

# 12 lead EKG

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FAANP

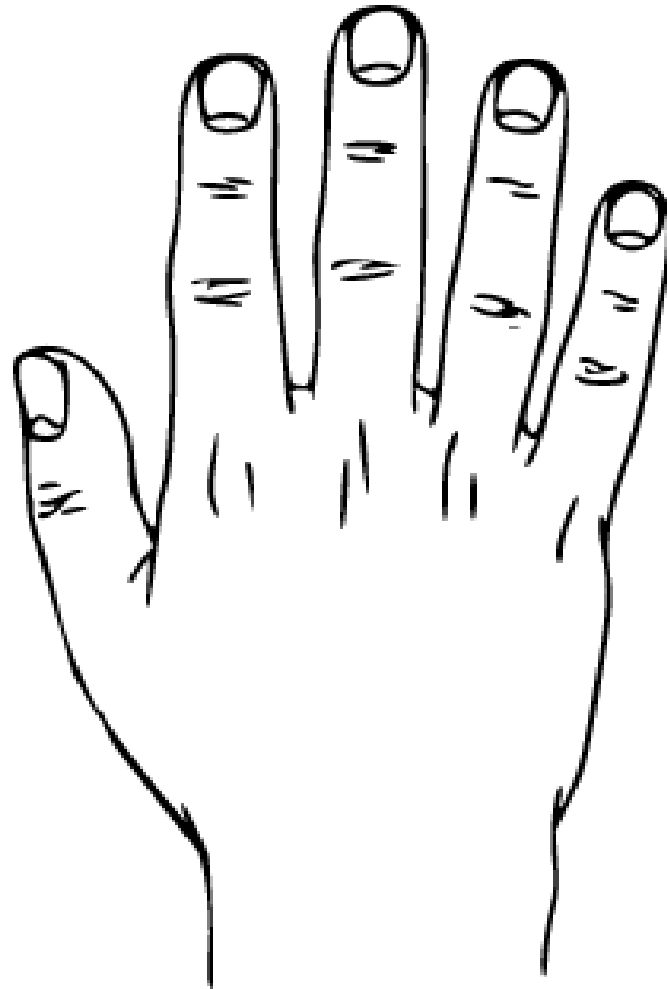
# Disclosures

- I have no disclosures

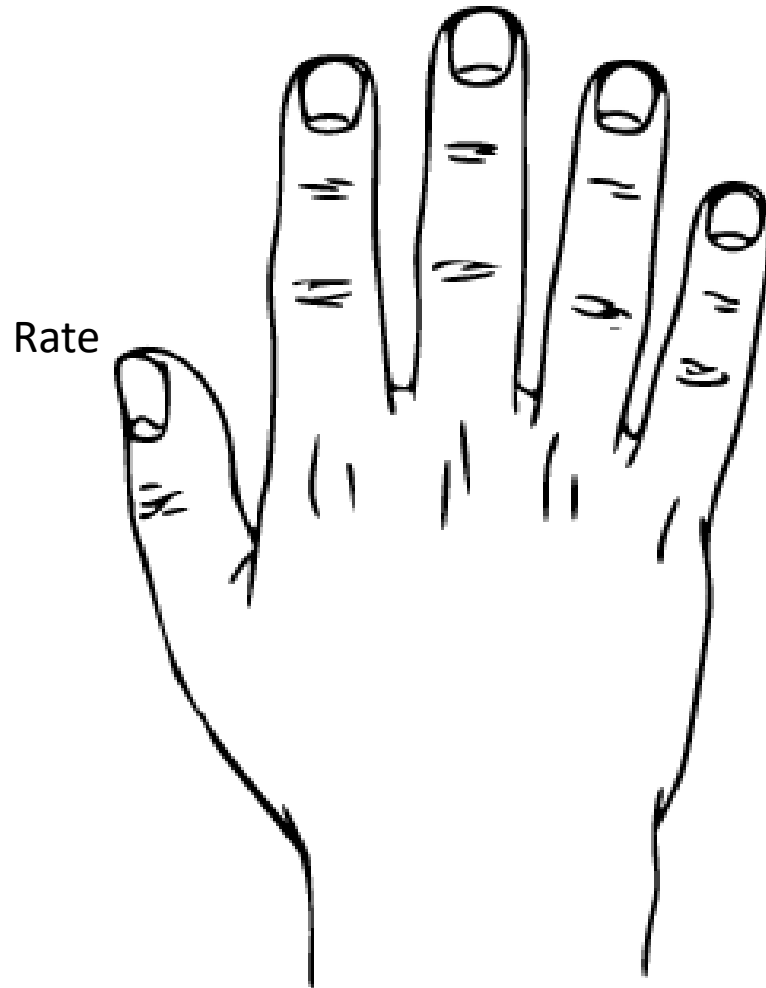
# Objectives

- At the conclusion of this presentation the participant will be able to
  - **Outline a systematic approach to 12 lead ECG interpretation**
  - Dysrhythmias
  - Demonstrate the process for determining axis
  - List criteria for LVH, RVH, RAE, LAE LBBB, RBBB, Bifasicular and trifasicular block, acute and chronic MI changes
  - Define other significant findings

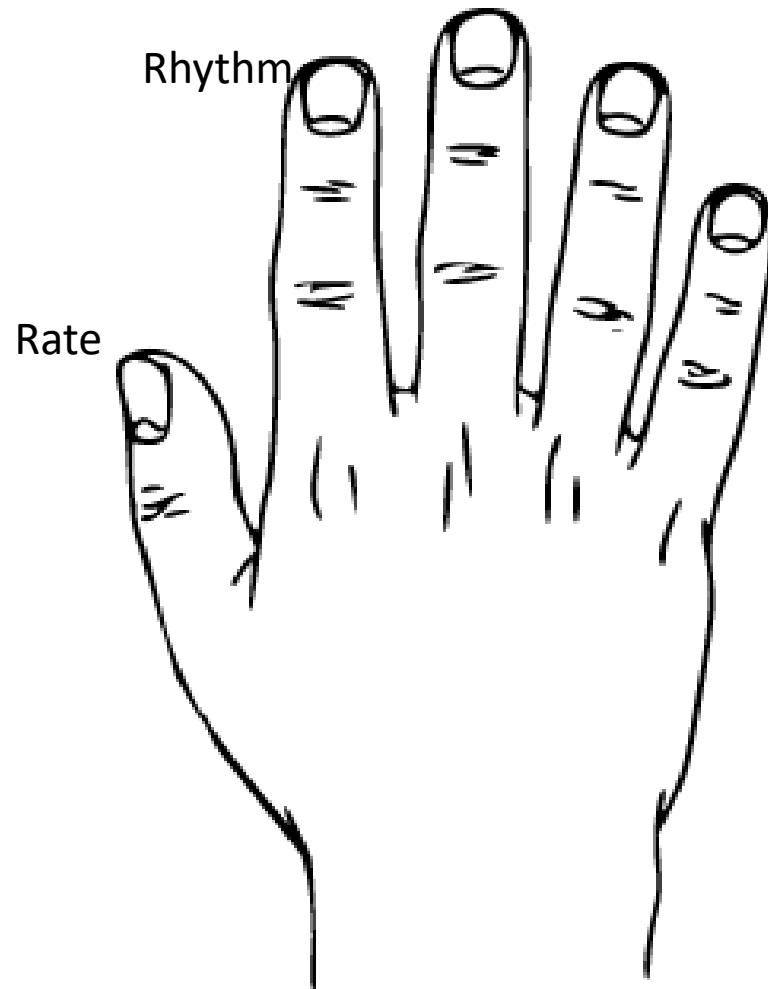
# 5 Finger approach



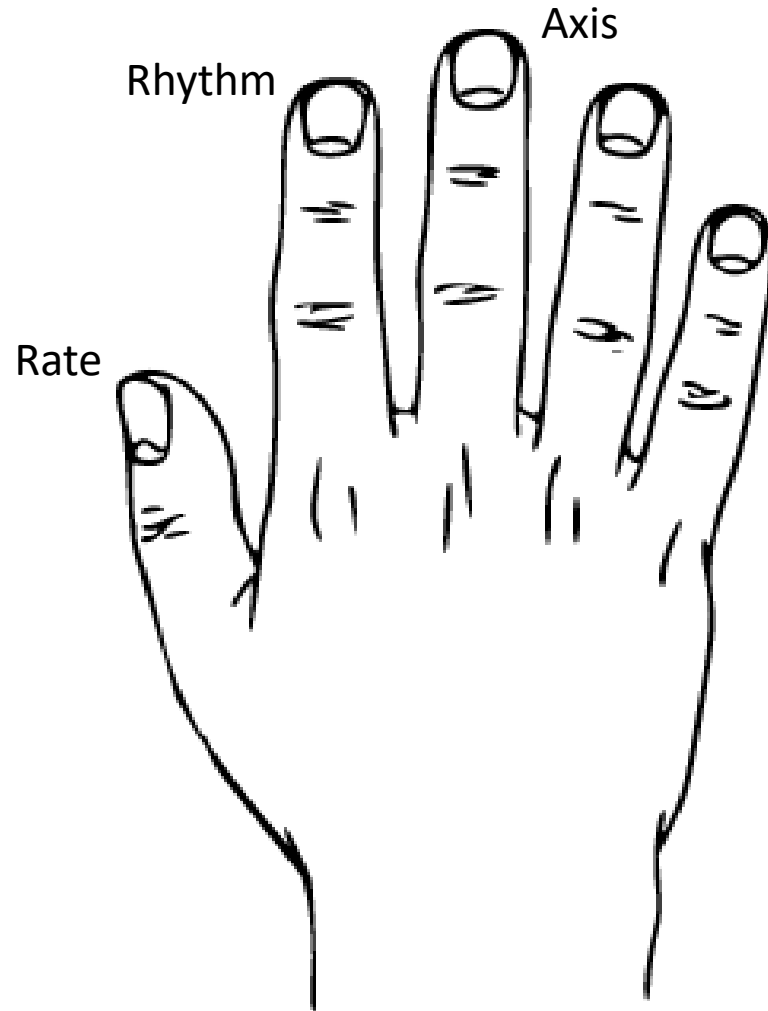
# 5 Finger approach



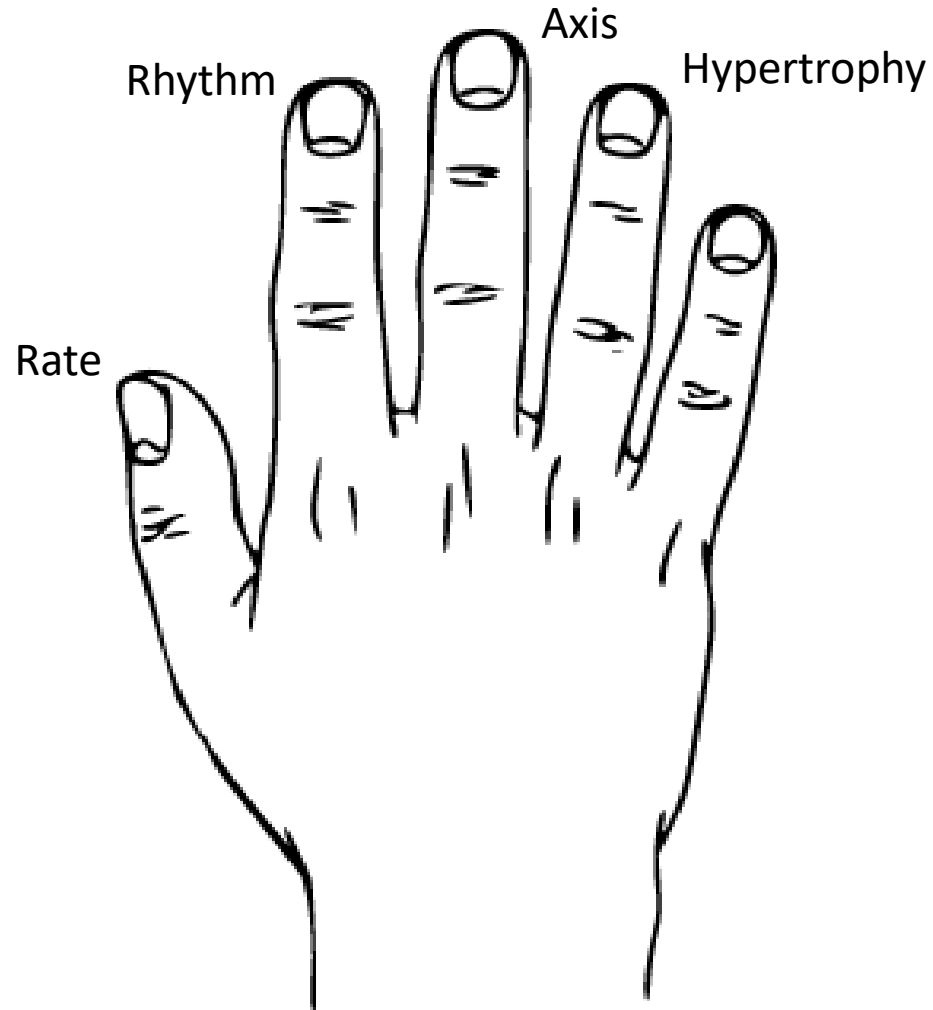
# 5 Finger approach



# 5 Finger approach

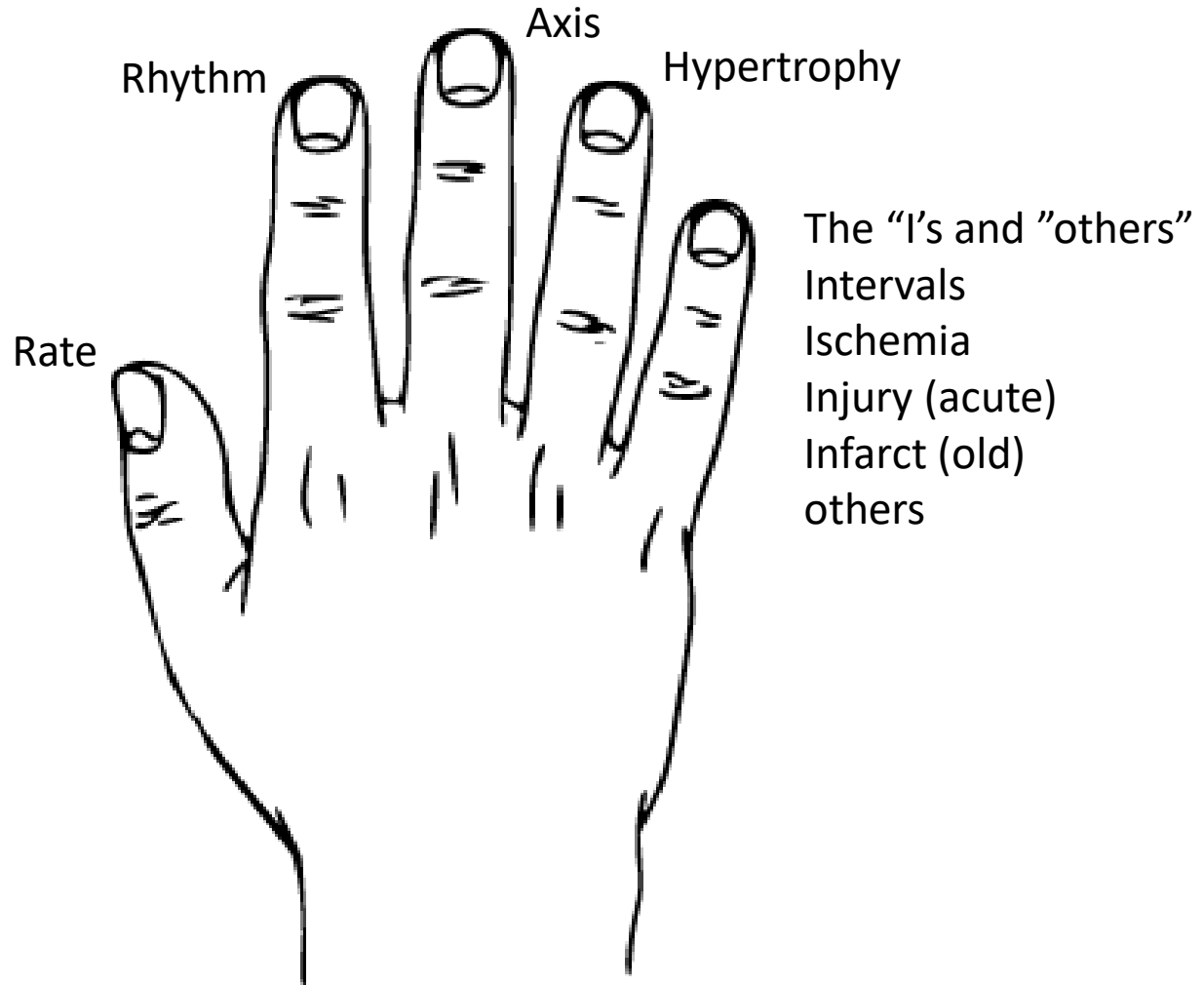


# 5 Finger approach





# 5 Finger approach



# ECG Lead System

## What we hope to cover

- Normal ECG
- Axis deviation
- Hypertrophy
- QRS interval/Bundle Branch Block
- Intervals
- Ischemia
- Injury
- Infarct
- Other

# Introduction

- Section 1
  - Normal ECG, laying the ground work
- Section 2
  - Dysrhythmias
- Section 3
  - Axis
- Section 4
  - Hypertrophy

# Introduction

- Section 5
  - BBB, Hemiblock, Bi and Tri block
- Section 6
  - Landscape of the I's
- Section 7
  - Other Cardiac conditions

# Section I

Normal ECG

Laying the ground work

# Laying the ground work for 12 lead interpretation

- A tool, a sign, an extension of the history and physical examination
- Must take a sensible approach to analyze an ECG
- The ECG reflects the heart and all its functions

# Laying the ground work cont.

- The ECG language is not difficult, just different
- Practice, Practice, Practice
- Obtain good, easy to understand resources

# 12 lead ECG

- A Normal ECG is dependent on intact plumbing, electrical, and structural components of the heart



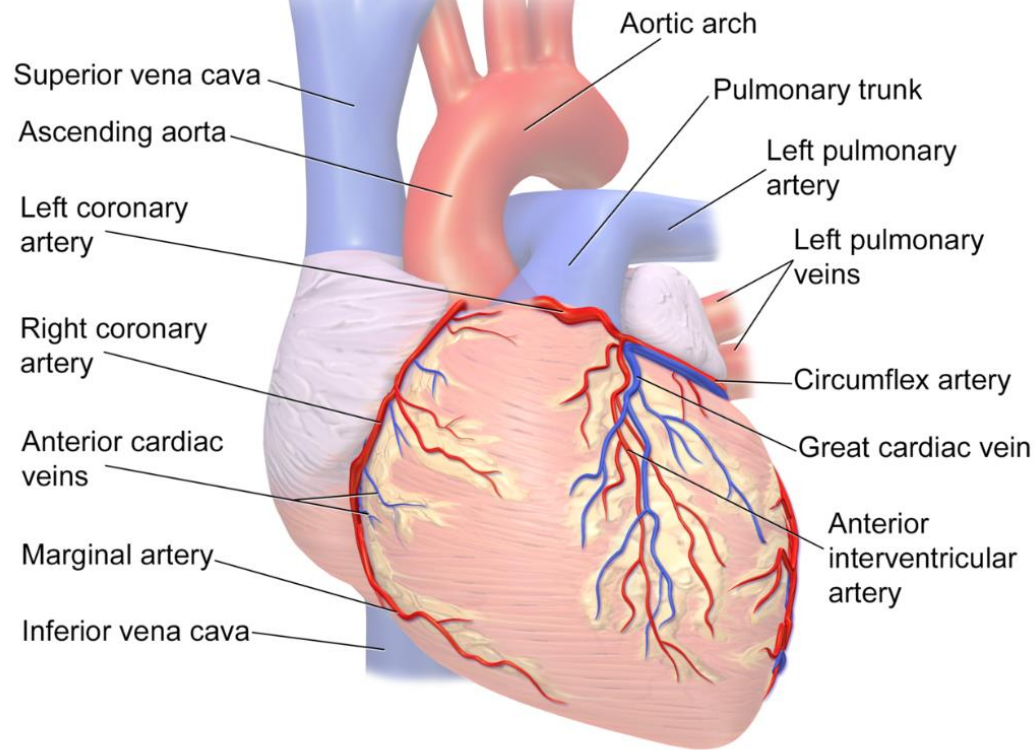
# ECG

## Dependent Factors

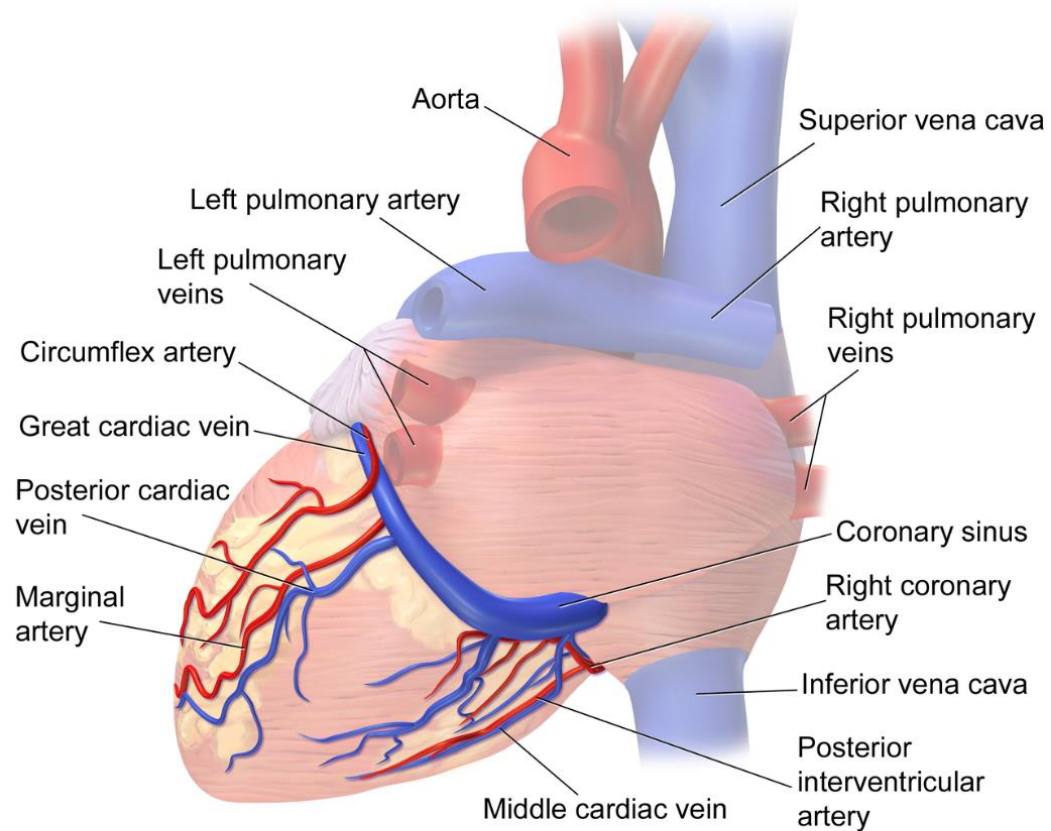
- Plumbing
- Electrical
- Structural

# ECG Plumbing

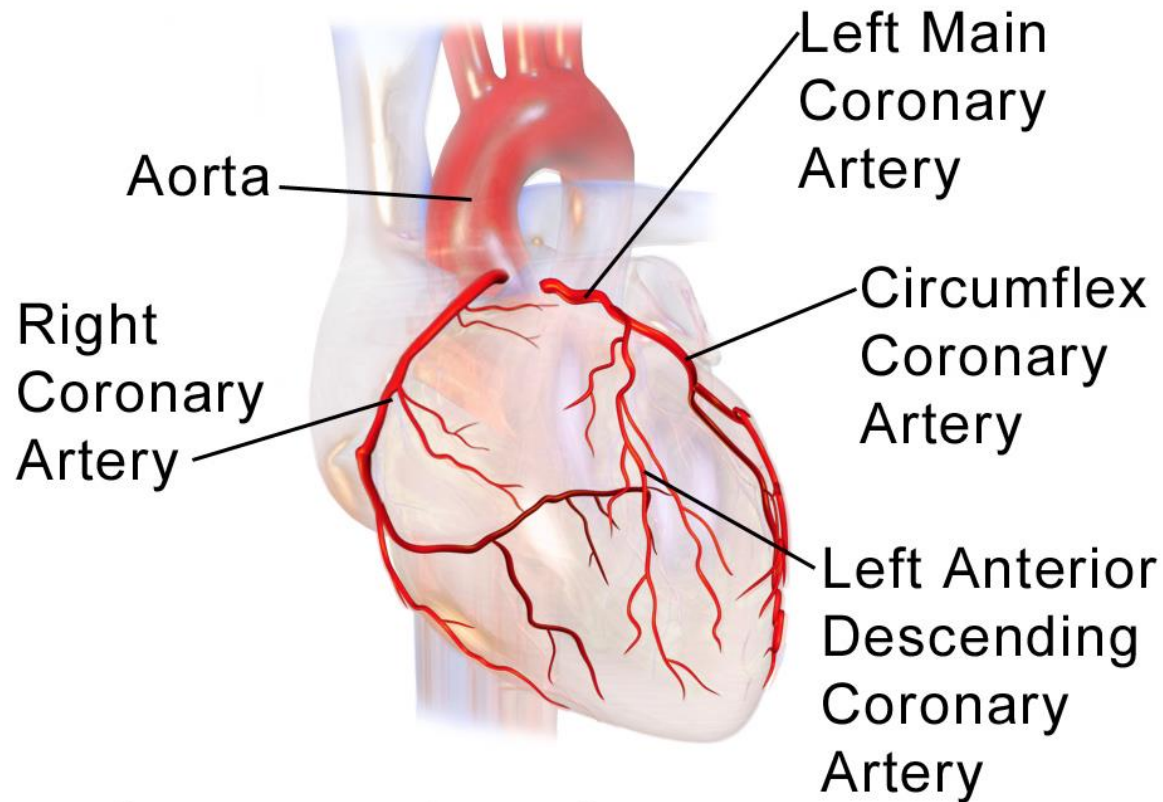
- Coronary Arteries
  - Right coronary
  - Left Main Coronary
    - Left anterior descending
    - Circumflex artery



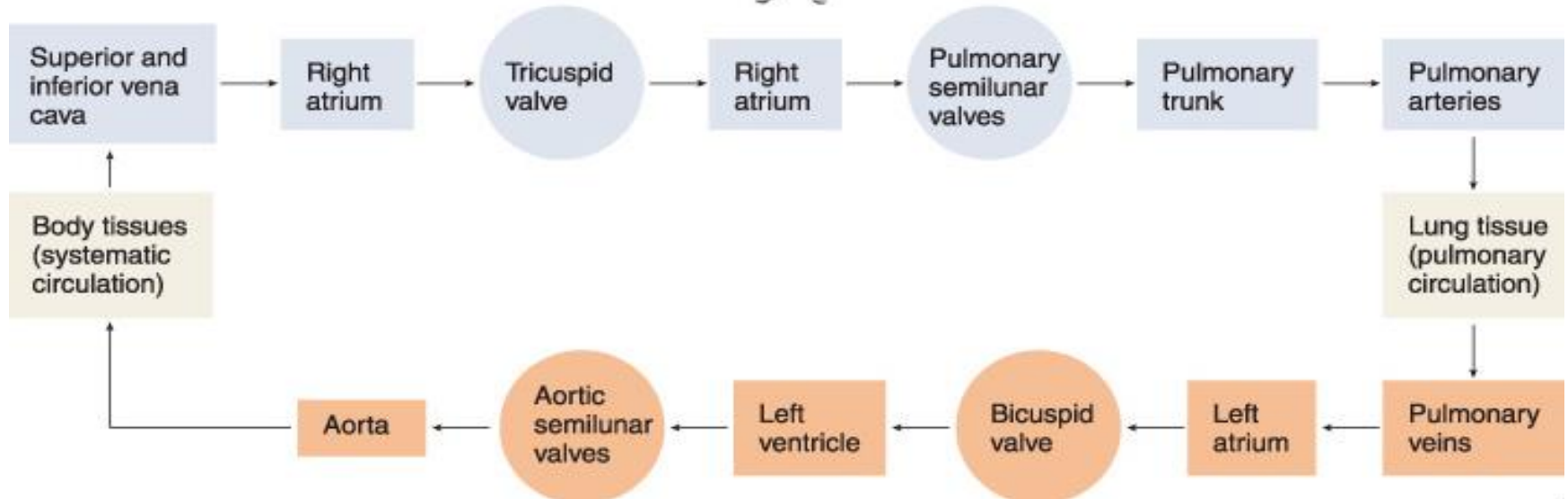
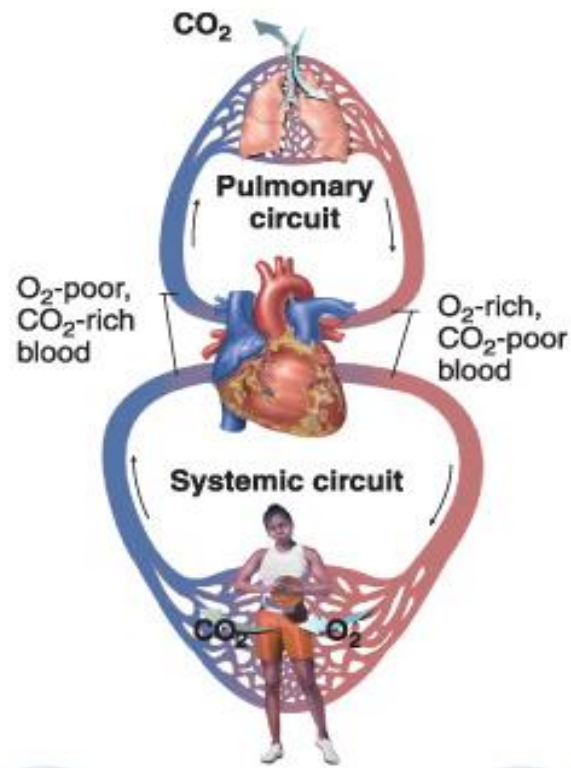
## Coronary Circulation (Anterior)



