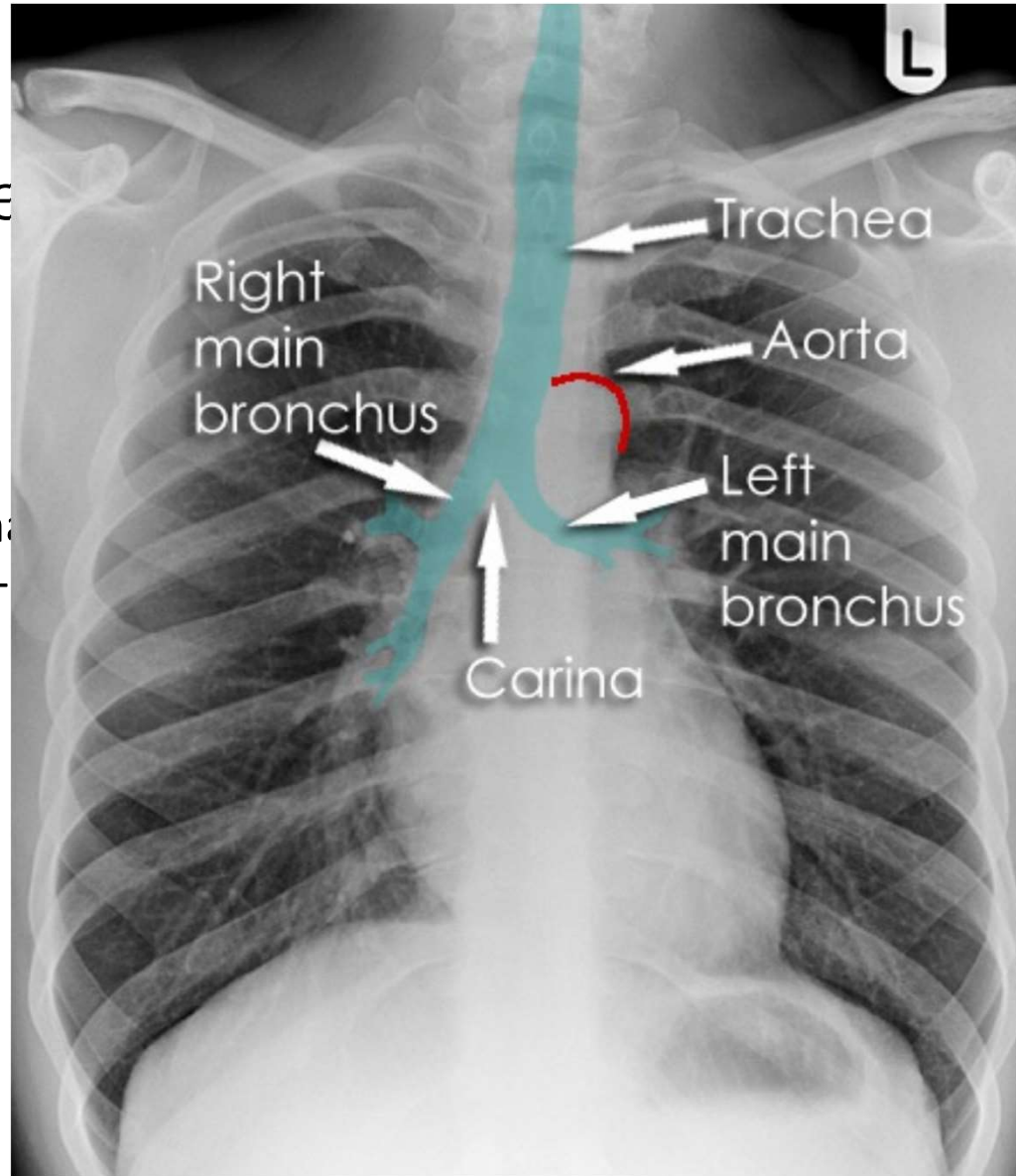
M is fo

Any forei



A is for Assess

1. Assess Image
2. Airways --



ation



# B is for Bones

## Bones

1. Ribs
2. Clavicle
3. Sternum
4. Vertebra
5. Shoulder Joint, Scapula

## Soft Tissue

1. Breast Shadows
2. Skin Folds
3. Muscles

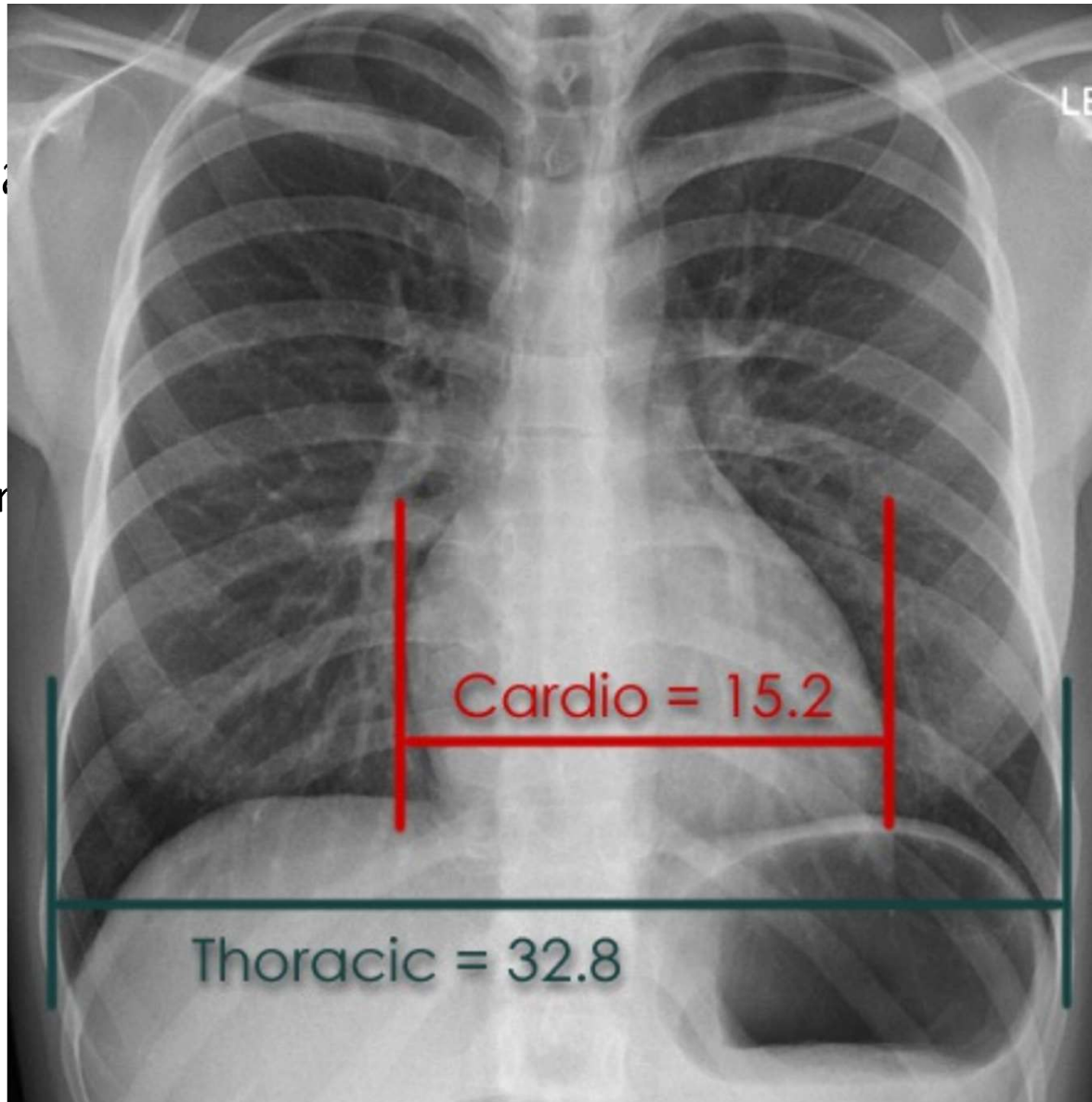
## Check For:

1. Symmetry
2. Deformity
3. Fracture
4. Mass
5. Lytic Lesion

C is for Ca

Assess:

1. Cardiac
2. Contour



## D is for Diaphragm

Each hemidiaphragm should be a rounded structure with a crisp white edge contrasted against the adjacent dark lung

Right Diaphragm higher than the Left

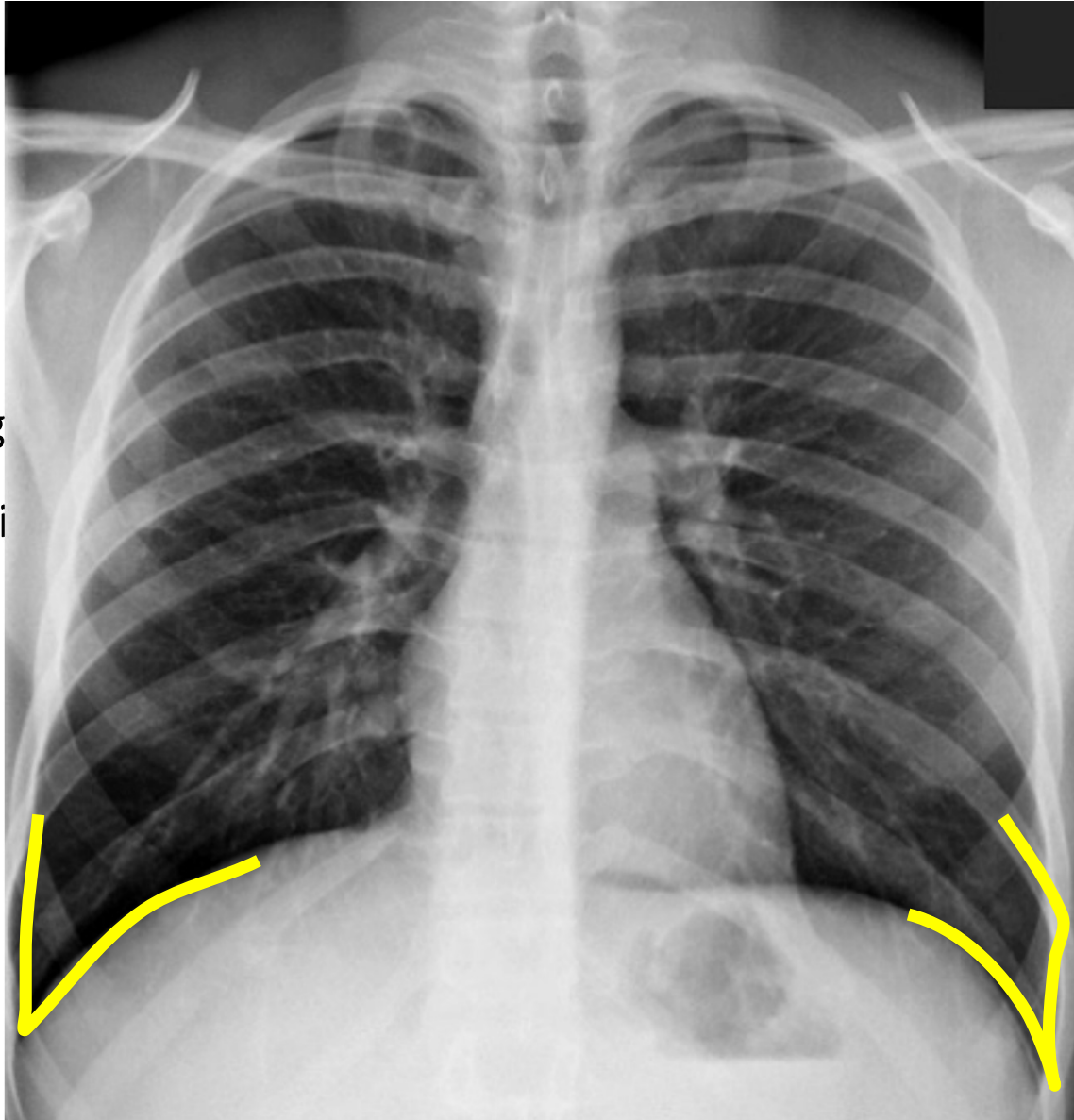
Gastric Bubble usually under the left side

D is for Di

Costophrenic  
hemidiaphrag

-Blunti

ome of each

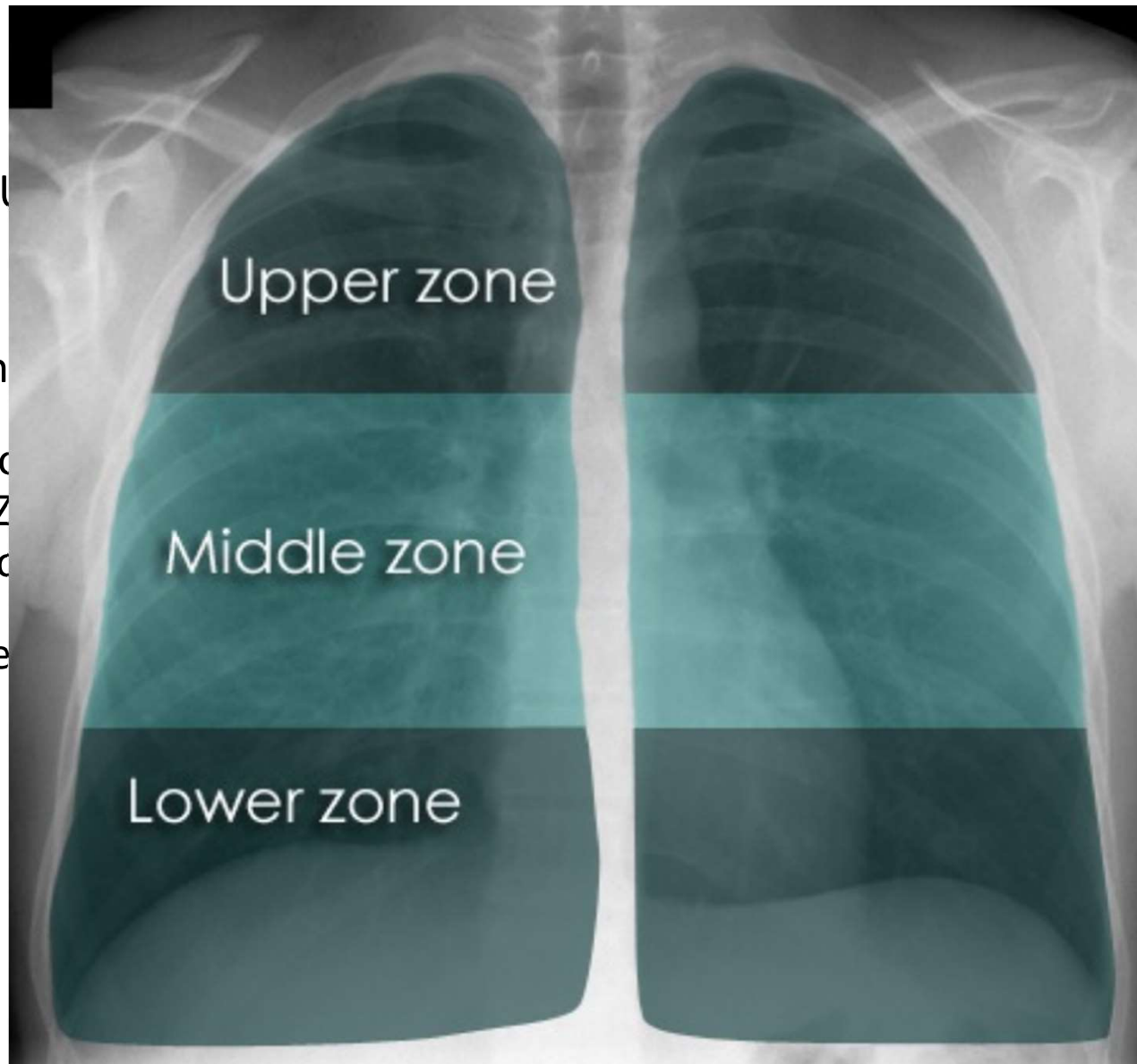


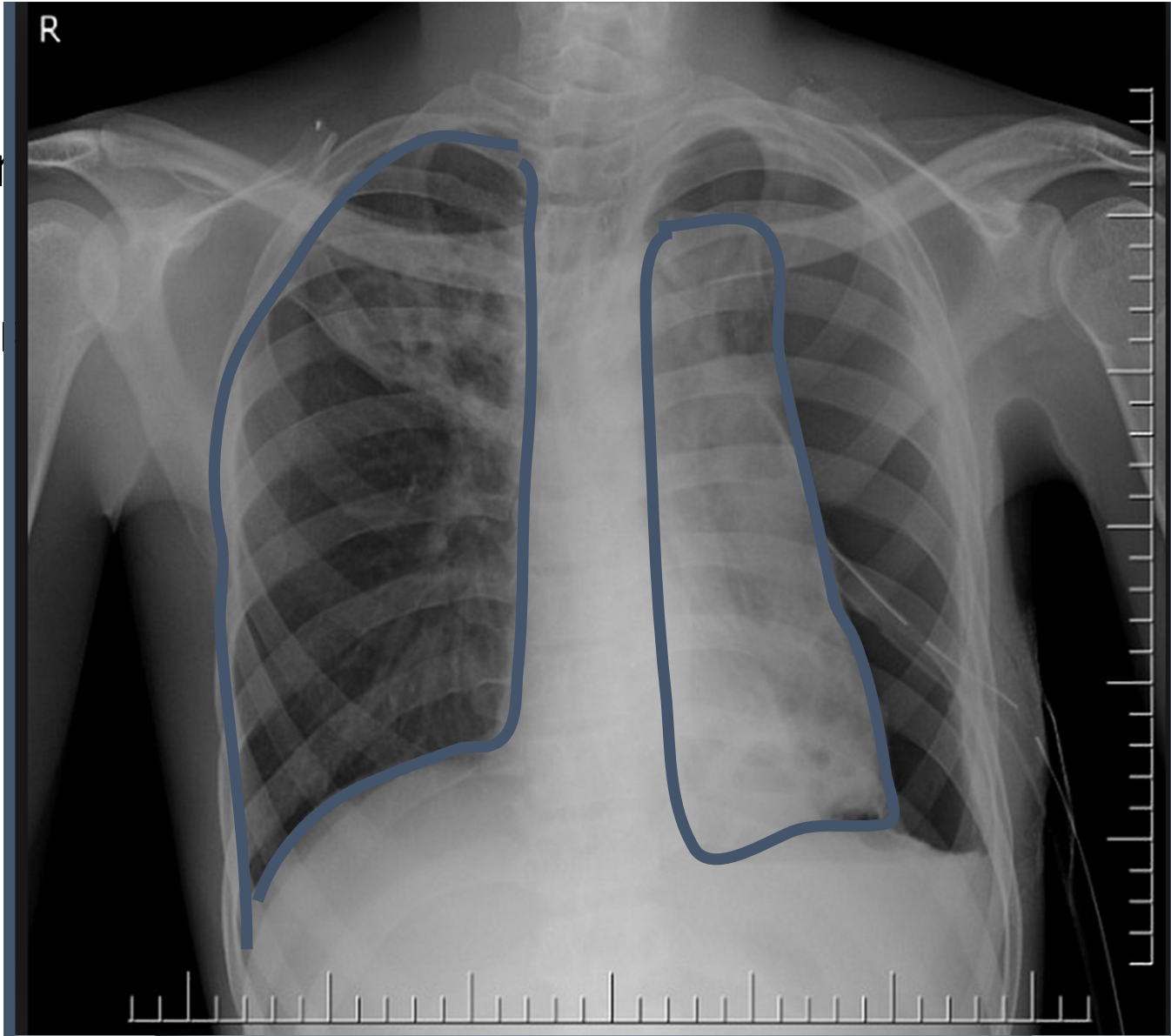
F is for (Lu)

Let's break th

1. Upper Zo
2. Middle Z
3. Lower Zo

Let's you take

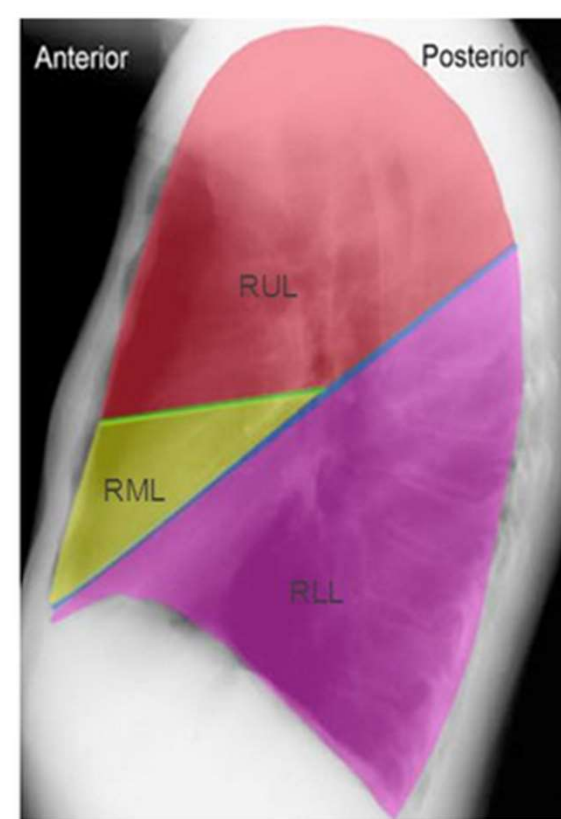
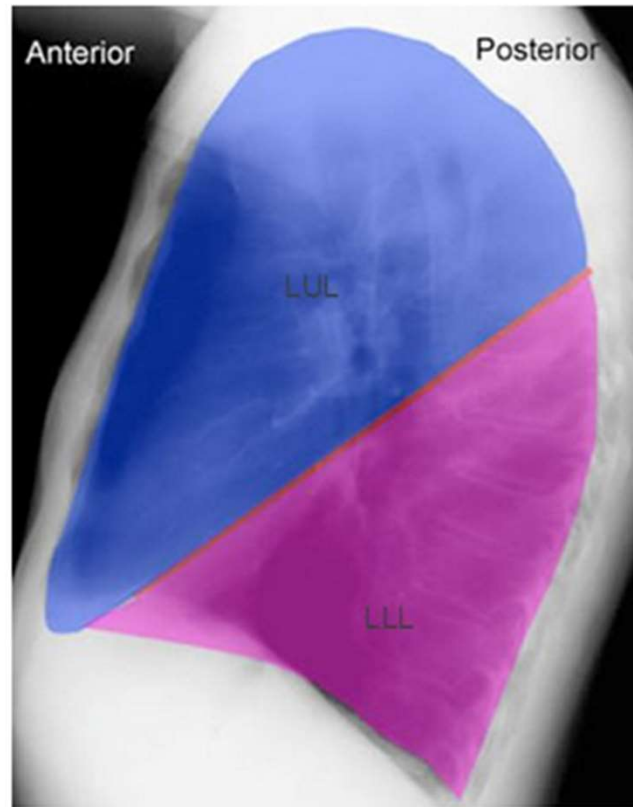
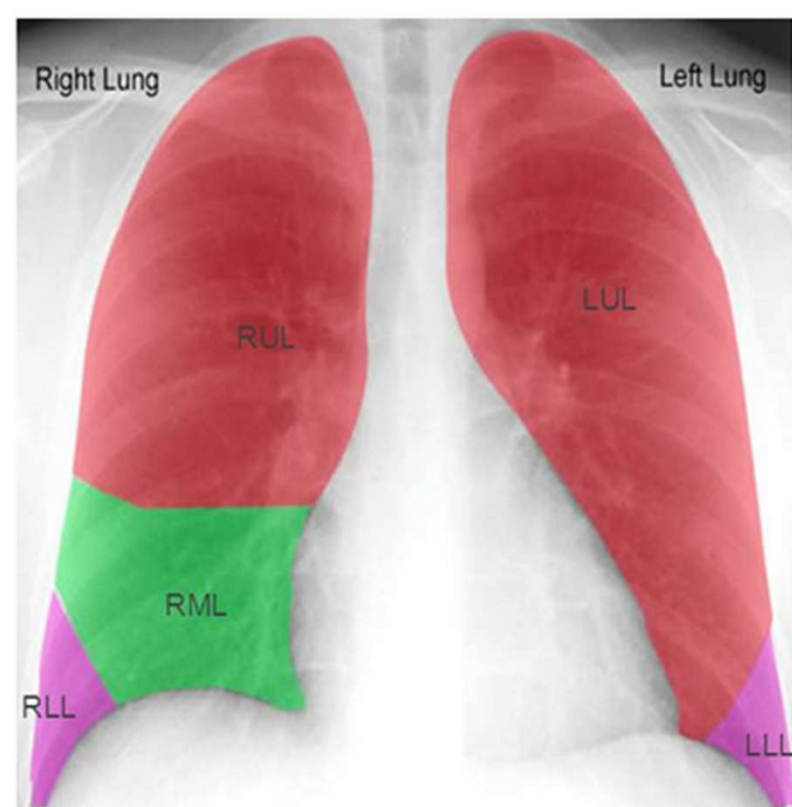