## Coronary Circulation (Posterior)



## Coronary Arteries



# ECG

## Electrical

- **SA node:** major electrical pacemaker  
Blood supply: Right coronary artery
- **AV node:** initiates ventricular contraction  
Blood supply: Right coronary artery and or circumflex

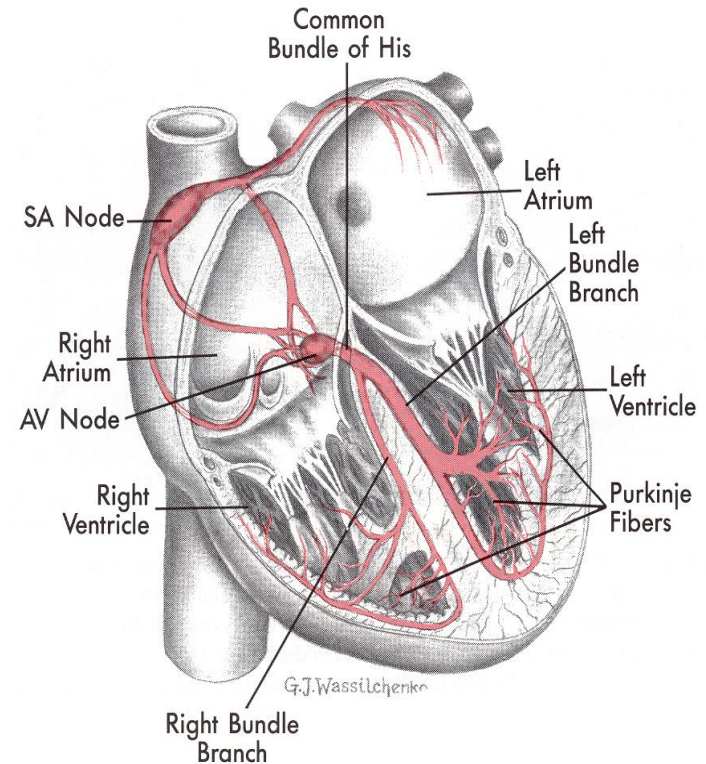
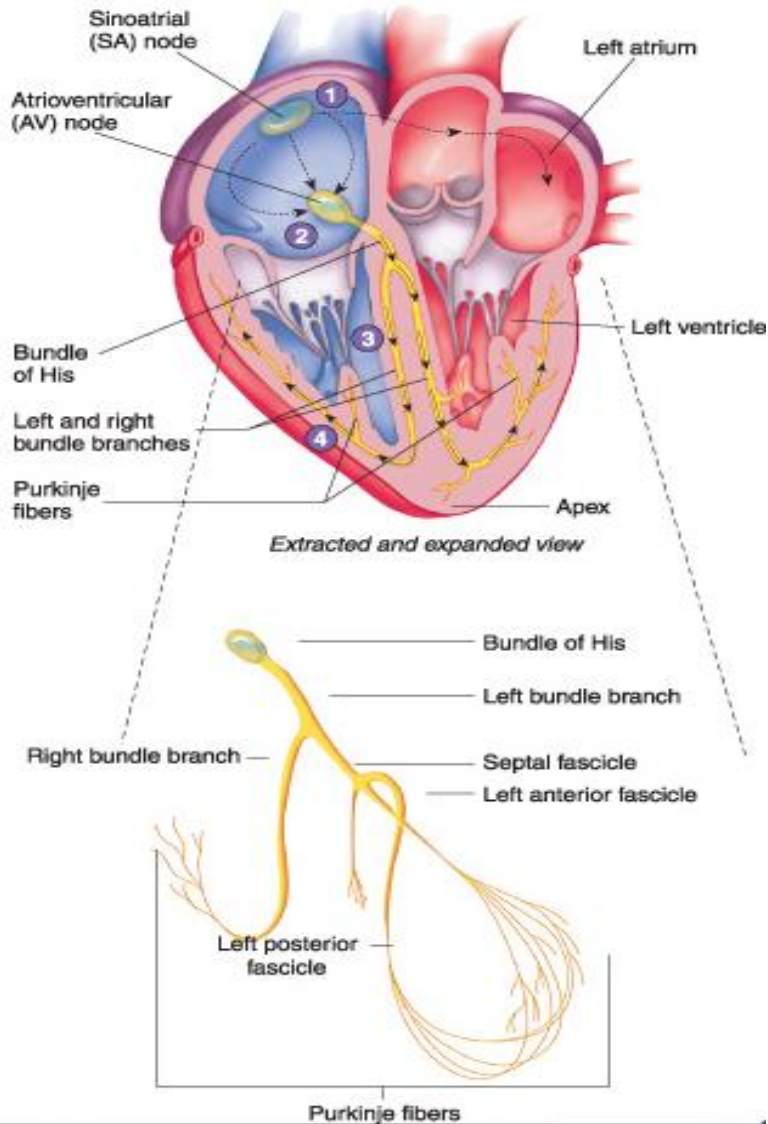
# ECG

## Electrical

- **Bundle of HIS:** ventricular contraction  
Blood supply: Left anterior descending
- **Purkinje fibers:** ventricular contraction  
Blood supply: Left anterior descending



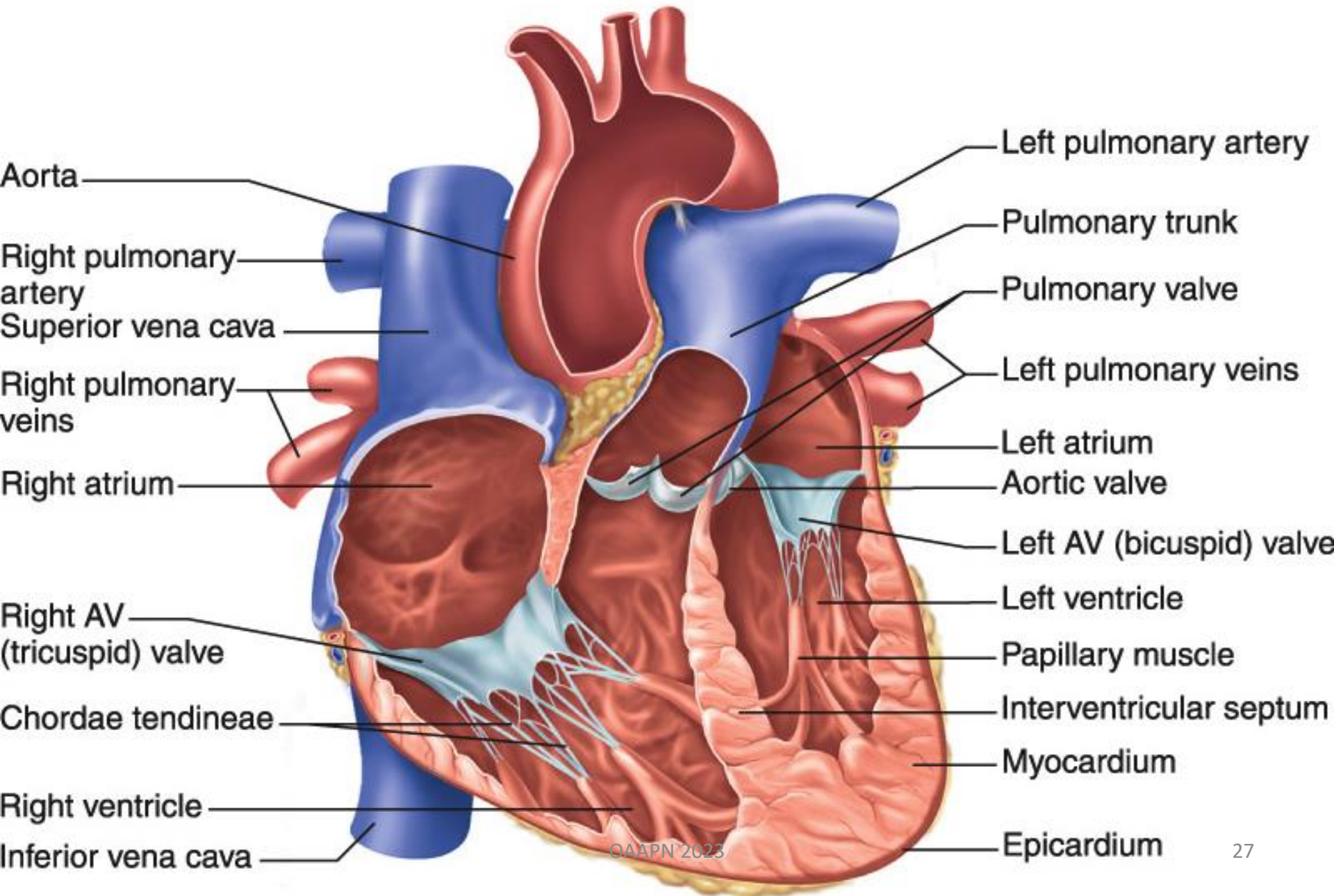
# Electrical



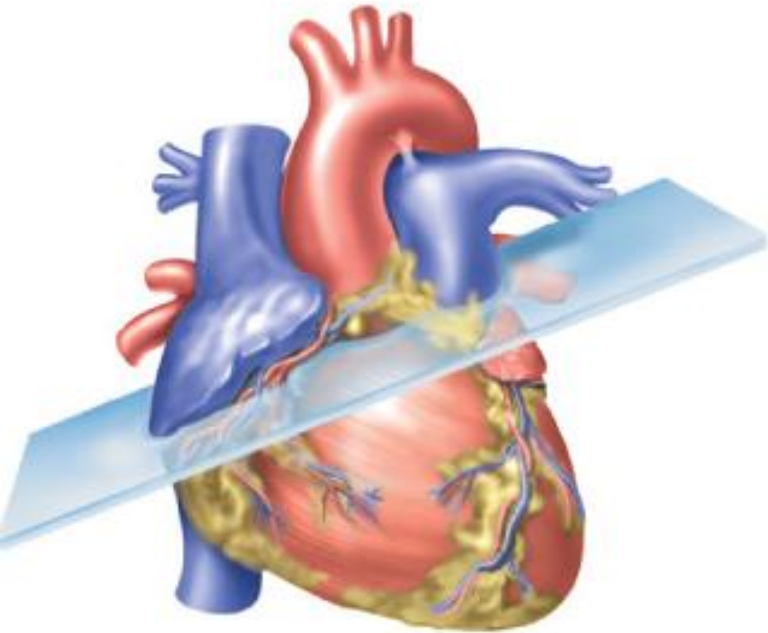
# Structural

- Chambers
- Muscle
- Valves
- Nervous system
- Vascular
- Position of the heart and great vessels

# Heart Structure



# Heart Valves and positions



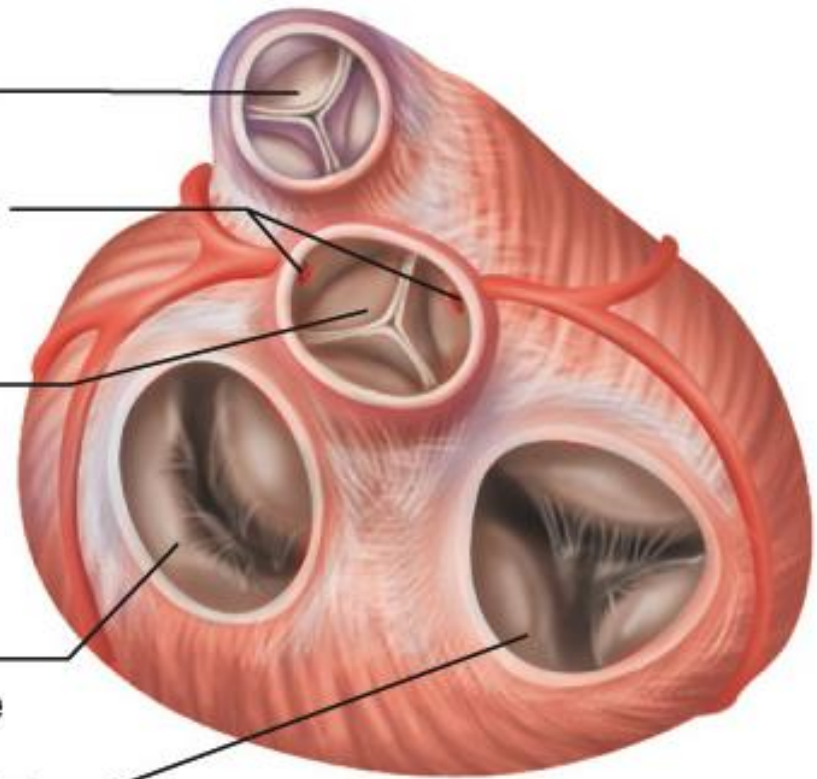
Pulmonary valve

Openings to coronary arteries

Aortic valve

Bicuspid (mitral) valve

Tricuspid valve





Skeleton of the heart including fibrous rings around valves

Bicuspid mitral valve

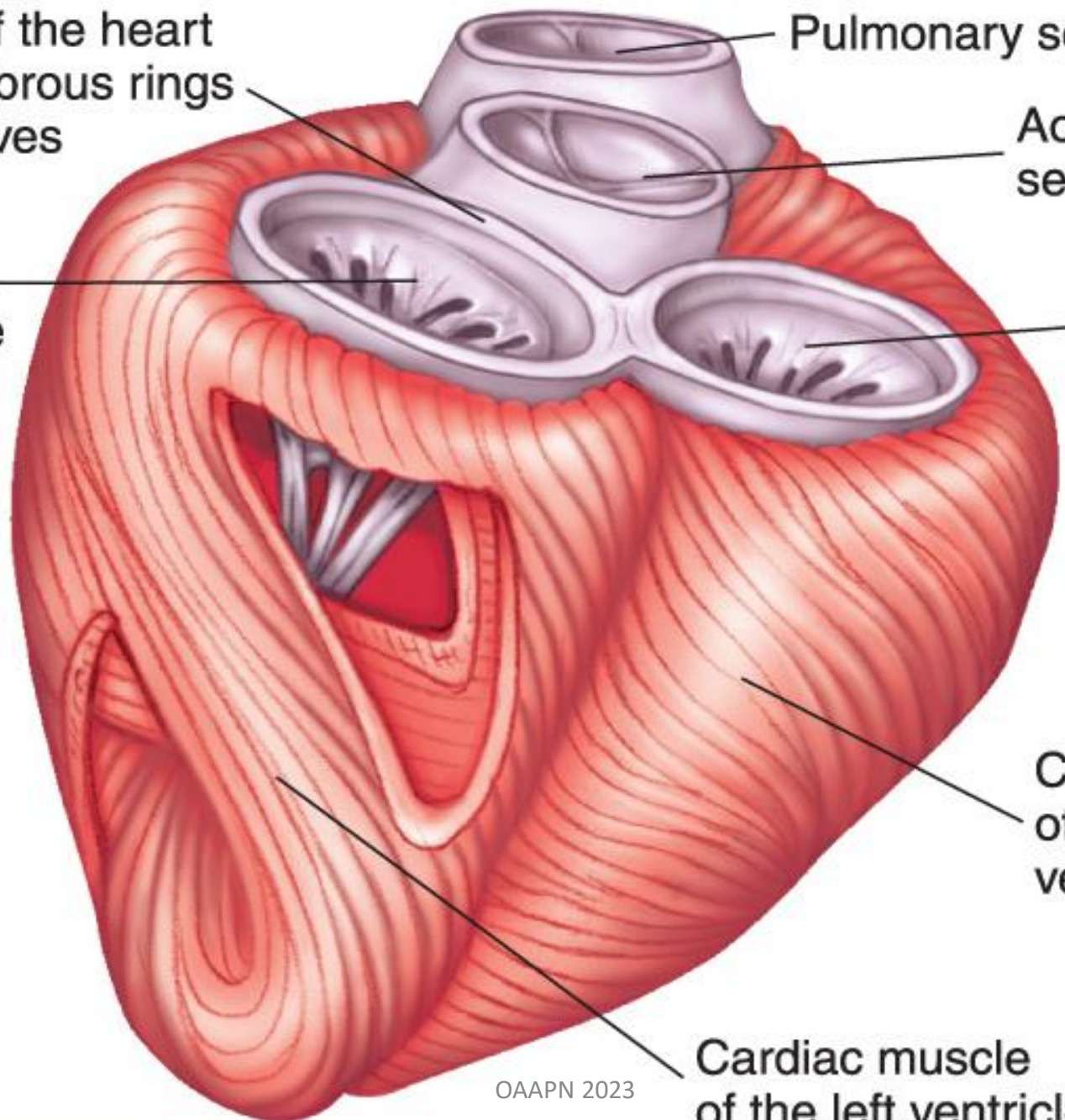
Pulmonary semilunar valve

Aortic semilunar valve

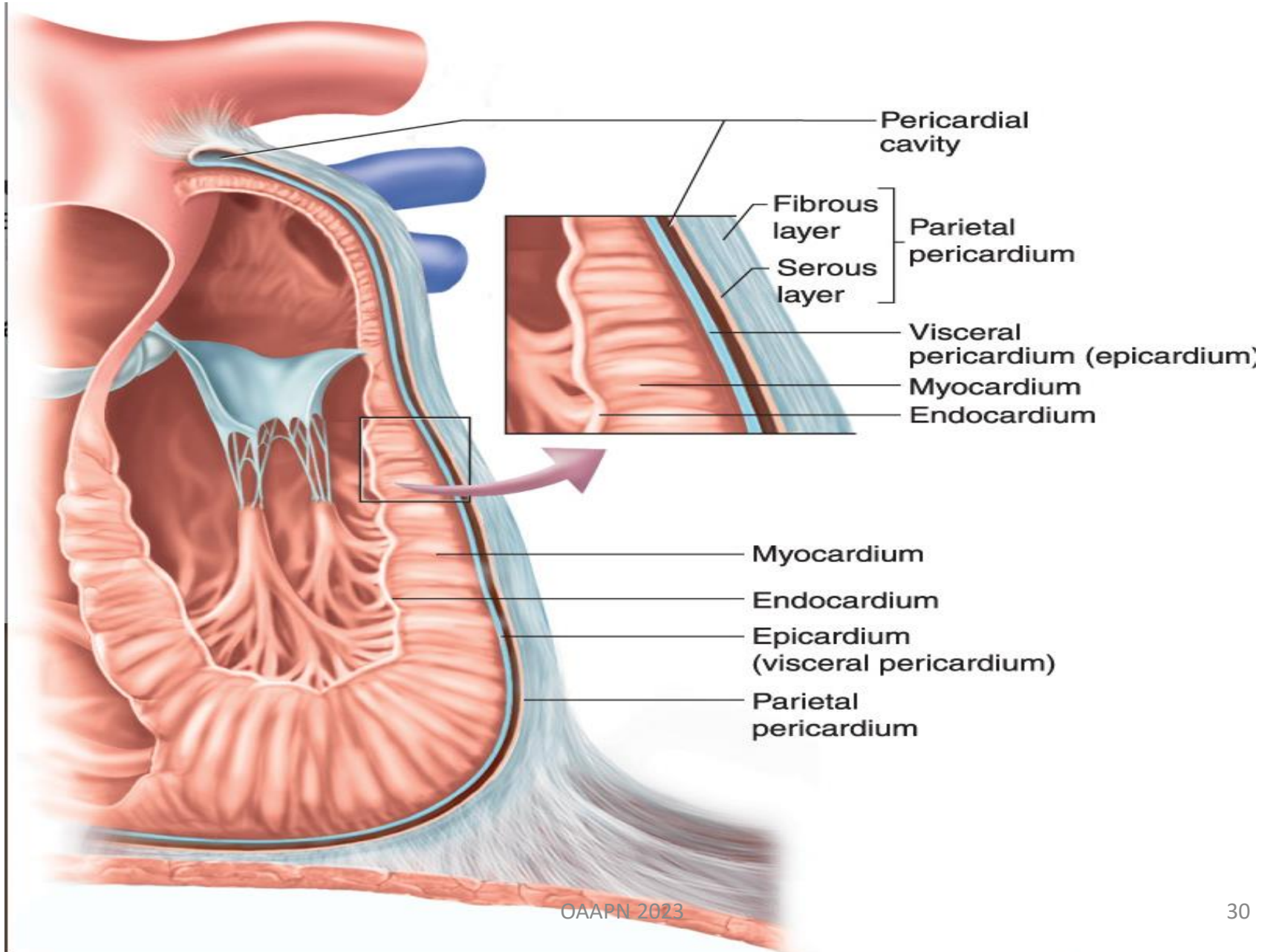
Tricuspid valve

Cardiac muscle of the right ventricle

Cardiac muscle of the left ventricle



# Layers of the Heart



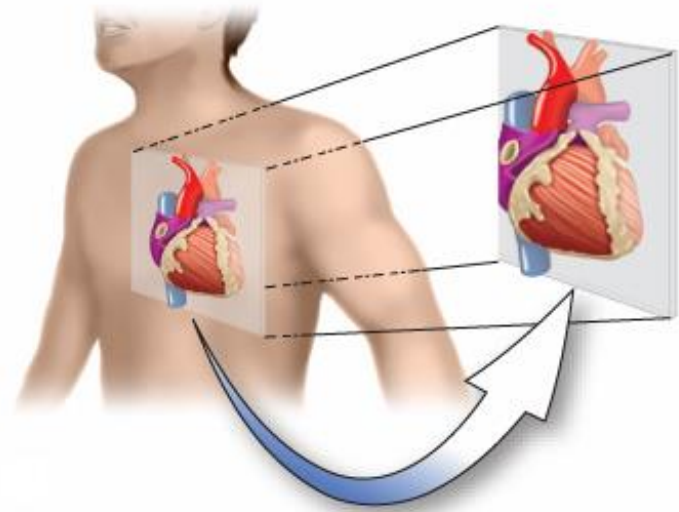
# 12 lead ECG

- A Normal ECG is dependent on intact plumbing, electrical, and structural components of the heart

# Limb Leads

- View the frontal plane
- Include leads I, II, III,  $aV_R$ ,  $aV_L$  and  $aV_F$
- Provide inferior, superior, and lateral views of heart

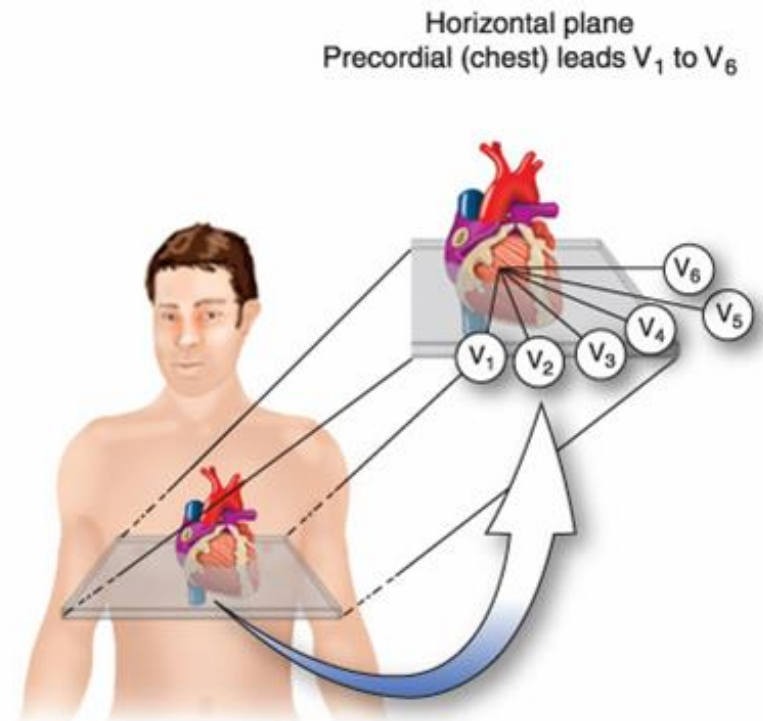
Frontal plane  
Limb leads I, II, III,  $aV_R$ ,  $aV_F$





# Precordial Leads

- View horizontal plane and include leads  $V_1$ ,  $V_2$ ,  $V_3$ ,  $V_4$ ,  $V_5$ , and  $V_6$
- Provide inferior, superior, and lateral views of heart





41 yr  
Female Caucasian

Vent. rate 99 BPM  
PR interval 124 ms  
QRS duration 76 ms  
QT/QTc 360/462 ms  
P-R-T axes 65 54 29

NORMAL SINUS RHYTHM  
NORMAL ECG

9

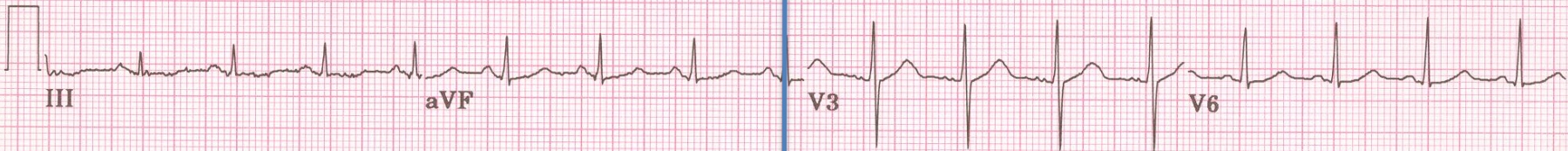
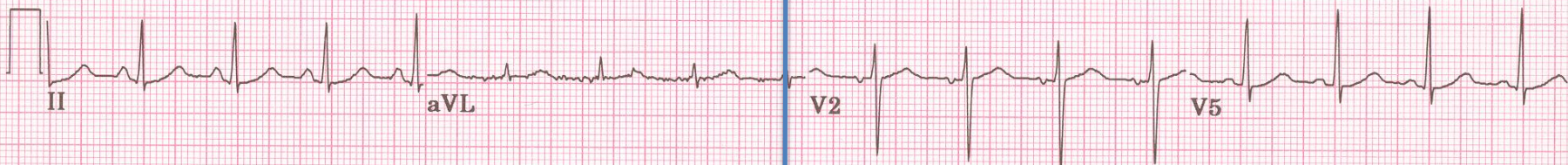
M

Technician ID: 503

Unconfirmed

Frontal/Limb leads

Precordial leads





41 yr  
Female Caucasian

Vent. rate 99 BPM  
PR interval 124 ms  
QRS duration 76 ms  
QT/QTc 360/462 ms  
P-R-T axes 65 54 29

NORMAL SINUS RHYTHM  
NORMAL ECG

9  
M

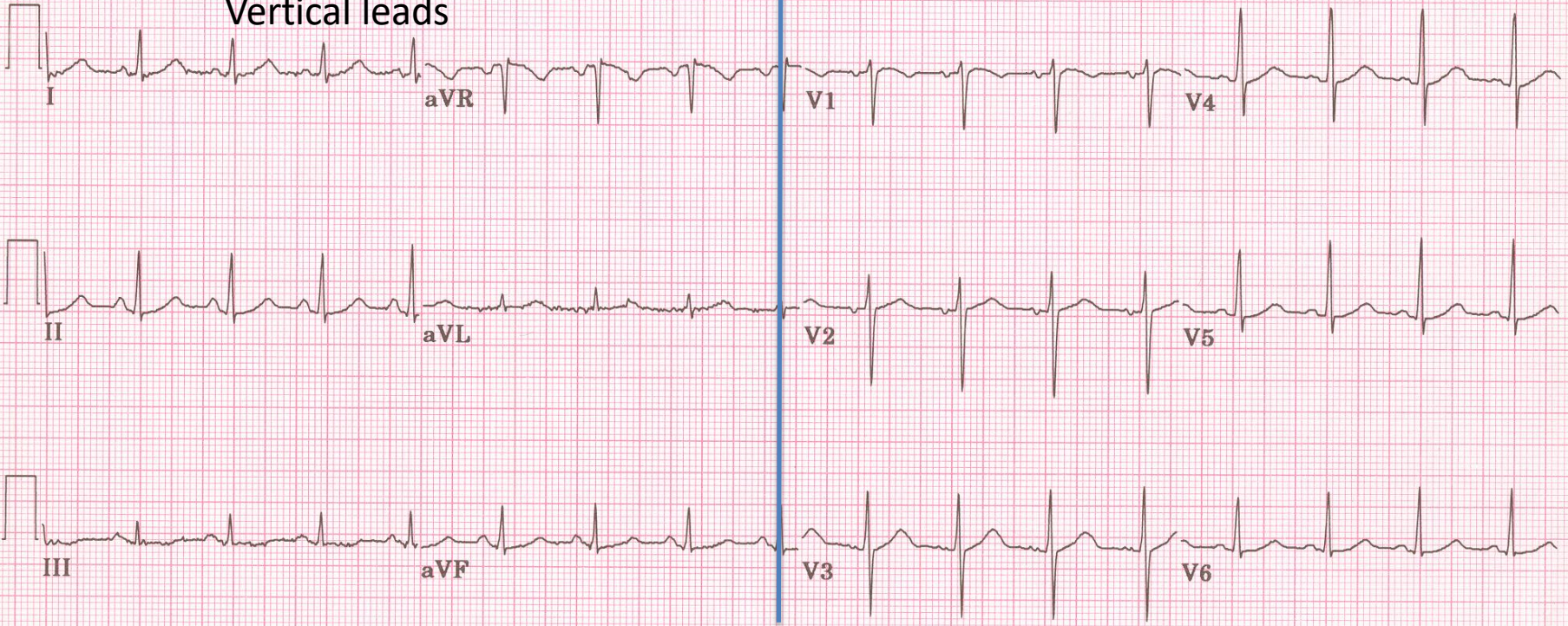
A  
P  
R  
T

Technician ID: 503

op

Frontal leads  
Limb leads  
Vertical leads

Unconfirmed  
Precordial leads  
Horizontal leads



Rhythm strip



# 12 lead ECG

- An Abnormal ECG may result from disrupted plumbing, electrical, structure or a combination of all the above.



87 yr  
Female Caucasian

Vent. rate 147 BPM  
PR interval 136 ms  
QRS duration 156 ms  
QT/QTc 332/519 ms  
P-R-T axes -37 -35 118

Room: 1  
Loc: 4

~~UNUSUAL P AXIS, POSSIBLE ECTOPIC ATRIAL TACHYCARDIA~~  
LEFT AXIS DEVIATION  
LEFT BUNDLE BRANCH BLOCK  
ABNORMAL ECG

*Supraventricular tachycardia*

Technician ID: 488

WHEN COMPARED WITH ECG OF 30-MAR-1997 22:04,  
ECTOPIC ATRIAL RHYTHM HAS REPLACED SINUS RHYTHM  
LEFT BUNDLE BRANCH BLOCK IS NOW PRESENT

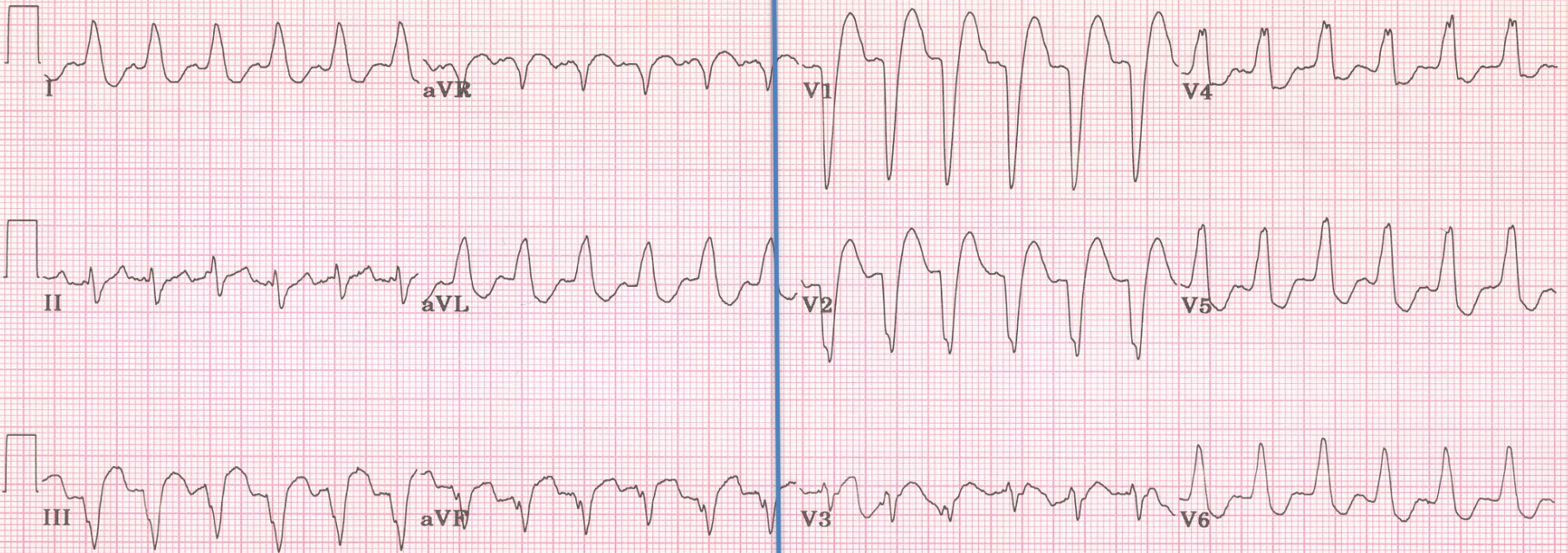
Meds: Unknown

Referred by: ROBINSON

Unconfirmed

Frontal/Limb Leads

Precordial Leads



Rhythm Strip



# ECG

## Sensible Approach

- Rate
  - Rhythm
  - Axis
  - Hypertrophy
  - **4 I's**
    - Intervals, Ischemia, acute Injury, old Infarction
  - Other
- If possible, always have an old ECG for comparison

# ECG

## Electrical

- There can be electrical activity and no mechanical response, but there can never be mechanical response without electrical activation
- Electrical activity precedes mechanical activity (contraction)



# Electrophysiology of the Heart

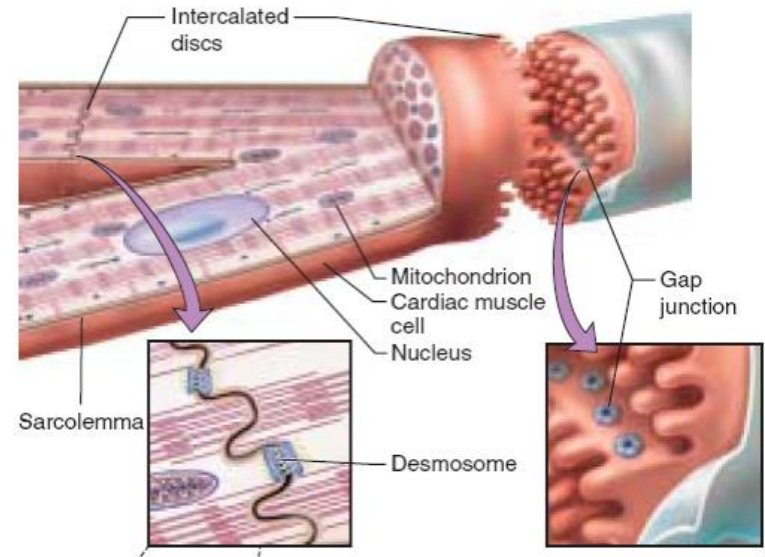
## Properties of cardiac Muscle

- **Myocardial cells:** Make up bulk of heart muscle, actual contractile units.
- **Specialized cells:** Four specific properties that govern automaticity, excitability, conductivity and contractility. These cells make up the heart's electrical conduction system



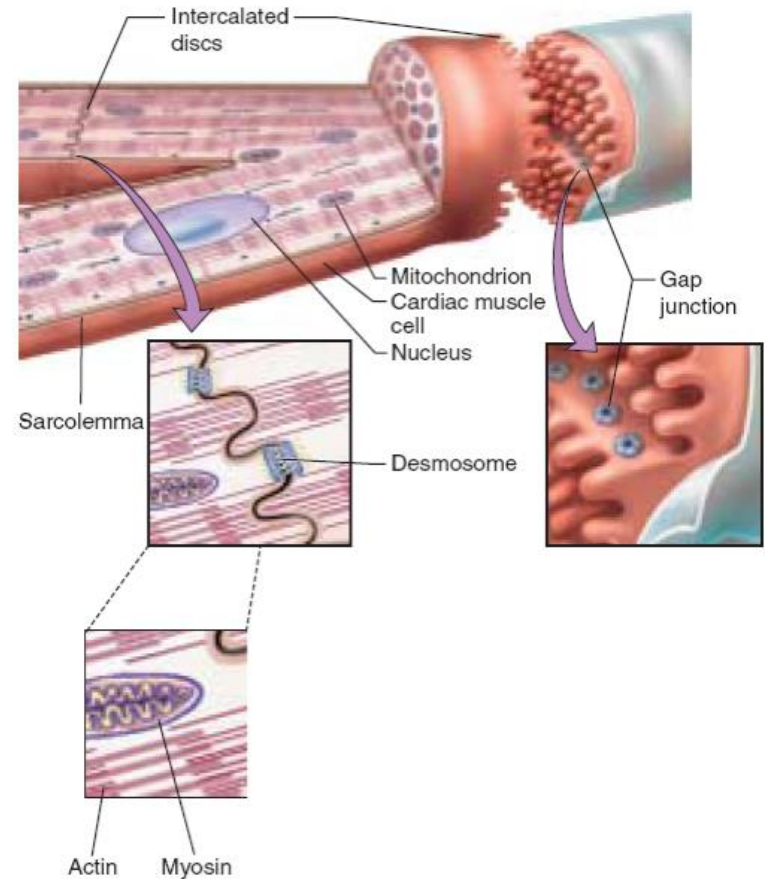
# Myocardial Cells

- Cylindrical and branching at their ends
  - Intercalated disks and gap junctions allow rapid movement of electrical impulses from one cell to another
  - Desmosomes hold cells together when heart muscle contracts



# Working Cells

- Myocytes
  - Enclosed in sarcolemma
  - Composed of two protein filaments
    - Actin (thin)
    - Myosin (thick)

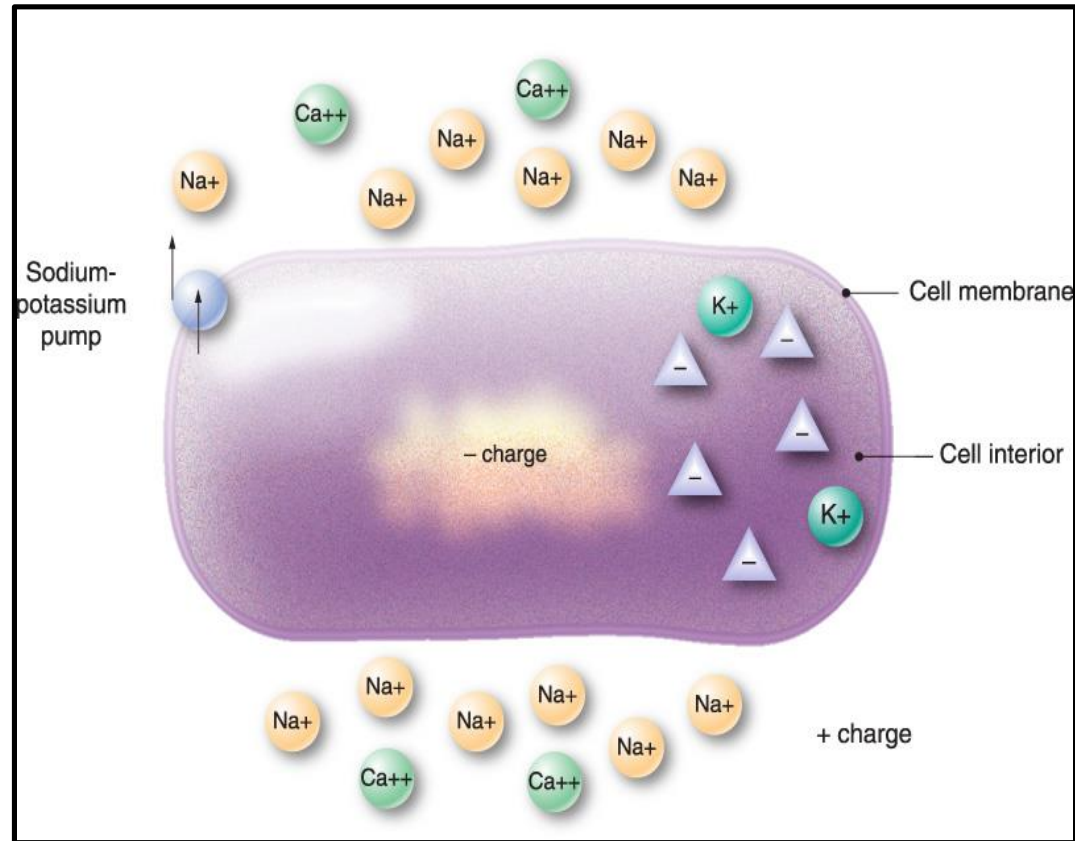


# Key Properties of Myocardial Cells

- **Automaticity**
  - Can produce electrical activity without outside nerve stimulation
- **Excitability**
  - Ability to respond to an electrical stimulus
- **Conductivity**
  - Ability to transmit an electrical stimulus from cell to cell throughout myocardium
- **Contractility**
  - Ability of myocardial cell to contract when stimulated by an electrical impulse

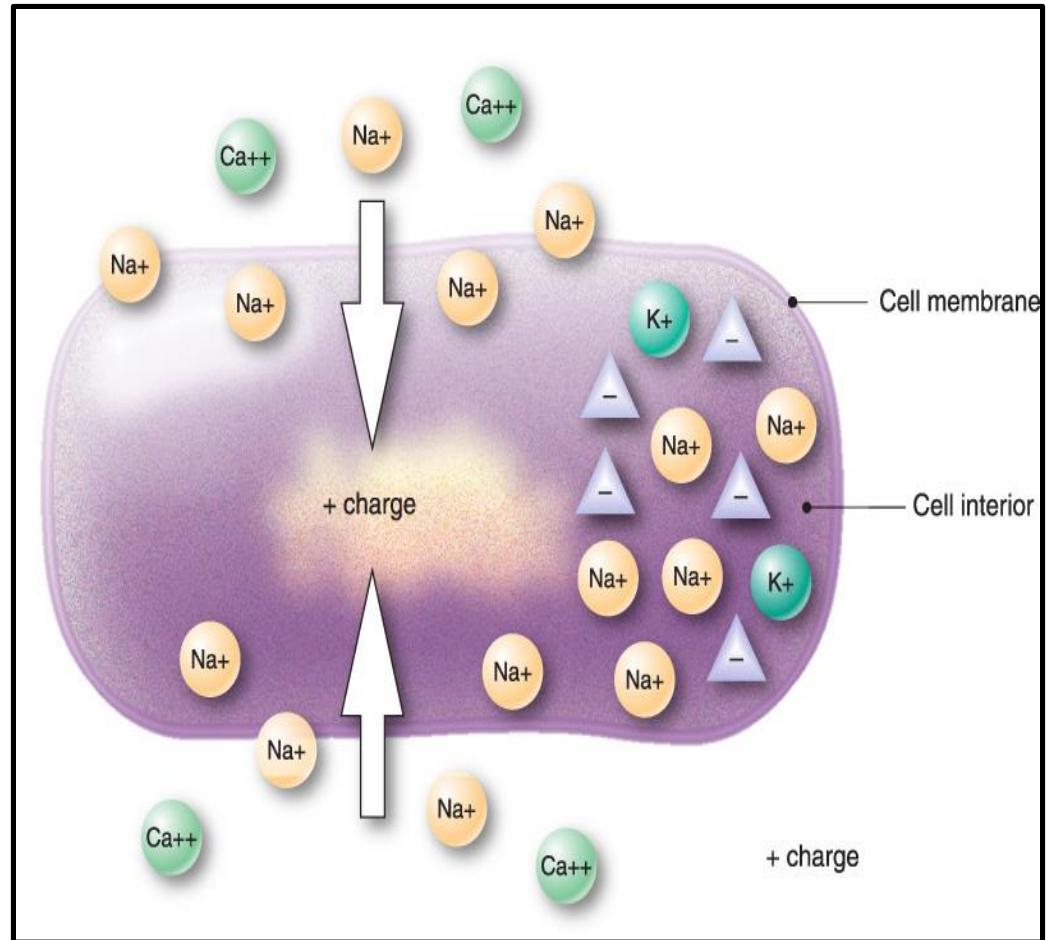
# Polarized State

- Inside of myocardial cells more negatively charged in relationship to outside where it is more positively charged



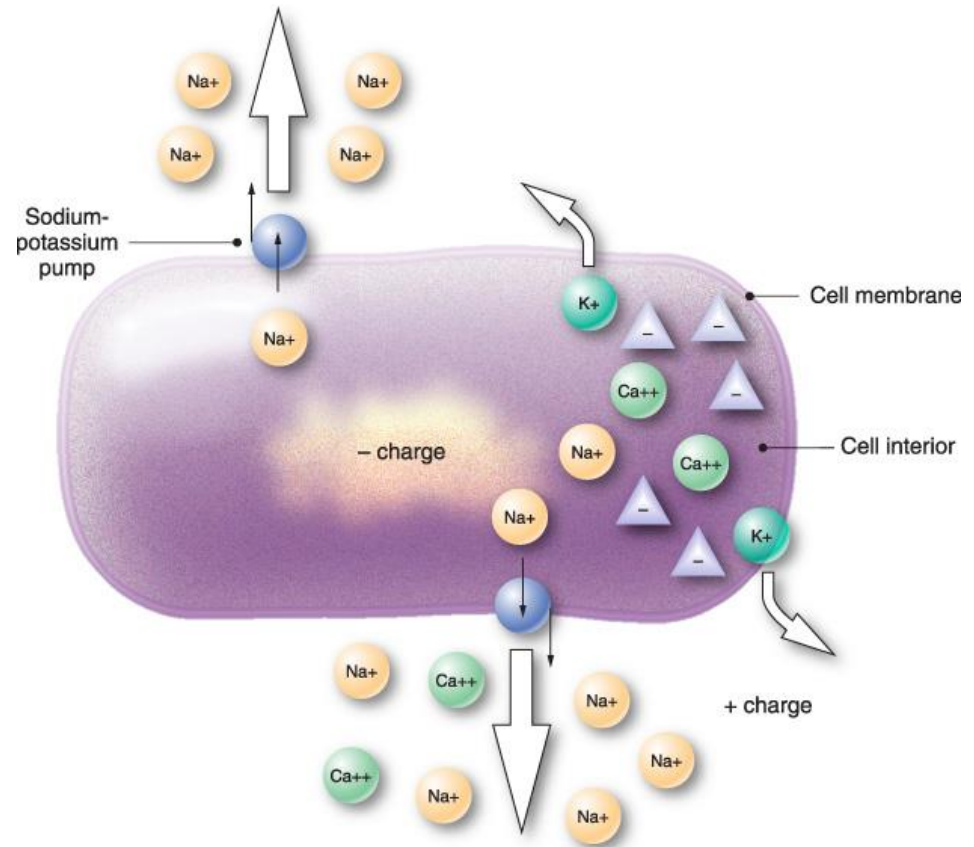
# Depolarization

- Occurs when positively charged ions move inside cells causing interior to become positively charged
  - Change in electrical charge over time referred to as cell's action potential



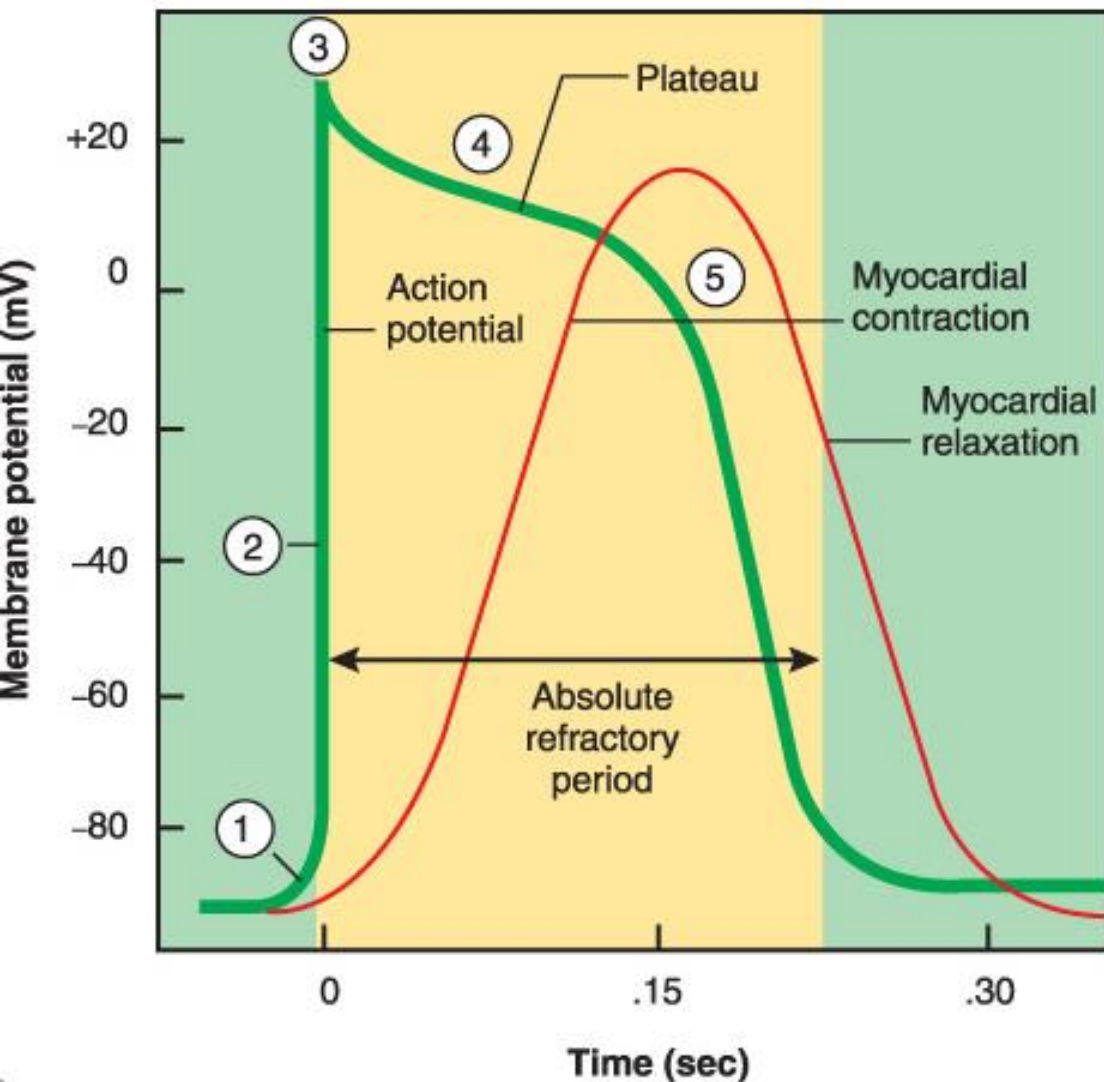
# Repolarization

- Follows depolarization and occurs when:
  - Potassium leaves cell causing positive charge to lower
  - Sodium and calcium are removed by special transport systems

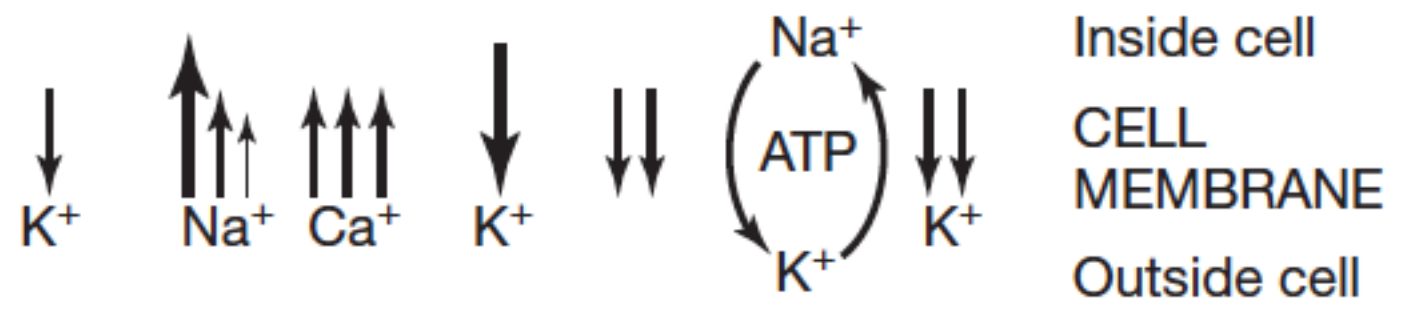
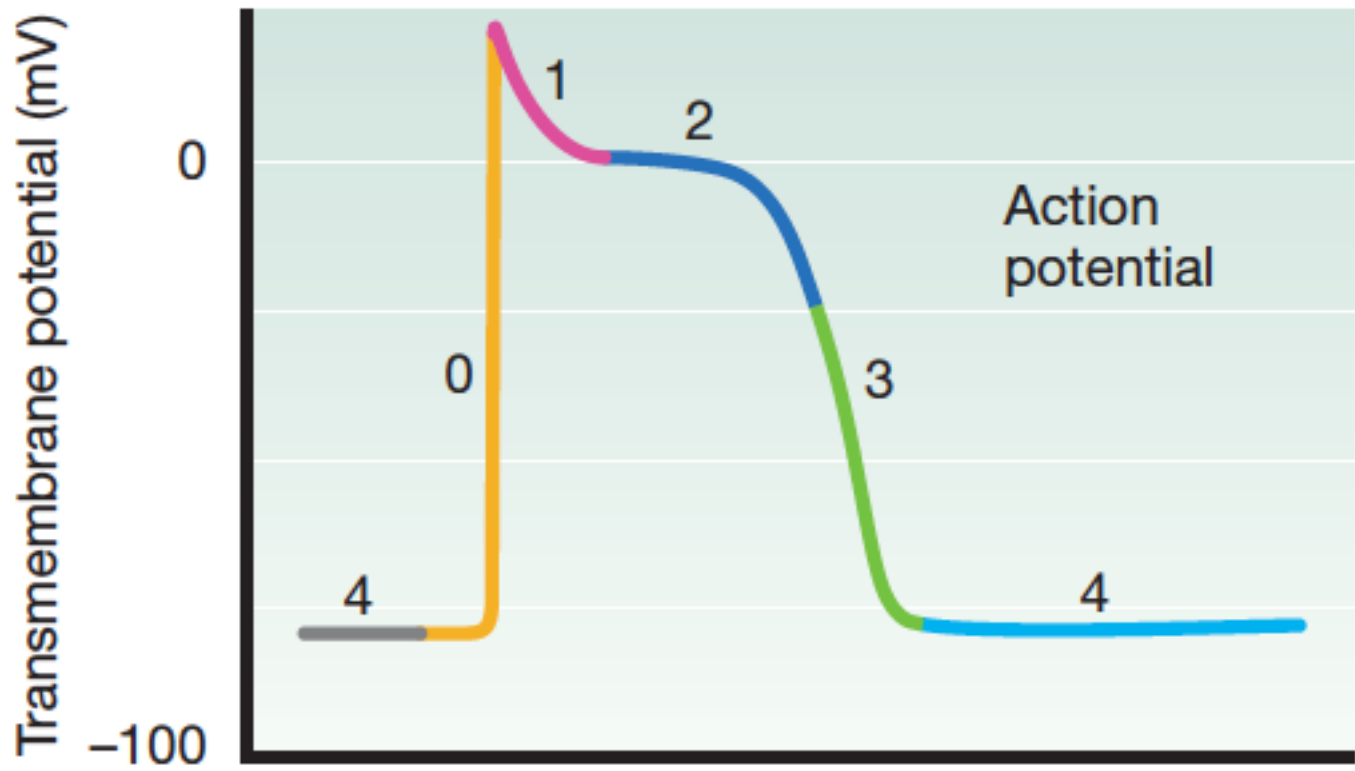