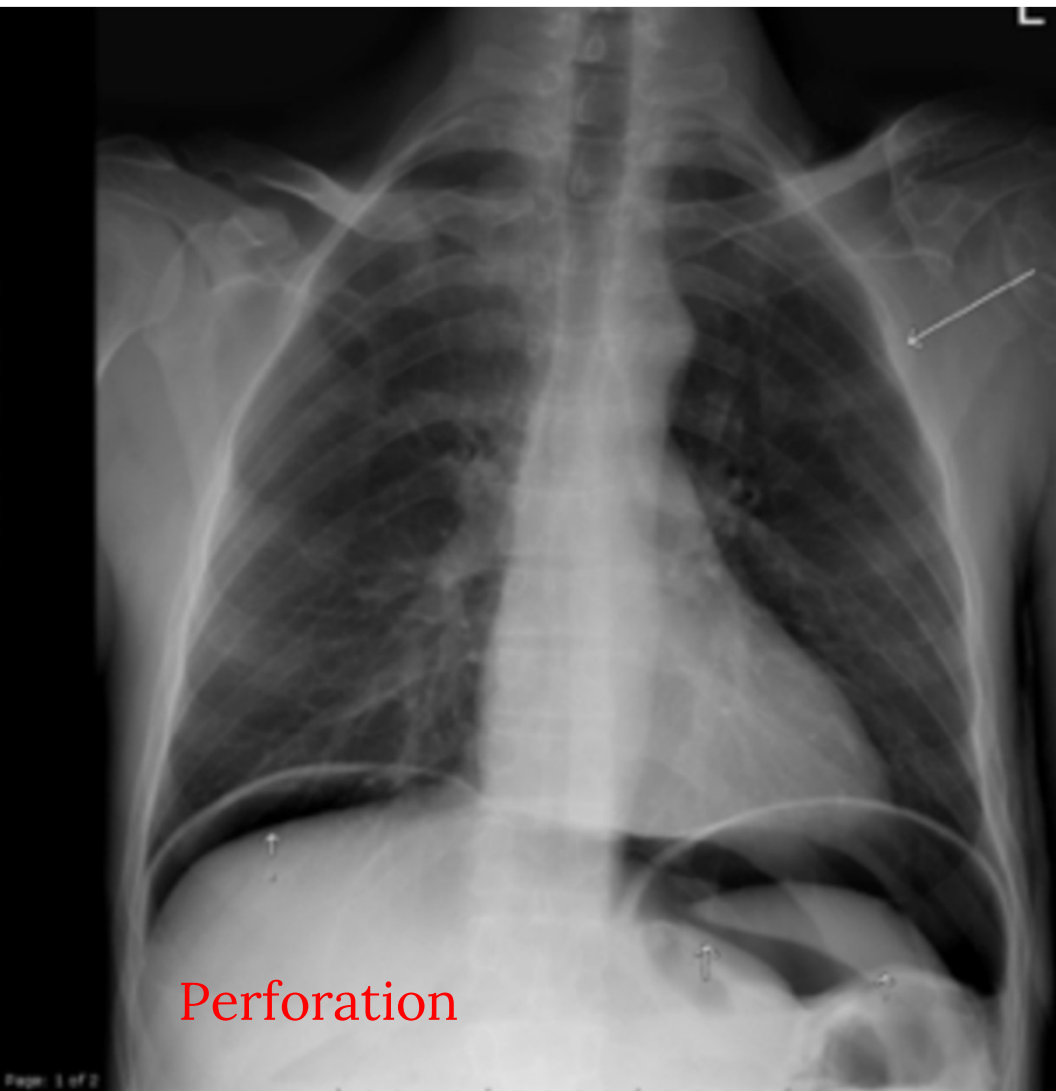
F is for

Pleural S

# F is for (Lung) Fields, Fissures



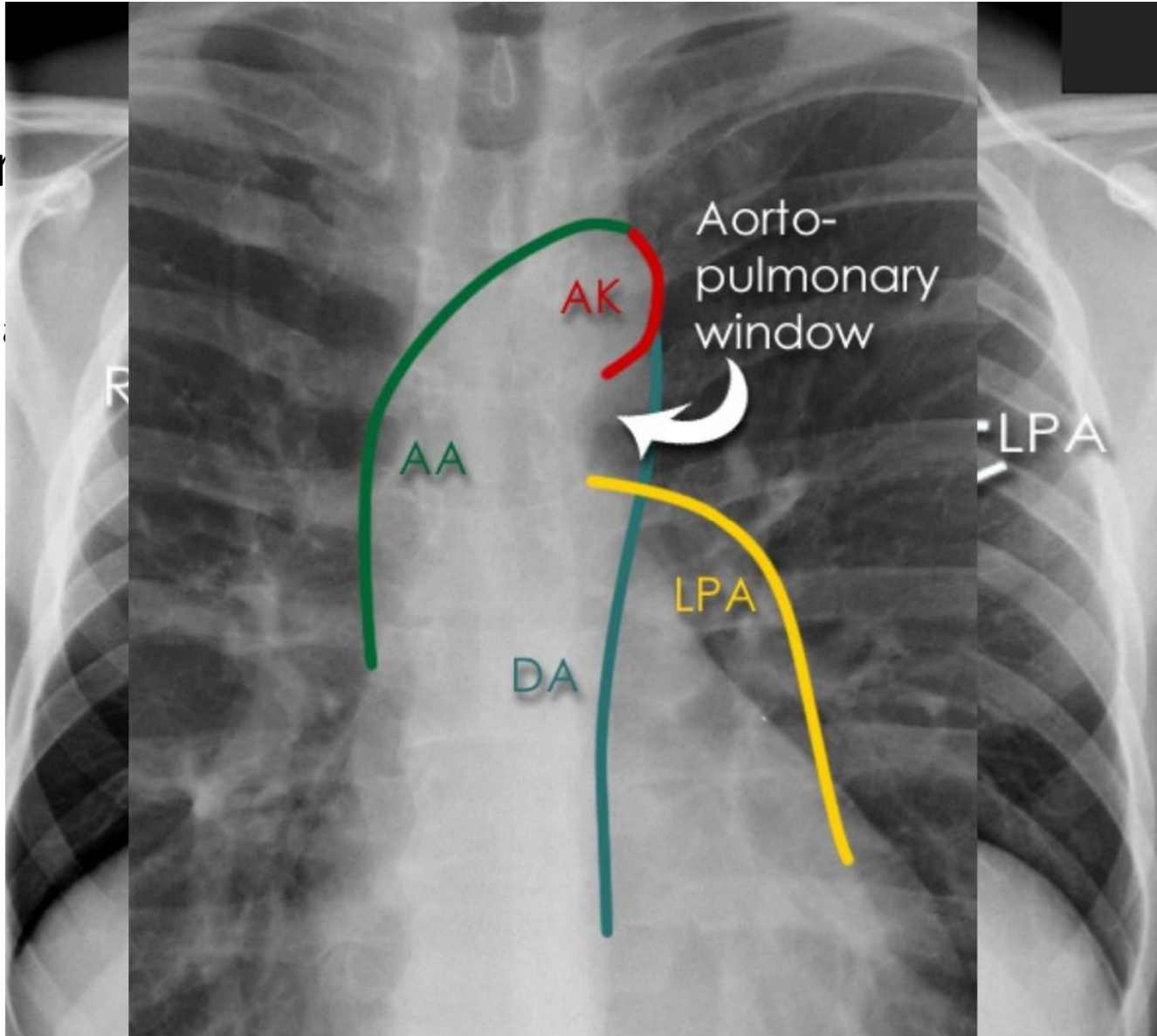






H is for

Complex



LPA

AA

DA

LPA

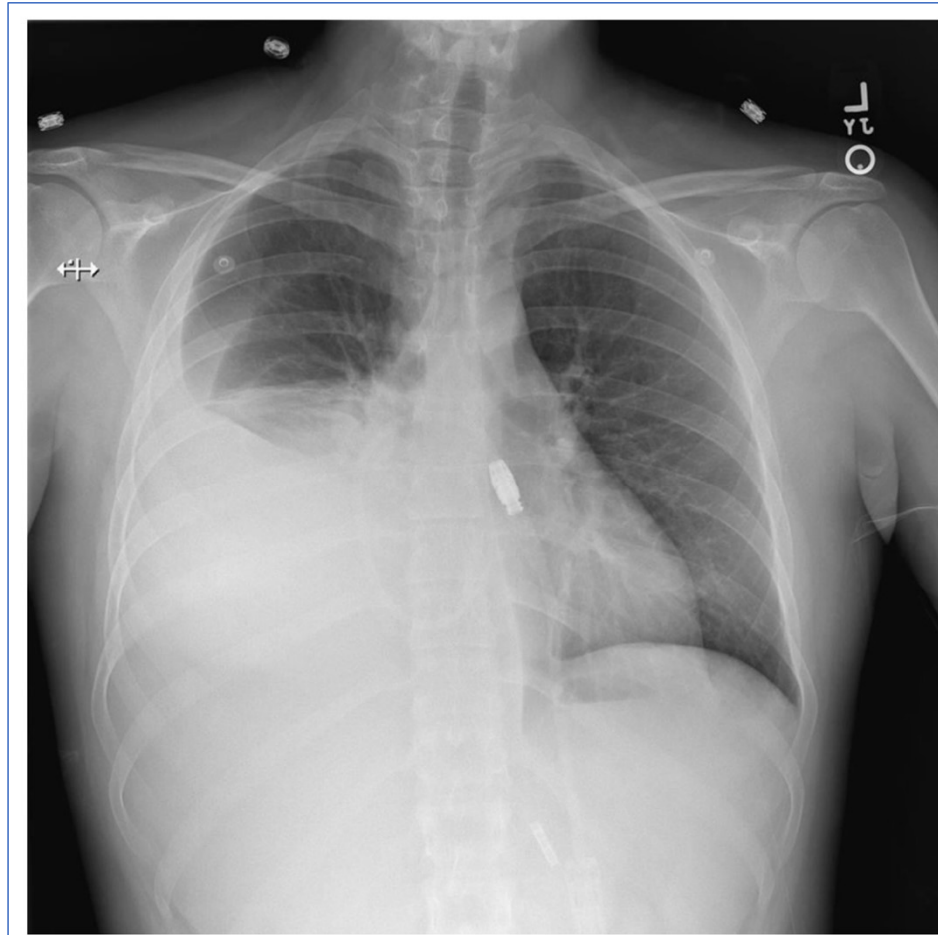
AK

Aorto-pulmonary window

I is for Impression

Put your money down! Give me an impression!

Back to our case



Source: Allaham H, Hudhud D, Salzer W. [redacted]: a peritoneal dialysis dilemma. BMJ Case Rep. 2018.

So this is...

- A. Anterior-Posterior with poor penetration
- B. PA & Lateral with poor penetration
- C. PA & Lateral with good penetration
- D. Anterior-Posterior with good penetration

Do you see...

- A. Enlarged cardiac silhouette, normal lung fields bilaterally
- B. Normal cardiac size, Normal Left Lung, Large Right sided effusion
- C. Deviated trachea, Left sided effusion
- D. Bilateral ground glass opacities

Let's give our impression!

This is....

- A. A collapsed Right sided lung
- B. An enlarged liver in the right pleural space
- C. Fluid overload from heart disease
- D. Hepatic Hydrothorax

## To sum it all up...

1. Chest Xrays are common in the hospitalized patient; the standard view is Posterior-Anterior & Lateral (P/A Lateral) which can better estimate the cardiac size
2. It is important to have a standardized system to consistently review Chest Xrays. The system covered here is Anatomy & Interpretation using M, A-I



# References

1. Radiology Masterclass: <https://www.radiologymasterclass.co.uk/>
2. University of Virginia - Introduction to Chest Radiology: <https://www.med-ed.virginia.edu/courses/rad/cxr/>
3. Allaham H, Hudhud D, Salzer W. Right-sided hydrothorax: a peritoneal dialysis dilemma. BMJ Case Rep. 2018 May 26;2018:bcr2018225166. doi: 10.1136/bcr-2018-225166. PMID: 29804087; PMCID: PMC5976137.

# ECG Session

Brian Wolfe, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine

University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine

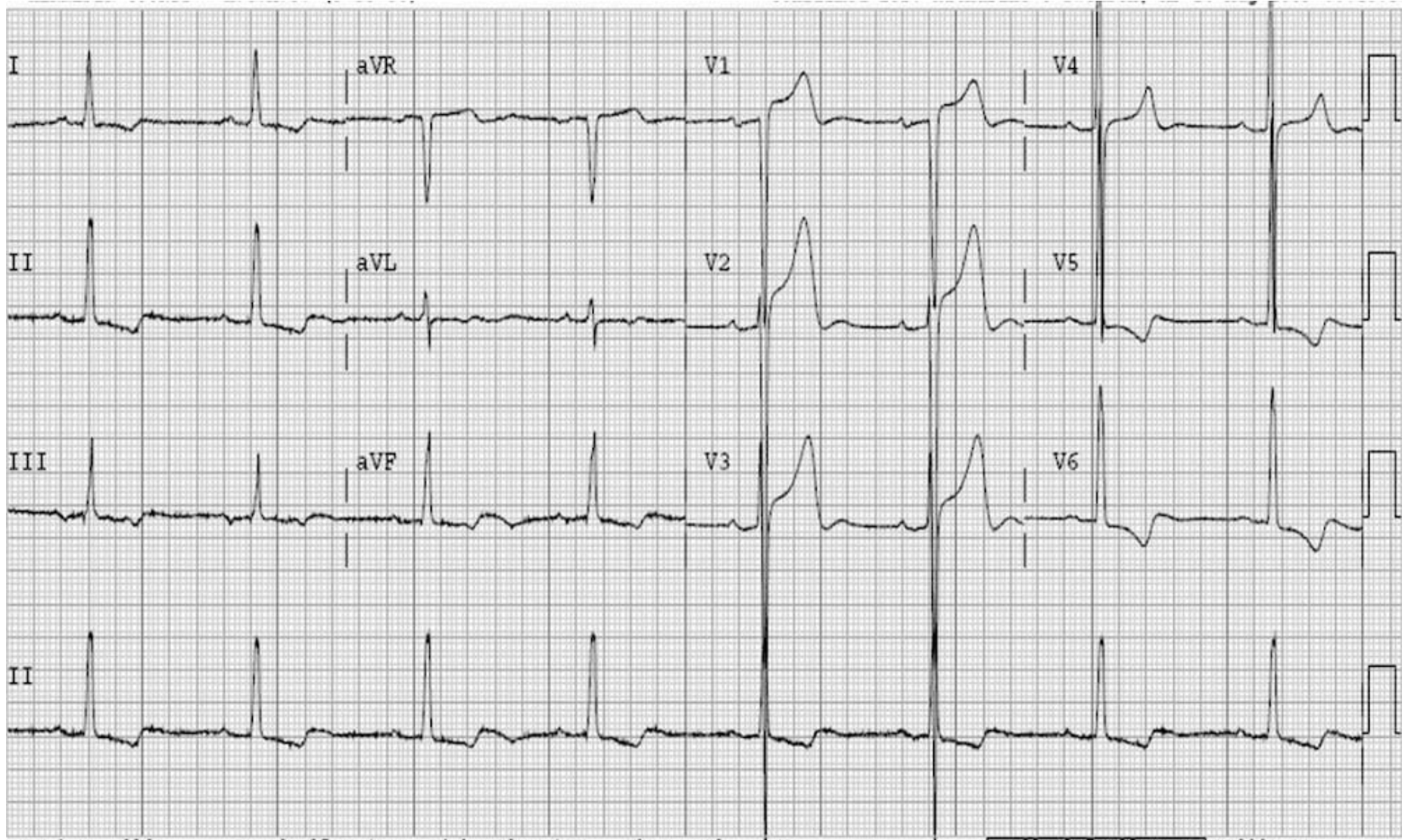
The background of the slide is a blurred ECG tracing on a grid. The grid is light blue, and the ECG line is a darker blue. The tracing shows several cardiac cycles with distinct P waves, QRS complexes, and T waves. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

## ECG Learning objectives

1. Possess a **systematic approach** to reading electrocardiograms
2. Know a **tactical approach** to growing your knowledge and understanding of this tool
3. Have the **Opportunity** to read ECGs aloud

## Bring it back to our case...

- The ECG tech hands you Ms. T. S. Wift ECG...
- As you are reviewing the ECG she states, "Long story short, this chest pain just hits different. Don't blame me, I just can't shake it off"



Device: 9361

Speed: 25 mm/sec

Limb: 10 mm/mV

Chest: 10 mm/mV

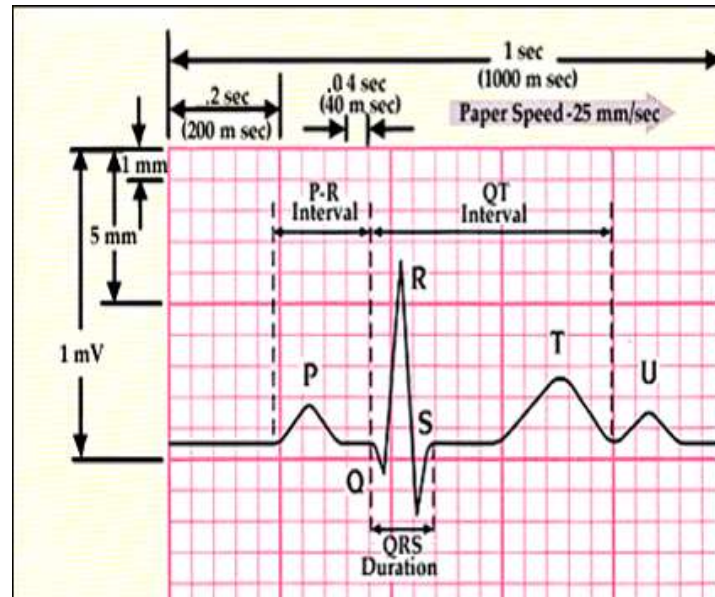
60- 0.5-100 Hz W

PH080A P?

# ECG Basics

Lateral: Sm box = 0.04 s  
Lrg box = 0.20 s

Typical ECG: 10 sec (25mm/s)  
2.5 sec of each lead  
Full 10s of lead II



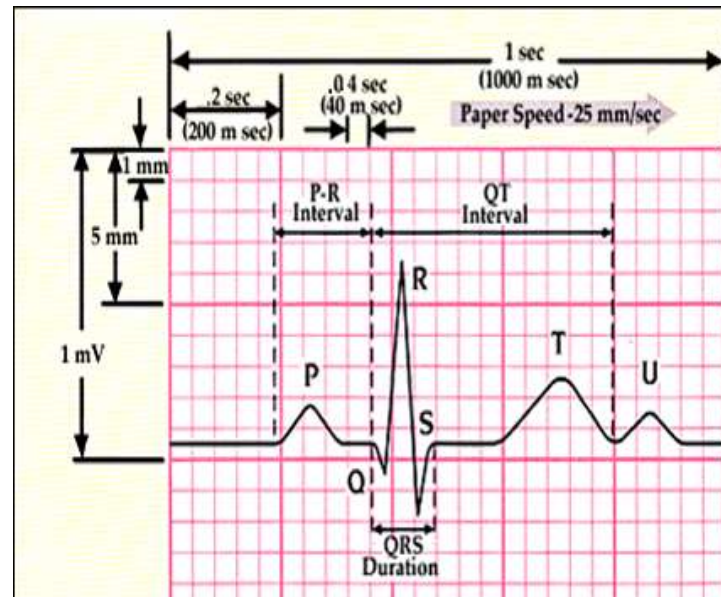
# ECG Basics

Intervals:

PR (begin P – begin QRS)  
0.12 – 0.20

QRS (begin to end QRS)  
0.08-0.12

QT (begin QRS – end T w)  
QTc 470-480 ULN



# Secrets about this session..

- This skill is important: if you excel at reading ECGs it will make a clinical difference
- You will not get good at ECGs from being taught in a lecture
- Lifetime of practice and “reading blind” and then double-checking your work
- So we are going to start today!



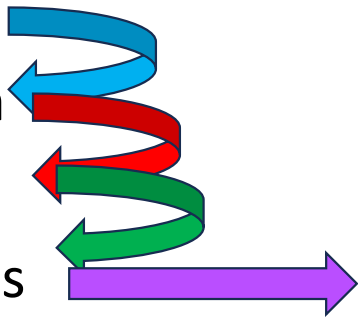
# Cases: Gender

Titles shortened to:

- F for identifying as Female
- M for identifying as Male
- NB for identifying as non-binary
- Sex assigned at birth not important for any of the following cases

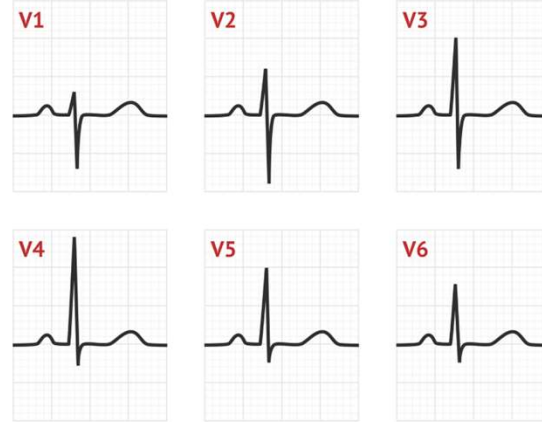
# Reading

- Rate
- Rhythm
- Axis
- Intervals
- R-wave Progression
- ST/Twave/Qwaves - Ischemia
- Waveform (LVH, RVH, others)
- Diagnosis (if appropriate)



Prolonged PR interval:  
1 deg AV nodal block

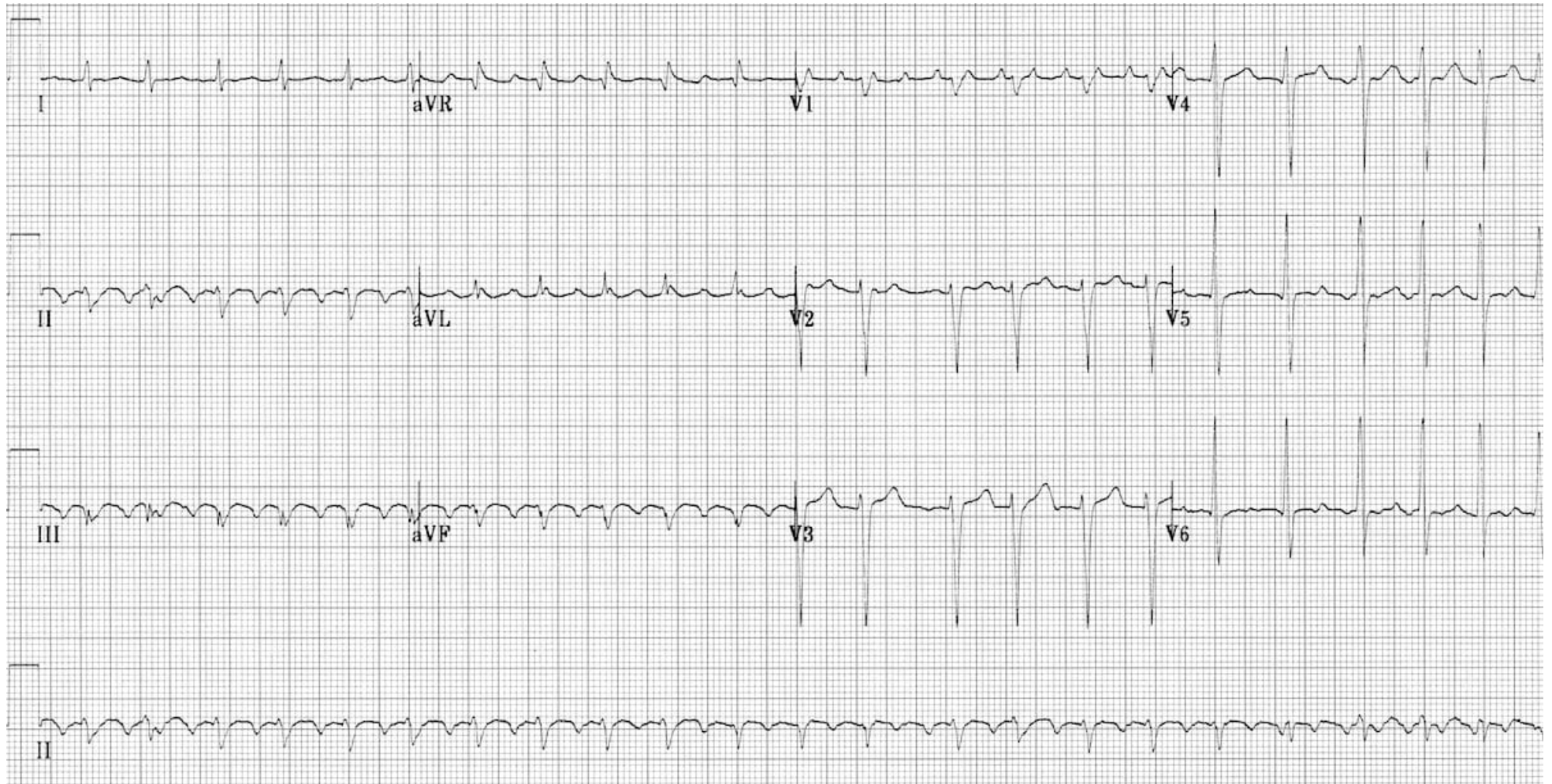
Normal R wave progression:



Poor R wave progression:



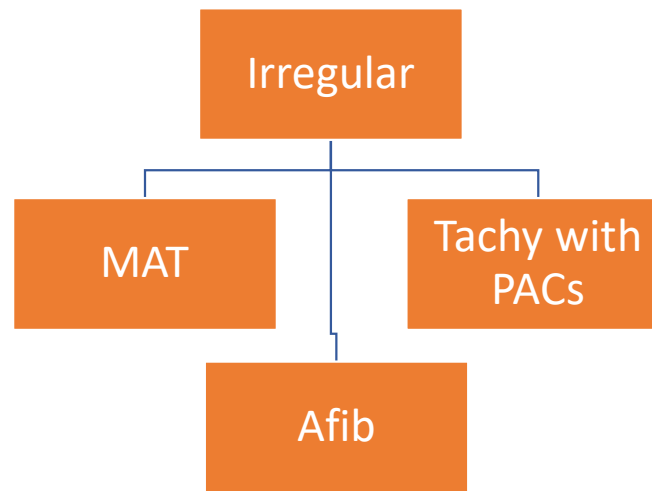
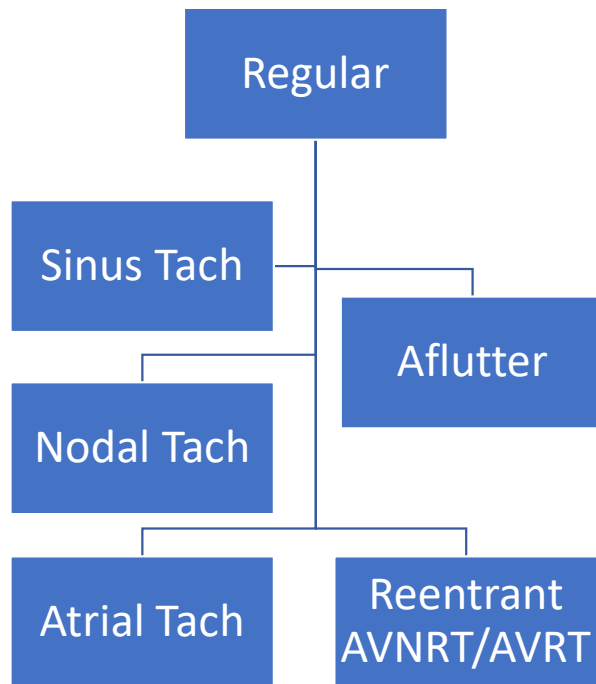
72 yo F w/SOB



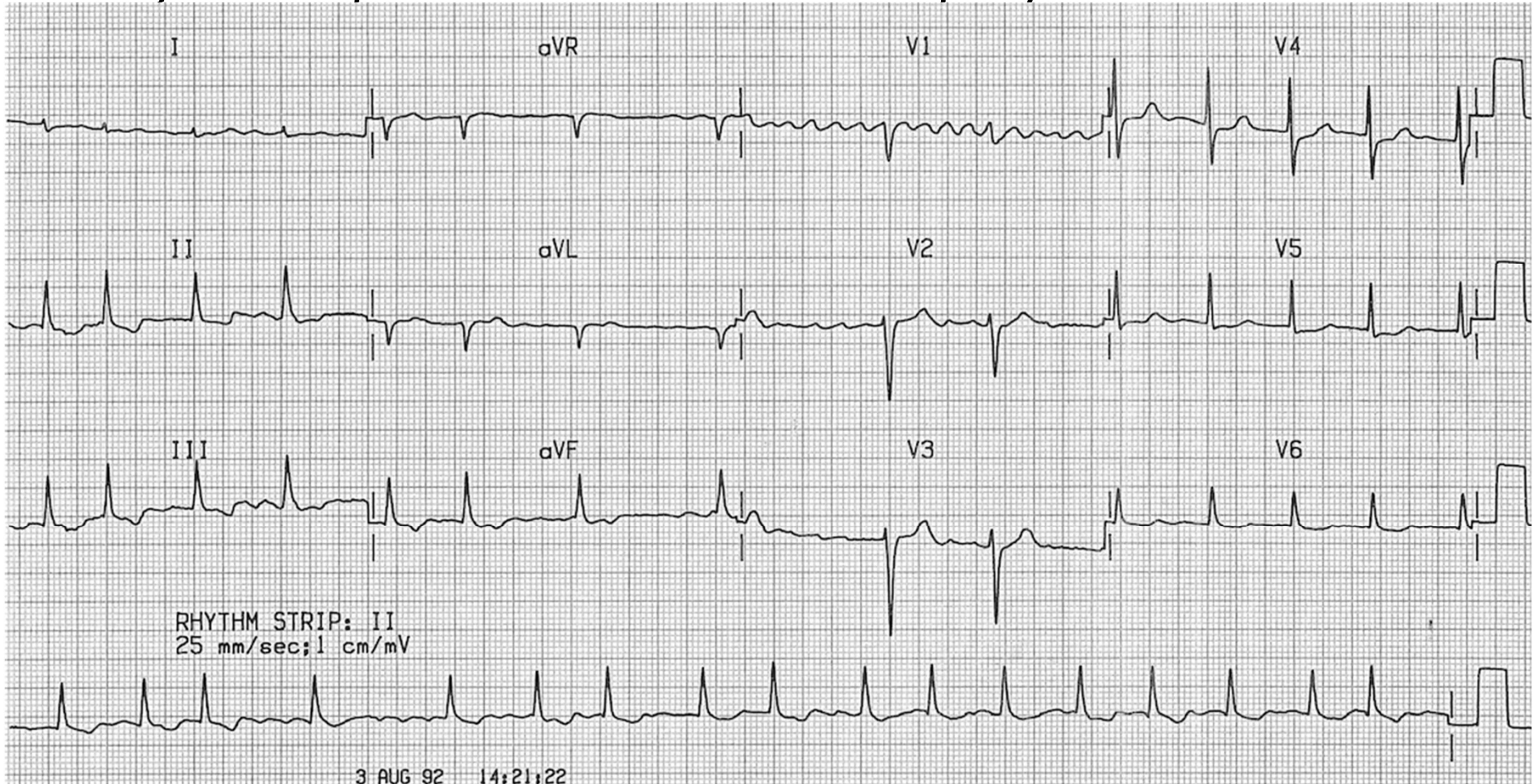
# Reading

- Rate
- Rhythm → Narrow Complex Tachycardia
- Axis
- Intervals
- R-wave Progression
- ST/Twave/Qwaves
- Waveform
- Diagnosis (if appropriate)

# Narrow Complex Tachycardia



# 45 yo NB person for normal physical

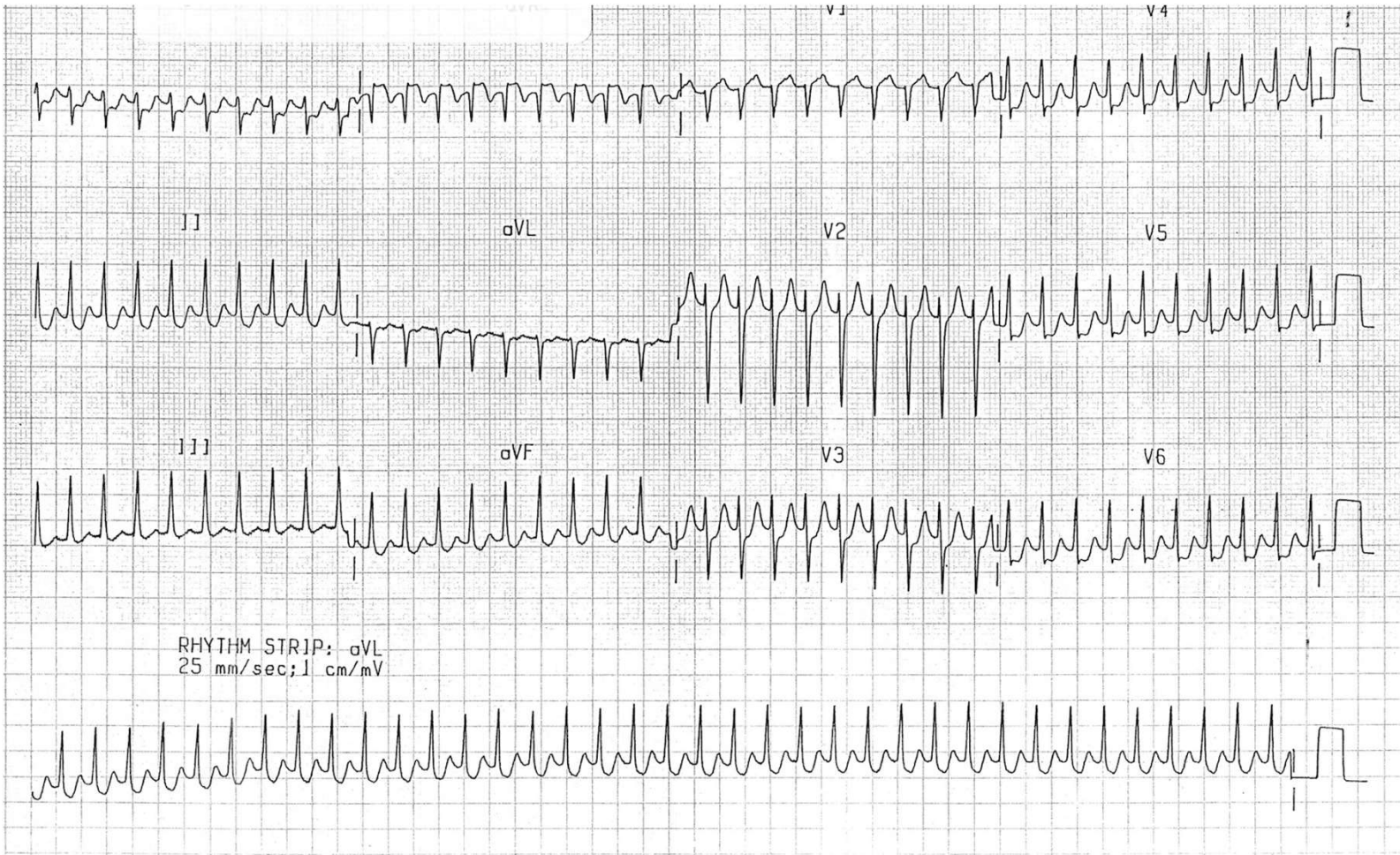


# Atrial Fibrillation

- Classic irregular narrow complex tachycardia



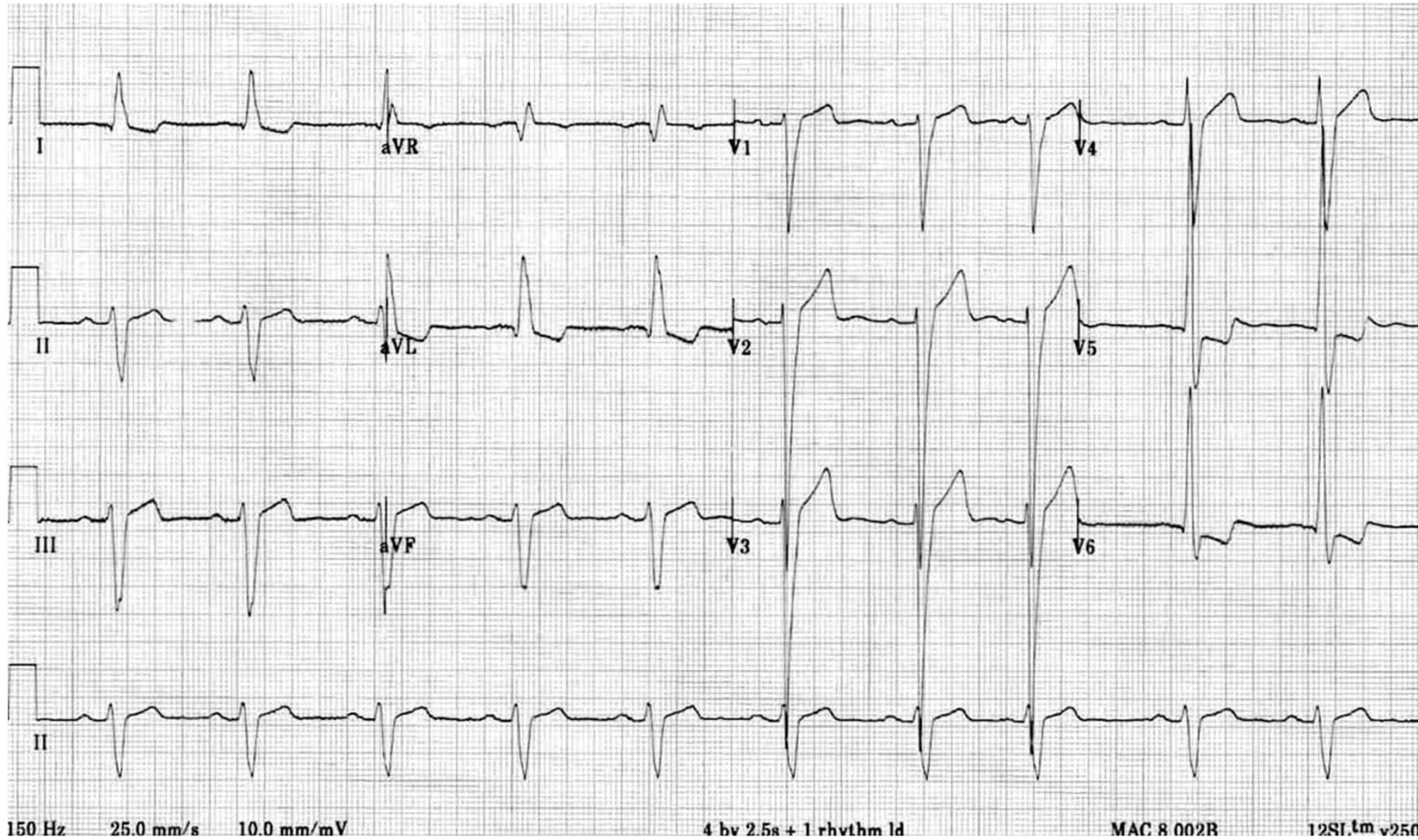
# 18 yo M athlete w/SOB



# AVNRT (reentrant)

- Narrow complex tachycardia
- Can be very fast, much faster than Sinus tach which typically is <220-age max heart rate
- Retrograde P-waves can sometimes be seen

# 45 NB w/atypical CP



# Left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH)

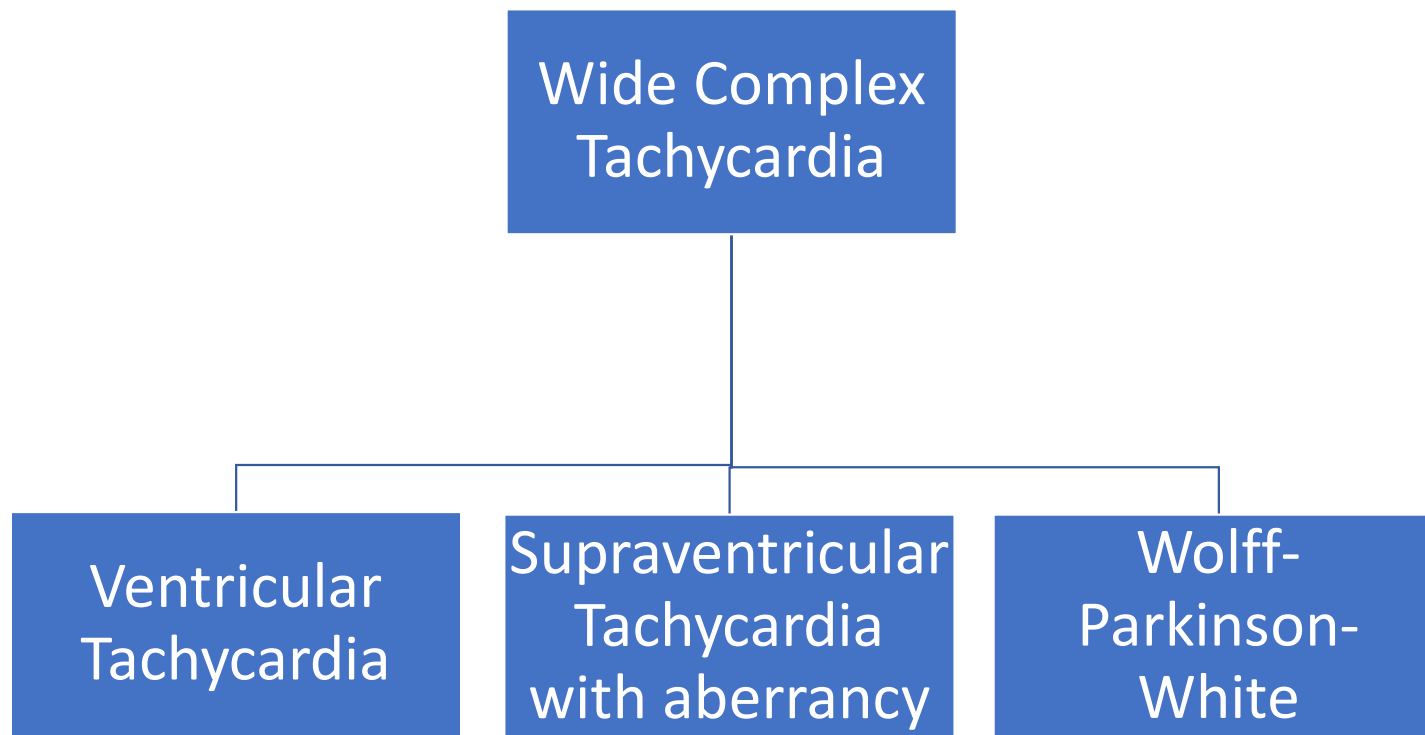
- Markedly increased LV voltages: huge precordial R and S waves that overlap with the adjacent leads ( $SV2 + RV6 \gg 35$  mm).
- R-wave peak time  $> 50$  ms in V5-6 with associated QRS broadening.
- LV strain pattern with ST depression and T-wave inversions in I, aVL and V5-6.
- ST elevation in V1-3.
- Prominent U waves in V1-3.
- Left axis deviation.



# 56 yo unconscious man



# Wide Complex Tachycardia

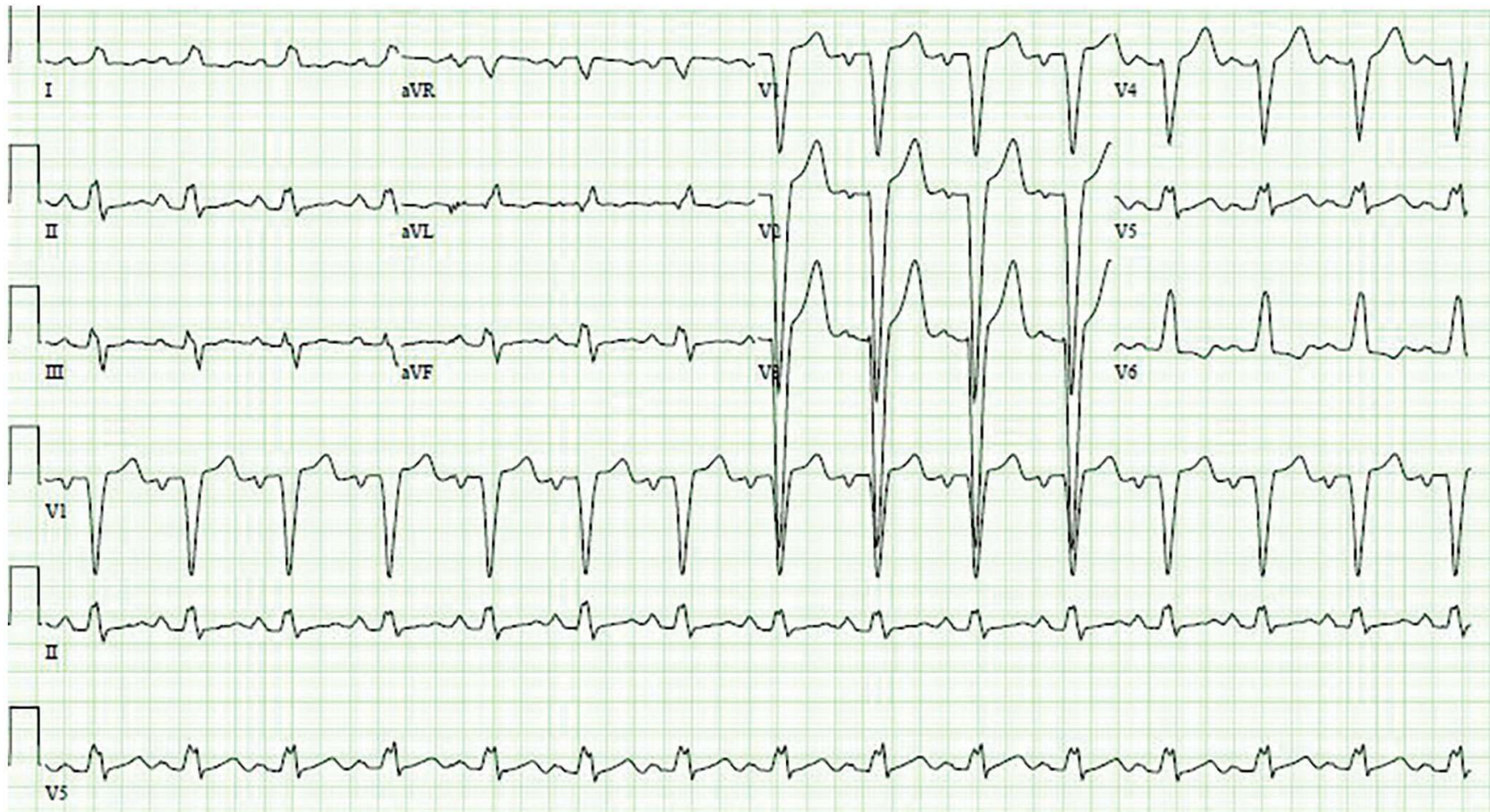


# Ventricular Tachycardia - characteristics

- Very broad complexes ( $>160\text{ms}$ )
- AV dissociation (P and QRS complexes at different rates)
- Capture beats — occur when the sinoatrial node transiently ‘captures’ the ventricles, in the midst of AV dissociation, to produce a QRS complex of normal duration
- Fusion beats — occur when a sinus and ventricular beat coincide to produce a hybrid complex of intermediate morphology
- Positive or negative concordance throughout the chest leads, i.e. leads V1-6 show entirely positive (R) or entirely negative (QS) complexes, with no RS complexes seen



59 yo M in preop clinic

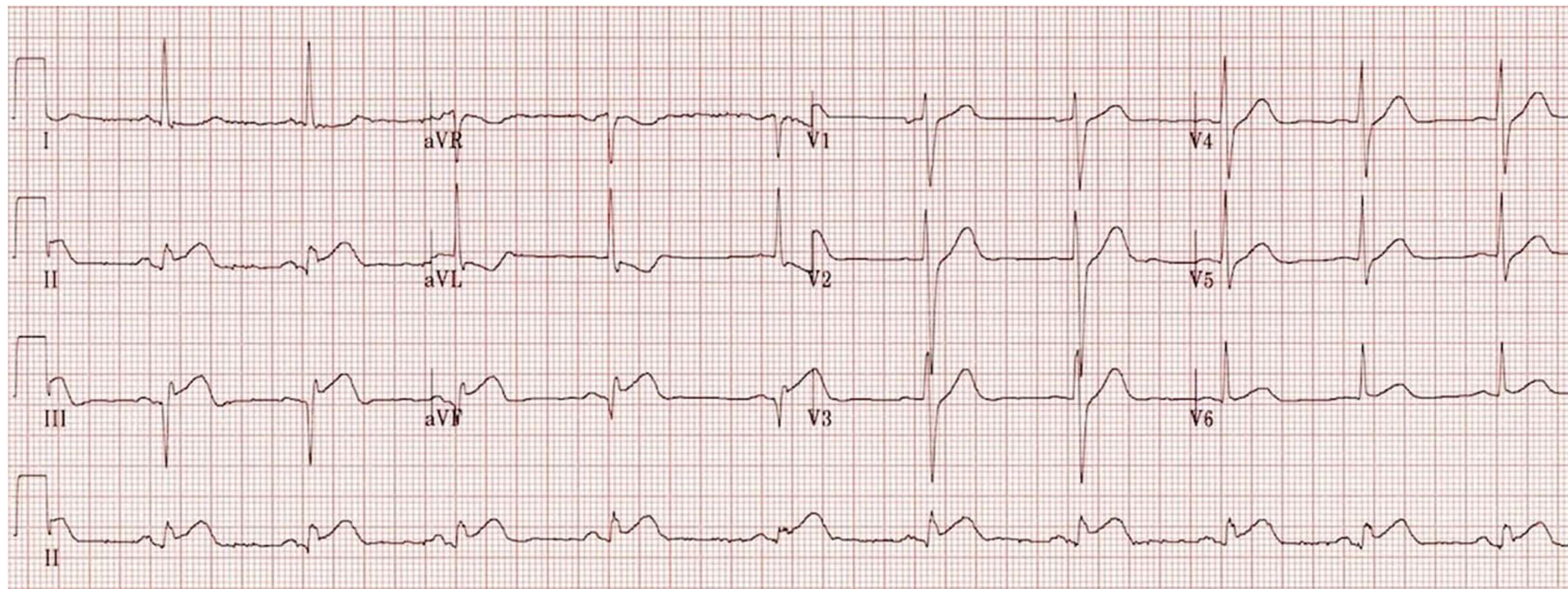




# Left Bundle Branch Block

- QRS >120 msec
- Typical LBBB pattern:
  - Largely negative forces in V1
  - Positive forces in I and V6
- Expected repol abnormalities:
  - Disconcordant ST and T wave changes  
(if QRS forces negative, then ST elevation, e.g.)

63 yo M w chest pain

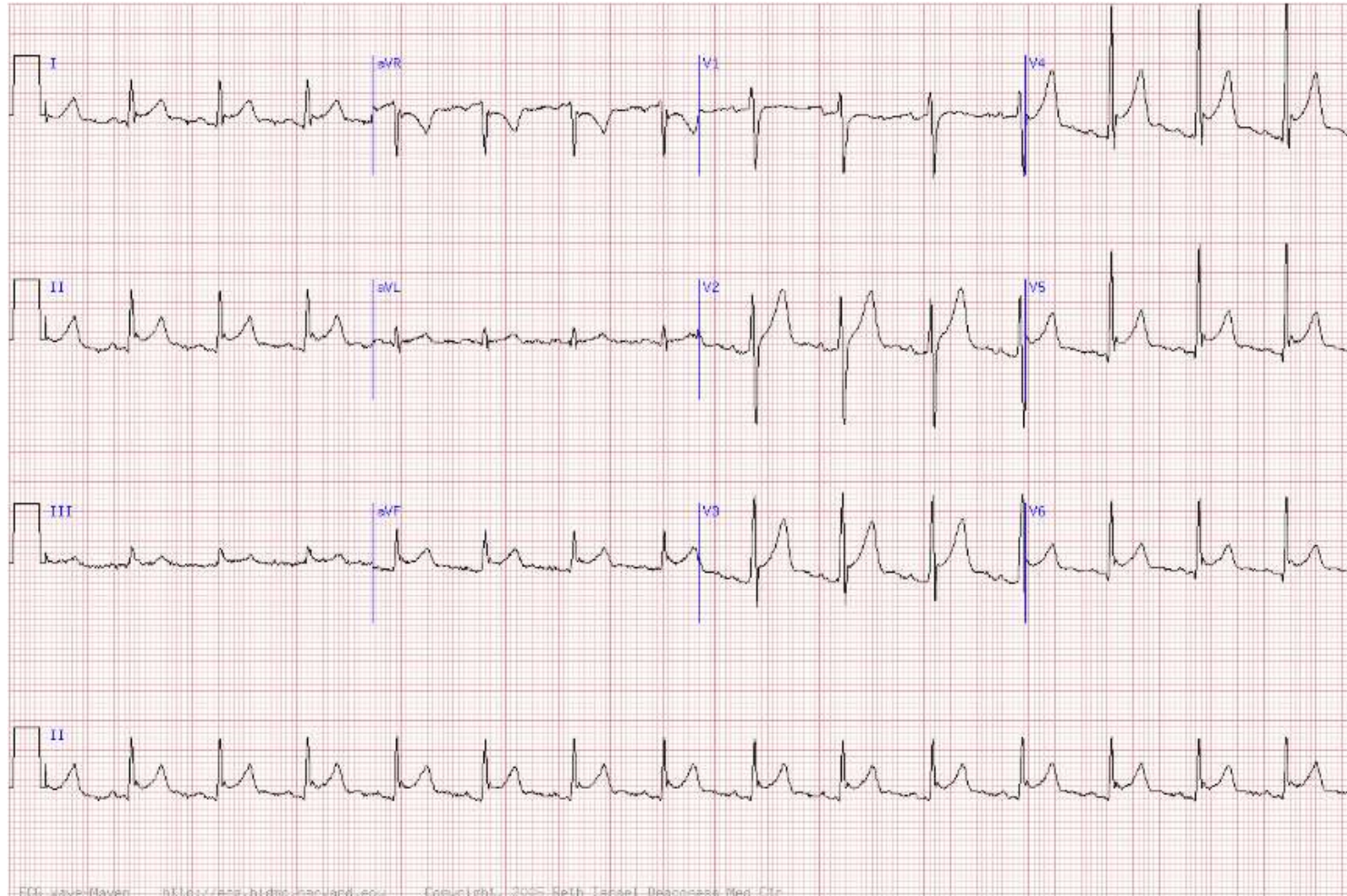


# STEMI

- Inferior STEMI
- ST elevation in II, III and aVF.
- Q-wave formation in III and aVF.
- Reciprocal ST depression and T wave inversion in aVL
- ST elevation in lead II = lead III and absent reciprocal change in lead I (isoelectric ST segment) suggest a circumflex artery occlusion



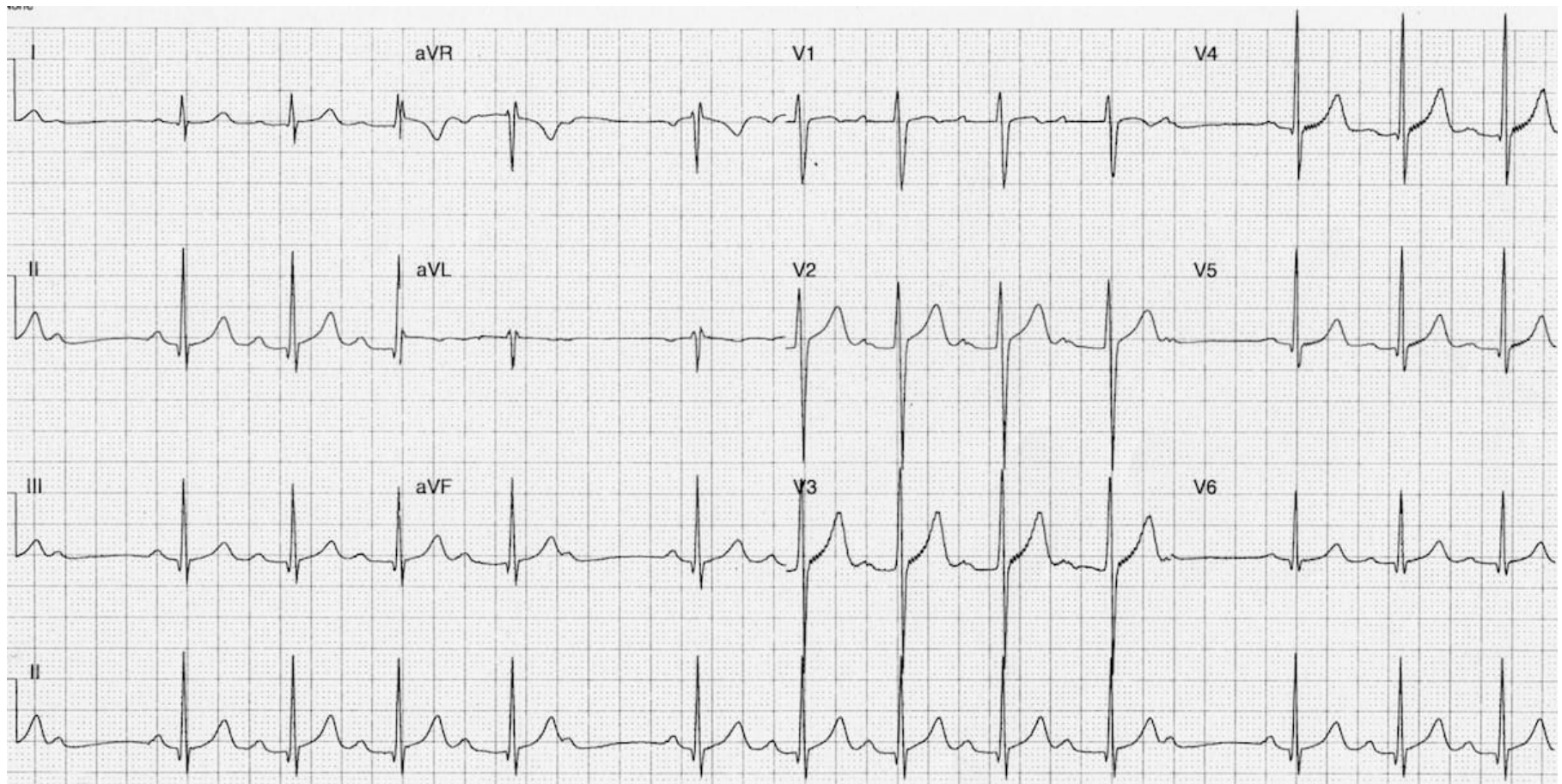
# 32 yo NB w/chest pain



# Pericarditis

- Widespread ST elevations
- Depressed P waves
- V6: ST:T wave amplitude ratio exceeds 0.25

# 65 yo M with lightheadedness

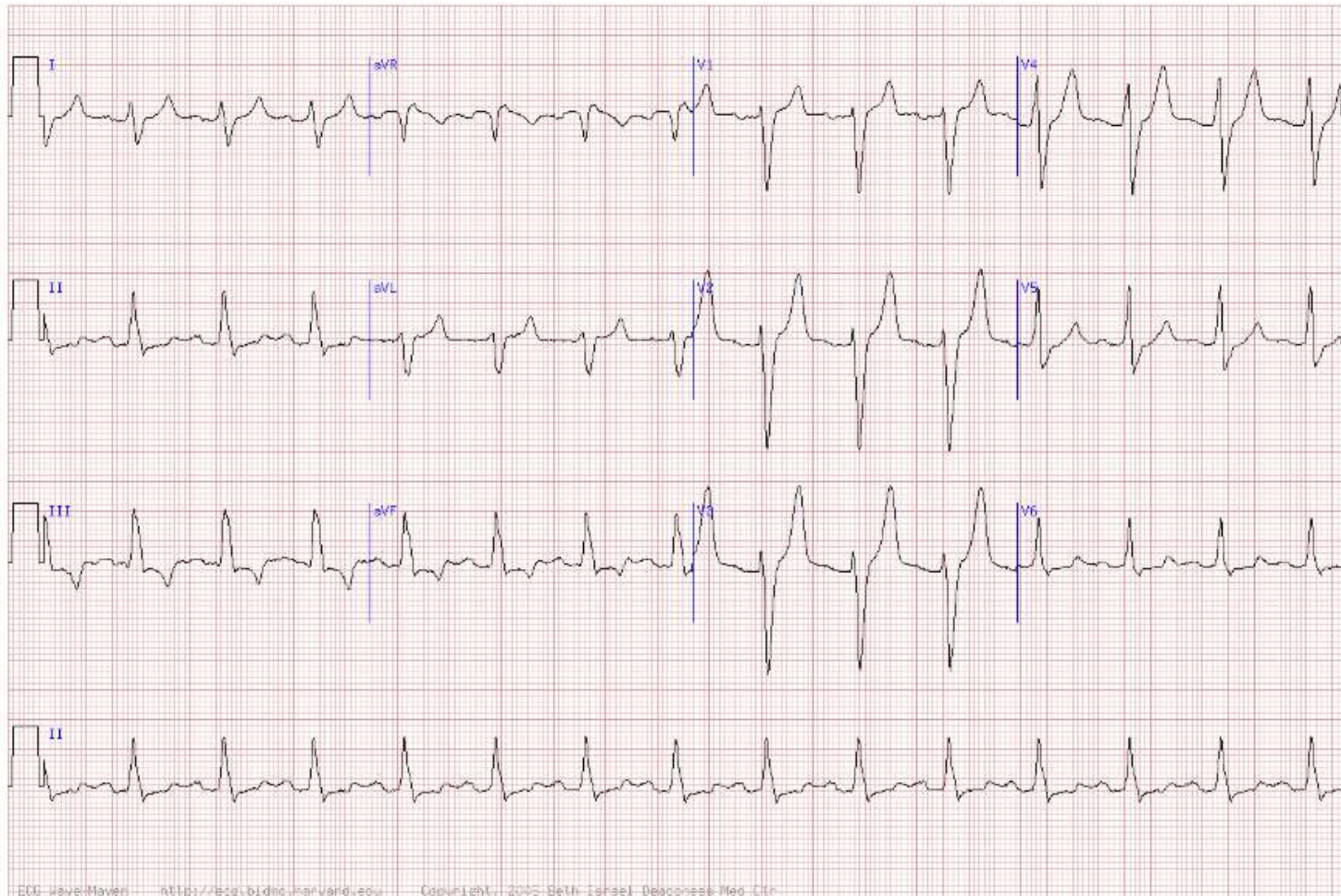


## 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Mobitz I AV block

- QRS complexes clustered in groups, separated by non-conducted P waves.
- The P:QRS conduction ratio varies from 5:4 to 6:5.
- Note the difference in PR interval between the first and last QRS complex of each group.



# 45 yo F weakness/nausea

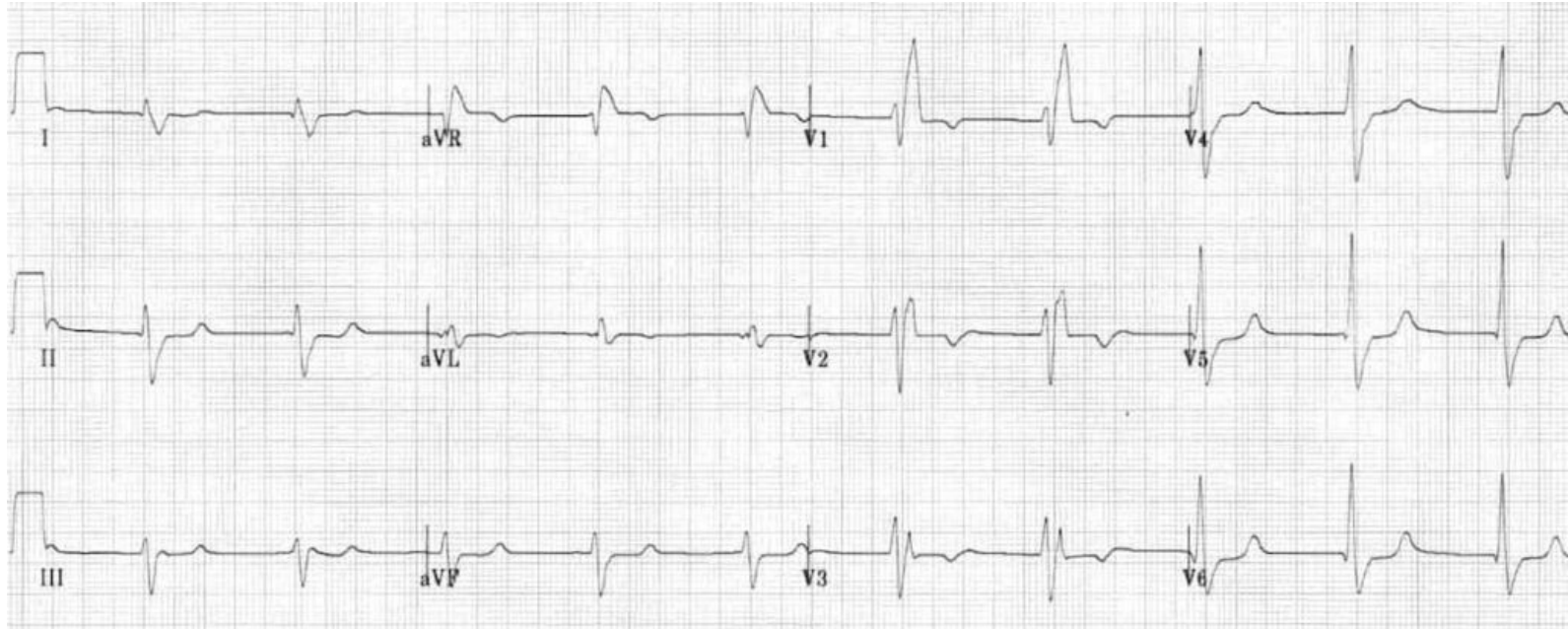




# Hyperkalemia

- The serum potassium was 8.9 mEq/L. Note the wide QRS with tall ("peaked" or "tented") T waves in V2-V4. The PR interval is prolonged. Left atrial abnormality is also present.

# 47 yo NB w/pneumonia



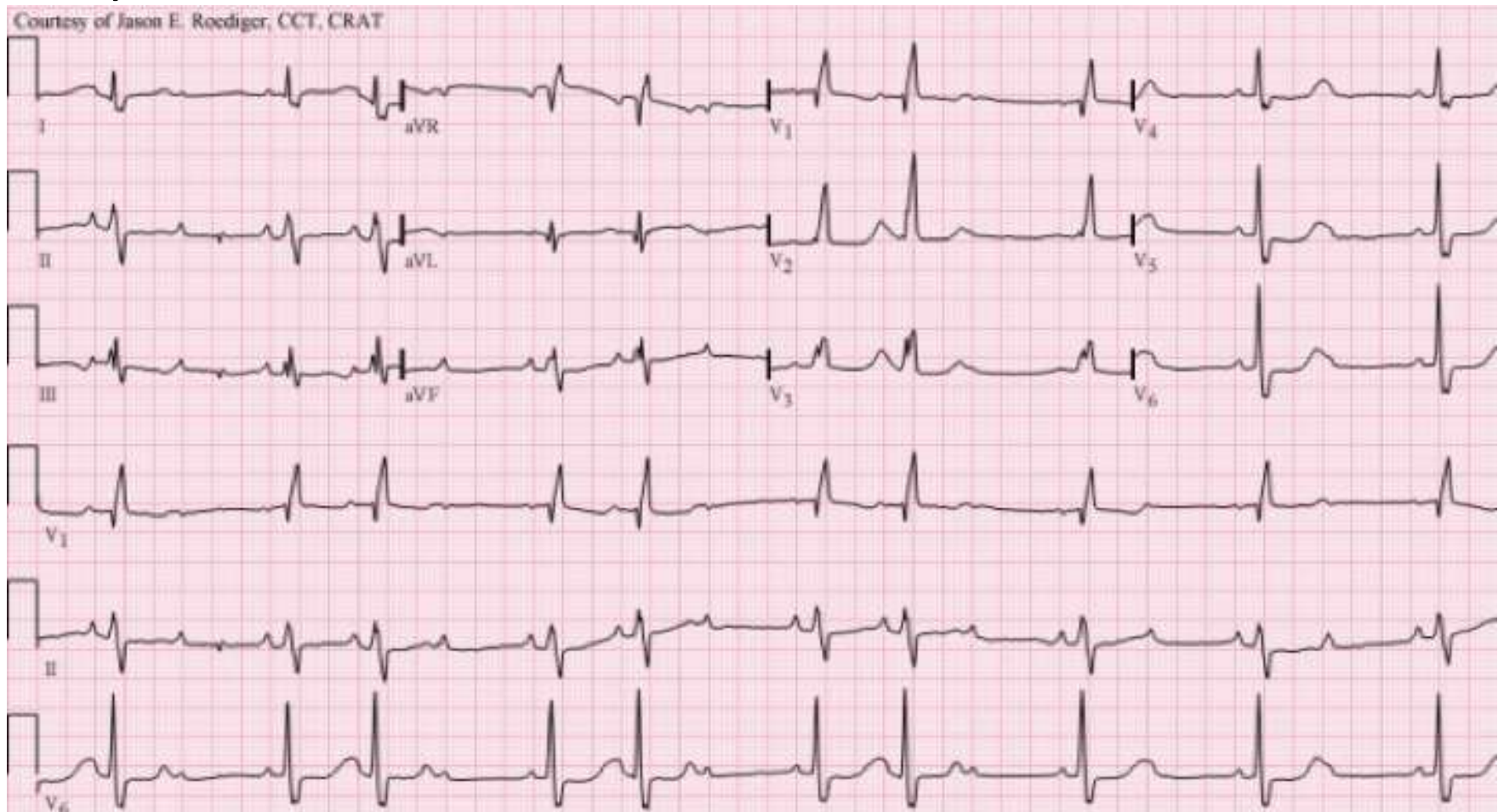
- QRS duration > 120ms
- RSR' pattern in V1-3  
("M-shaped" QRS complex)
- Wide, slurred S wave in lateral leads (I, aVL, V5-6)



# RBBB Ddx

- Right ventricular hypertrophy / cor pulmonale
- Pulmonary embolus
- Ischemic heart disease
- Rheumatic heart disease
- Congenital heart disease (e.g. atrial septal defect)
- Myocarditis
- Cardiomyopathy
- Lenègre-Lev disease: primary degenerative disease (fibrosis) of the conducting system

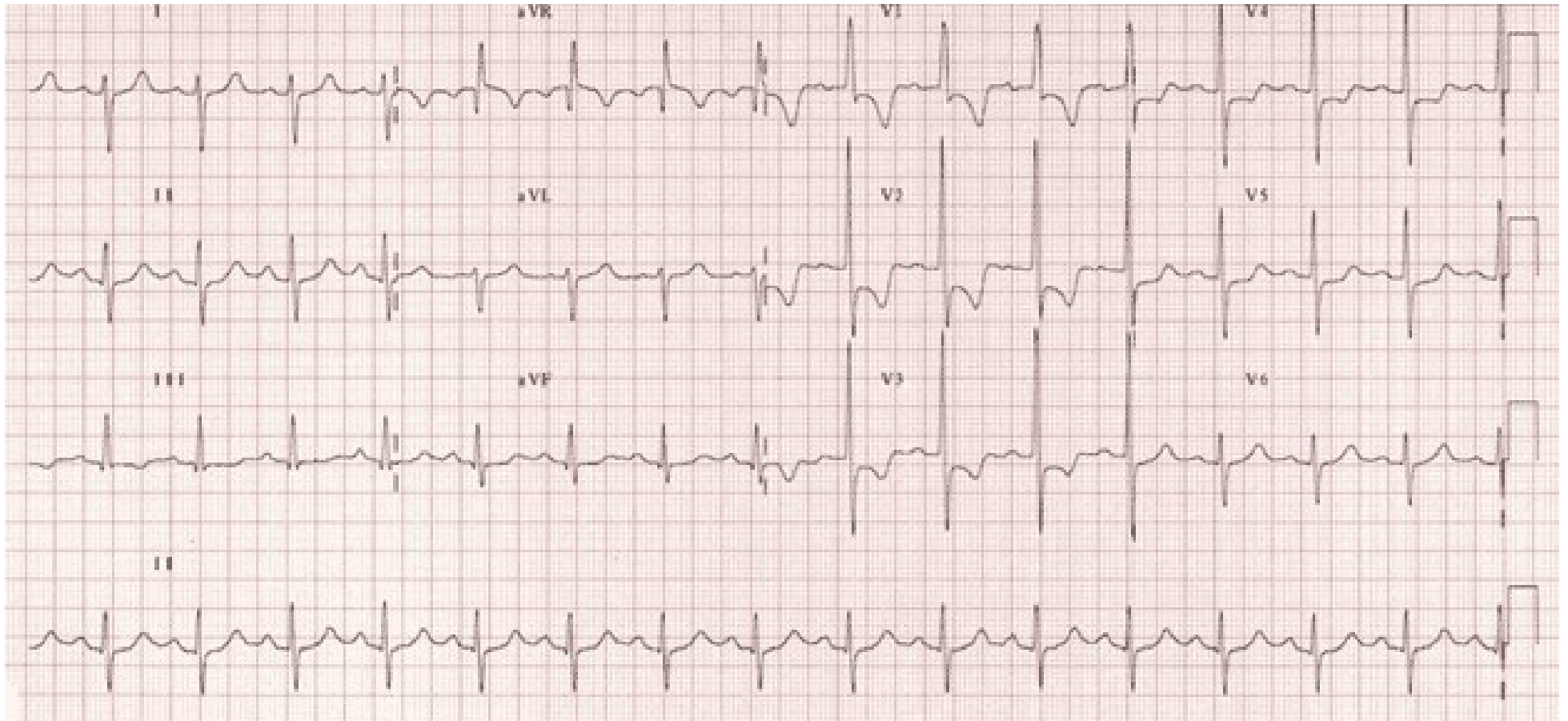
65 yo F w/dizziness



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Block, Mobitz II

- 2:1 conduction
- Normal PR interval
- Other conduction ab

63 yo W with SOB



# Early R wave prog - RVH

## Diagnostic criteria for RVH

- QRS duration < 120 ms.
- Right axis deviation > +110°
- Dominant R wave in lead V1  $\geq 7$  mm