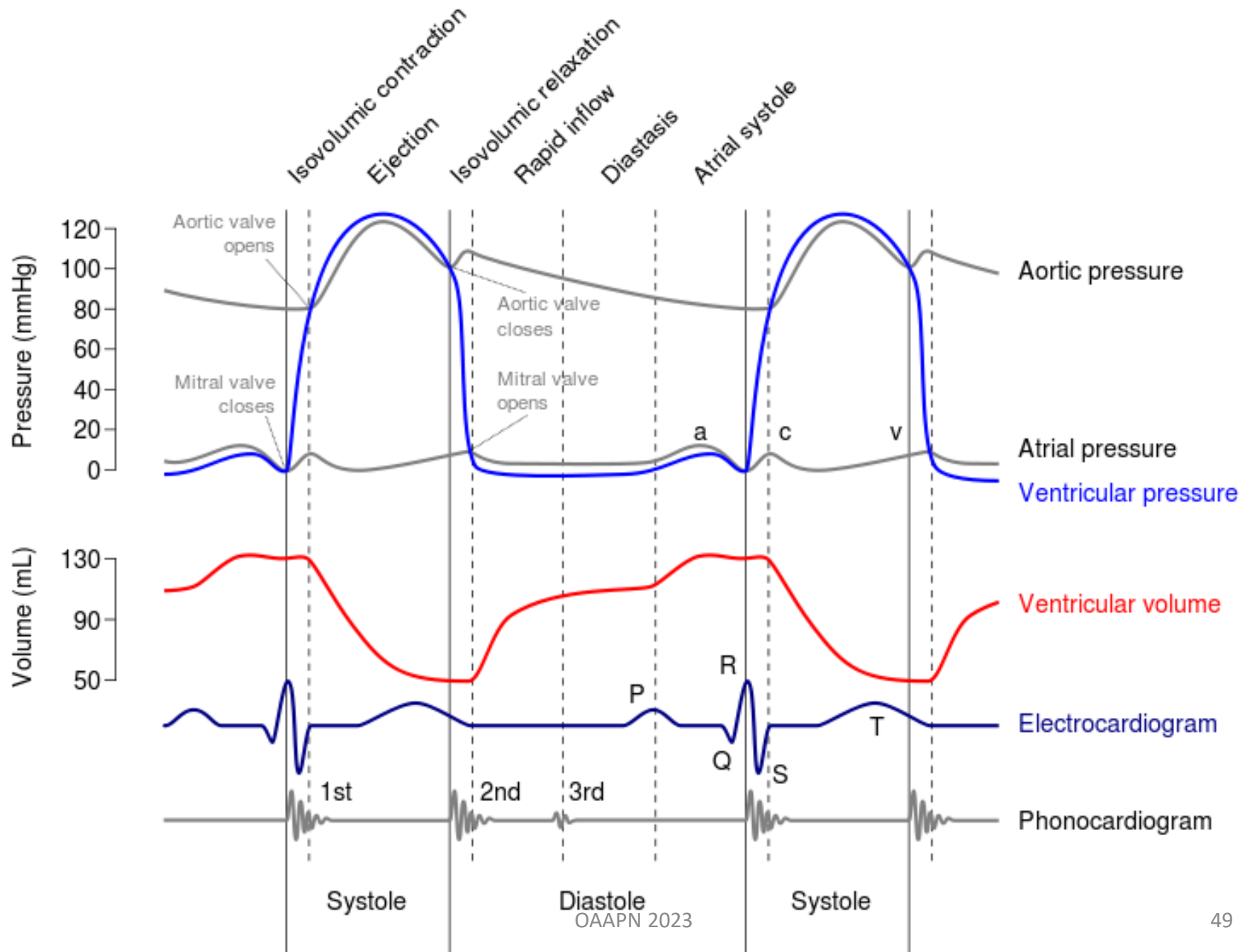
# Refractory periods



1. Voltage-gated sodium channels open.
2.  $\text{Na}^+$  inflow depolarizes the membrane and triggers the opening of still more  $\text{Na}^+$  channels, creating a positive feedback cycle and a rapidly rising membrane voltage.
3.  $\text{Na}^+$  channels close when the cell depolarizes, and the voltage peaks at nearly +30 mV.
4.  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entering through slow calcium channels prolongs depolarization of membrane, creating a plateau. Plateau falls slightly because of some  $\text{K}^+$  leakage, but most  $\text{K}^+$  channels remain closed until end of plateau.
5.  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channels close and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  is transported out of cell.  $\text{K}^+$  channels open, and rapid  $\text{K}^+$  outflow returns membrane to its resting potential.







# Autonomic Nervous System

Parasympathetic innervation of nodal tissues

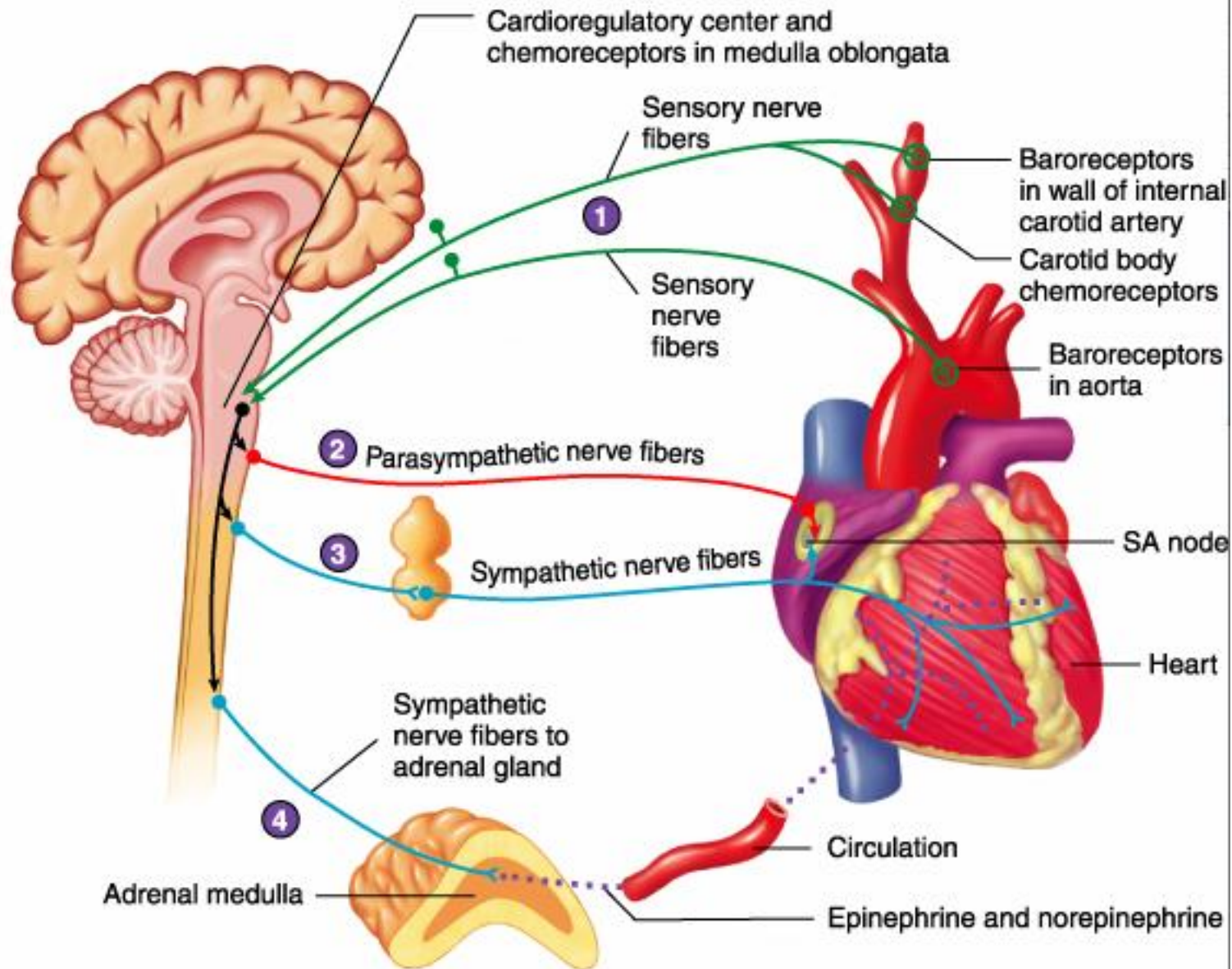


Sympathetic chains  
innervating the myocardium

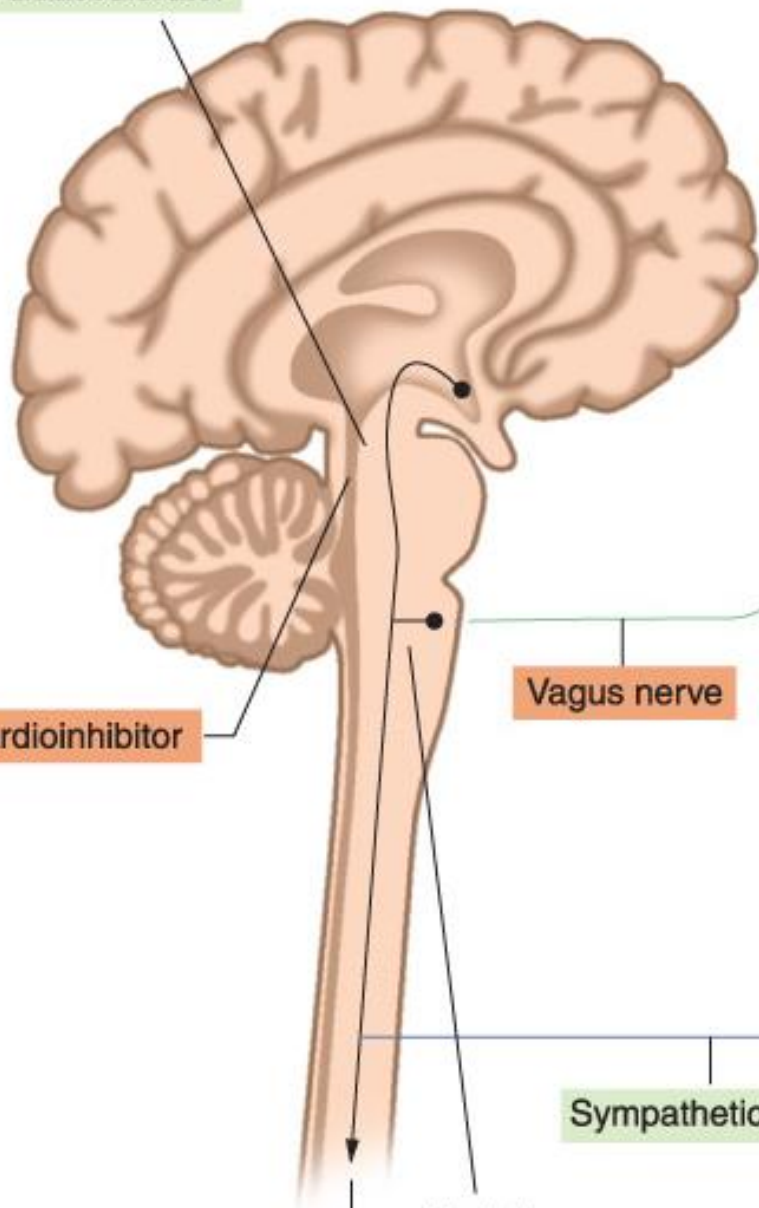
# Electrophysiology of the Heart

## Autonomic Nervous System control

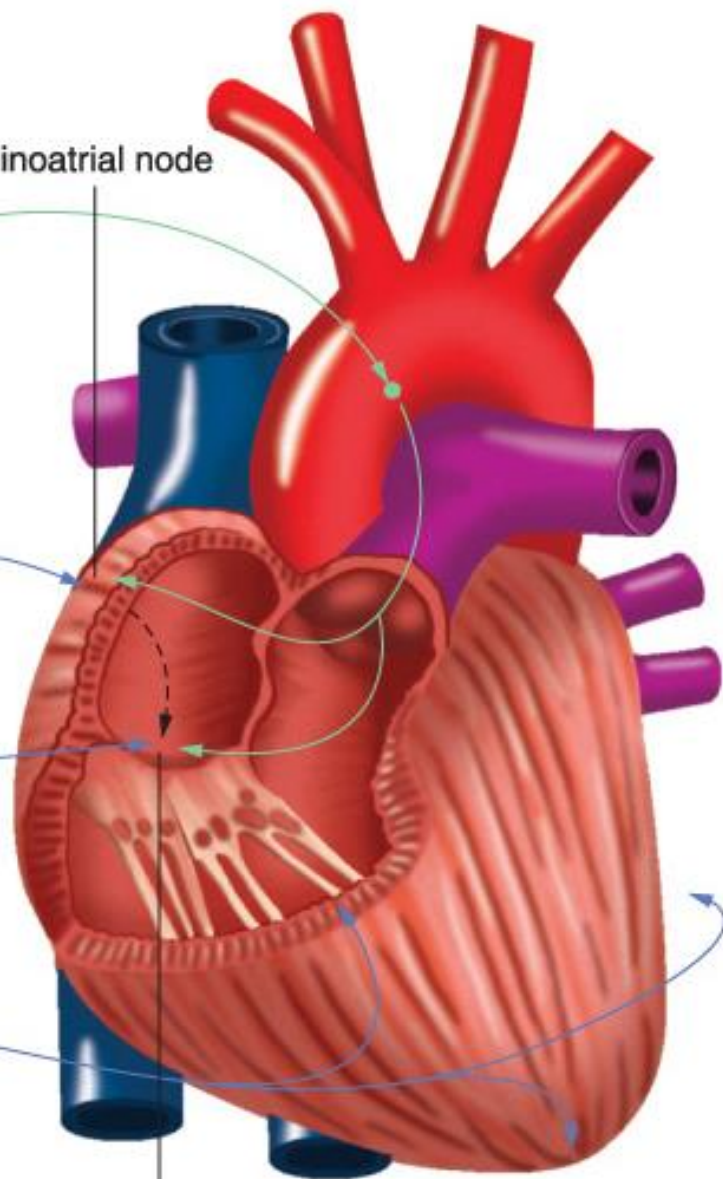
- Sympathetic nerves: supply primarily ventricles, chemical mediators are hormones *norepinephrine and epinephrine*  
*(Tachy arrhythmias)*
- Parasympathetic: supply primarily atria, stimulation of vagus nerve causes the release of the hormone *acetylcholine*  
*(Brady arrhythmias)*



Cardioaccelerator



Sinoatrial node



Vagus nerve

Sympathetic nerves

Descending  
nerve pathway  
from brain

Medulla  
The medulla is an area of the brain  
involved in vital body functions  
such as heart rate and breathing.

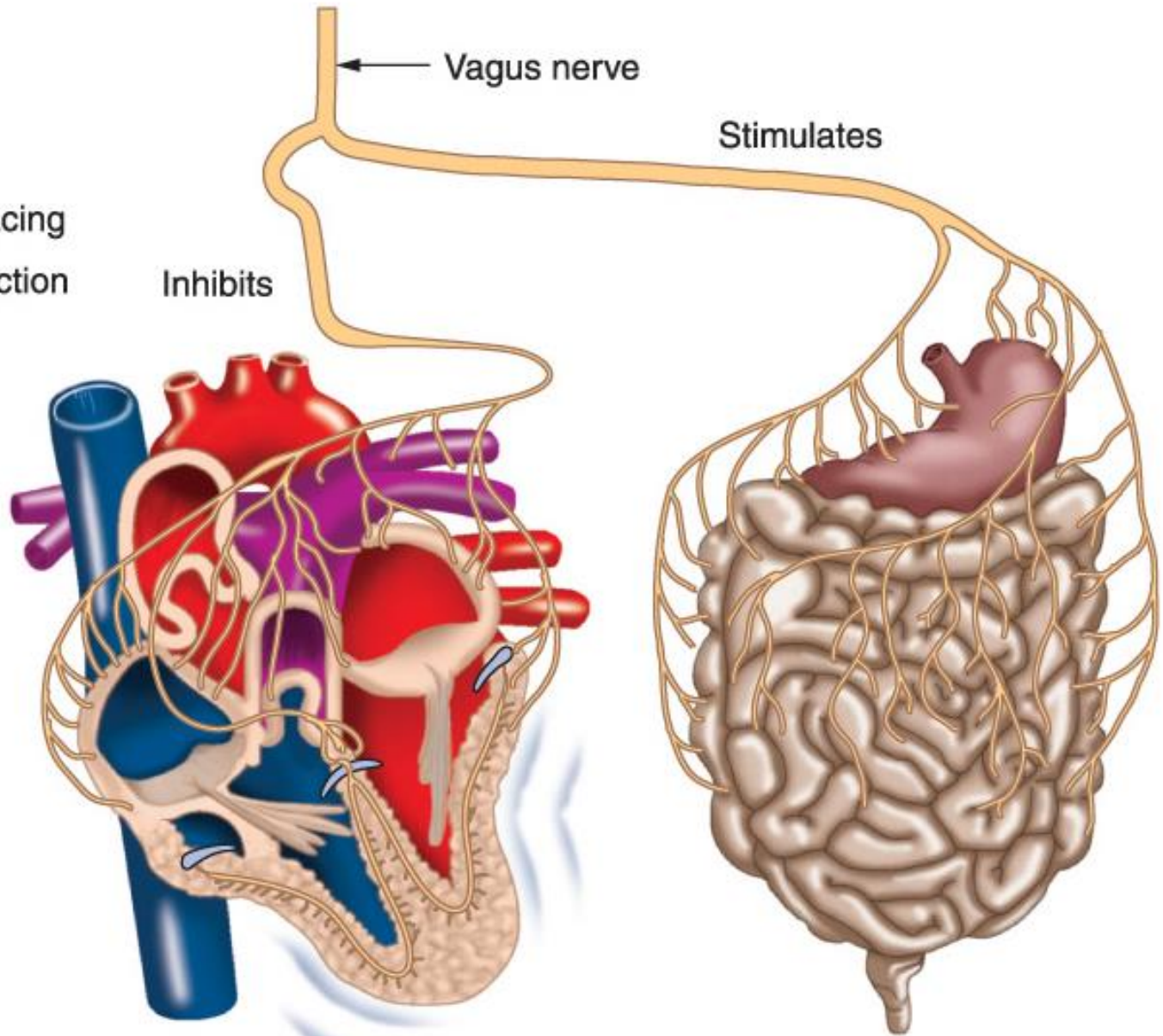
Atrioventricular  
node



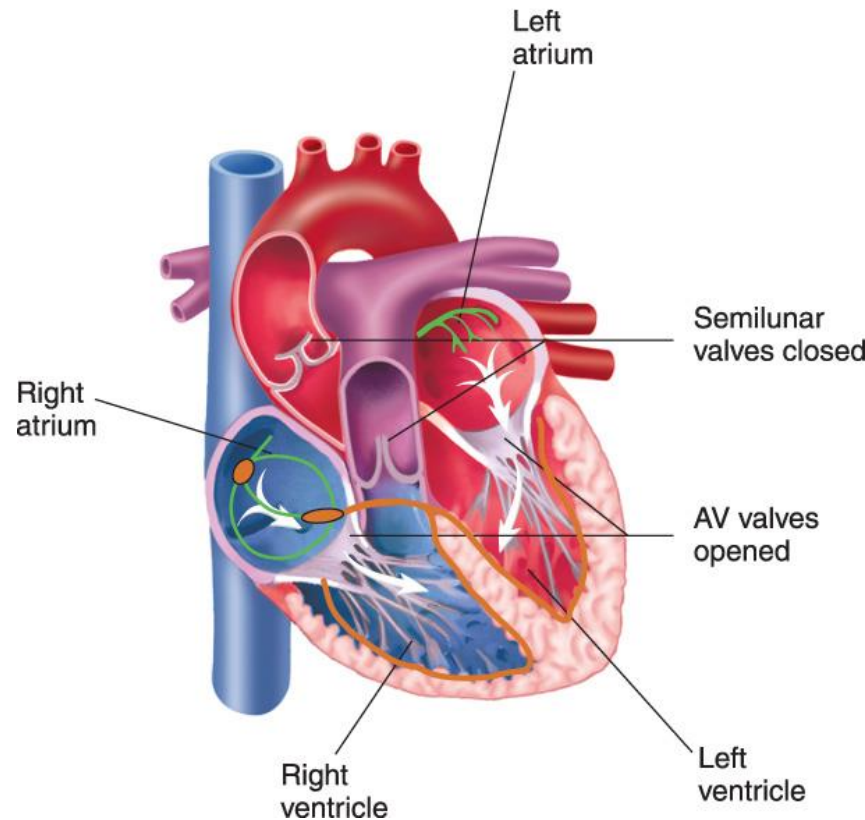
Parasympathetic system  
Activates cholinergic receptors

Cardioinhibitor  
effects

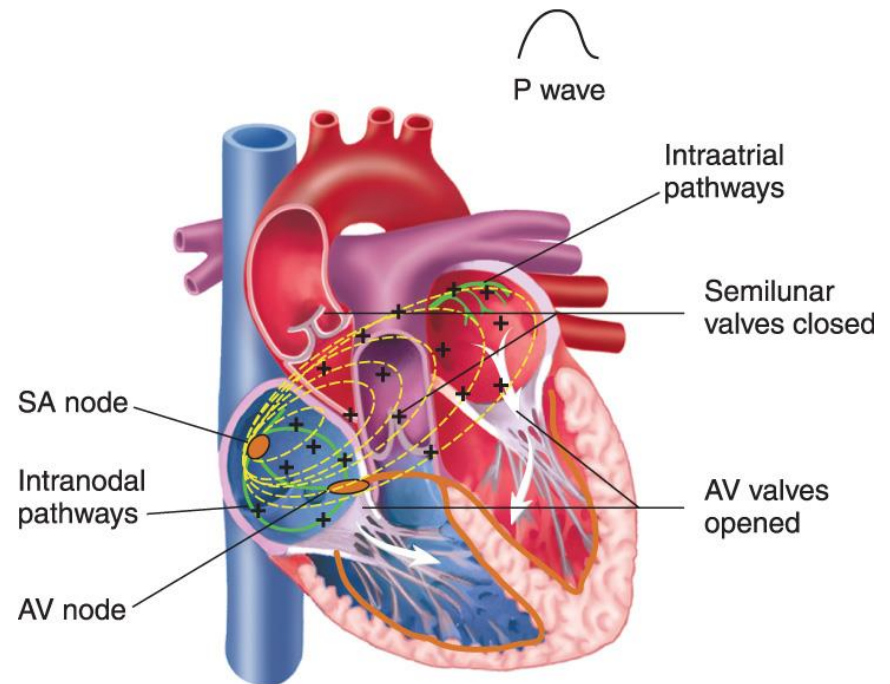
- ↓ Rate of SA node pacing
- ↓ Speed of AV conduction



- Cardiac cycle begins with RA and LA receiving blood from systemic and pulmonary circulations
  - Rising pressure within atria forces tricuspid and mitral valves open

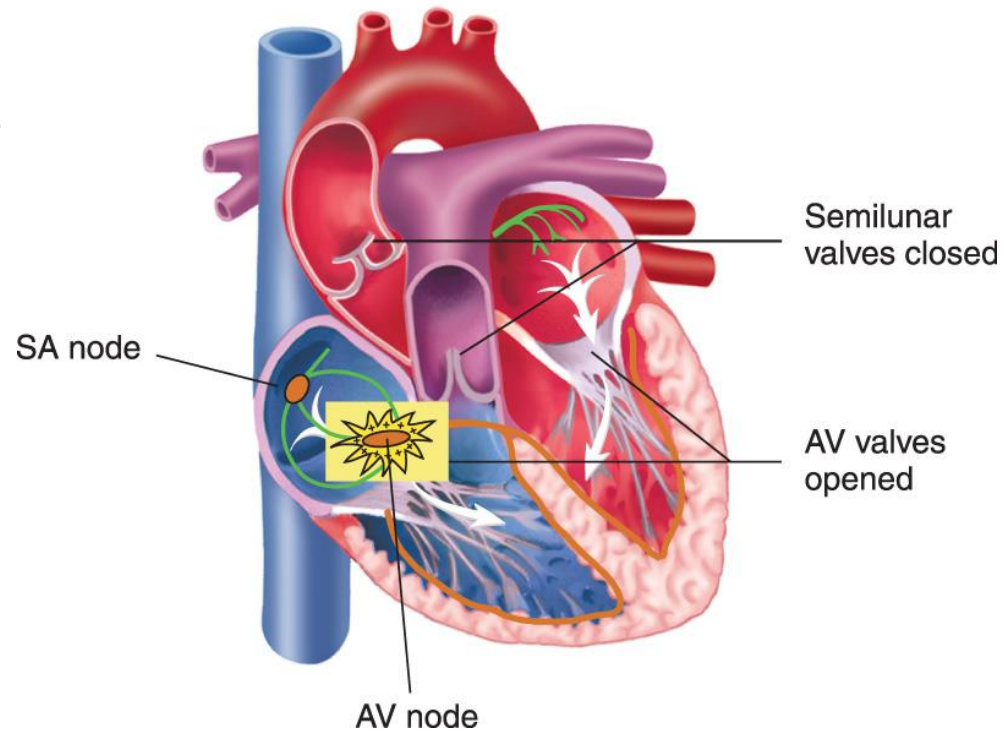


- Heartbeat initiated by an electrical impulse that arises from SA node
- Impulse travels through atria
  - generates a positive waveform on ECG and contraction of atria

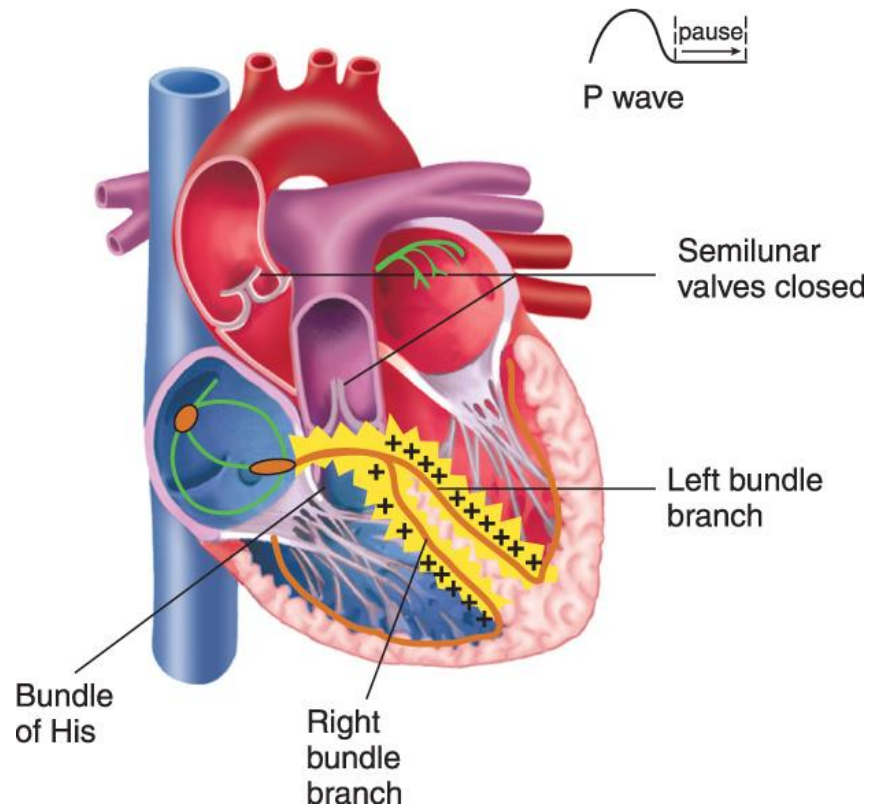




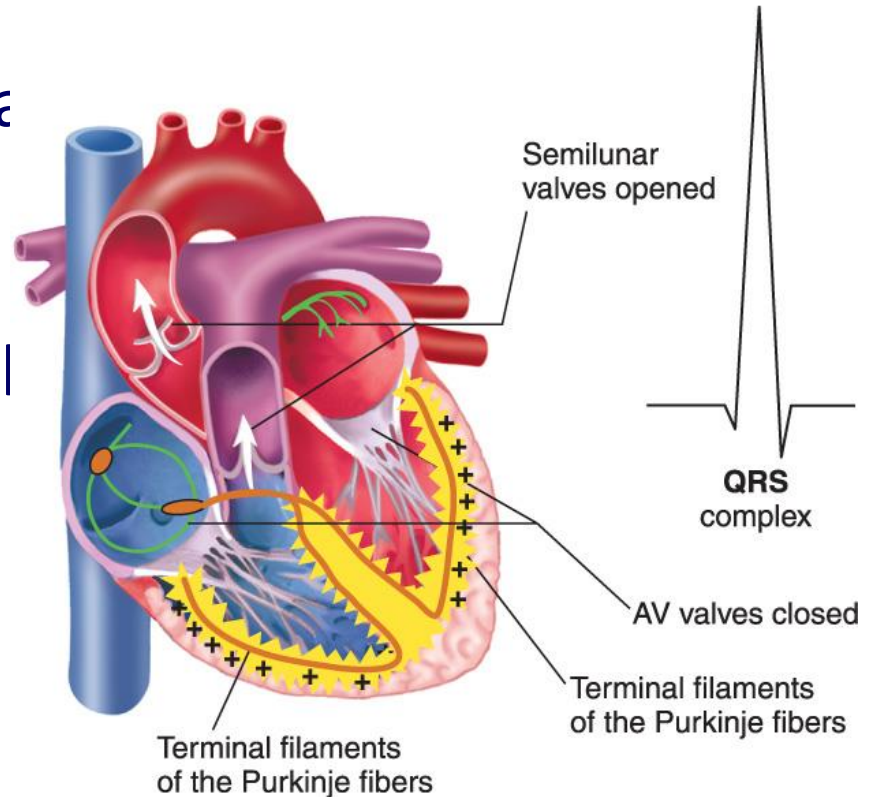
- Impulse slows as it passes through AV node from atria to ventricles
  - Allows atria time to finish filling ventricles