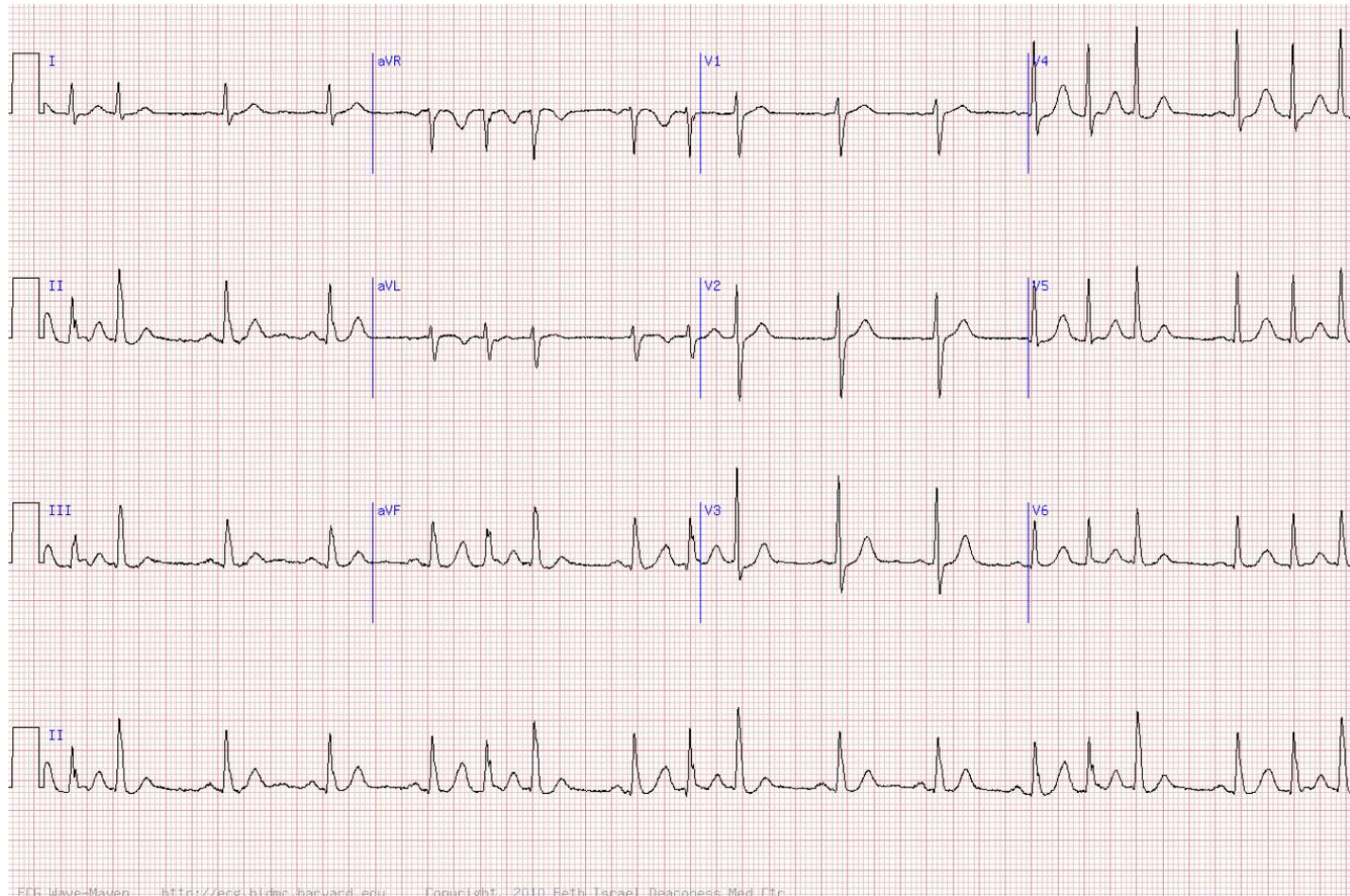
## Supporting criteria for RVH

- ST segment depression/T wave inversion in anterior/inferior leads
- Deep S waves in leads V5, V6, I, and aVL (clockwise rotation)
- P pulmonale
- S1, S2, S3 pattern = far right axis deviation

Note: QRS needs to be <120 so that we don't attribute findings 2/2 RBBB.



# 25 yo NB with irreg heartbeat





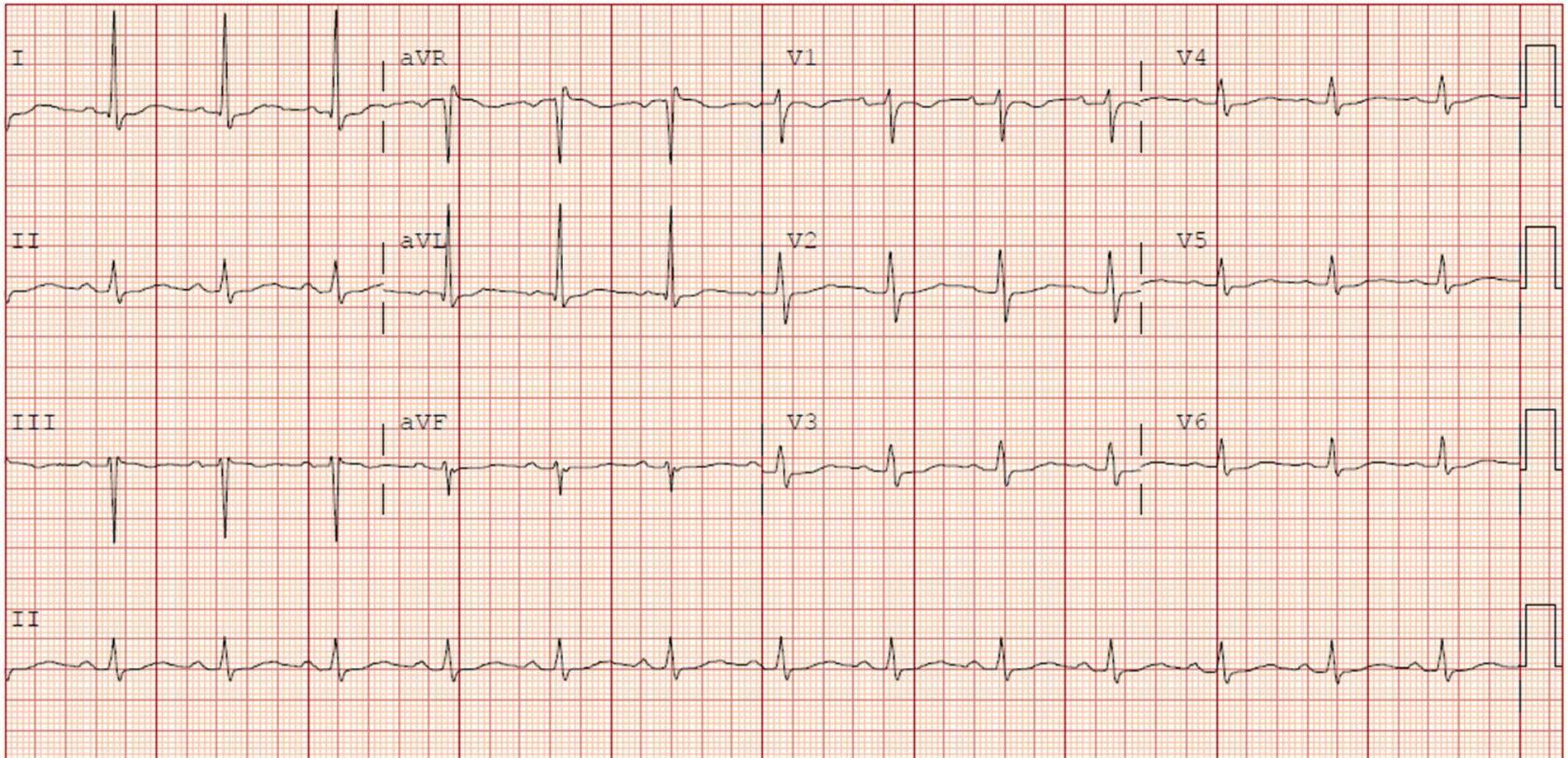
# Premature Atrial Complexes (PACs)

- P-wave followed by QRS
- Earlier than expected by rate

# 36 yo M referred for MDD

12 Lead; Standard Placement

Preliminary

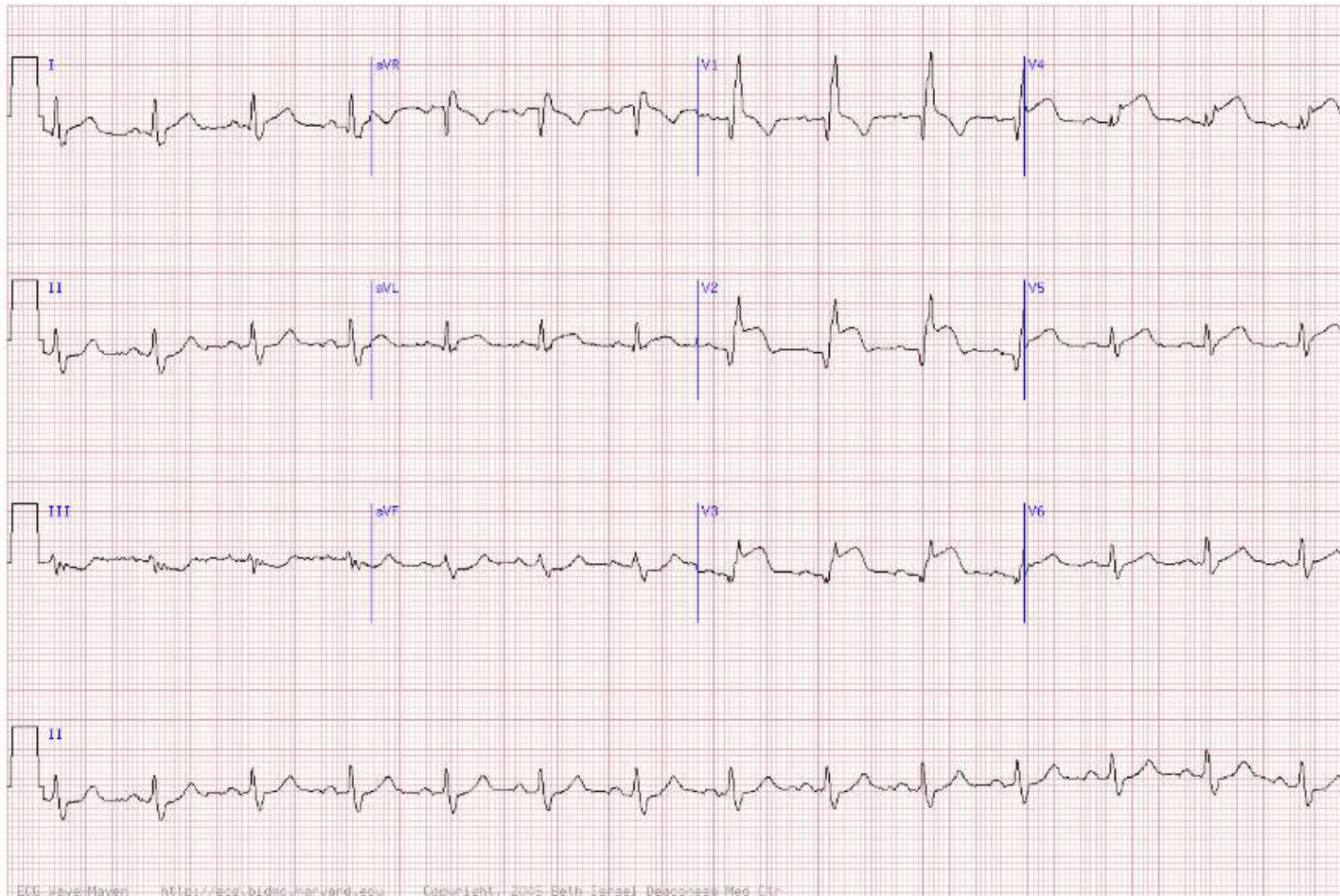


# Long QTc

- Measured from beginning of QRS to end of T
- Note there is a correction should the patient have a bundle branch block (not present in this case)



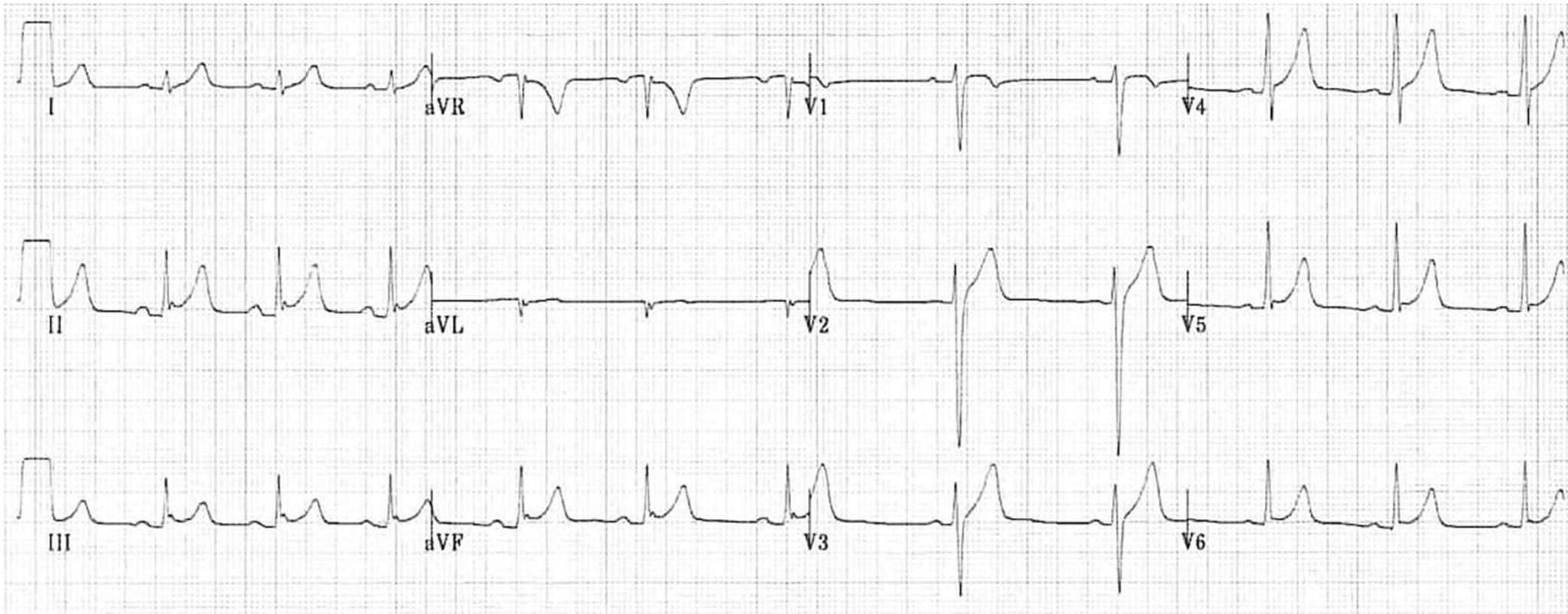
# 78 yo M with chest pressure



# STEMI

- Anterolateral MI
- Reciprocal changes (to lateral STE's)  
in inferior leads

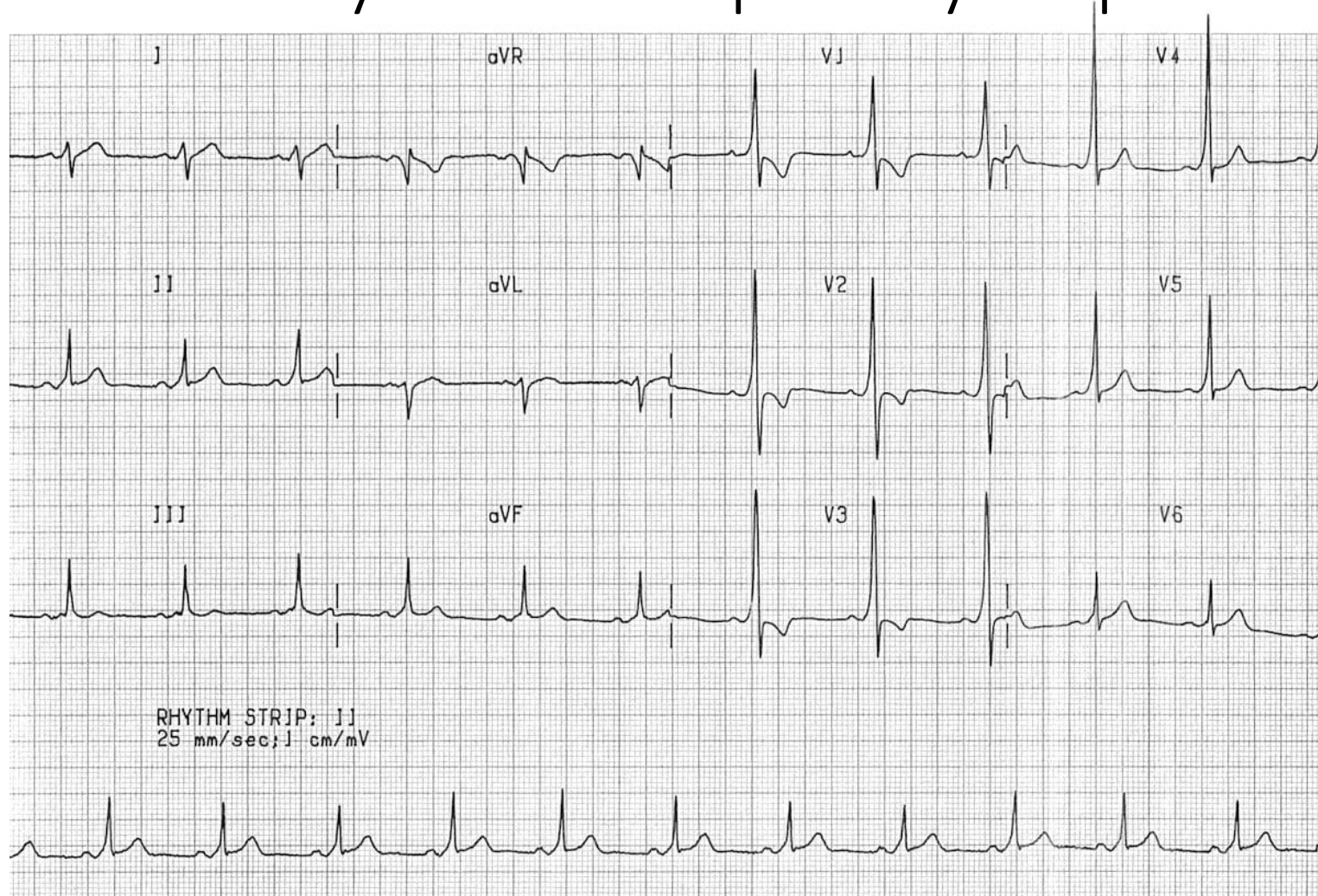
47 yo F w/HTN preop



# Benign repolarization

- There is generalized concave ST elevation in the precordial (V2-6) and limb leads (I, II, III, aVF).
- J-point notching is evident in the inferior leads (II, III and aVF).
- There are prominent, slightly asymmetrical T waves that are concordant with the main vector of the QRS complexes.

# 29 yo F work up for syncope

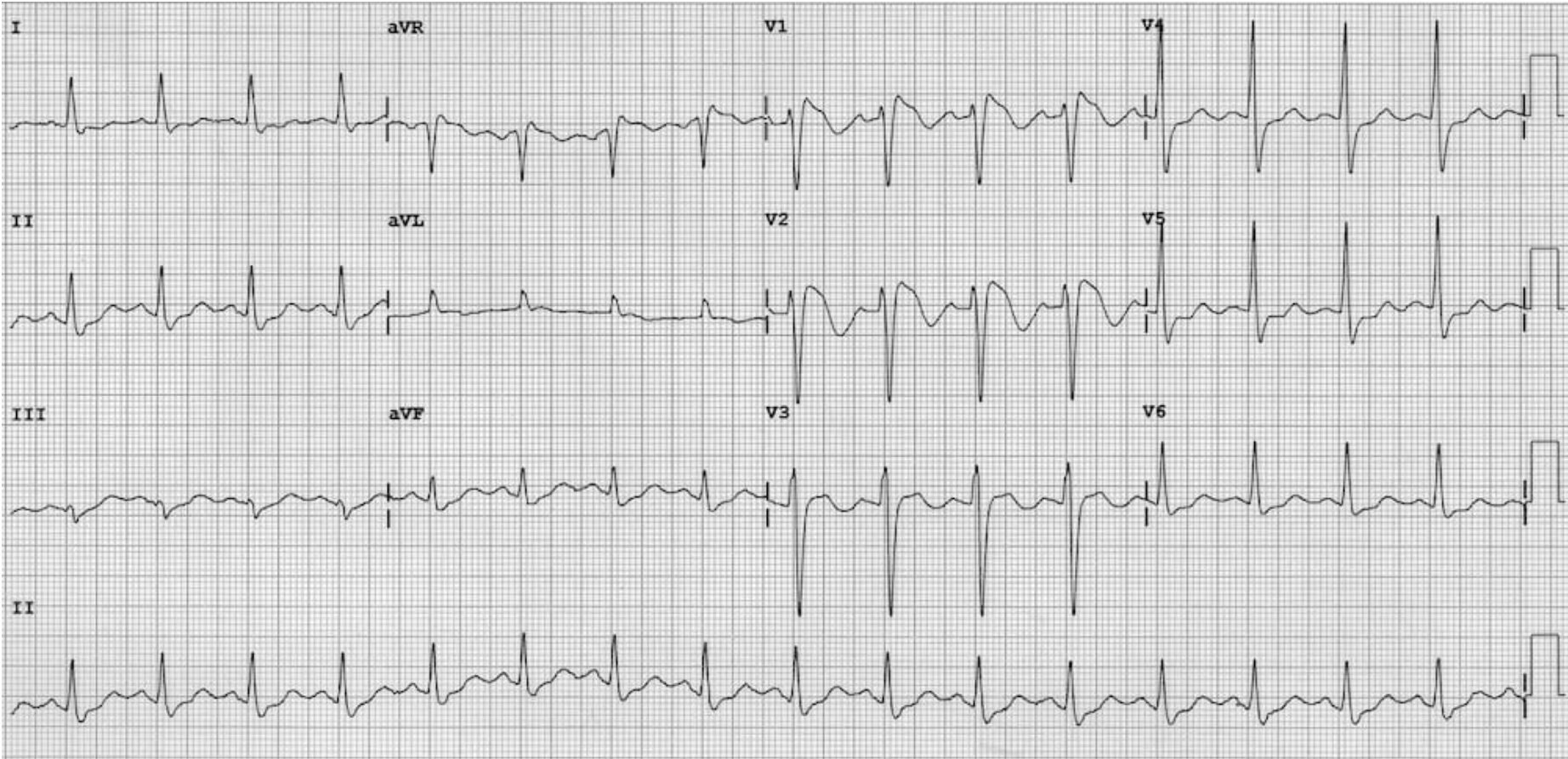




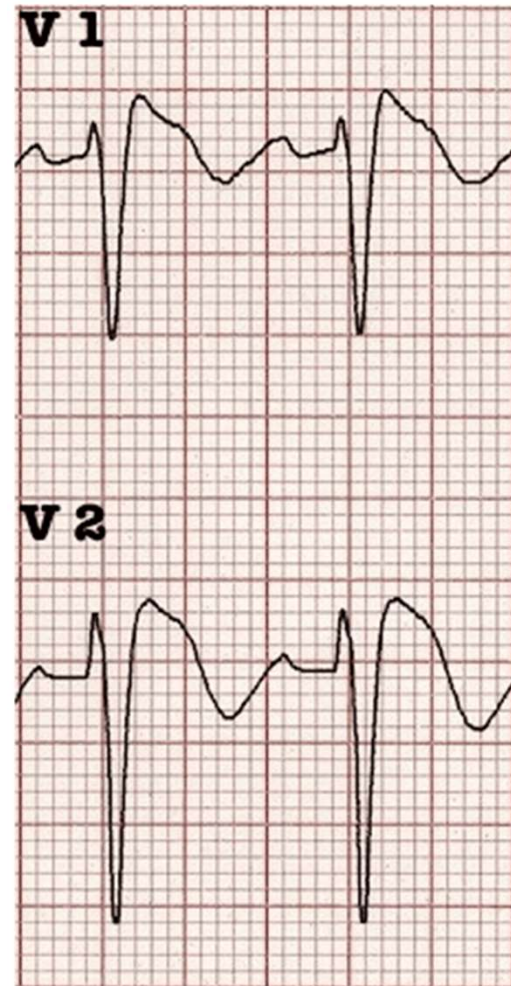
# WPW

- Sinus rhythm with a very short PR interval (< 120 ms).
- Broad QRS complexes with a slurred upstroke to the QRS complex — the delta wave.
- **Dominant R wave in V1** — this pattern is known as “**Type A**” WPW and is associated with a **left-sided accessory pathway**.
- Tall R waves and inverted T waves in V1-3 mimicking right ventricular hypertrophy — these changes are due to WPW and do not indicate underlying RVH.
- Negative delta wave in aVL simulating the Q waves of lateral infarction — this is referred to as the “**pseudo-infarction**” pattern
- Type A WPW pattern with dominant R wave in V1 and right precordial T-wave inversions simulating RVH.

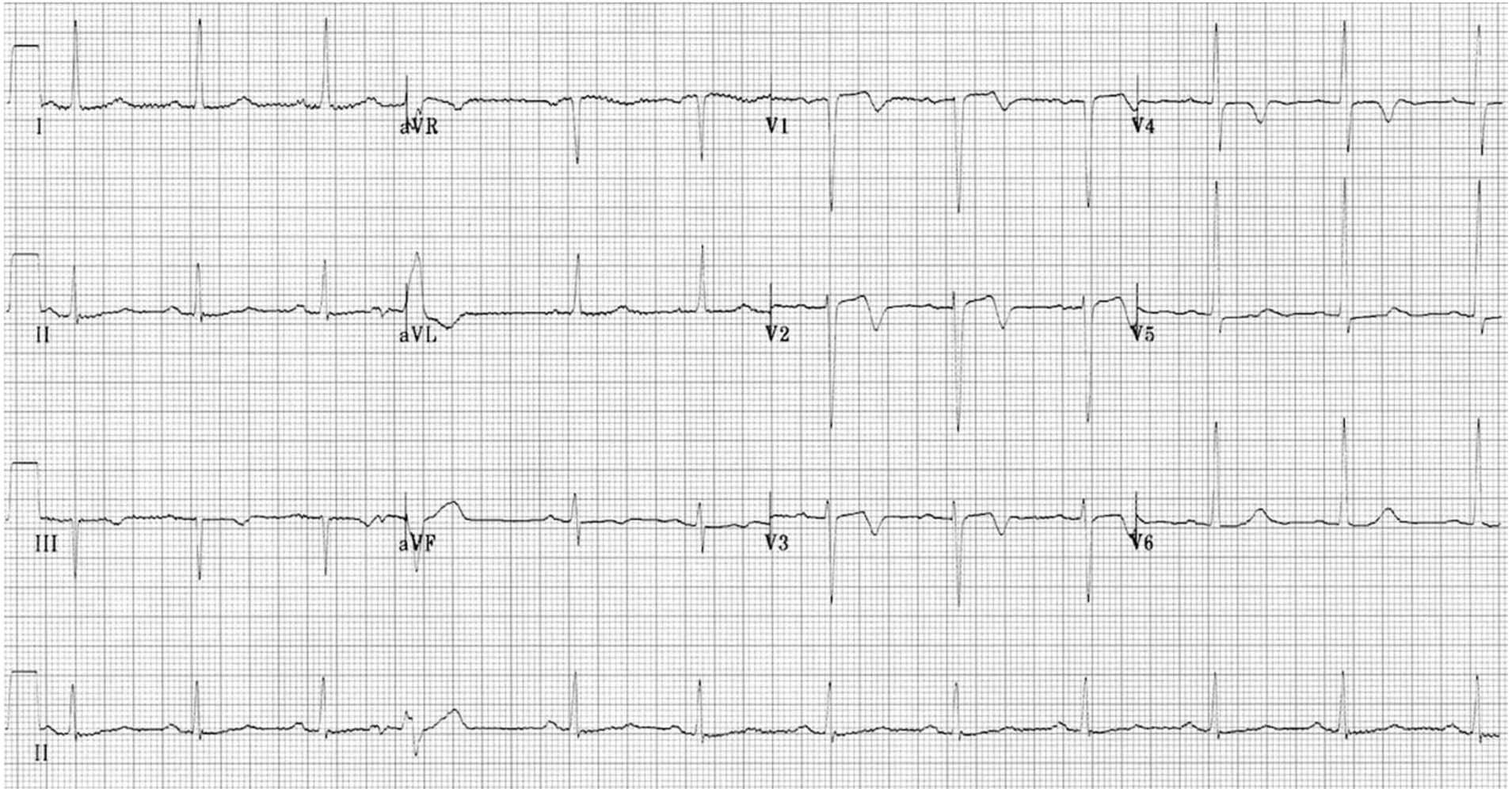
# 45 yo F with preop ECG



There is ST elevation and partial RBBB in V1-2 with a coved morphology — the “Brugada sign”.



# 68 yo M in ED with CP

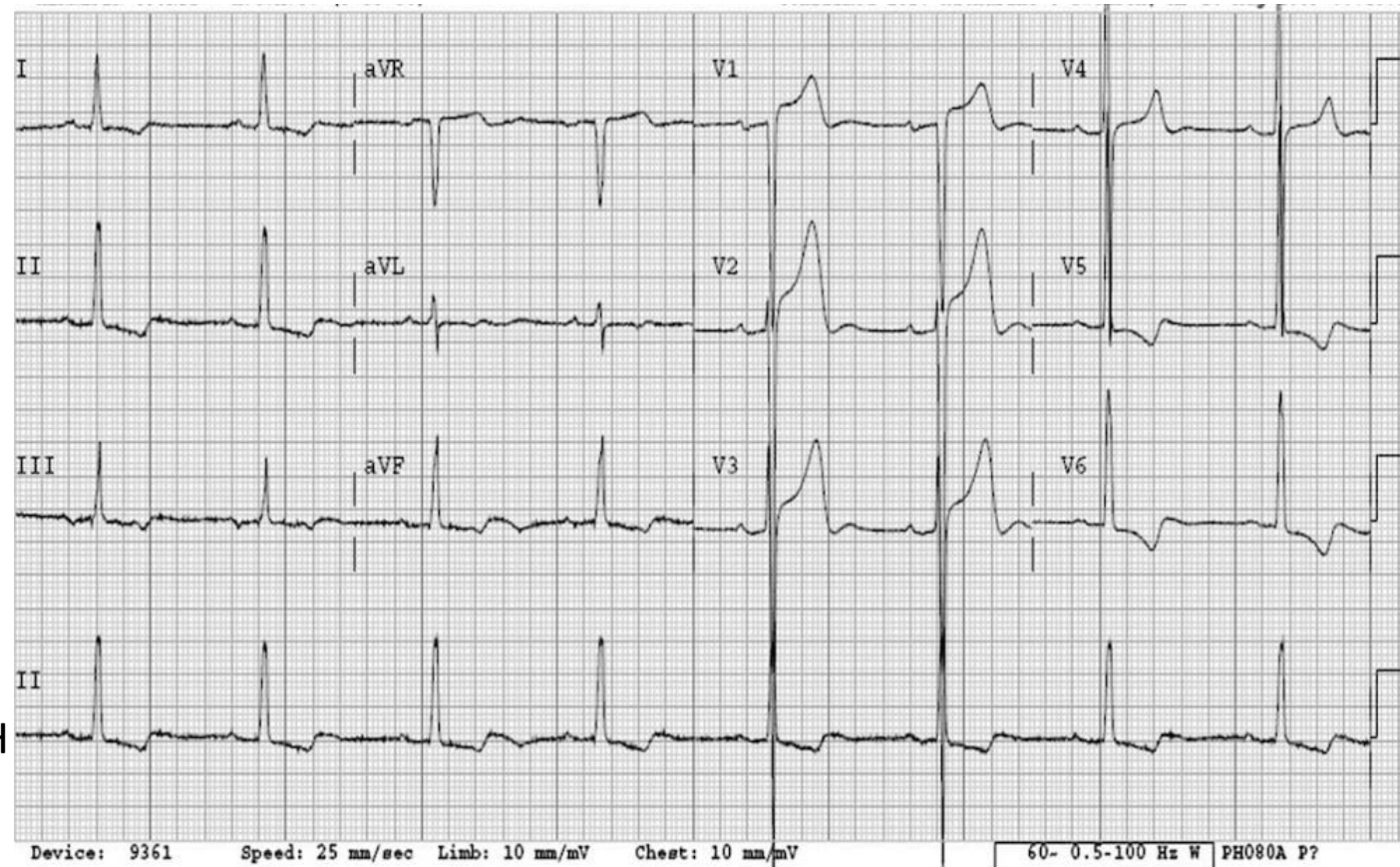


# Wellen's Pattern

- There are abnormal T waves in V1-4 — biphasic in V1-3 and inverted in V4.
- This pattern is and is highly specific for a critical stenosis of the proximal LAD artery
- Type A Wellen's Pattern

# T. S. Wift's ECG

- **Rate:** ~50
- **Rhythm:** NSR
- **Axis:** normal axis
- **Intervals:**
  - PR 205 -> 1deg AVB
  - QRS 100
  - QT 440 (normal QTc)
- **RVP:** normal
- **Ischemia:** ST elevations in anteroseptal leads, ST depressions in intero/lateral leads, "strain pattern"
- **Waveform:** voltage -> c/w LVH
- **Dx:** likely simply LVH with repolarization abnormalities



## To sum it all up...

1. Reading ECGs is a skill that takes real world practice. You will need to force yourself to read these using a systematic approach to gain this skill
2. A common approach to reading ECGs is rate, rhythm, axis, intervals, R-wave progression, ST/Twave/Qwave, waveform



# References

ECGs drawn from:

1. Life in the Fast Lane: <https://litfl.com/library/>
2. Deidentified personal ECG library

# Acid-Base abnormalities

Rudy Moravek, PA-C  
Assistant Professor  
University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine

# Learning objectives

- Have a three-step approach to assessing acid-base disorders
- Leave with an improved understanding of the Anion Gap
- Know there are several different causes of elevated lactate
- Improved comfort with formulating a differential diagnosis for various Acid-Base disorder

- As you are getting your history from T. S. Wift, you get a "ping" on the computer that some labs are resulting. You attempt to be efficient and check the EMR...
- While you are reviewing the BMP, she claims, "Call it what you want, my body is in a glitch and I must have some bad blood"

The diagram shows a horizontal line representing a blood chemistry panel. Above the line, from left to right, are: Na<sup>+</sup>: 138 (135-145), Cl<sup>-</sup>: 102 (96-106), and BUN: 16 (<20). Below the line, from left to right, are: K<sup>+</sup>: 4.1 (3.5-5), HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>: 18 (22-30), and Cr: 0.89 (<1.0). A large arrow on the right side of the line points to the text "Glucose: 107".

Na <sup>+</sup> : 138 (135-145)	Cl <sup>-</sup> : 102 (96-106)	BUN: 16 (<20)	Glucose: 107
K <sup>+</sup> : 4.1 (3.5-5)	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> : 18 (22-30)	Cr: 0.89 (<1.0)	

What is the abnormality seen on the BMP?

- A. Anion Gap Metabolic Acidosis
- B. Metabolic Alkalosis
- C. Non-anion Gap Metabolic Acidosis
- D. I have no idea

# Metabolic Acidosis

- Drop in systemic pH (due to increase in  $[H^+]$ ) from one of three reasons...
  1. Increase in metabolic acids
  2. Loss of systemic bicarbonate
  3. Decreased secretion of metabolic acids from the kidneys

What test can we get to further work up the Acid-Base problem?

- A. Lactate
- B. Urinalysis
- C. Repeat the BMP and hope for a different result
- D. Arterial Blood Gas



## T. S. Wift's ABG

pH: 7.31 / CO<sub>2</sub>: 40 / O<sub>2</sub>: 88 / HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>: 18  
(7.35-7.45) / (35-45) / (80-100) / (21-27)

What the heck to I do  
with this???

TRY TO KEEP IT SIMPLE!!!

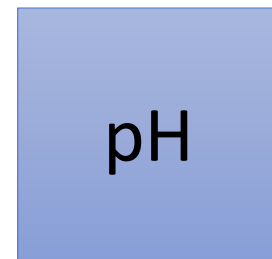
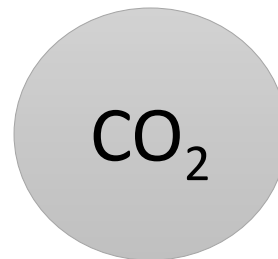
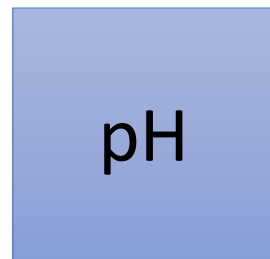
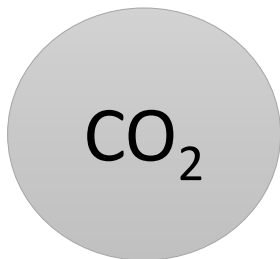
# Basic approach to Acid-Base abnormalities...

Three steps using the ABG...

1. Assess for primary disorder
2. Assess for compensation
3. If the primary disorder is a metabolic acidosis, assess the anion gap

# Step 1. Assess for the primary disorder

- Quick and easy...
  1. Acidosis vs Alkalosis (is the pH high/alkalotic vs low/acidotic)
  2. Look at the CO<sub>2</sub>
    - Just remember, “when in ROME...”
      - Respiratory Opposite, Metabolic Equal



So what is our primary disorder?

pH: 7.31 / CO<sub>2</sub>: 40 / O<sub>2</sub>: 88 / HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>: 18  
(7.35-7.45) / (35-45) / (80-100) / (21-27)

Acidosis

Metabolic

**METABOLIC ACIDOSIS**

# Assess for compensation

- Metabolic Acidosis: Increase in ventilation --> decrease in  $\text{PCO}_2$ 
  - $\text{PCO}_2 = 1.5 \times [\text{HCO}_3^-] + 8 \pm 2 \text{ mmHg}$
- Metabolic Alkalosis: Decrease in ventilation --> increase in  $\text{PCO}_2$ 
  - $\text{PCO}_2 = 40 + 0.7 \times (\text{HCO}_3^- - 24) \pm 5 \text{ mmHg}$
- Respiratory Acidosis: Decrease in renal  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  loss --> increase in serum  $[\text{HCO}_3^-]$ 
  - Acute: 24-48 hours:  $[\text{HCO}_3^-]$  rise of 1 mEq/L per 10 mmHg rise in  $\text{PCO}_2$  from 40
  - Chronic: >48 hours:  $[\text{HCO}_3^-]$  rise of 3.5 mEq/L per 10 mmHg rise in  $\text{PCO}_2$  from 40
- Respiratory Alkalosis: Increase in renal  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  loss --> decrease in serum  $[\text{HCO}_3^-]$ 
  - Acute: 24-48 hours:  $[\text{HCO}_3^-]$  drop of 2 mEq/L per 10 mmHg drop in  $\text{PCO}_2$  from 40
  - Chronic: >48 hours:  $[\text{HCO}_3^-]$  drop of 5 mEq/L per 10 mmHg drop in  $\text{PCO}_2$  from 40


Is T. S. Wifit compensated?

**YES**

**NO**

- Metabolic Acidosis:  $\text{PCO}_2 = 1.5 \times [\text{HCO}_3^-] + 8 \pm 2 \text{ mmHg}$

pH: 7.31 (7.35-7.45)	CO <sub>2</sub> : 40 (35-45)	O <sub>2</sub> : 88 (80-100)	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> : 18 (21-27)
-------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------	---

- $\text{PCO}_2 = 1.5 \times 18 + 8$    $35 \pm 2$



# What is our Acid-Base disorder?

- A. Metabolic Acidosis without Anion Gap with Respiratory Alkalosis
- B. Metabolic Acidosis without Anion Gap
- C. Metabolic Acidosis with Anion Gap with Respiratory Acidosis
- D. Metabolic Acidosis with Anion Gap

If the primary disorder is Metabolic Acidosis,  
assess the anion gap

$$\text{Anion Gap} = (\text{Na}^+) - [(\text{HCO}_3^-) + (\text{Cl}^-)]$$

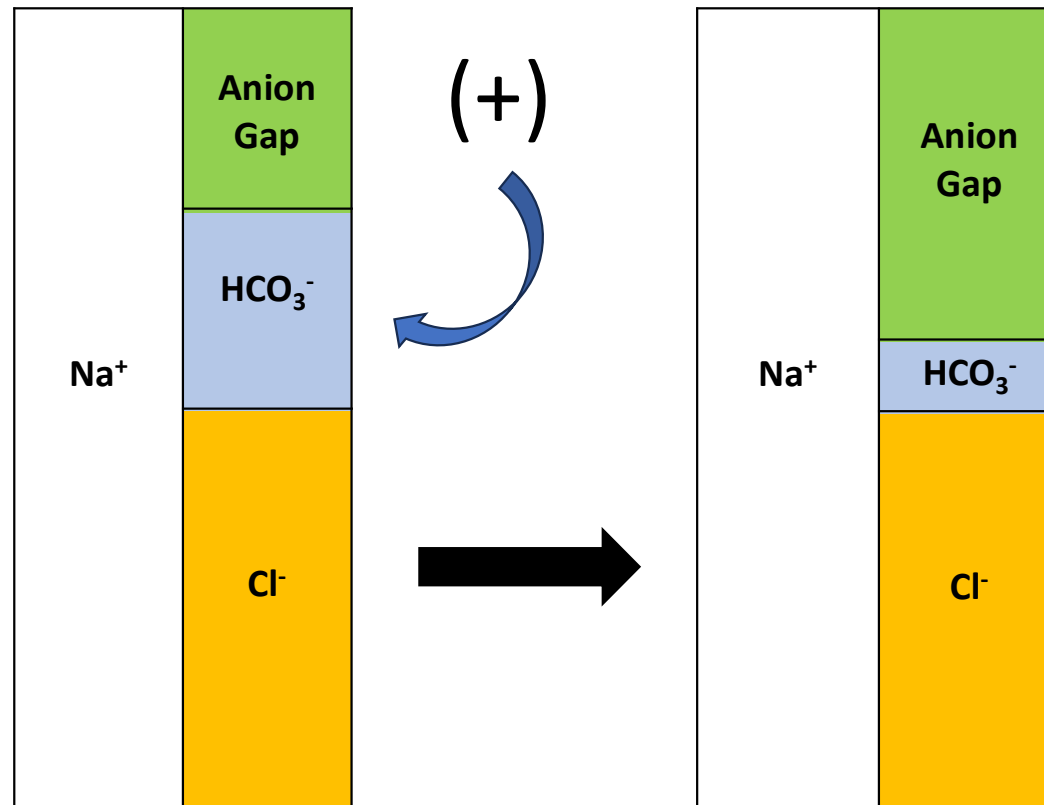
Normal range: 6-12 mmol/L

138 (135-145)	102 (96-106)	16 (<20)	107
4.1 (3.5-5)	18 (22-30)	0.89 (<1.0)	

\*\*\*Some may add (K<sup>+</sup>) to the (Na<sup>+</sup>) but often this is not necessary given plasma concentration of Na<sup>+</sup> (135-145) compared to K<sup>+</sup> (3.5-5.0)\*\*\*

# What the heck is the anion gap?!?

Unmeasured cation/acid is present which is then buffered by  $\text{HCO}_3^-$ , leading to consumption of systemic  $\text{HCO}_3^-$



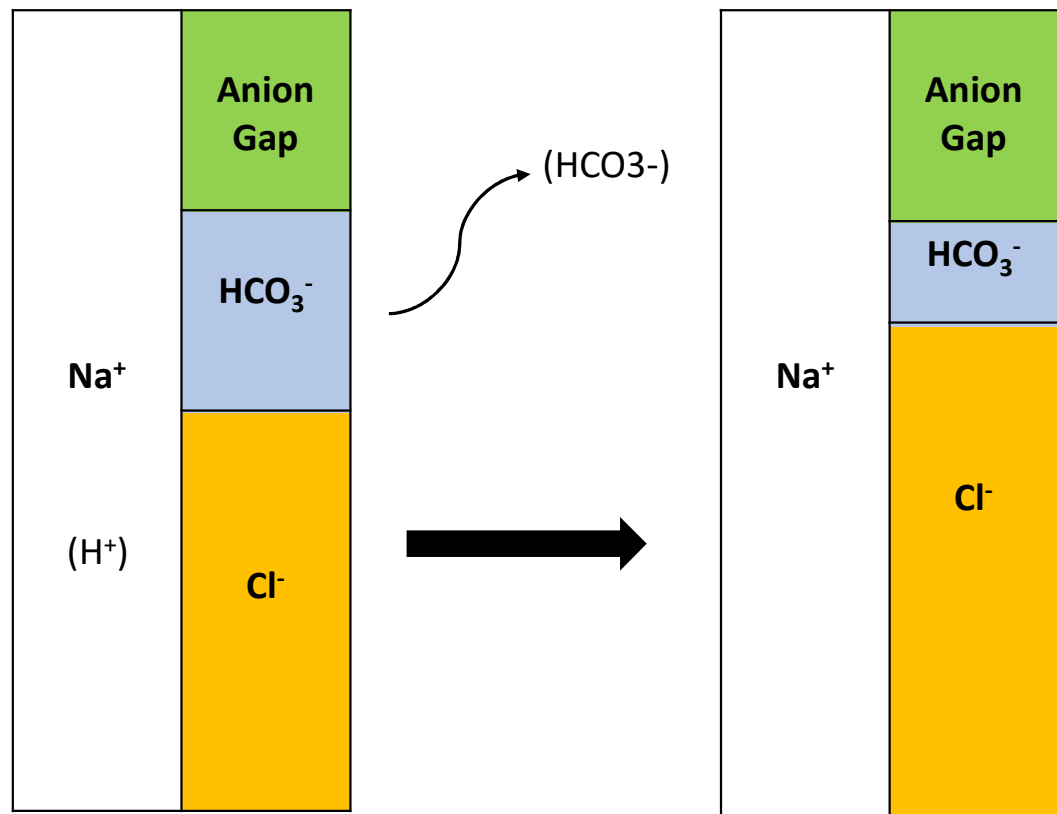
# Don't forget about Albumin...

- Albumin carries a negative charge and is one of the most prominent proteins in the body. Because of this you may need to adjust your anion gap based on the albumin level
  - Rule of thumb... expected anion gap will fall 2.5 mEq/L for every 1.0 g/dL of albumin below normal

Corrected Anion Gap = (Measured Serum Anion Gap) + (2.5 x [4.5 - measured serum albumin])

Well then, what the heck is a non-anion gap?!?

Abnormal loss of  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  or retention of  $\text{H}^+$  causing a shifting of  $\text{Cl}^-$  to the plasma space



If the primary disorder is Metabolic Acidosis,  
assess the anion gap

$$\text{Anion Gap} = (\text{Na}^+) - [(\text{HCO}_3^-) + (\text{Cl}^-)]$$

Normal range: 6-12 mmol/L



For T. S. Wift:  $138 - (18 + 102) = 18$

What workup can we get to assess the etiology for an Anion Gap Metabolic Acidosis?

- A. Blood cultures, urinalysis with culture, respiratory culture
- B. Urinalysis, Lactate, Salicylate level, BMP
- C. Troponin, BNP, Lactate
- D. Blood culture, Troponin, Salicylate level



# Why do we care about the Anion Gap?

It's all about the differential!