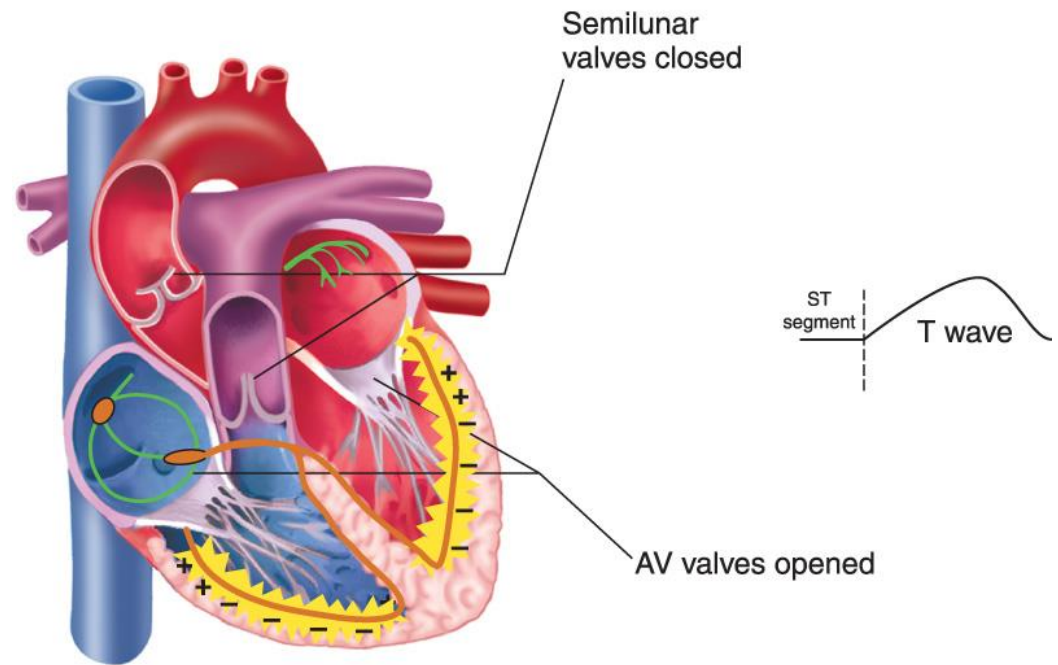
- Impulse then rapidly travels through His-Purkinje system
  - Seen as a flat line following P wave



- Depolarization of septum and ventricular walls generates QRS complex and contraction of ventricle

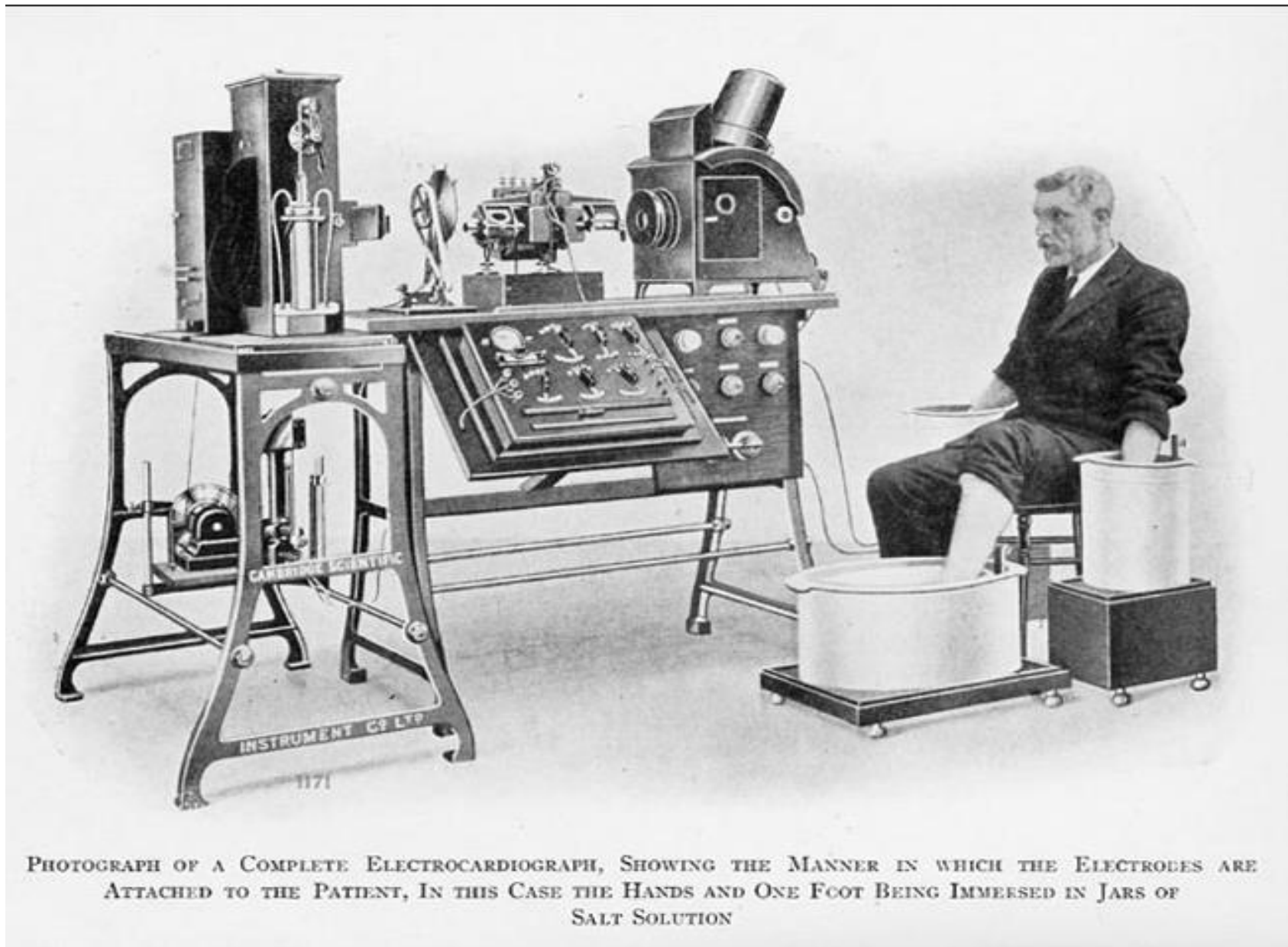


- Repolarization of ventricles is represented on ECG by ST segment and T wave



# The Electrocardiogram

What is important to know



PHOTOGRAPH OF A COMPLETE ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH, SHOWING THE MANNER IN WHICH THE ELECTRODES ARE ATTACHED TO THE PATIENT, IN THIS CASE THE HANDS AND ONE FOOT BEING IMMERSSED IN JARS OF SALT SOLUTION



# Normal ECG

- ECG Paper

Usually moves at a rate of 25mm/second

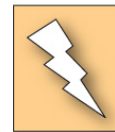
There are horizontal lines, indicating time, five large boxes of 5mm each equal 25mm or 1 second of time

There are vertical lines, indicating voltage, calibrated so that a 1mV standardization signal produces a deflection of exactly 10mm, (full standardization).

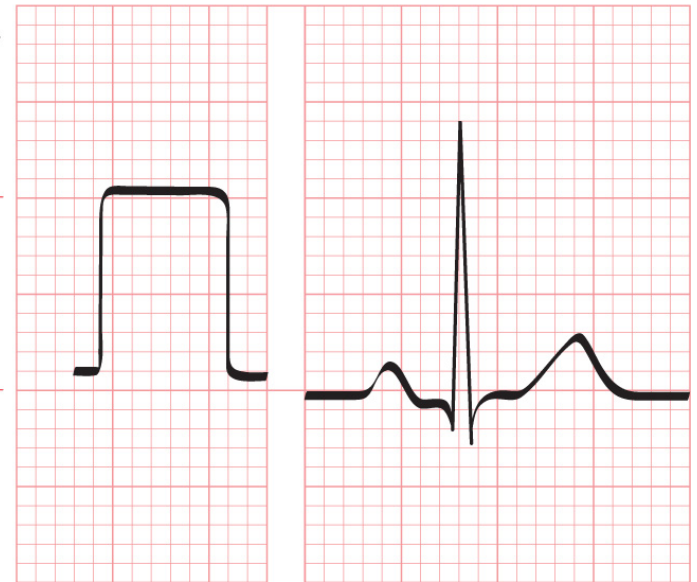
# Calibration or Registration Mark

- Helps ensure ECG machine is properly calibrated
- Serves as reference point on ECG tracing

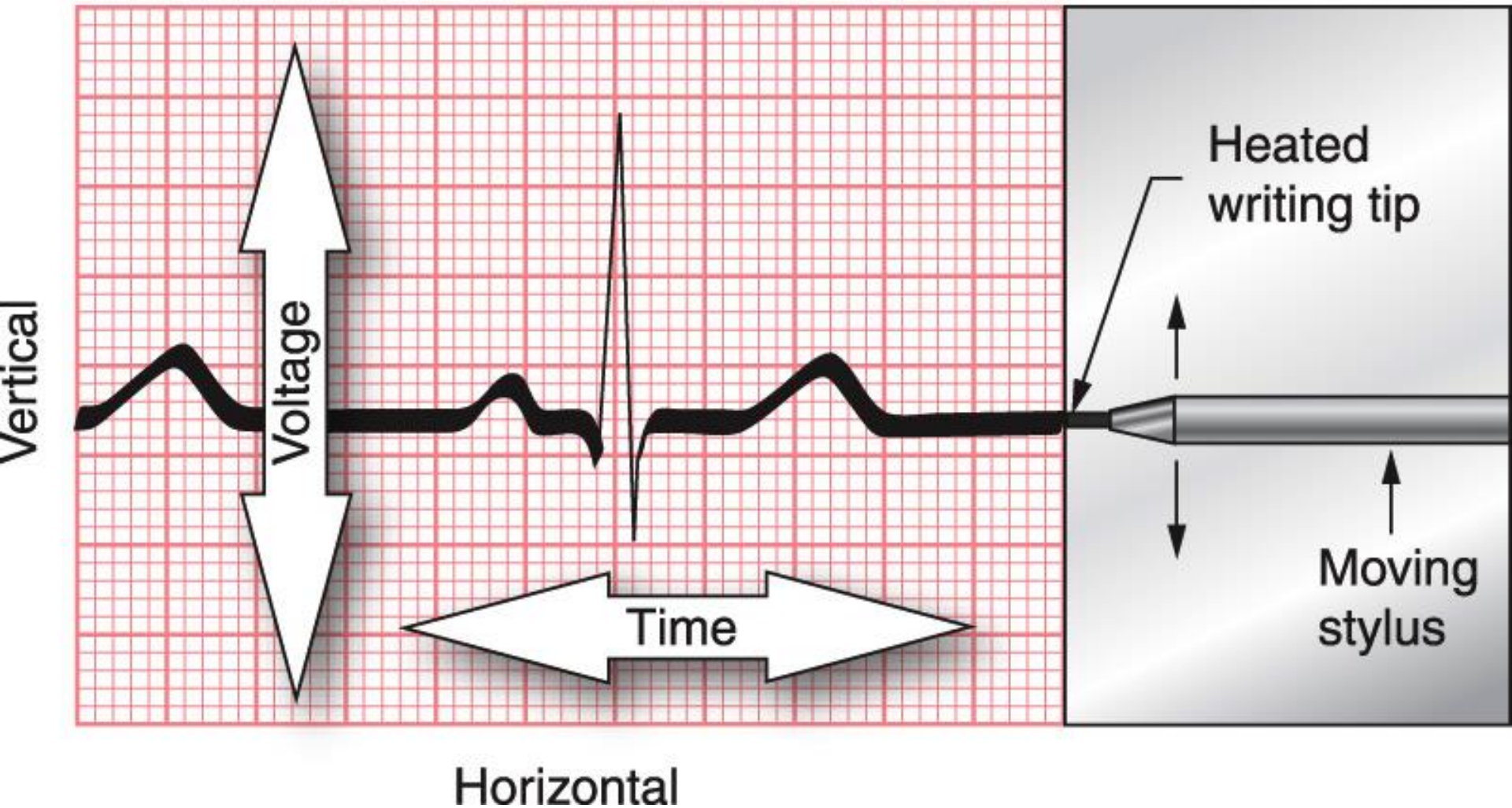
Standard signal of 1.0 mV produces a registration mark

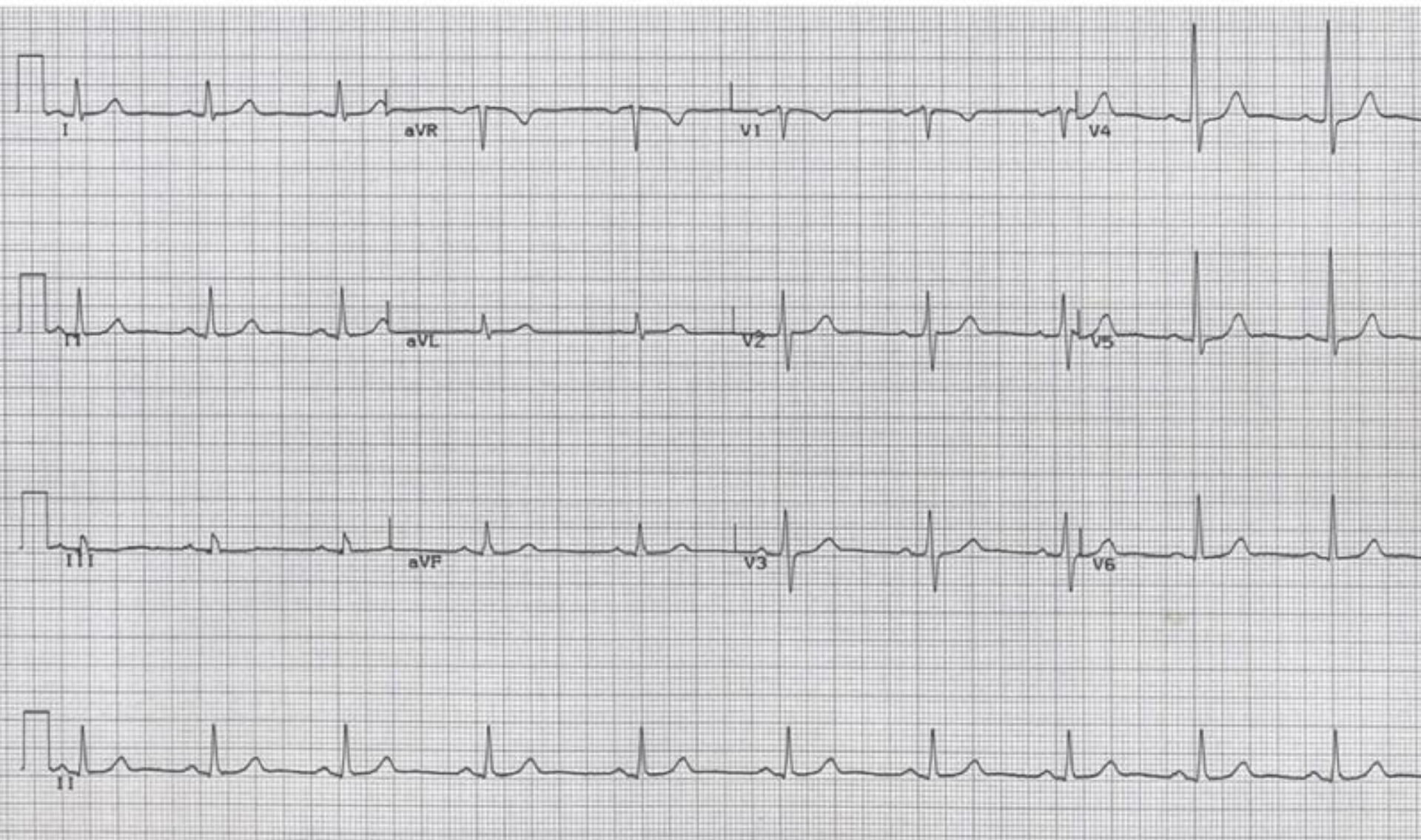


10 mm tall (10 small squares high)