## **Anion Gap (MUDPILES or GOLDMARK)**

Methanol	Glycols
Uremia	Oxoproline
DKA	L-lactate
Propylene Glycol	D-lactate
Isoniazid/Iron	Methanol
Lactic Acidosis	Aspirin
Ethylene Glycol	Renal failure
Salicylates	Ketosis

## **Non-anion Gap**

### **Loss of $\text{HCO}_3^-$**

- GI loss (diarrhea)
- Drugs: Acetazolamide
- RTA Type II

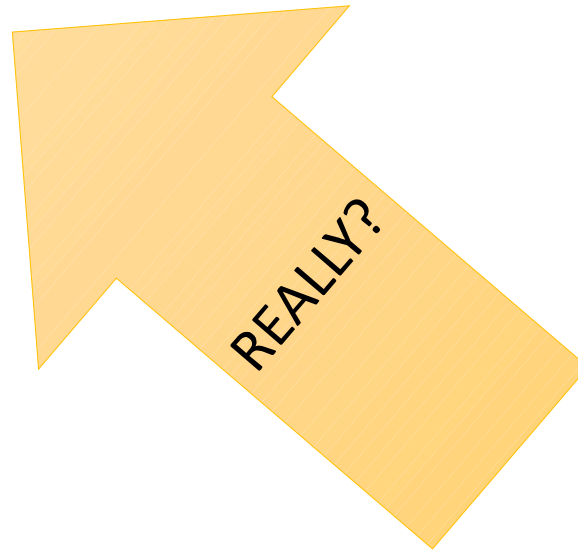
### **Decreased secretion of $\text{H}^+$**

- Renal failure
- RTA Type I or IV

# What does our workup reveal?

- Urinalysis
  - Ketones: Negative
- Salicylate Level: Negative
- Lactate: 4.1 (<2.2)

Na <sup>+</sup> : 138 (135-145)	Cl <sup>-</sup> : 102 (96-106)	BUN: 16 (<20)	} Glucose: 107
K <sup>+</sup> : 4.1 (3.5-5)	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> : 18 (22-30)	Cr: 0.89 (<1.0)	



# Always good to have a differential!

## **Type A Lactic Acidosis**

Decreased tissue perfusion leading to change in cellular metabolism to an anaerobic process

- Sepsis
- Cardiac failure
- Hypovolemia

## **Type B Lactic Acidosis**

Impaired cellular metabolism leading to accumulation of Lactic Acid

- Diabetes/DKA
- Malignancy
- Alcohol use
- Drugs for HIV
- $\beta_2$  agonist
- Thiamine deficiency

# All this on Metabolic Acidosis, what about Metabolic Alkalosis?

- Usually due either a loss of  $H^+$ , or a net gain of  $HCO_3^-$ 
  - Loss of  $H^+$ 
    - Diuretic therapy using Loop Diuretics
    - Excessive vomiting
    - Patient with Nasogastric Tube to suction for prolonged time
  - Gain of  $HCO_3^-$ 
    - Chronic respiratory acidosis (hypercapnia)

It seems like there is still something that we have not discussed...

- Remember what our overall Acid-Base problem was???

## **Metabolic Acidosis with Anion Gap with Respiratory Acidosis**

# Respiratory Acidosis/Hypercapnia

- Accumulation of systemic CO<sub>2</sub> due to impair alveolar ventilation
- Thankfully, since this is a talk on Acid-Base disorders and not respiratory failure, we can be brief on this topic...

# Acute vs Chronic Hypercapnia

## **Acute (pH low), $\text{HCO}_3^-$ normal**

- Impaired respiratory center: opioid narcosis, CVA
- Acute exacerbation of lung disease
- Chest wall injury --> splinting
- Respiratory muscle weakness
- Airway obstruction

## **Chronic (pH normal to low end of normal), $\text{HCO}_3^-$ normal to high**

- Most often due to COPD, other restrictive lung disease, or undertreated hypoventilation state such as OSA/OHS

# Respiratory Alkalosis in a single slide...

- Often occurs acutely so may not see compensatory decrease in  $\text{HCO}_3^-$
- Often associated with hyper-ventilatory states
  - Anxiety
  - Pain
  - Sepsis/Severe fever
  - Salicylate toxicity
  - Encephalitis
  - Can occur in ventilated patients who have respiratory rate turned up



## Let's bring it all together!

pH: 7.31    CO<sub>2</sub>: 40    HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>: 18

Based off Winter's Formula: expected CO<sub>2</sub> 33-37  
but measured was 40

Anion gap: 18

Urinalysis: negative for ketones

Salicylate level: negative

Cr: 0.89    Glucose: 107    Lactate: 4.1

## Metabolic Acidosis with Anion Gap with Respiratory Acidosis

### Lactic Acidosis

Type B Lactic acidosis due to  
 $\beta$ -2 agonist treatment from  
the continuous albuterol  
nebulizer

**Chronic respiratory acidosis  
due to Obesity  
Hypoventilation Syndrome  
and untreated Obstructive  
Sleep Apnea**

## To sum it all up...

1. Keep it simple! You can have a three-step approach to acid-base disorders
  - I. Determine primary disorder
  - II. Assess for compensation
  - III. If metabolic acidosis is present, check the anion gap
2. The anion gap evaluates if there is an unmeasured acid being buffered/consuming  $\text{HCO}_3^-$
3. There are two types of lactic acidosis (Type A and Type B) with different etiologies
4. Knowing you to assess for the anion gap, and there are different types of lactic acidosis, help formulate a broad differential diagnosis for acid-base abnormalities

# References

- Emmett M, Palmer BF. Simple and mixed acid-base disorders. In: Sterns RH, Forman JP. *UpToDate*. UpToDate Inc; 2020. Updated November 11, 2022. Accessed July 30, 2023. <https://www.uptodate.com>
- Emmett M, Szerlip H. Approach to the adult with metabolic acidosis. In: Sterns RH, Forman JP. *UpToDate*. UpToDate Inc; 2020. Updated May 4, 2022. Accessed July 22, 2023. <https://www.uptodate.com>
- Emmett M, Szerlip H. Causes of lactic acidosis. In: Sterns RH, Forman JP. *UpToDate*. UpToDate Inc; 2020. Updated March 23, 2022. Accessed July 22, 2023. <https://www.uptodate.com>
- Preston, Richard A. *Acid-Base, Fluids, and Electrolytes Made Ridiculously Simple*. 2nd ed., Miami, Medmaster, Inc, 2011.

# Approach to Abnormal Liver Function Tests

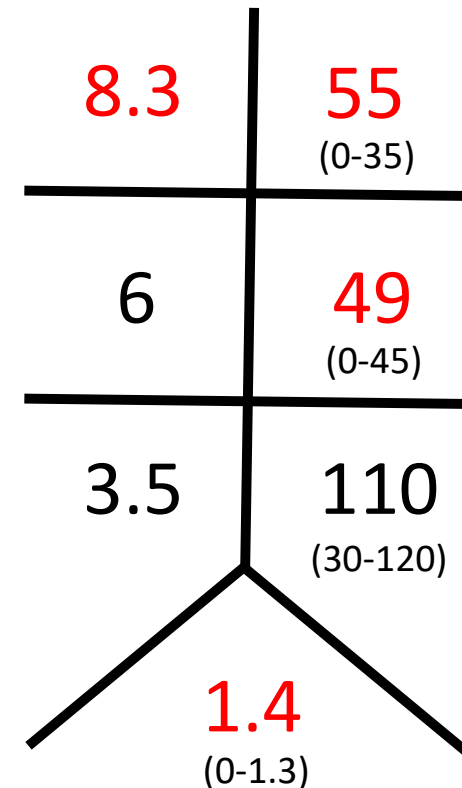
Erin Szemak, DNP, APRN, RN, AGACNP-BC  
Assistant Professor  
University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine

# Objectives

- Cite which labs are markers of liver injury and dysfunction
- Identify the patterns of liver injury and associated differential diagnoses
- Recall common differential diagnoses for degree of AST and ALT elevation

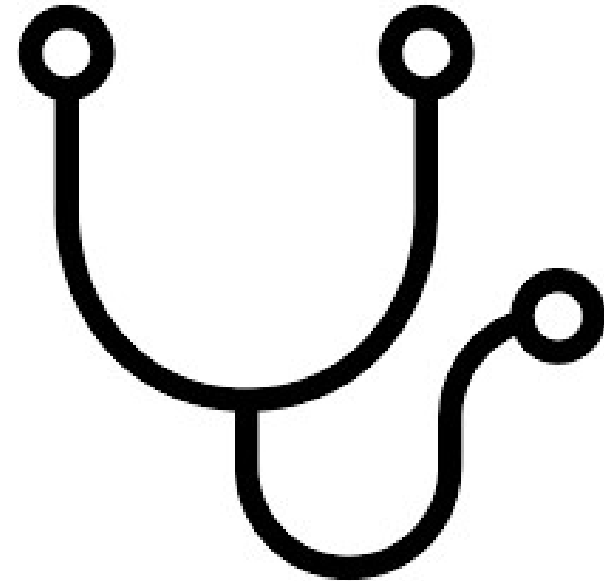
T. S. Wift's hepatic function panel on admission was abnormal. What is your first step to pinpointing the cause of these abnormalities?

- A. Grab additional labs immediately (e.g. acute viral hepatitis panel, Tylenol level, alcohol level)
- B. Nothing, her AST/ALT are only mildly elevated
- C. Review her history and laboratory trends
- D. Obtain RUQ abdominal US



# History & Physical Exam

- History
  - Medications
  - Medical history
  - Social history
  - Family history
- Physical Exam
  - Stigmata of chronic liver disease



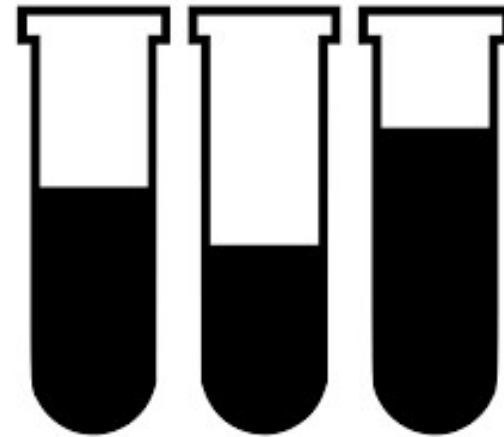
What lab values are markers of liver injury and dysfunction?

- A. AST, ALT, Alk Phos
- B. Bilirubin
- C. Albumin and INR
- D. A and B
- E. All the above



# Liver “Function” Tests

- Hepatic enzymes
  - AST
  - ALT
  - Alk Phos
- Synthetic Function
  - INR
  - Albumin
- Bilirubin
  - Unconjugated (indirect)
  - Conjugated (direct)



↑↑ AST/ALT > ALP  
+/- Bili elevation

**HEPATOCELLULAR**

↑↑ ALP > AST/ALT  
+/- Bili elevation

**CHOLESTATIC**

↑↑ Bilirubin  
Normal AST/ALT

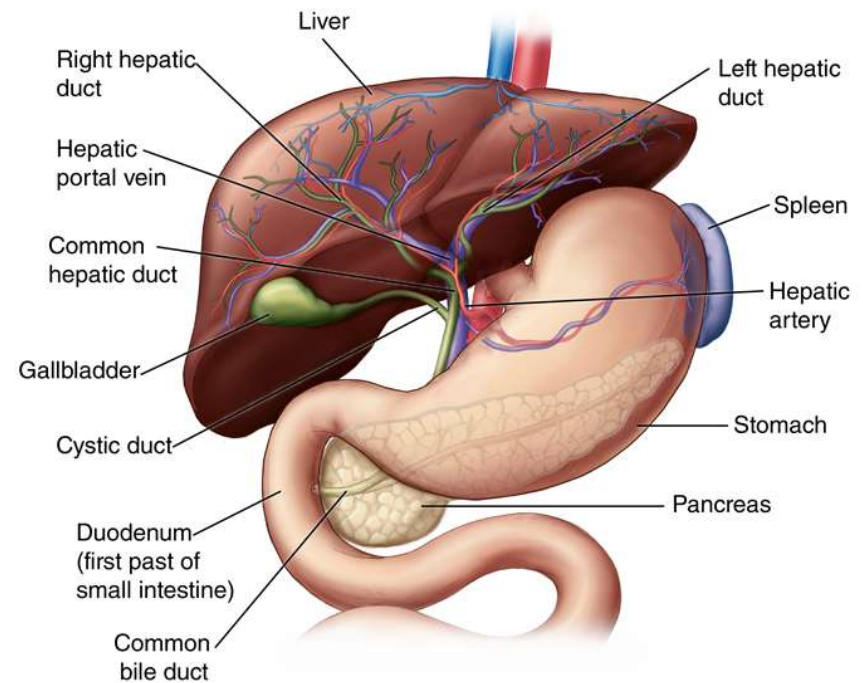
**ISOLATED HYPERBILIRUBINEMIA**

Isolated ALP elevation

**INFILTRATIVE or  
CHRONIC CHOLESTATIC**

# R Factor

- $< 2 \rightarrow$  Cholestatic
- $> 5 \rightarrow$  Hepatocellular
- 2-5  $\rightarrow$  Mixed



## Hepatocellular

- Viral hepatitis
- Alcohol
- Drugs/Toxins
- Autoimmune
- NAFLD
- Hereditary
- Budd Chiari
- Shock Liver
- HELLP Syndrome

## Cholestatic

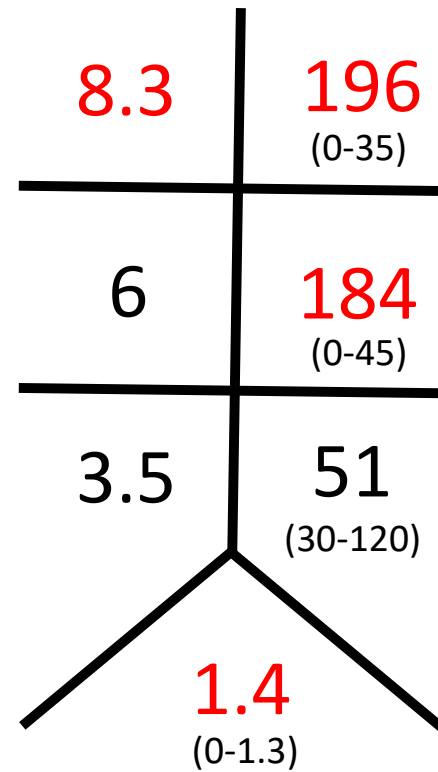
- Biliary Obstruction
- Malignancy
- PBC
- PSC
- Pregnancy
- Pancreatitis

## Hyperbilirubinemia

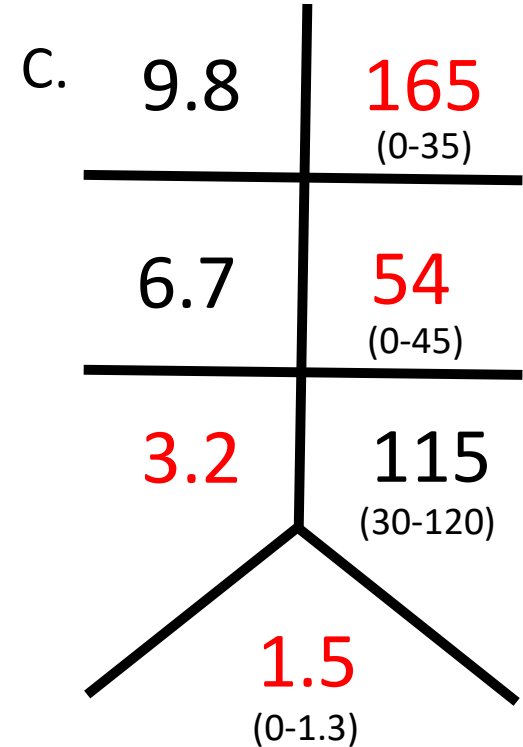
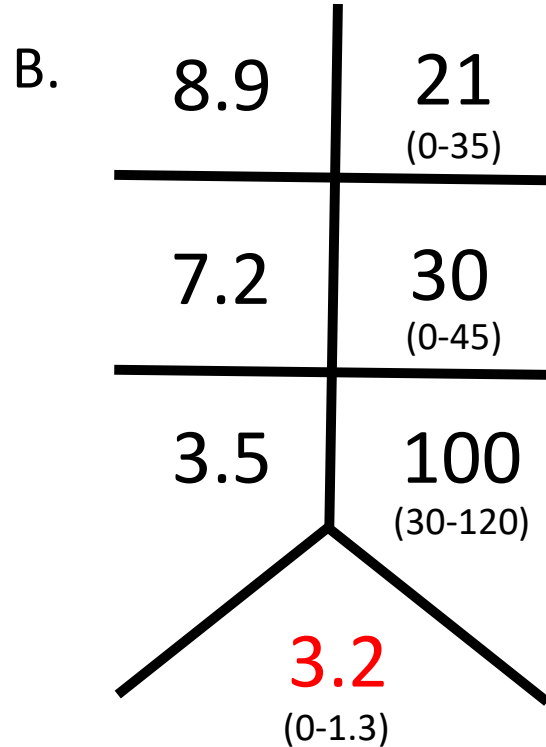
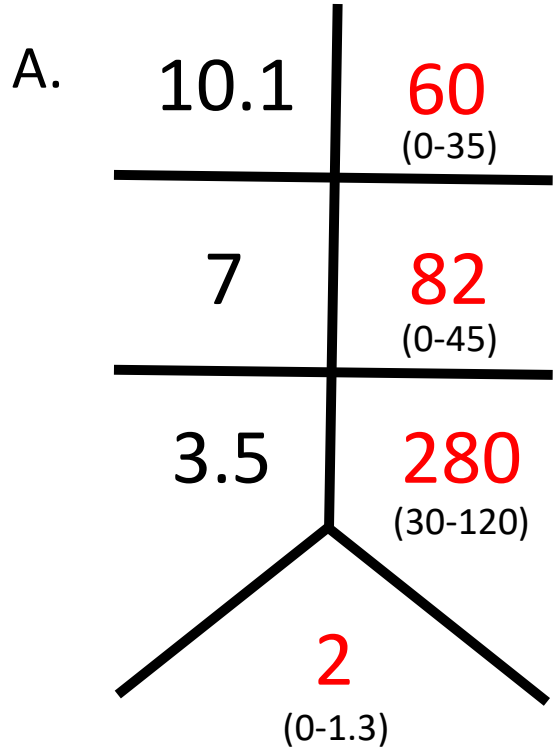
- Hemolysis
- Gilbert's Syndrome
- Meds
- Other rare genetic conditions

How would you describe the pattern of the following labs?

- A. Hepatocellular
- B. Mixed
- C. Cholestatic



It's nice to have a friend like Hillary Stone who arrives to the hospital to visit T. S. Wift. While eating a hamburger, she develops sudden RUQ abdominal pain and goes to the ED to be evaluated. What would you expect to see on her labs?



While hospitalized, T. S. Wift develops jaundice and her total bilirubin is found to be 11. What is your immediate next step?

- A. Nothing this is a normal finding of chronic HCV cirrhosis
- B. Fractionate total bilirubin
- C. Review her medications

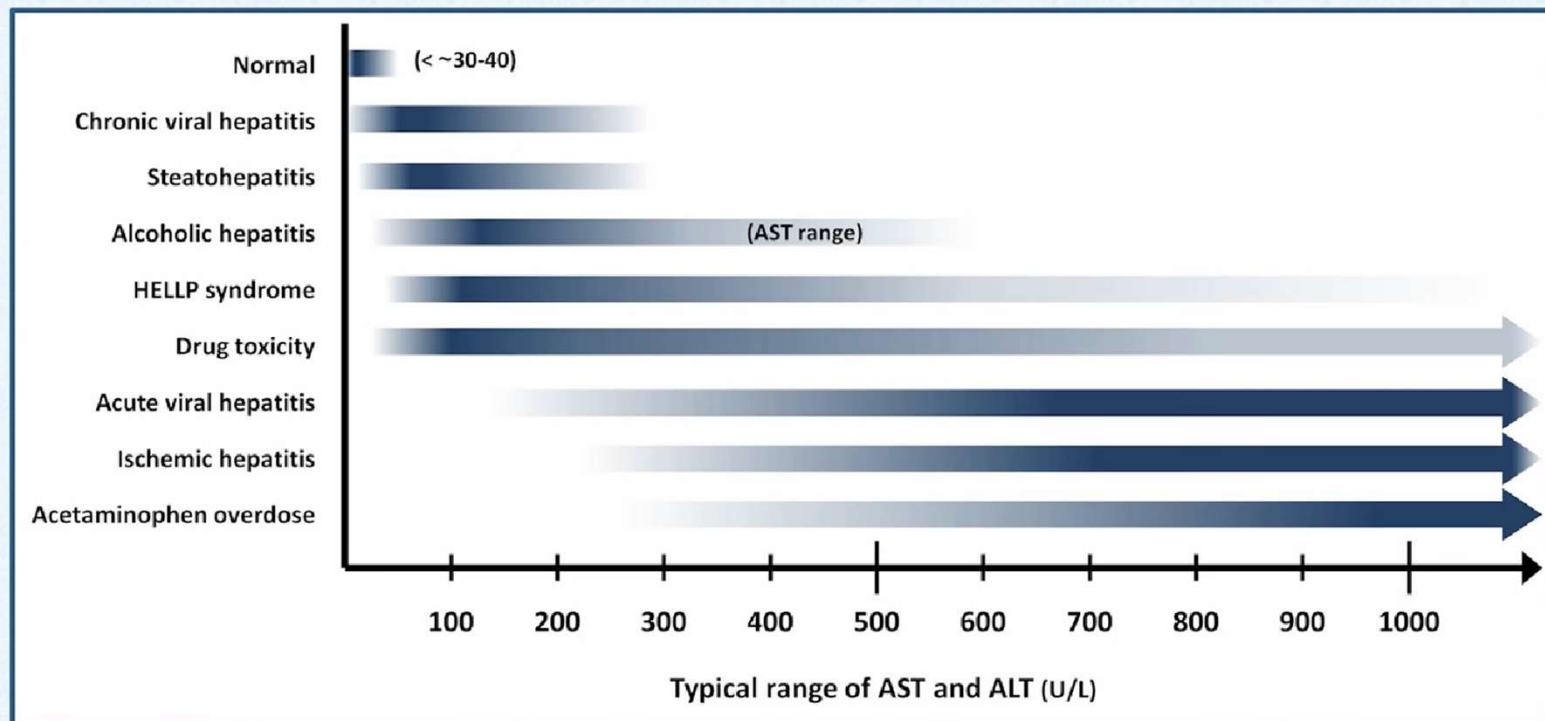
While completing T. S. Wift's medication reconciliation on admission, she endorses taking Tylenol 1000mg Q6H, DayQuil and NyQuil for URI symptoms and Excedrin for migraines. There is concern for Tylenol toxicity. How elevated would you expect her liver enzymes (AST, ALT) to be?

- A. Less than 5 times the upper limit of normal
- B. Greater than 50 times the upper limit of normal
- C. Greater than 25 times the upper limit of normal



# Degree of Injury

## Comparison of LFT Elevation Due to Different Etiologies



Strong, *Interpretation of LFTs 2014*

An appropriate differential for mild elevations (no more than 5x the upper limit of normal) of liver enzymes would be...

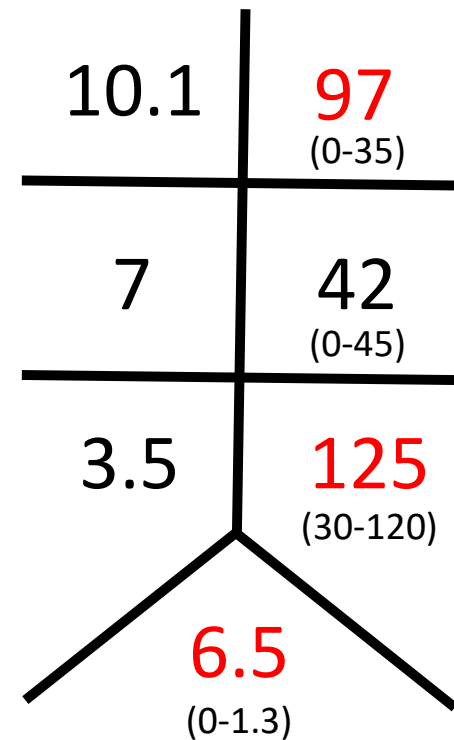
- A. Chronic hepatitis, NAFLD, and cirrhosis
- B. Acute viral hepatitis, ischemic hepatitis
- C. Tylenol overdose, shock liver

# AST/ALT Ratio Considerations

- AST : ALT > 2 → EtOH liver disease
- AST : ALT >> 5 → Not hepatic in origin (e.g. rhabdomyolysis, MI)

Fast forward 5 years. T. S. Wift was lost to follow up and never received treatment for her HCV. She presents with a R hepatic mass concerning for HCC. How would you describe the pattern of liver injury?