# How things are measured







Limb Leads

Precordial Leads

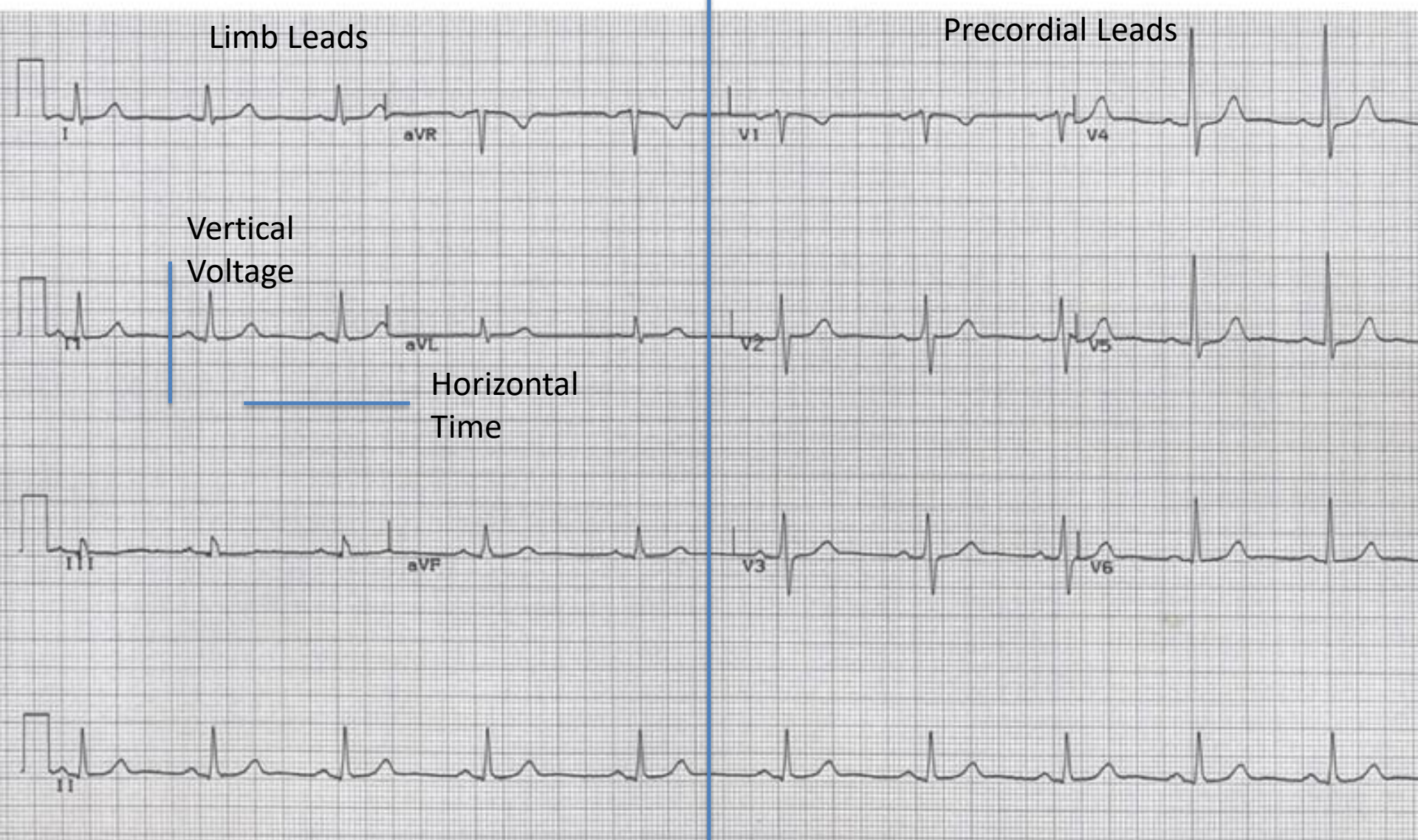


Limb Leads

Precordial Leads

Vertical  
Voltage

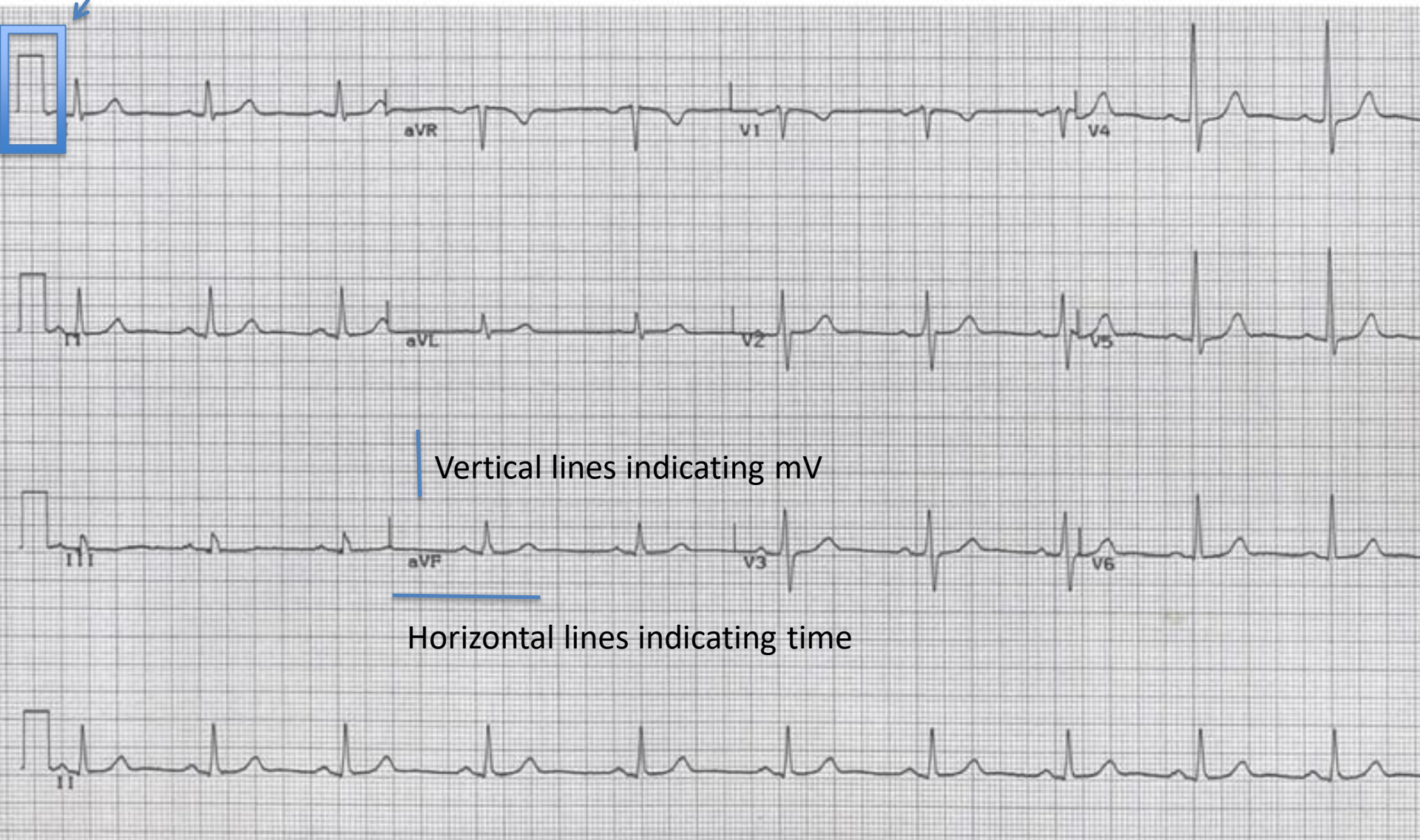
Horizontal  
Time

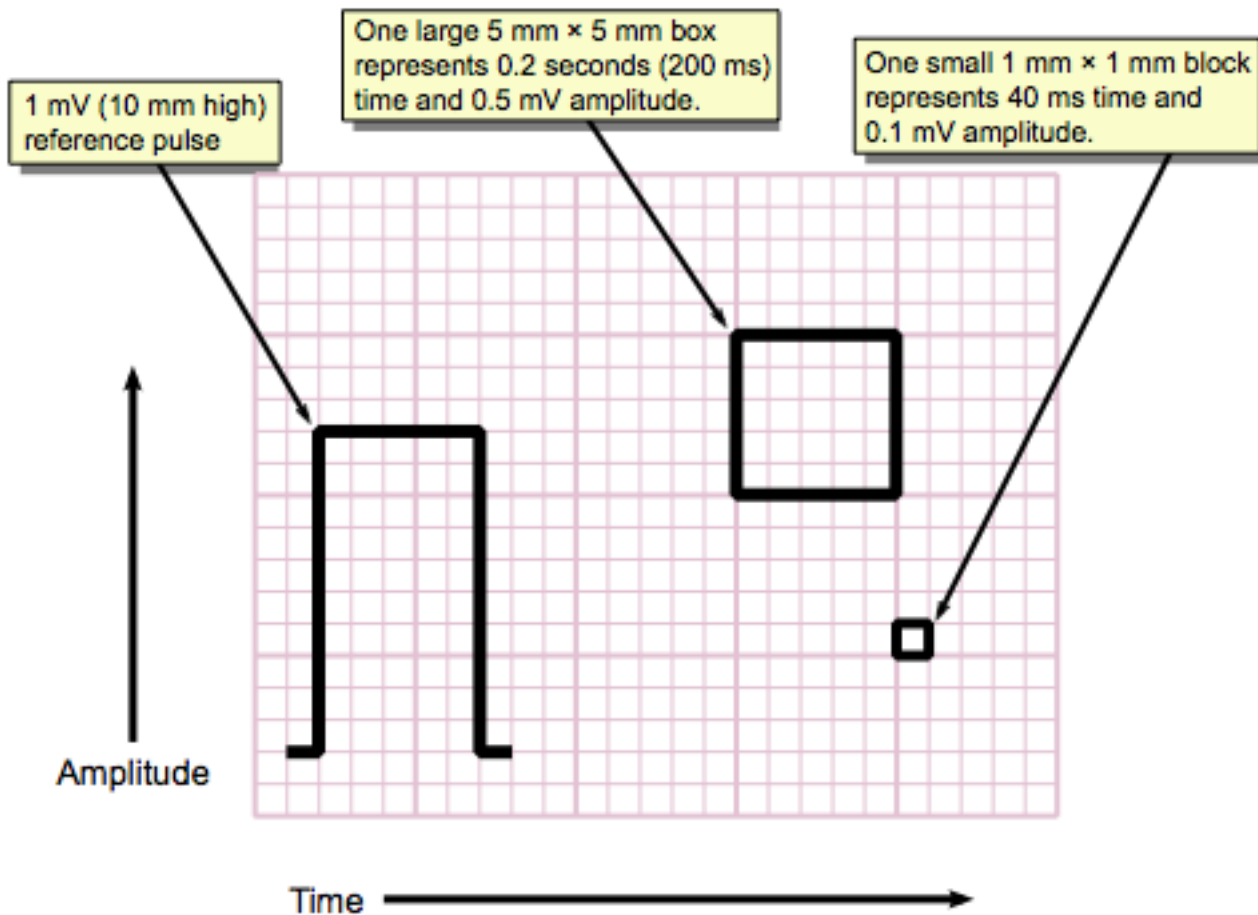


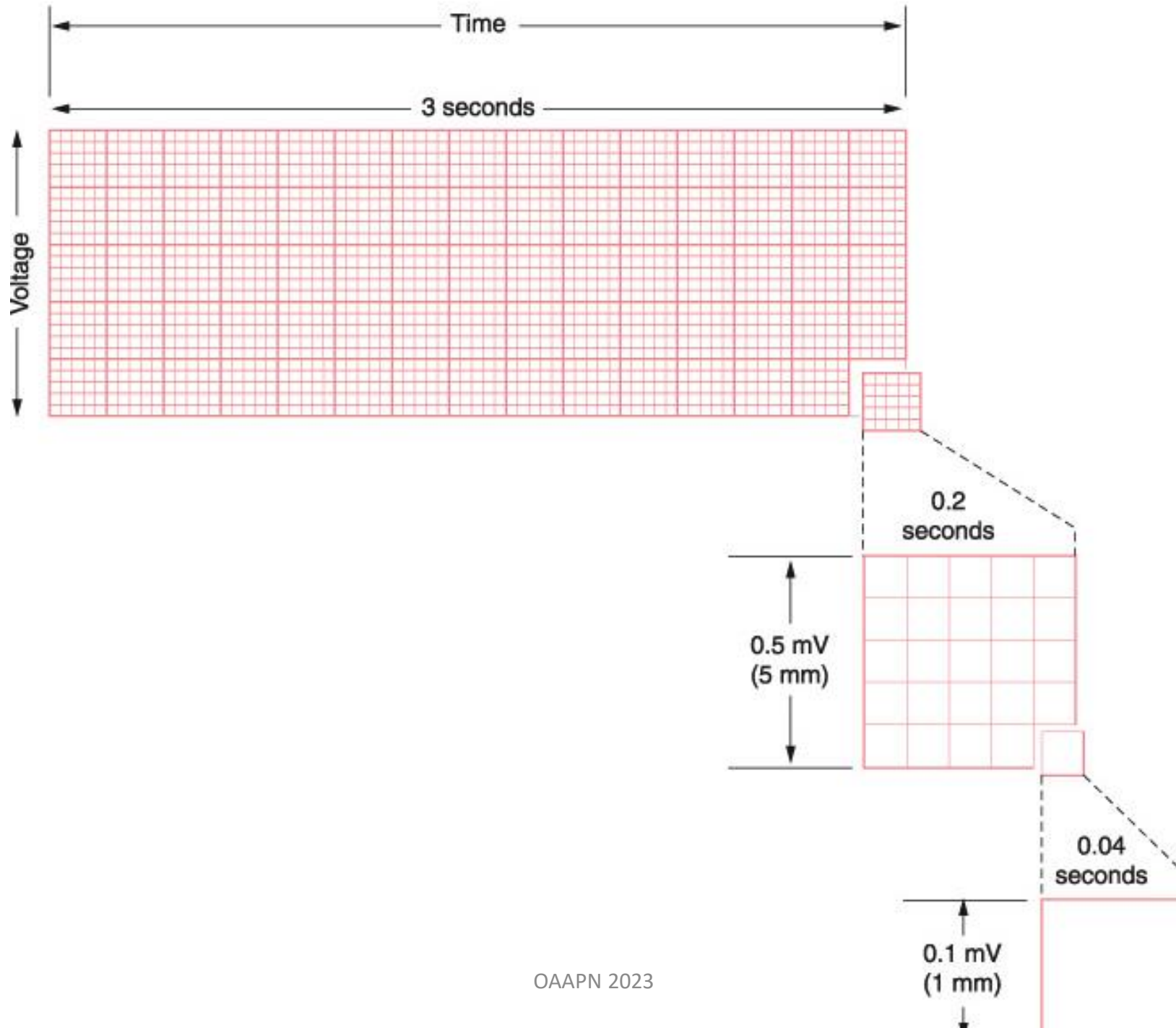


# Normal EKG

Standardization

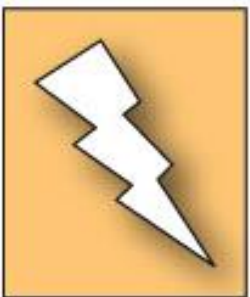




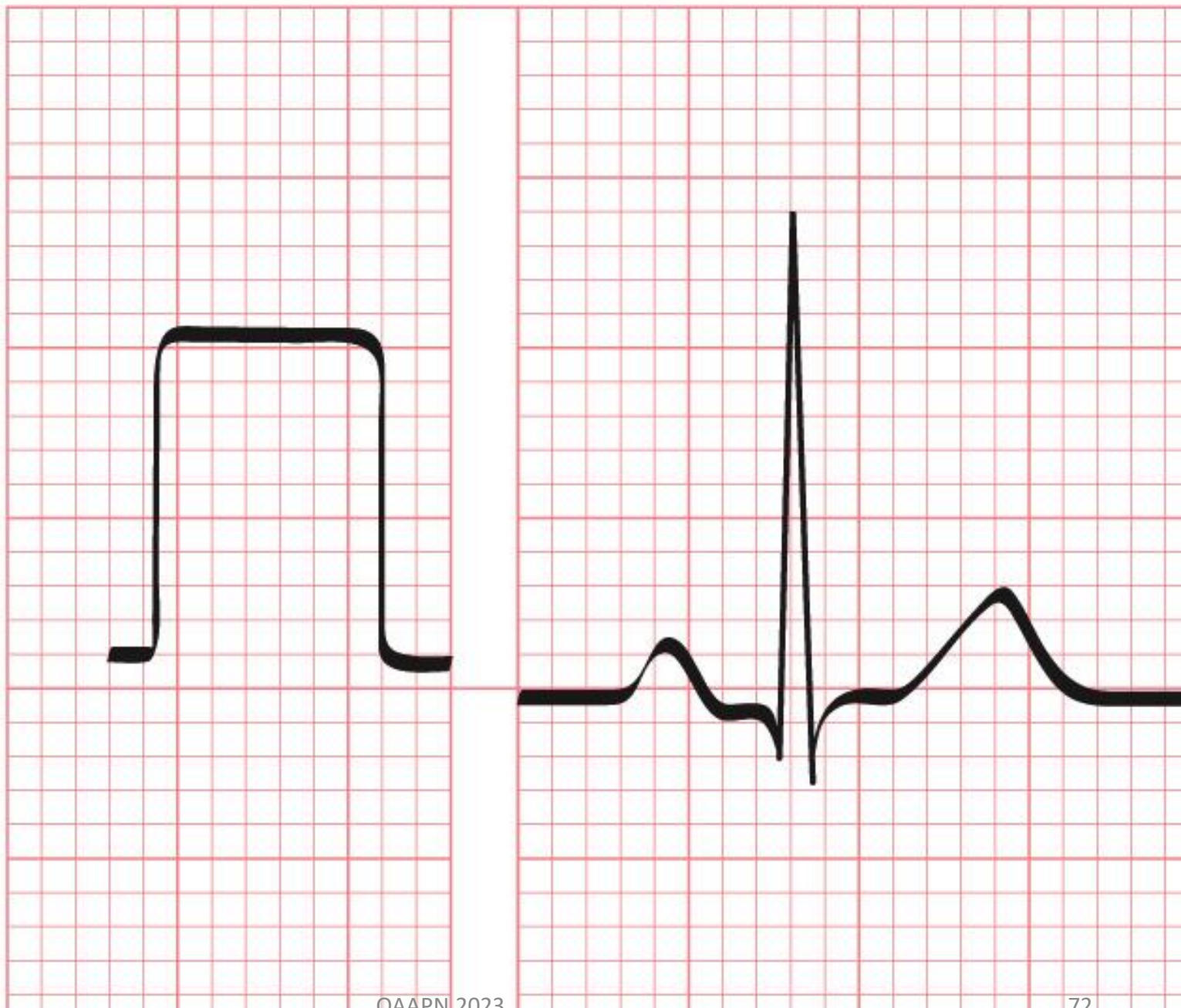




Standard signal  
of 1.0 mV produces  
a registration mark

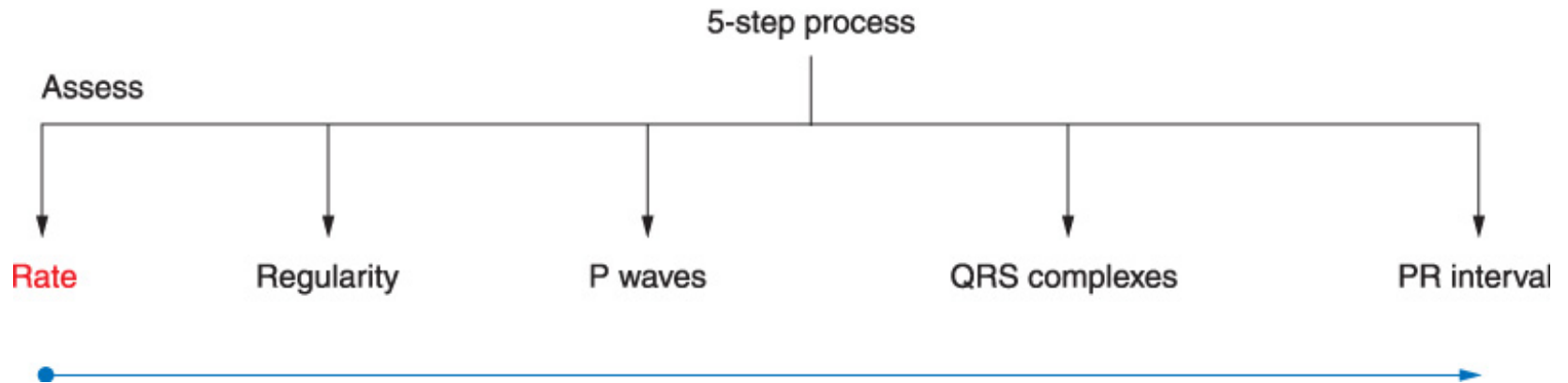


10 mm tall (10  
small squares  
high)



# ECG Analysis

- Five Step Process is a logical and systematic process for analyzing ECG tracings

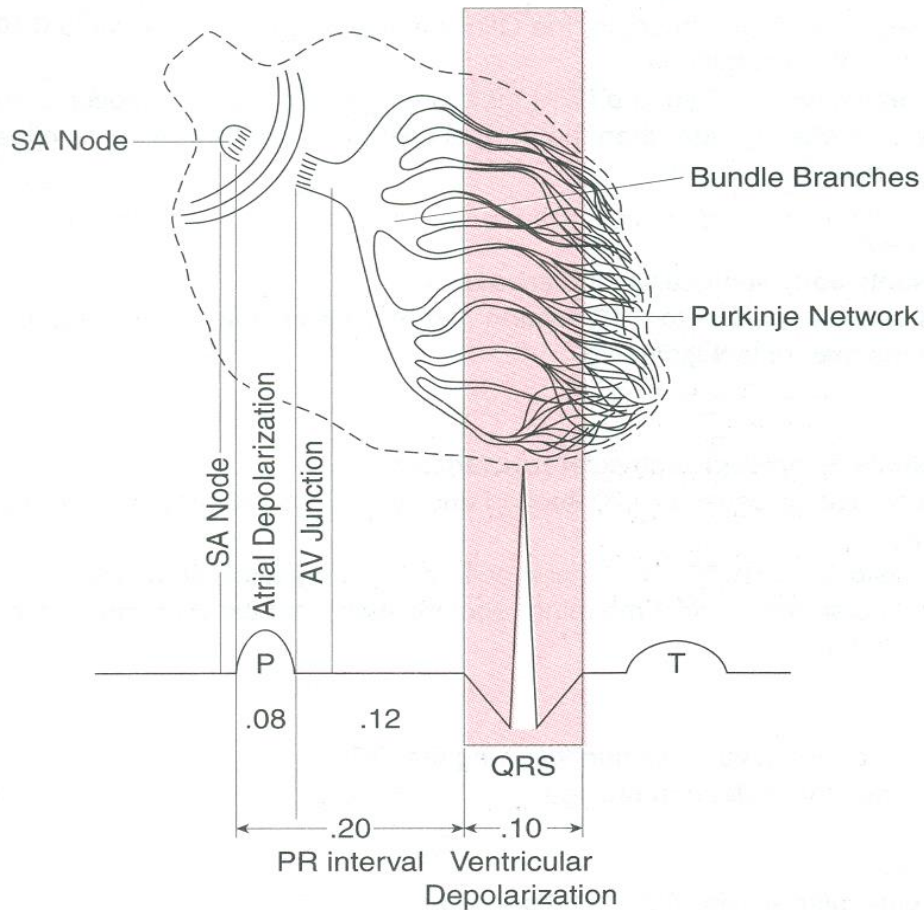


# Dysrhythmias

- Irregularities in heart rate or rhythm
  - Some are of little significance whereas others are life threatening

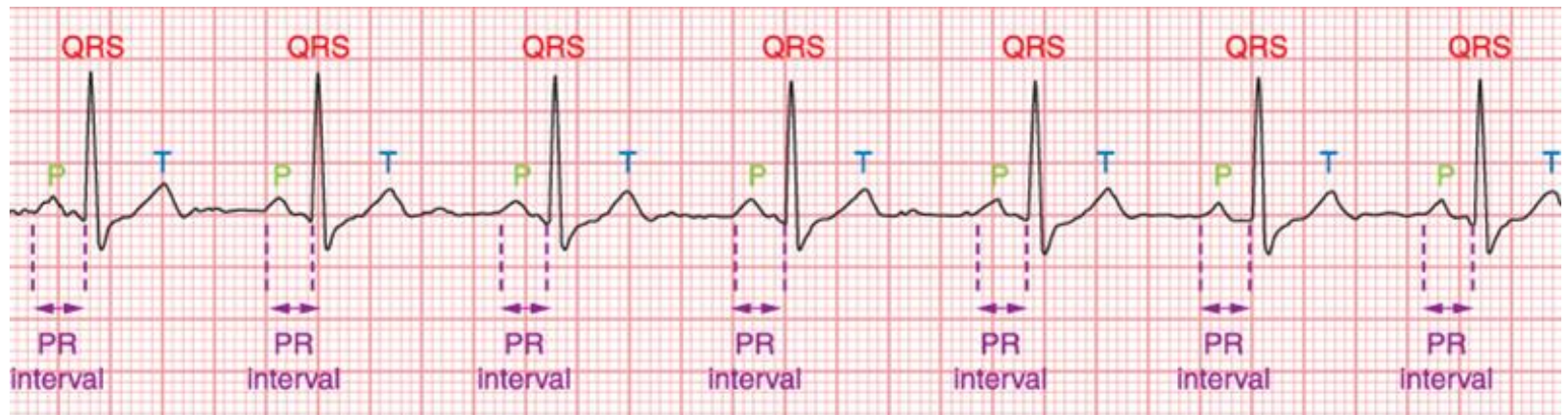


# Relationship of conduction to ECG measurement



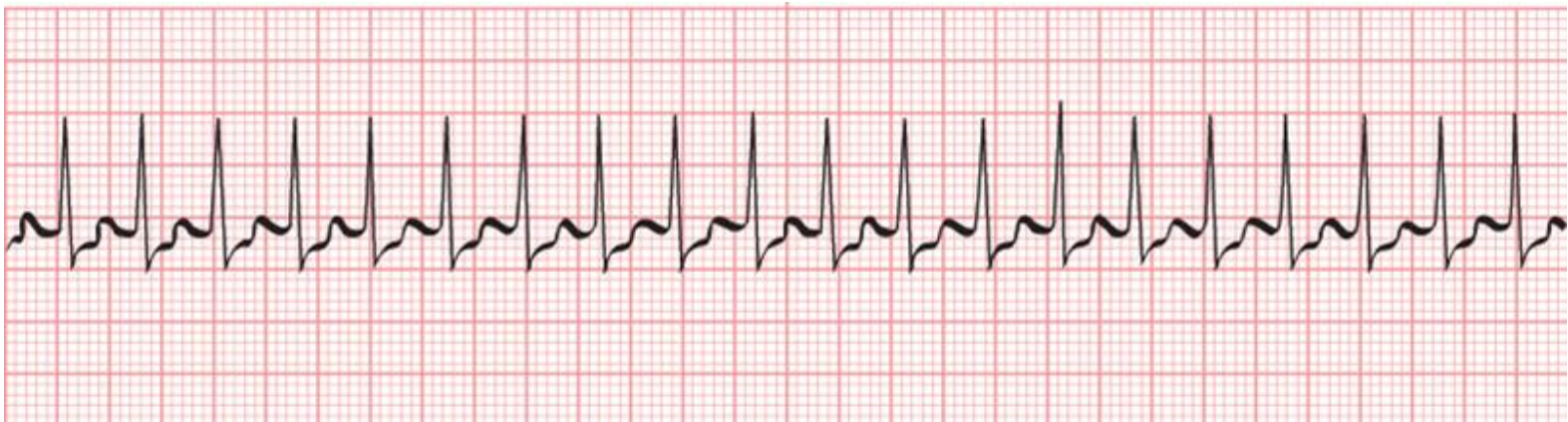
# Normal Sinus Rhythm Characteristics

- **Rate:** 60 - 100 BPM
- **Rhythm:** Regular
- **P waves:** Upright and round, one preceding each QRS complex
- **QRS complexes:** Narrow, 0.06 - 0.12 seconds in duration
- **PR Interval:** 0.12 - 0.20 seconds in duration
- **T waves:** Upright and slightly asymmetrical



# Determining Heart Rate

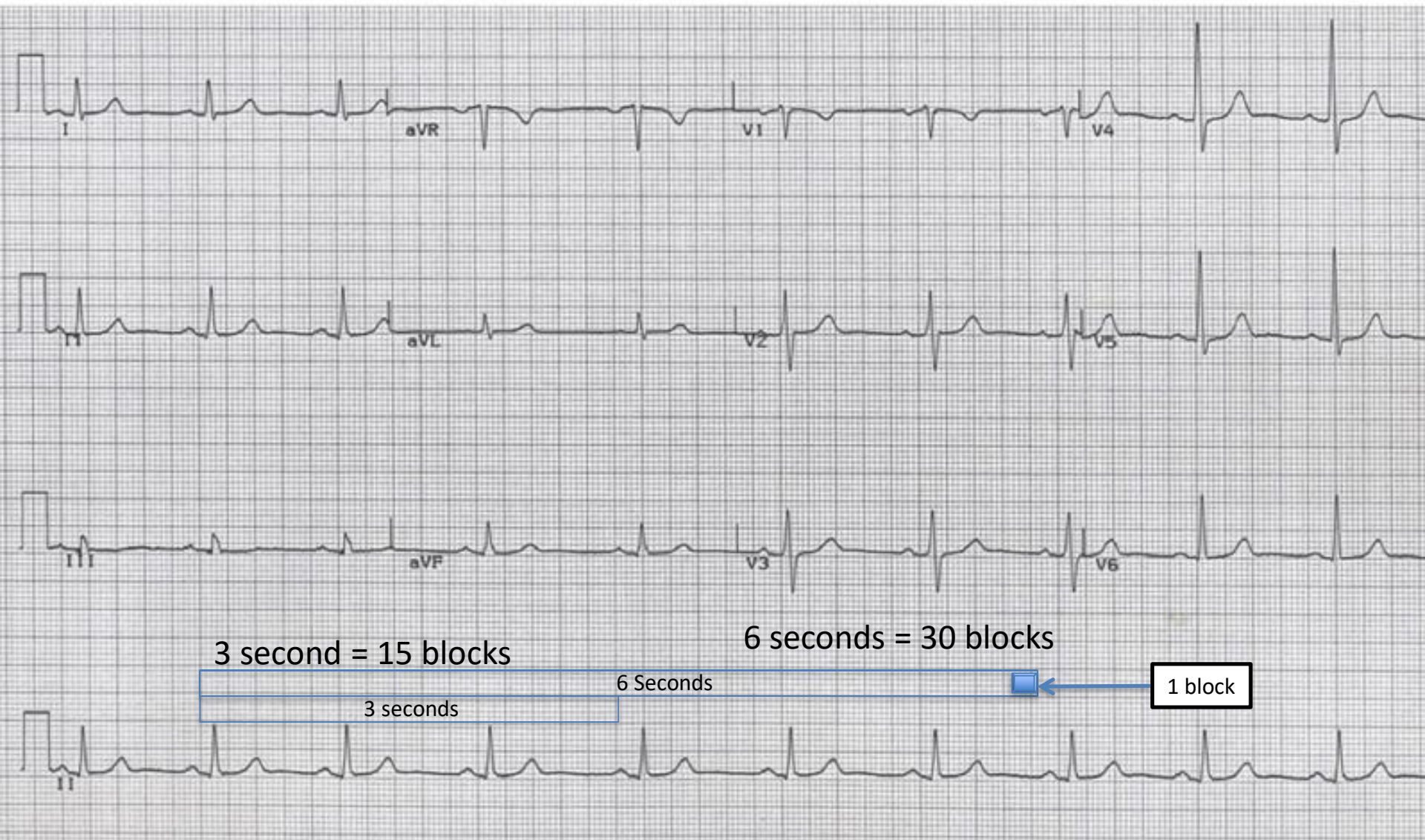
- First step in analyzing an ECG rhythm
- Begin by quickly checking ECG monitor or tracing to see if rate is slow, normal or fast



# Calculating Heart Rate

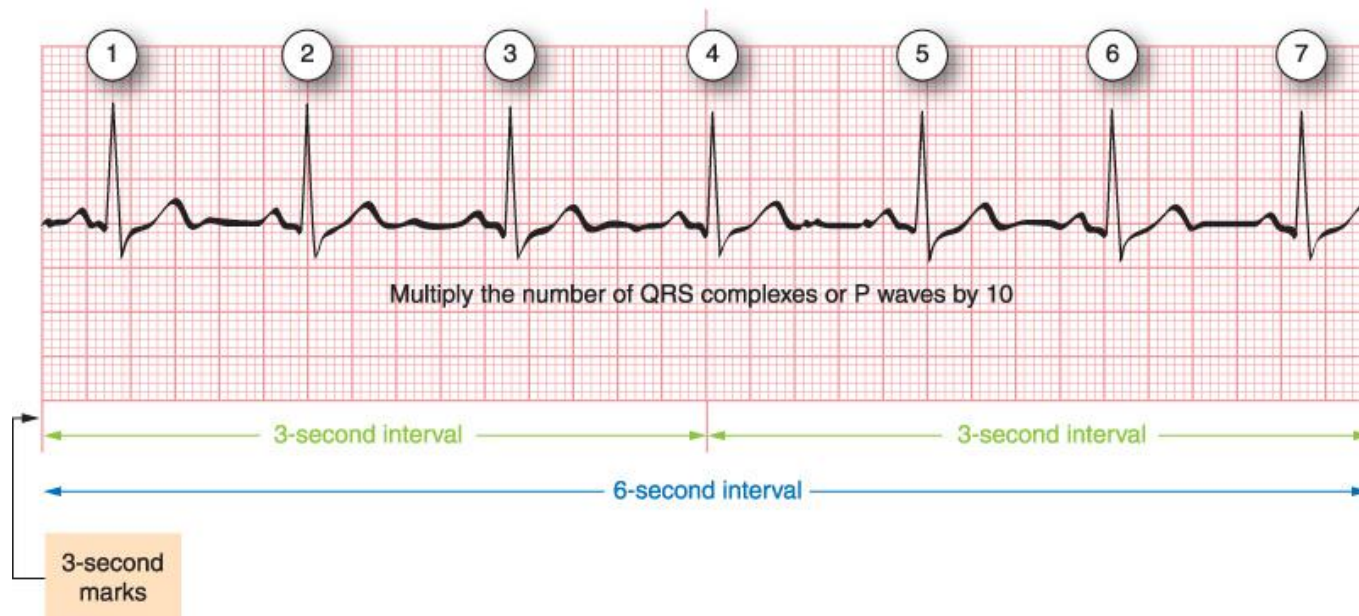
- Several methods can be used including:
  - 6-Second Interval x 10 Method
  - 300, 150, 100, 75, 60, 50 Method
  - 1500 Method
  - Rate Calculator





# 6-Second Interval x 10 Method

- Quick and easy and does not require tools or devices
- Not as accurate as other methods
- Multiply by 10 the number of QRS complexes found in a six second portion of ECG tracing





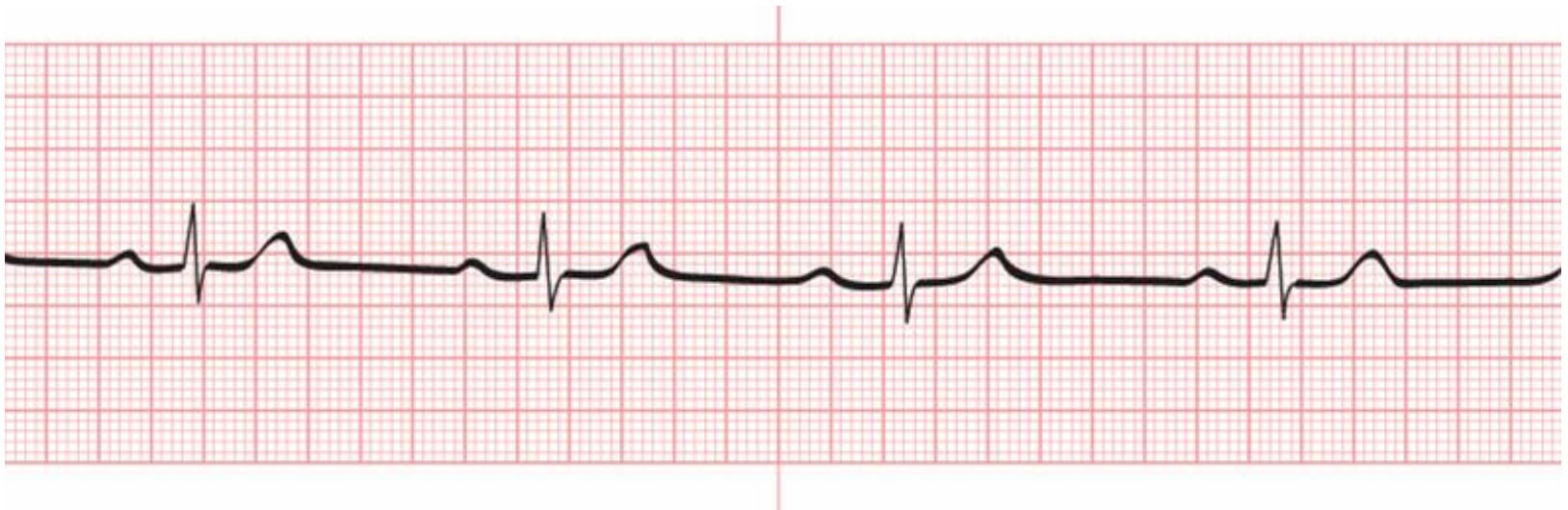
# Practice Makes Perfect

- Determine the heart rate using the 6-second interval x 10 method



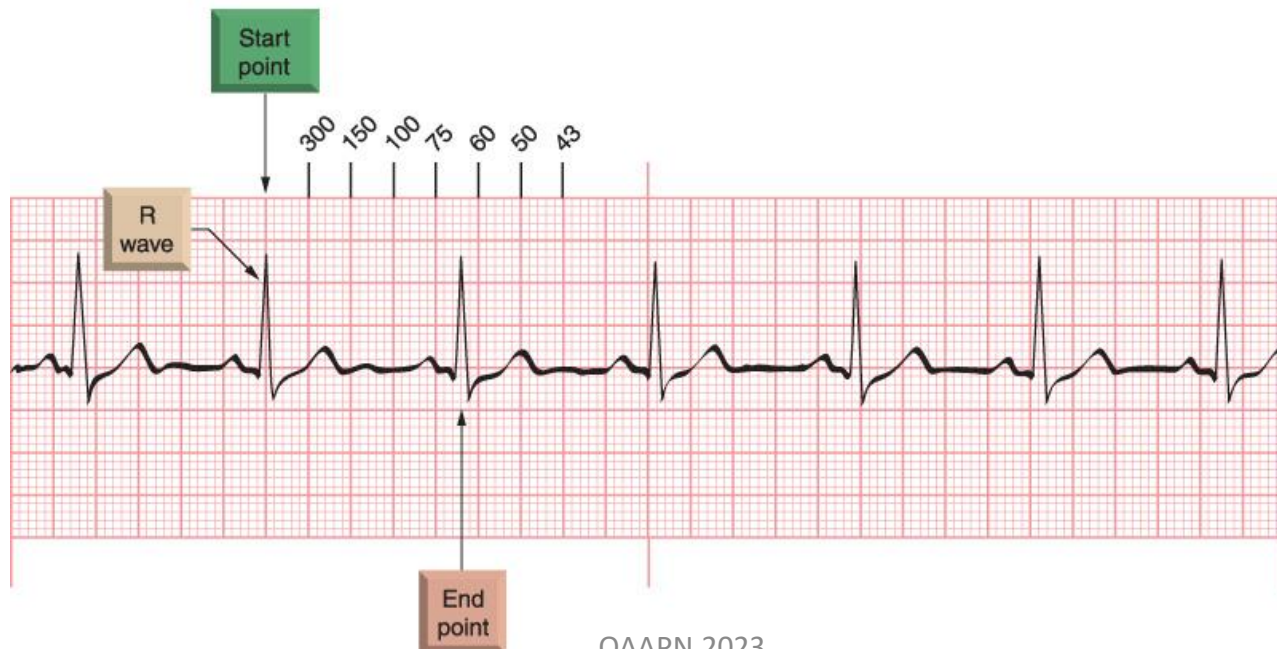
# Practice Makes Perfect

- Determine the heart rate using the 6-second interval x 10 method



# 300, 150, 100, 75, 60, 50 Method

- If the second R wave does not fall on a bold line the heart rate is approximated
  - Example: if it falls between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> bold line the heart rate is between 60 and 75 BPM



# 300, 150, 100, 75, 60, 50 Method

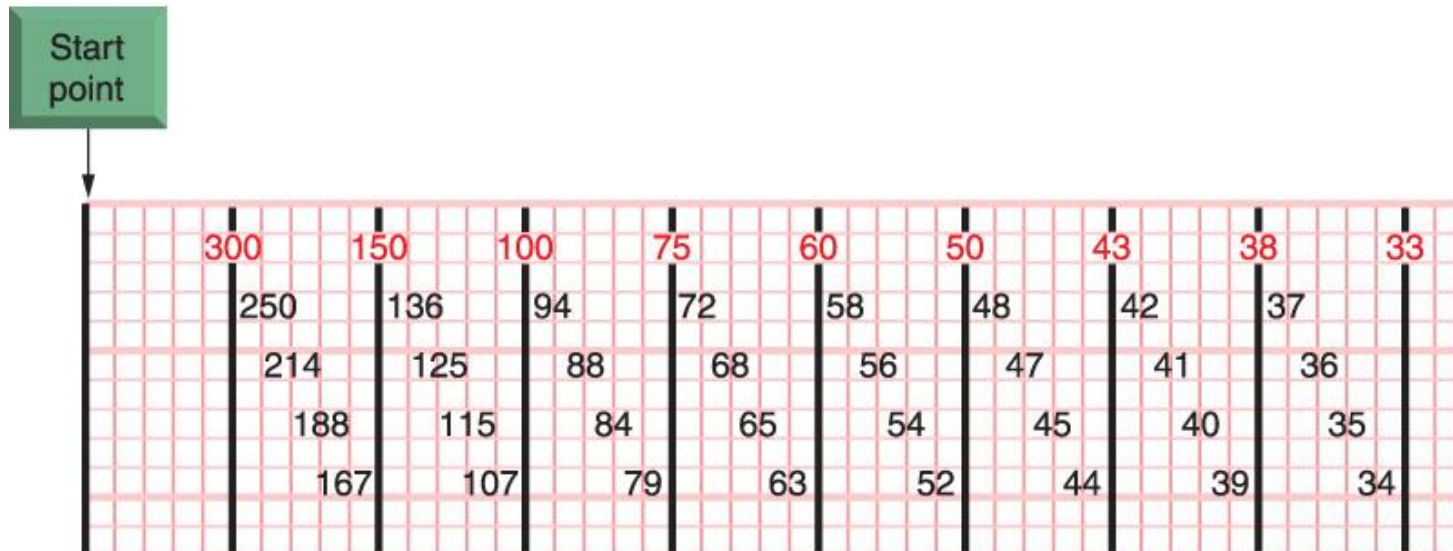
- Quick, fairly accurate, requires no special tools, or calculations
- Cannot be used with irregular rhythms
- Find an R wave located on a bold line. Then find the next consecutive R wave. Bold line it falls on (or is closest to) represents the heart rate.



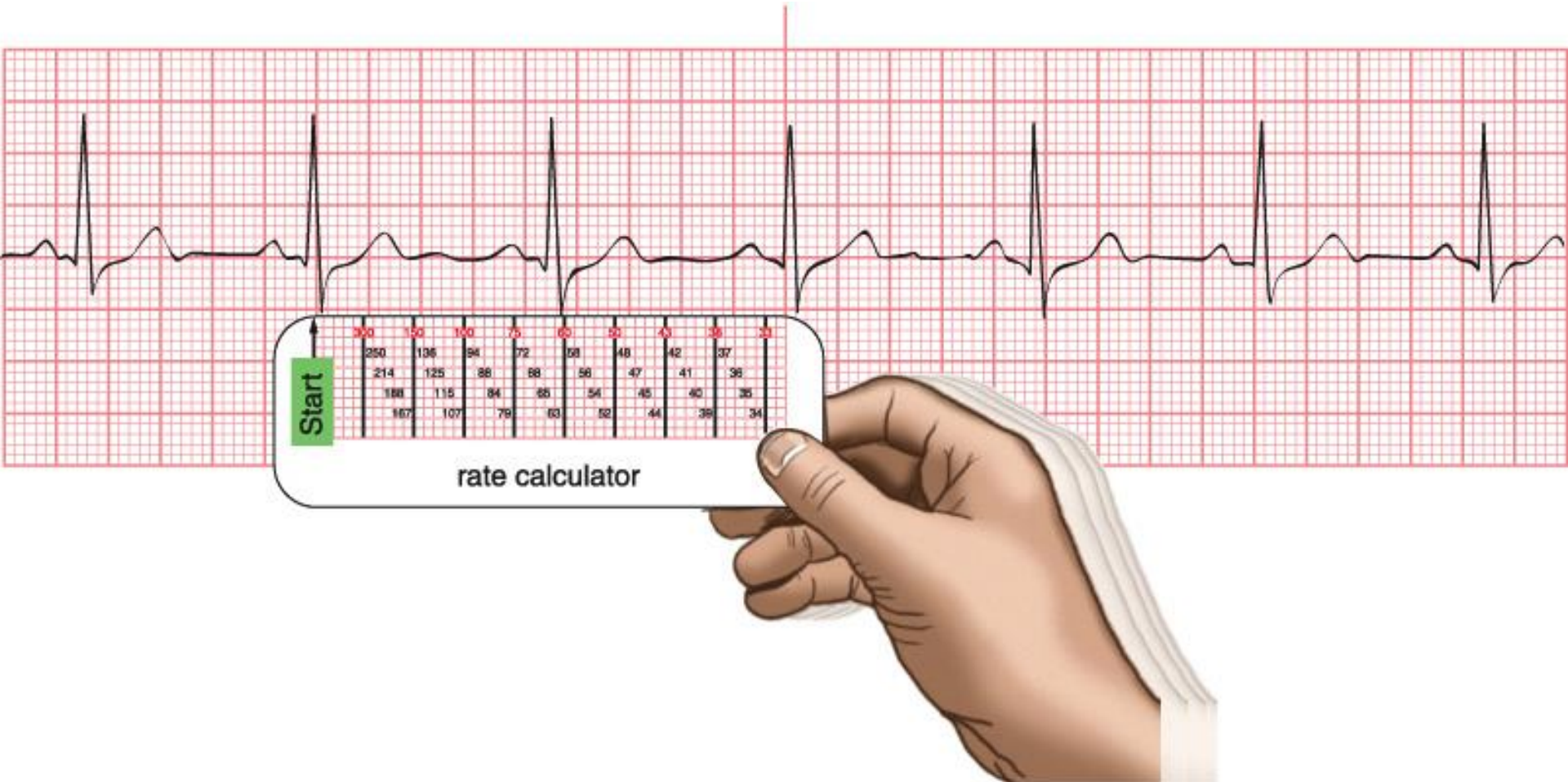


# 300, 150, 100, 75, 60, 50 Method

- If the second R wave falls in between two bold lines the heart rate can be more precisely determined using the identified values for each thin line



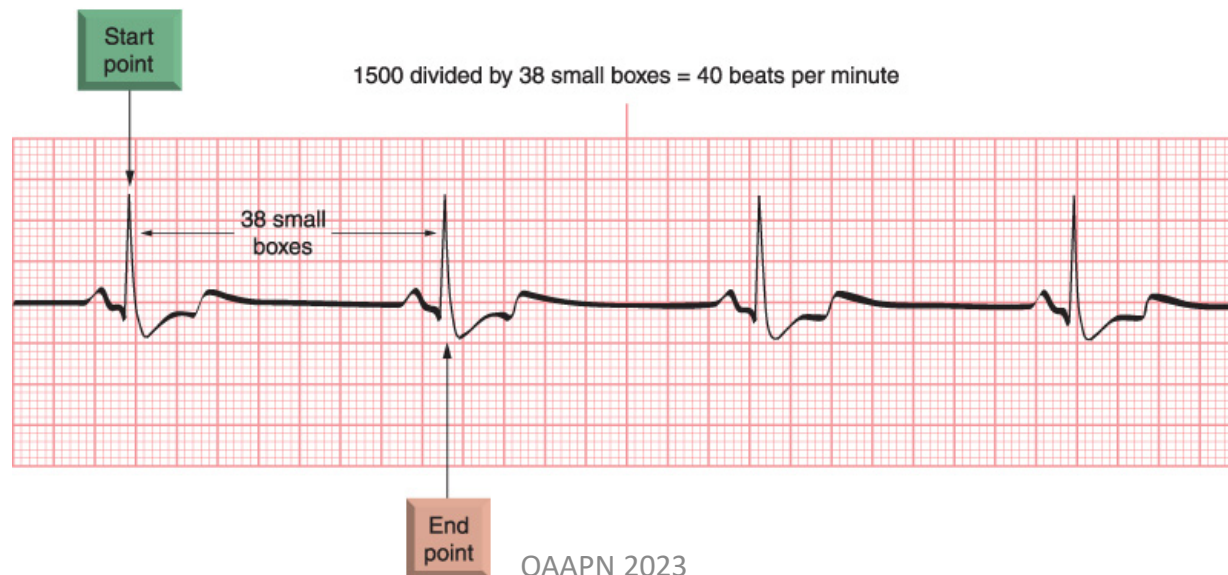
# Rate rulers





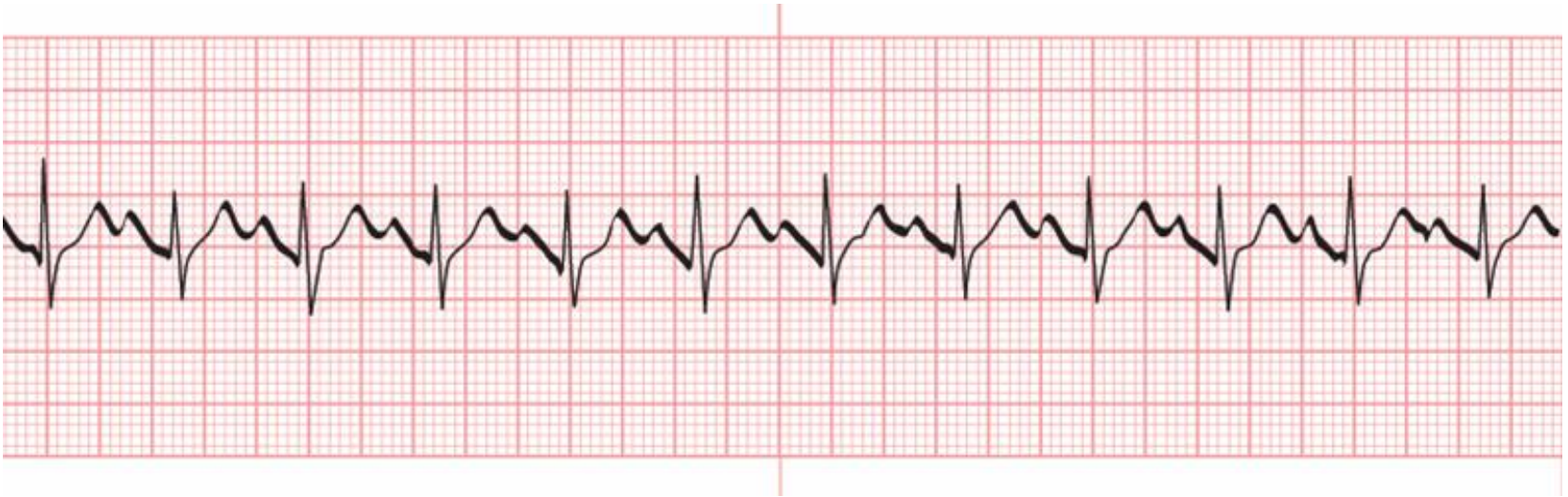
# 1500 Method

- Most accurate and requires no special tools but math calculation must be done to determine heart rate
- Cannot be used with irregular rhythms
- Count the number of small squares between two consecutive R waves and divide 1500 by that number



# Practice Makes Perfect

- Determine the heart rate using the 300, 150, 100, 75, 60, 50 method



# Practice Makes Perfect

- Determine the heart rate using the 300, 150, 100, 75, 60, 50 method



# Practice Makes Perfect

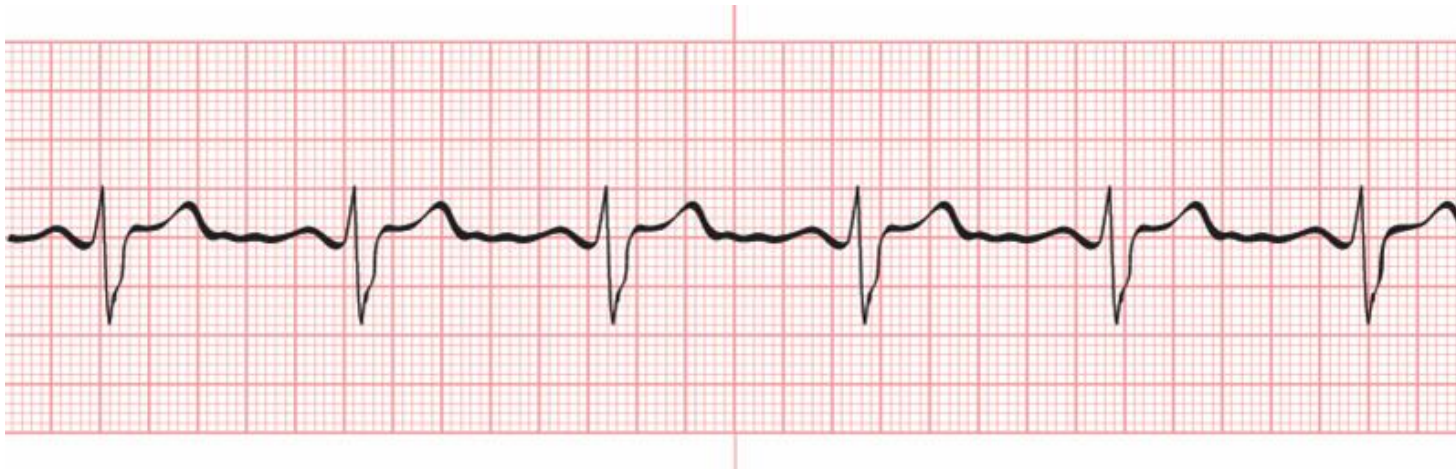
- Determine the heart rate using the 1500 method



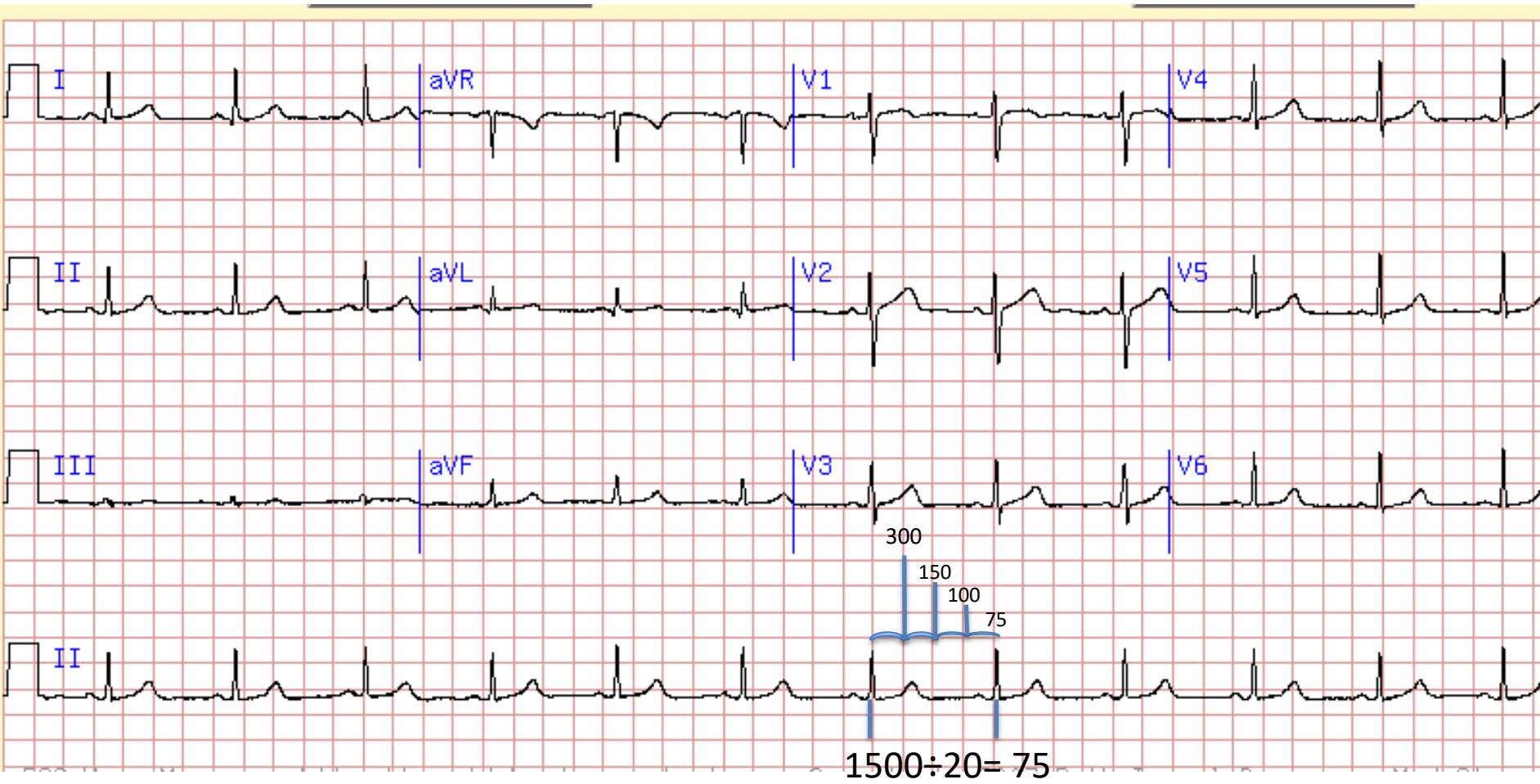


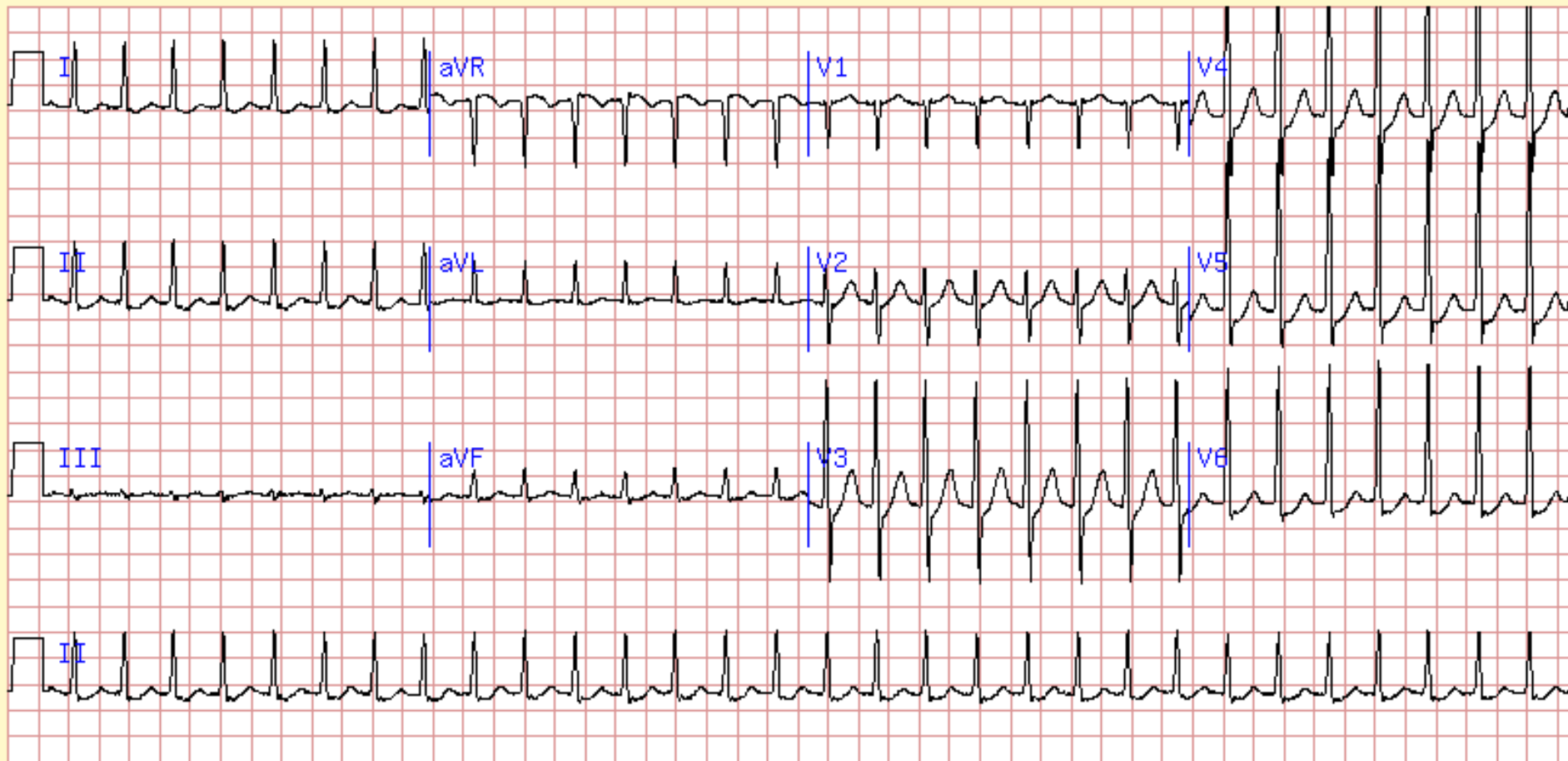
# Practice Makes Perfect

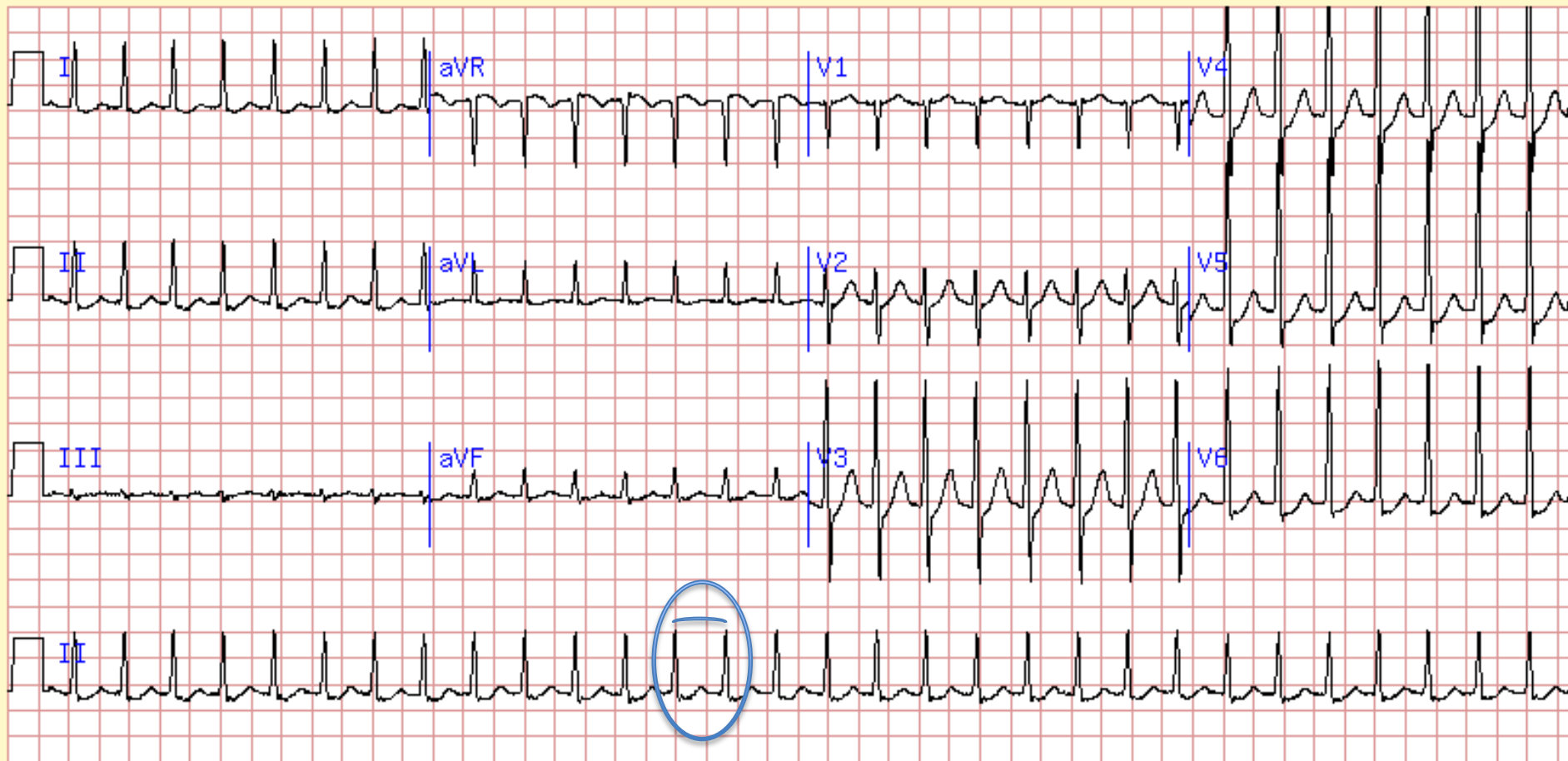
- Determine the heart rate using the 1500 method