- A. Hepatocellular
- B. Cholestatic
- C. Mixed



# Acute Liver Failure

- Acute
- Elevated liver enzymes
- INR  $> 1.5$
- Hepatic encephalopathy
- No known pre-existing liver disease



## To sum it up...

1. A variety of lab values can give you indication of liver injury and/or dysfunction
  - I. Injury: AST/ALT/ALP
  - II. Dysfunction: INR, Albumin, Bilirubin
2. Pattern of liver injury can be divided into Hepatocellular (AST/ALT > ALP) and Cholestatic (ALP > AST/ALT)
3. Your differential for liver injury should be guided by pattern of injury and level or lab elevation

# References

- Brigham, S., Watto, M., Williams, P. (Hosts). (2021, September 6). *The best of liver tests with Dr. Elliot Tapper* [Audio podcast]. The Curbsiders.  
<http://thecurbsiders.com/curbsiders-podcast/293>
- Friedman, L. S., & Grover, S. (2022, April 5). *Approach to the patient with abnormal liver biochemical and function tests*. UpToDate.  
[https://www.uptodate.com/contents/approach-to-the-patient-with-abnormal-liver-biochemical-and-function-tests?source=history\\_widget](https://www.uptodate.com/contents/approach-to-the-patient-with-abnormal-liver-biochemical-and-function-tests?source=history_widget)
- Kwo, P. Y., Cohen, S. M., & Lim, J. K. (2017). ACG clinical guideline: Evaluation of Abnormal Liver chemistries. *American Journal of Gastroenterology*, 112(1), 18–35.  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/ajg.2016.517>
- Strong, E. (2014). *Interpretation of LFTs (Liver Function Tests)*. YouTube. YouTube. Retrieved July 25, 2023, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrrXITkyb2c>.

# Viral Hepatitis Serology

Erin Szemak, DNP, APRN, RN, AGACNP-BC  
Assistant Professor  
University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine



# Objectives

- Identify which patient populations are at high risk and should be evaluated for hepatitis A, B, and C (HAV, HBV, HCV)
- Recall which serologic tests to obtain in order to accurately diagnosis HAV, HBV, and HCV
- Interpret serologic testing for HAV, HBV, HCV

# Why It's Important

- High incident of new viral hepatitis infections yearly in the US
- Causes thousands of deaths in the US annually
- Leading cause of hepatocellular carcinoma

# Symptomatology

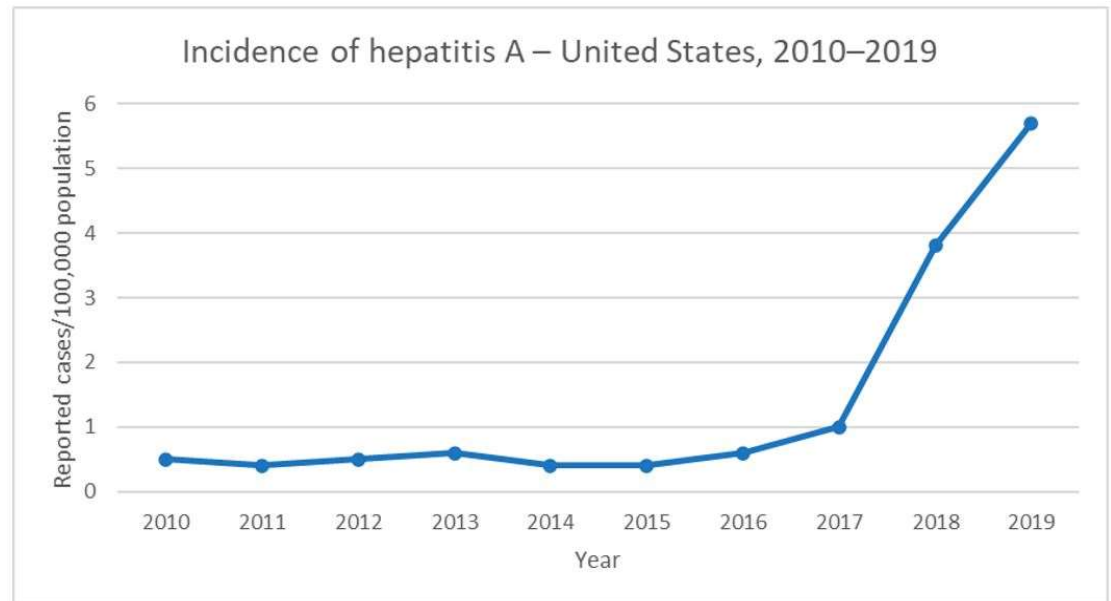
- Jaundice
- Fever
- Anorexia
- Malaise
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Joint pain
- Dark urine
- Clay colored stool
- Diarrhea

# Who To Test

- Those who request testing or adults who have never been tested in their lifetime
- Presenting with common symptomatology
- IV Drug Use
- Experiencing homelessness
- International travel
- Incarceration
- Sexual contact history
- Pregnancy
- Infants born to a mother with HCV, HBV
- Exposure

# Hepatitis A

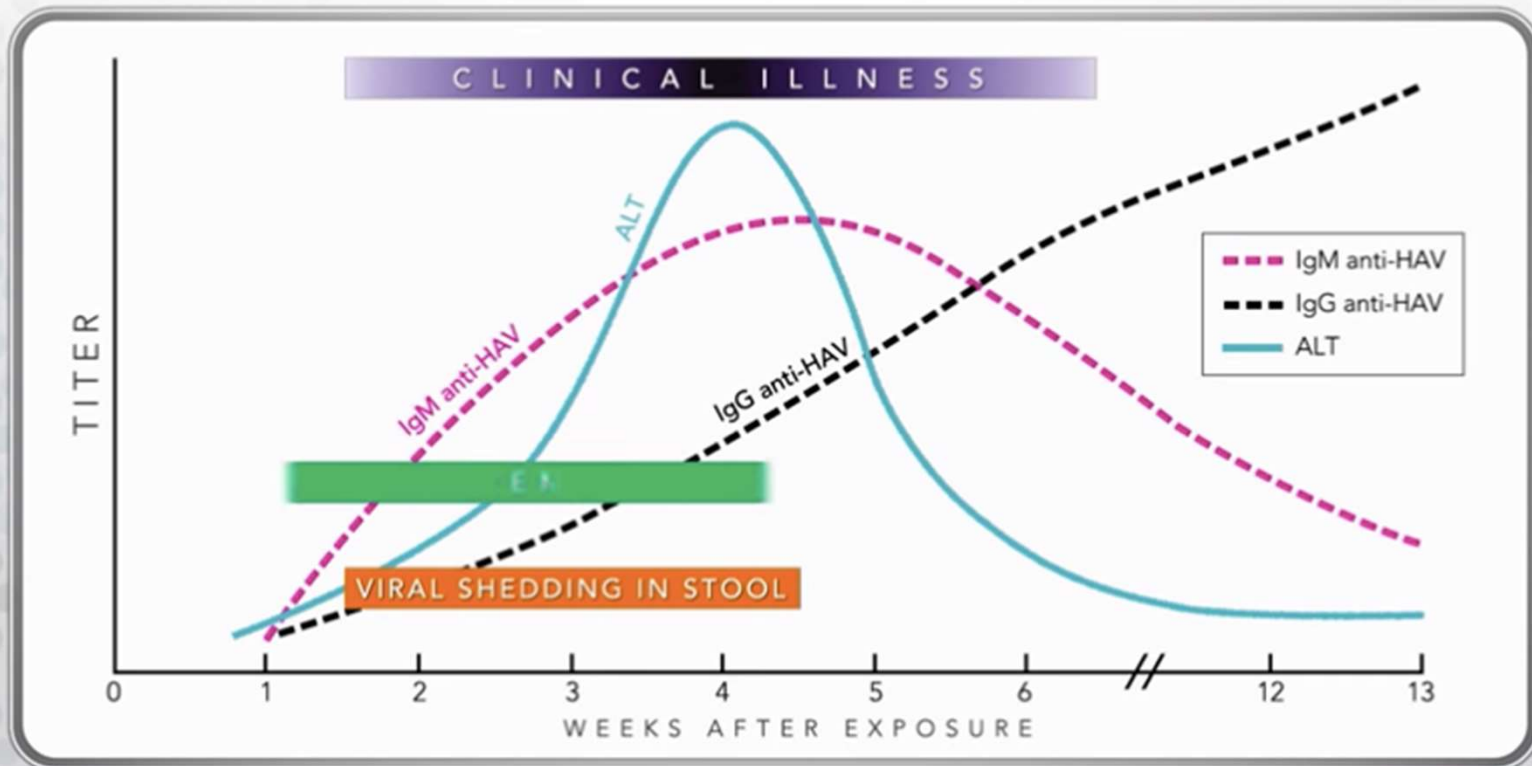
- Transmission → fecal/oral
- Self limited, does not become chronic
- Infection = lifelong immunity
- Preventable by vaccination



(CDC, *Hepatitis A: FAQs, statistics, data & guidelines* 2020)

# EVENTS IN HEPATITIS A VIRUS INFECTION

## TYPICAL SEROLOGIC COURSE



(CDC, Hepatitis A: CDC Viral Serology Training 2015)

# Hepatitis A

<b>Diagnosis</b>	<b>Anti-HAV</b>	<b>IgM</b>	<b>IgG</b>
Active hepatitis A	+	+	-
Recovered hepatitis A	+	-	+

As you are obtaining T. S. Wift's history she endorses several years of humanitarian aid work in Africa when she was fearless and in her 20s. Due to presenting symptoms and newly obtained history, Ms. T. S. Wift is tested for hepatitis A.

**Anti-HAV +    HAV IgM –    HAV IgG +**

Which of the following is the correct interpretation?

- A. Acute hepatitis A
- B. Chronic hepatitis A
- C. Recovered hepatitis A
- D. Lifelong immunity
- E. More testing is needed
- F. Both C and D

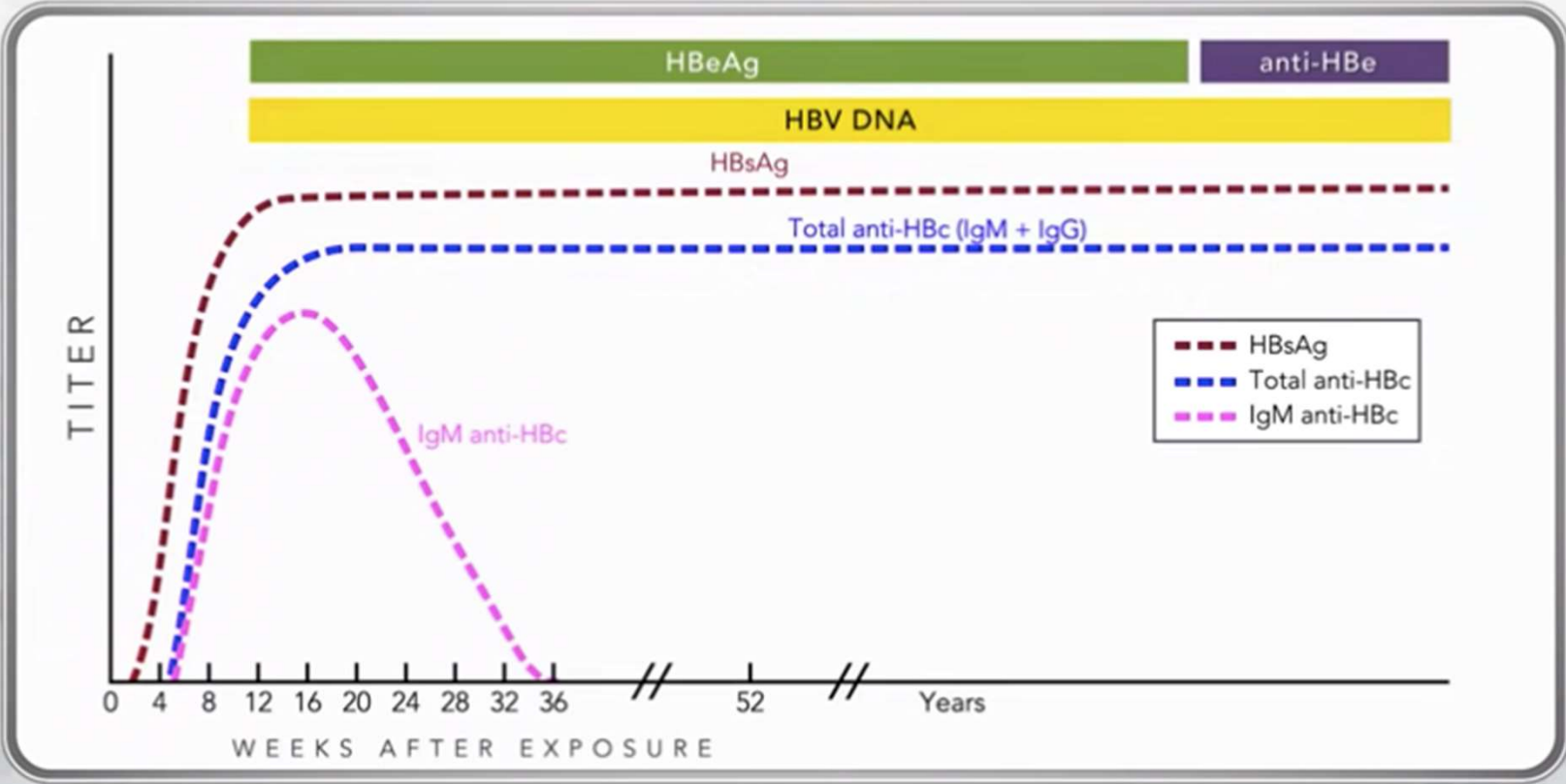


# Hepatitis B

- Transmission → Person to person via bodily fluids
- Can become chronic
- Vaccine preventable



# HEPATITIS B VIRUS INFECTION CHRONIC



(CDC, Hepatitis B: CDC Viral Serology Training 2015)

# Hepatitis B

<b>Diagnosis</b>	<b>HBsAg</b>	<b>Anti-HBc</b>	<b>IgM Anti-HBc</b>	<b>Anti-HBs</b>
Susceptible to Disease	-	-	-	-
Immune due to natural infection	-	+	-	+
Immune due to vaccination	-	-	-	+
Acutely infected	+	+	+	-
Chronically infected	+	+	-	-

Because of her known history of HCV, T. S. Wift is tested for HBV.

**HBsAg – Anti-HBc + IgM Anti-HBc – Anti- HBs +**

The correct interpretation of these results are:

- A. Previous infection, with recovery
- B. Immunity from vaccination
- C. Acute HBV
- D. Chronic HBV

In the event T. S. Wift did not have immunity and she became acutely infected with HBV, you would expect her serologic results to be

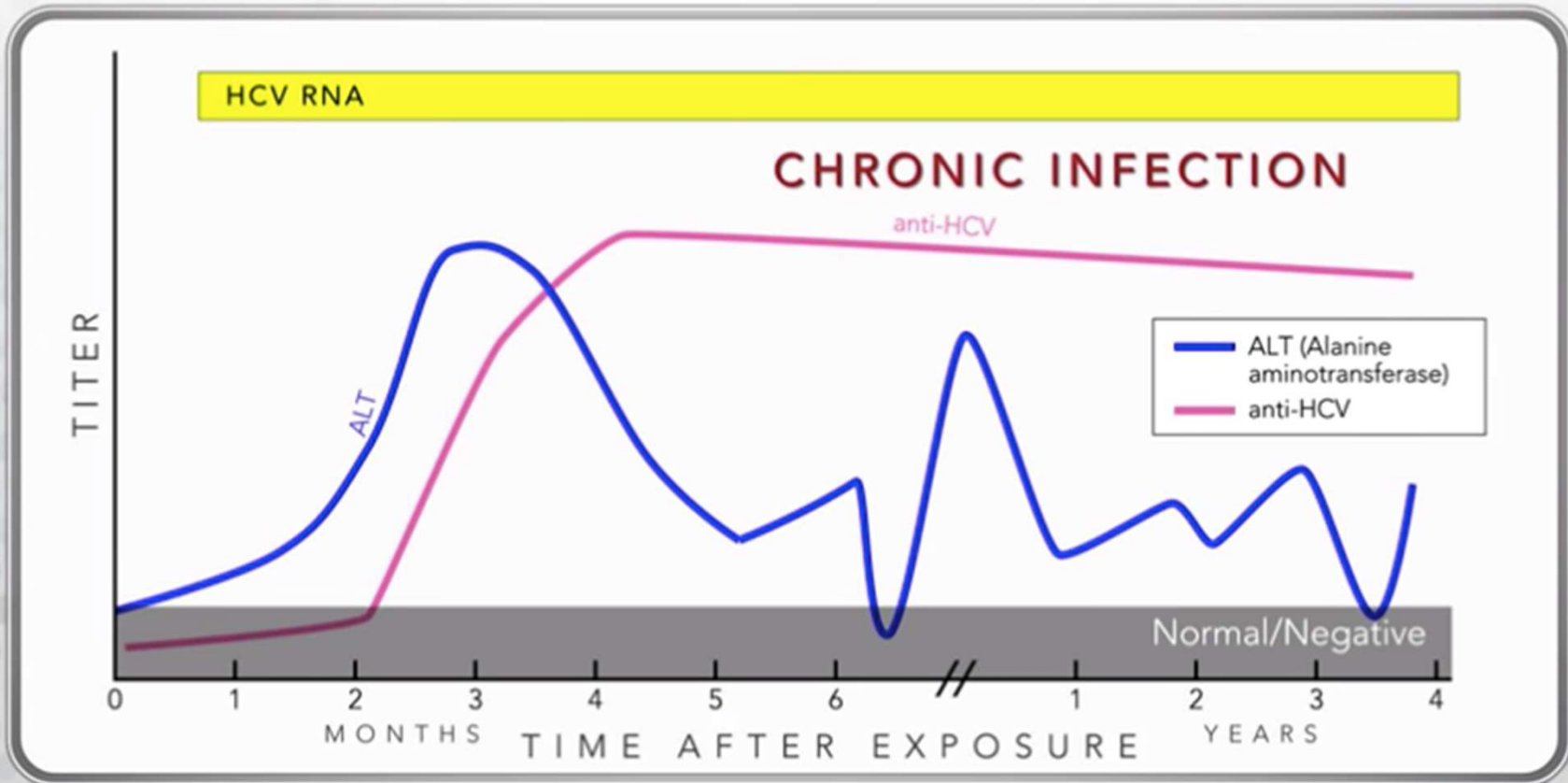
- A. HBsAg + Anti-HBc + IgM – anti-HBs –
- B. HBsAg + Anti-HBc + IgM + anti-HBs +
- C. HBsAg + Anti-HBc + IgM + anti-HBs –

# Hepatitis C

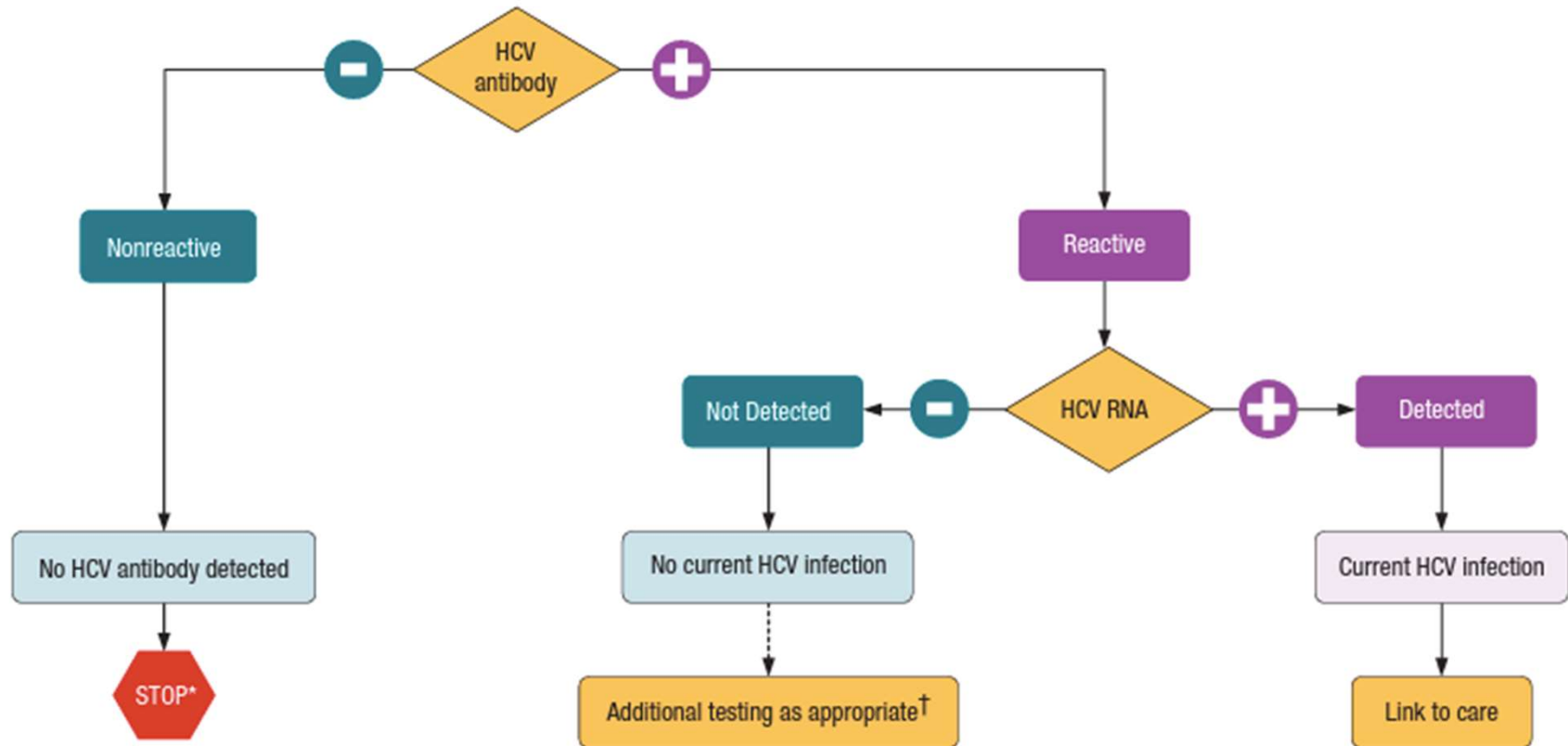
- Transmission → Blood or bodily fluids
- Acute or chronic
- Prior infection ≠ immunity
- No vaccine available
- Antiviral treatment available



# HCV INFECTION CHRONIC



(CDC, Hepatitis C: CDC Viral Serology Training 2015)



(CDC, *Testing for HCV Infection* 2013)



# Hepatitis C

<b>Diagnosis</b>	<b>Anti-HCV</b>	<b>HCV RNA</b>
Active hepatitis C infection	+	+
No active infection	+	-

T. S. Wift's diagnosis of chronic HCV is confirmed by

- A. We do not need confirmation, she told us she has chronic HCV
- B. Anti HCV – , HCV RNA +
- C. Anti HCV +
- D. Anti HCV + HCV RNA +

## To sum it all up...

1. Due to wide and rising prevalence, there are several factors to be considered when assessing who to test for viral hepatitis
2. Different strains of viral hepatitis require different tests
  - I. HAV: Anti-HAV, IgM, IgG
  - II. HBV: HBsAg, Anti-HBc, IgM Anti-HBc, Anti-HBs
  - III. HCV: Anti-HCV, HCV RNA

# References

- Bhattacharya, D., Aronsohn, A., Price, J., Lo Re, V., Heald, J., Demisashi, G., Durzy, E., Davis-Owino, A., & Tynes, S. (2023). Hepatitis C guidance 2023 update: American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases– Infectious Diseases Society of America recommendations for testing, managing, and treating hepatitis C virus infection. *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciad319>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, June 22). *Hepatitis A - FAQs, statistics, data, & guidelines*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 27, 2023, from <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/index.htm>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, June 22). *Hepatitis B - FAQs, statistics, data, & guidelines*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 27, 2023, from <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/index.htm>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, June 22). *Hepatitis C - FAQs, statistics, data, & guidelines*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 27, 2023, from <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/index.htm>
- Division of Viral Hepatitis: Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). *Hepatitis A serology graph*. Hepatitis A: CDC Viral Serology Training. Retrieved July 27, 2023, from <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/resources/professionals/training/serology/training.htm>.
- Division of Viral Hepatitis: Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). *Hepatitis B serology graph*. Hepatitis A: CDC Viral Serology Training. Retrieved July 27, 2023, from <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/resources/professionals/training/serology/training.htm>.
- Division of Viral Hepatitis: Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). *Hepatitis C serology graph*. Hepatitis A: CDC Viral Serology Training. Retrieved July 27, 2023, from <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/resources/professionals/training/serology/training.htm>.

Thank you for your time and  
attention!