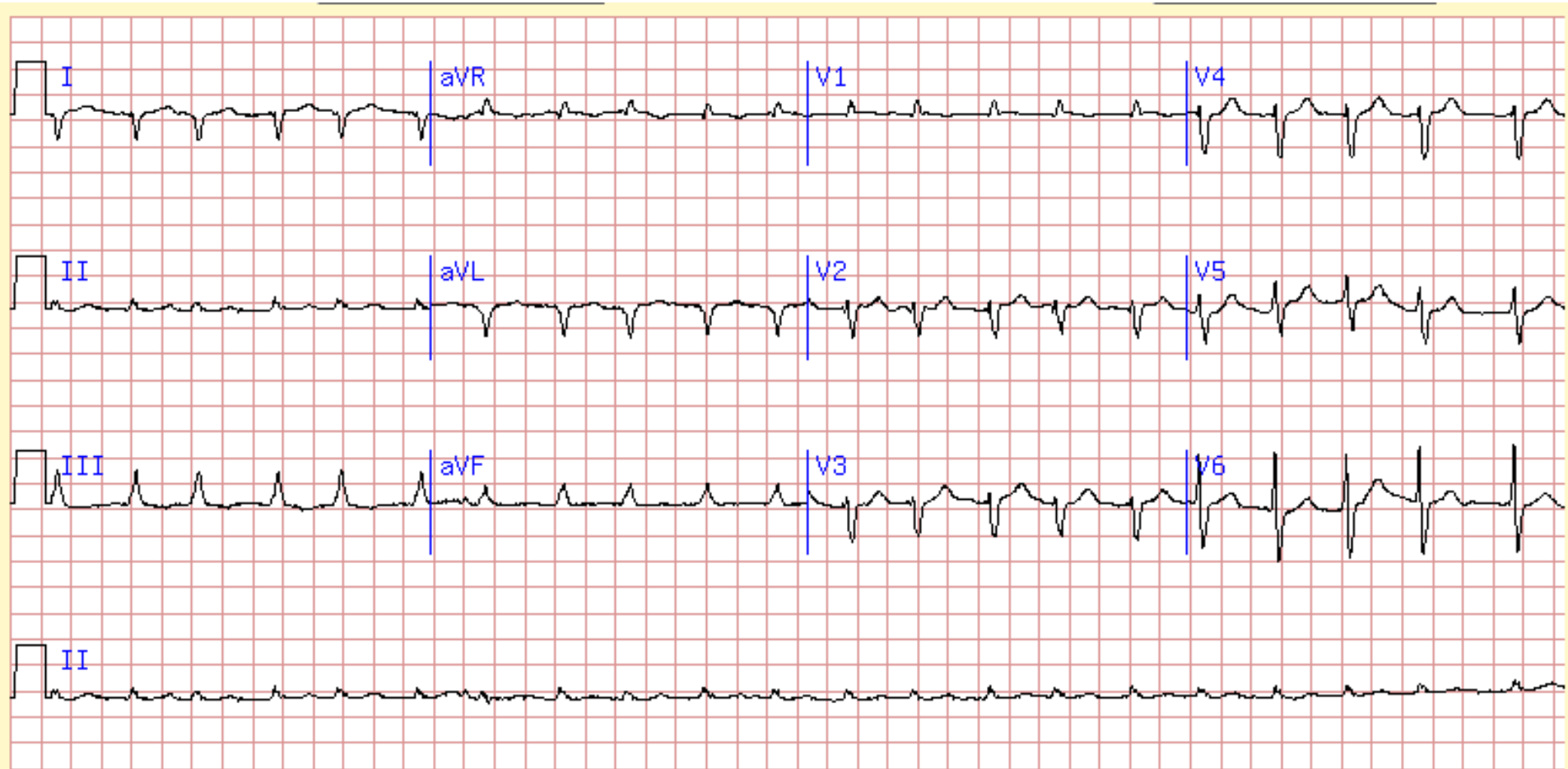


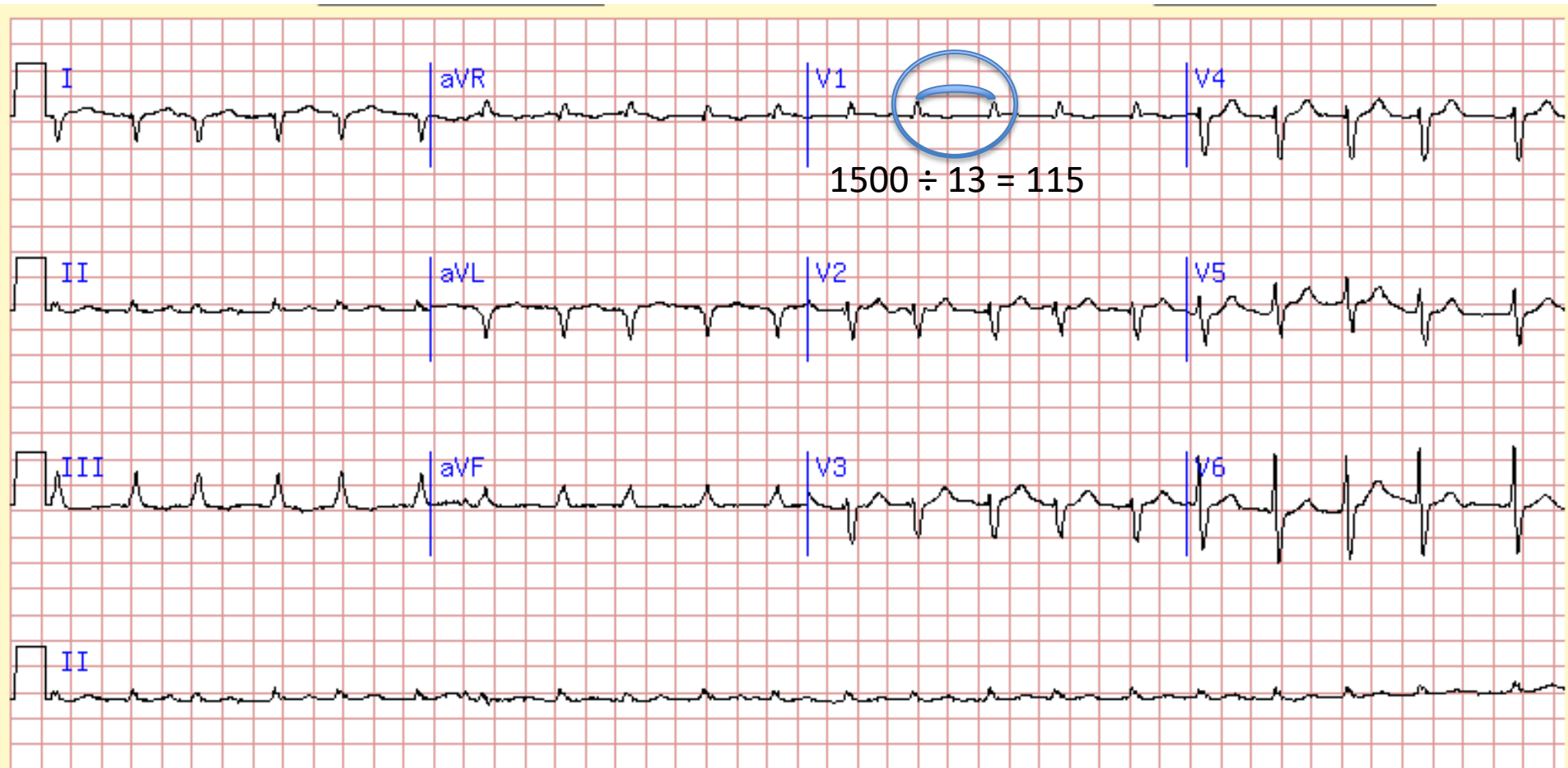




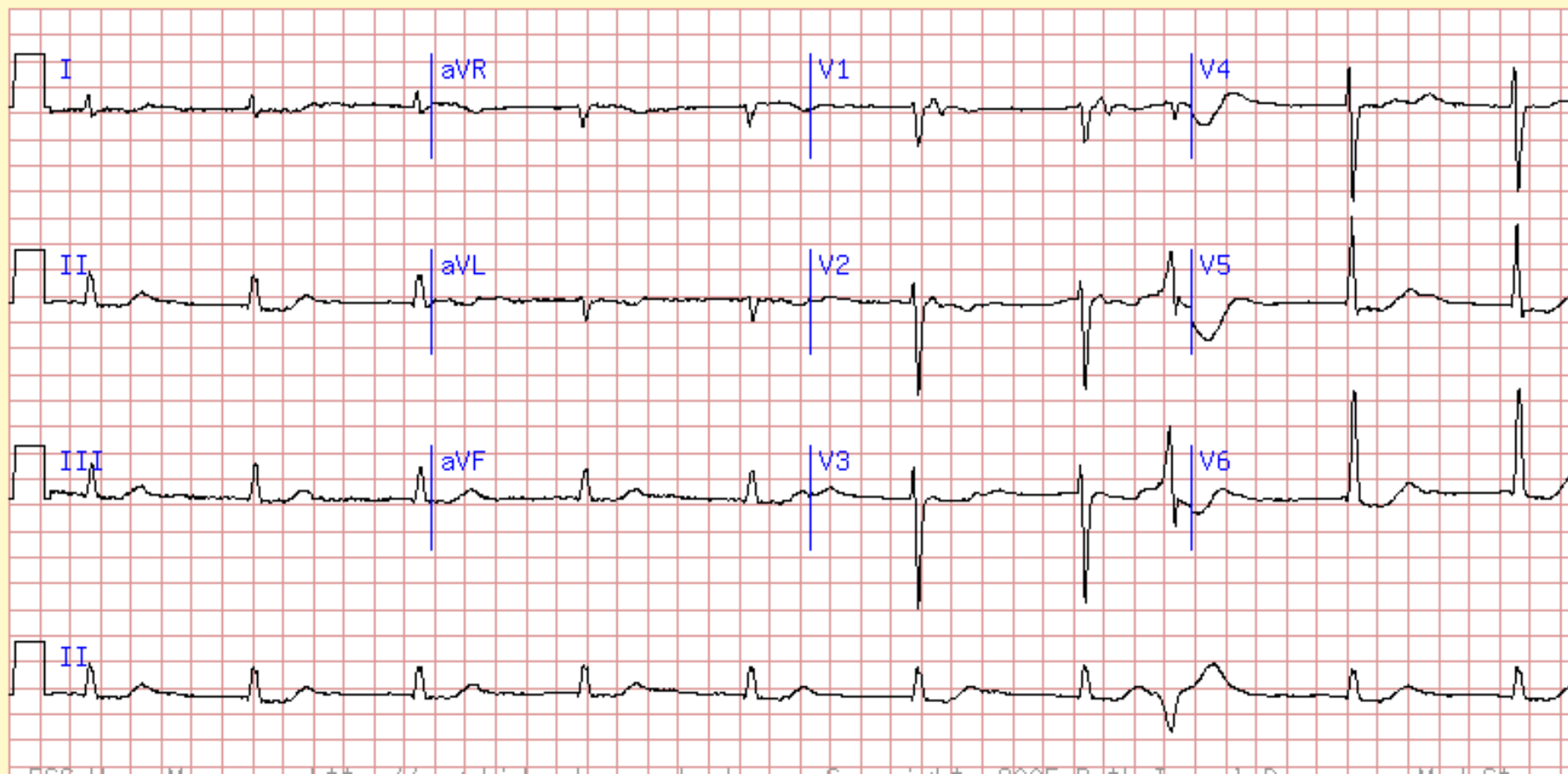


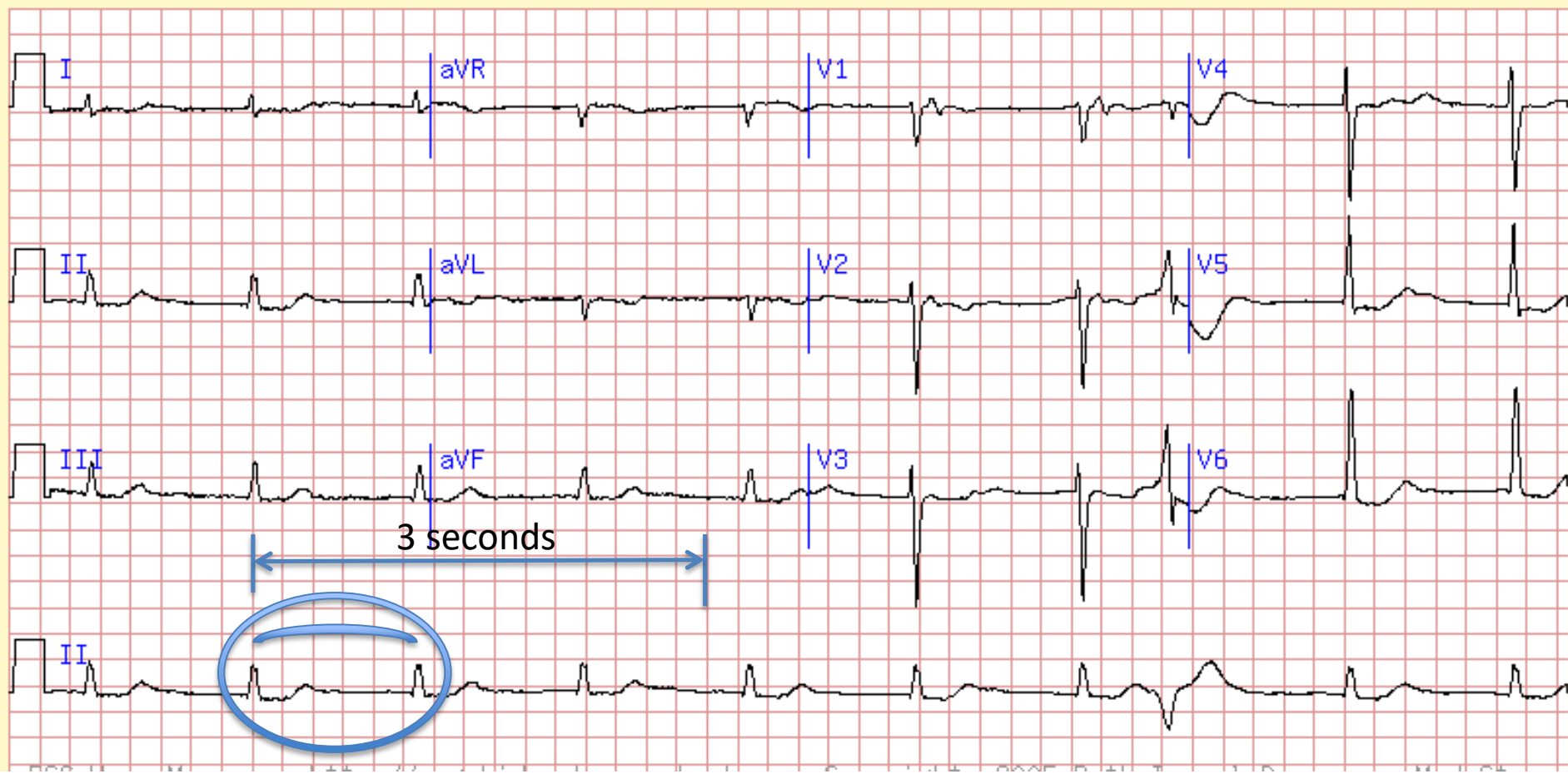
$$1500 \div 8 = 187$$



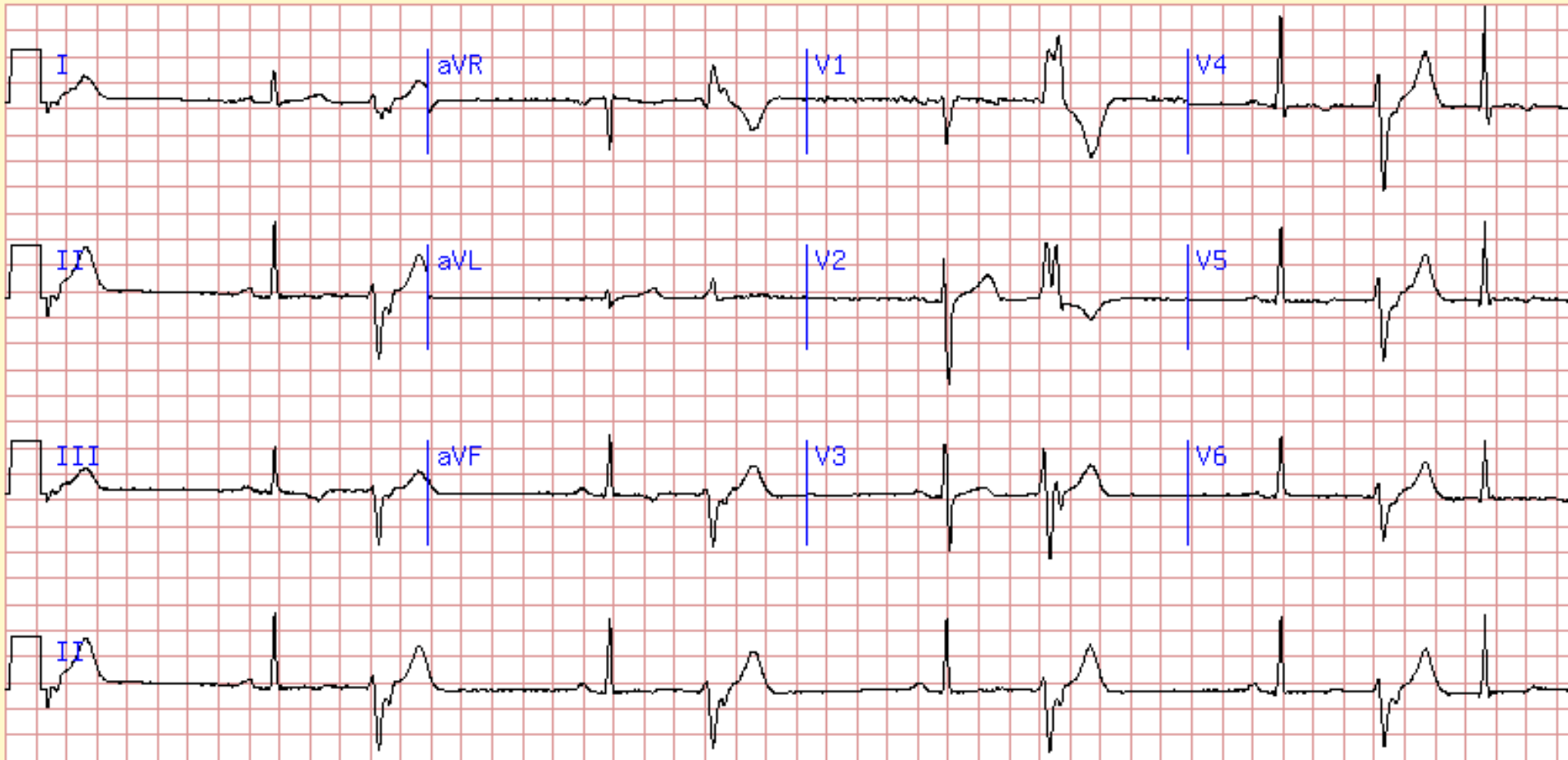


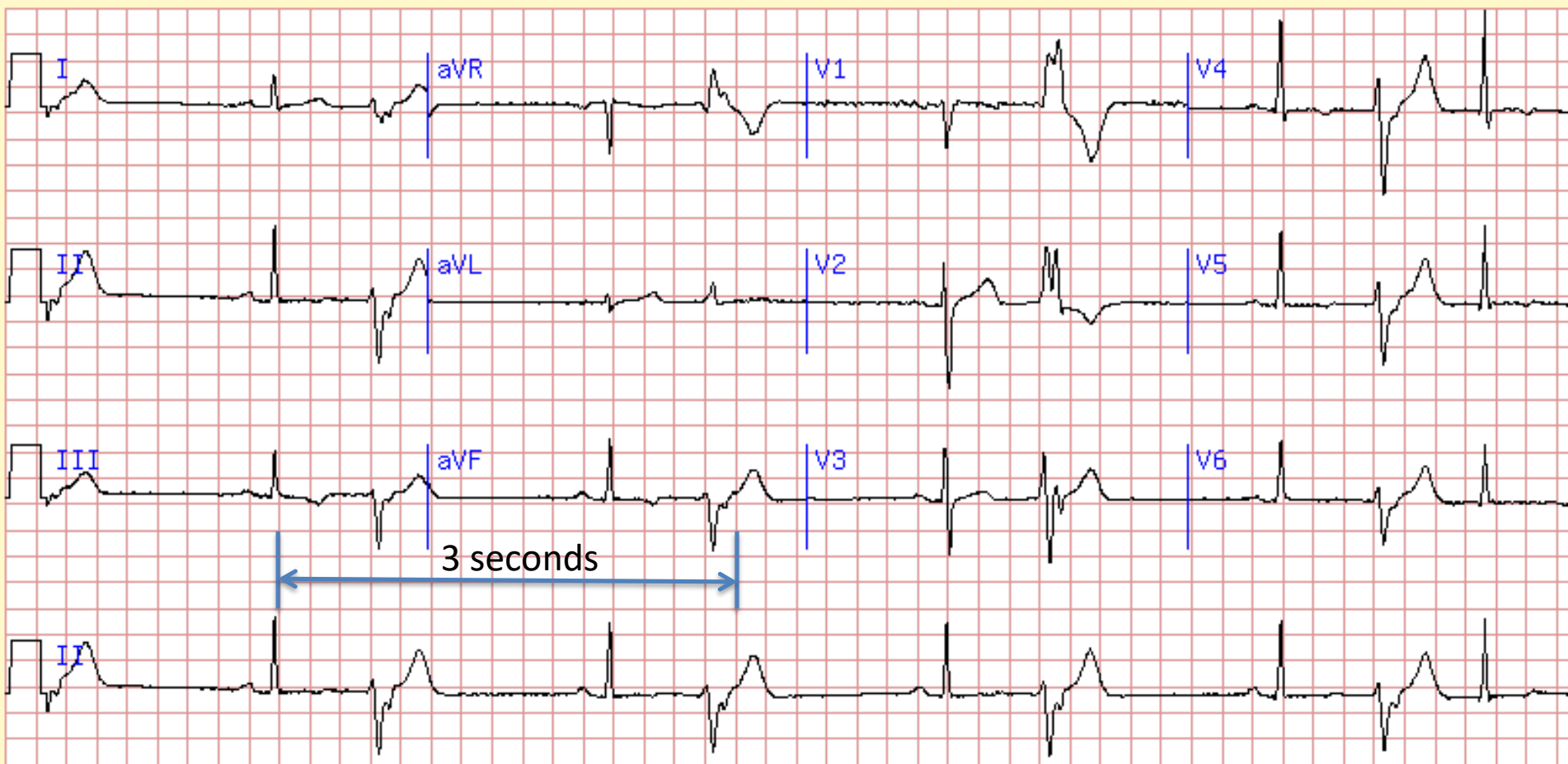






$$1500 \div 23 = 53$$



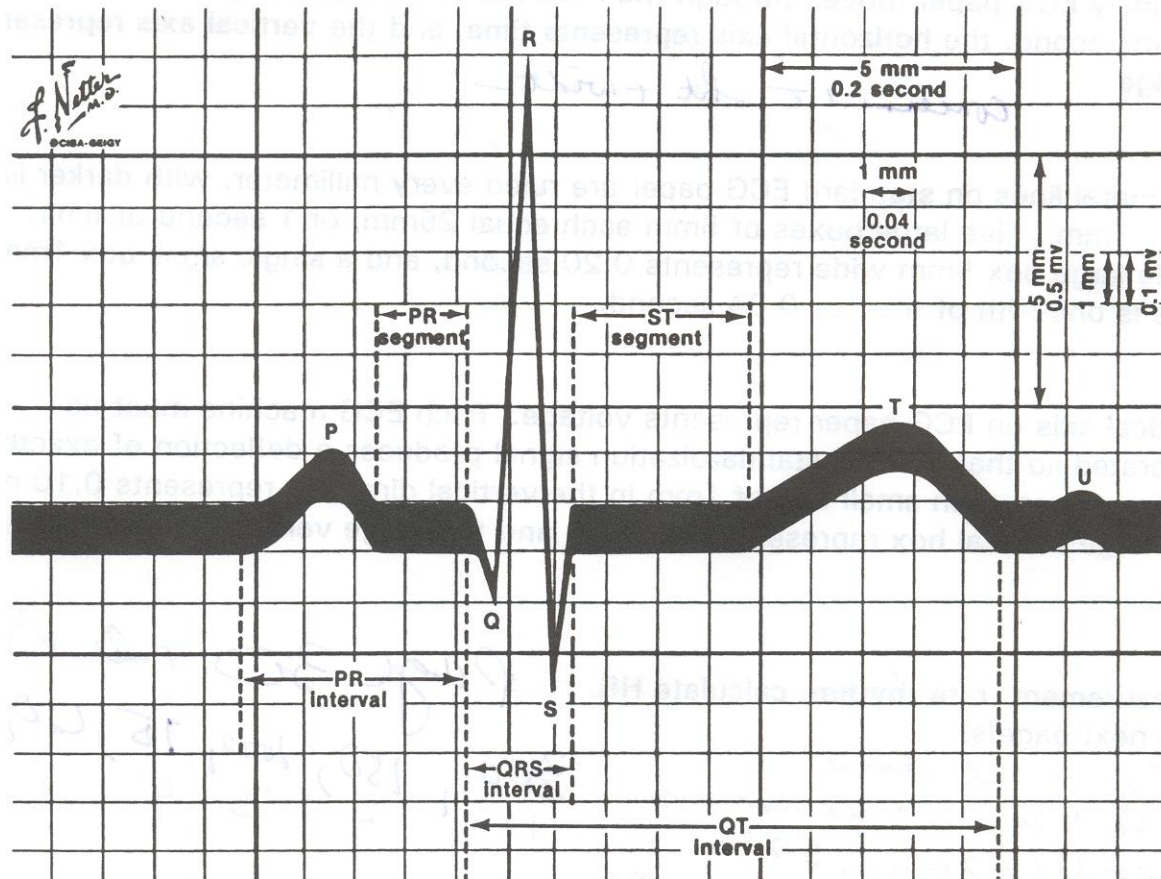


4 X 20 = 80

Only 2 out of the 4 is generating a pulse

# ECG Paper

Electrocardiographic Waves, Intervals, and Segments





Height/amplitude (energy)

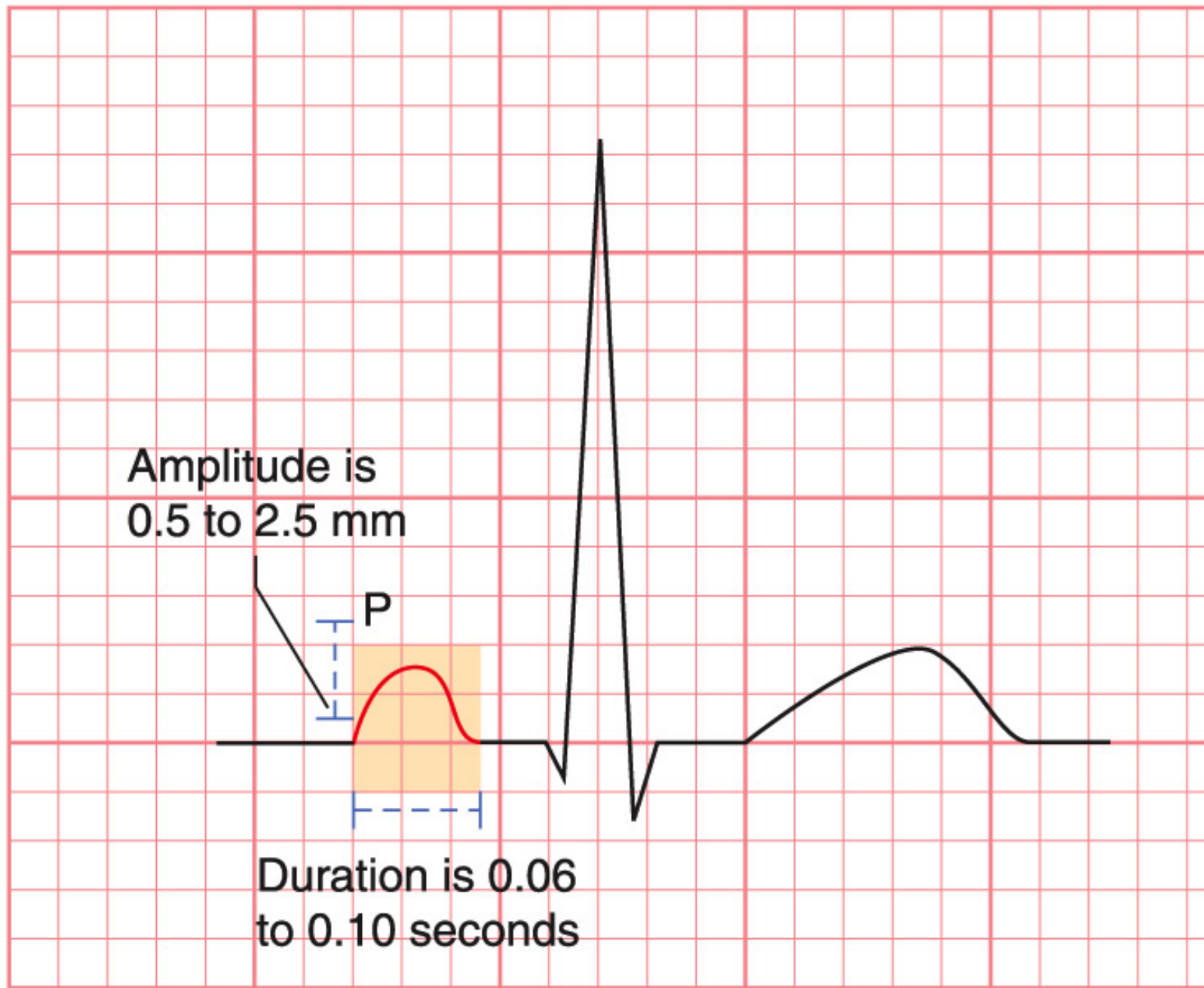


Isoelectric line

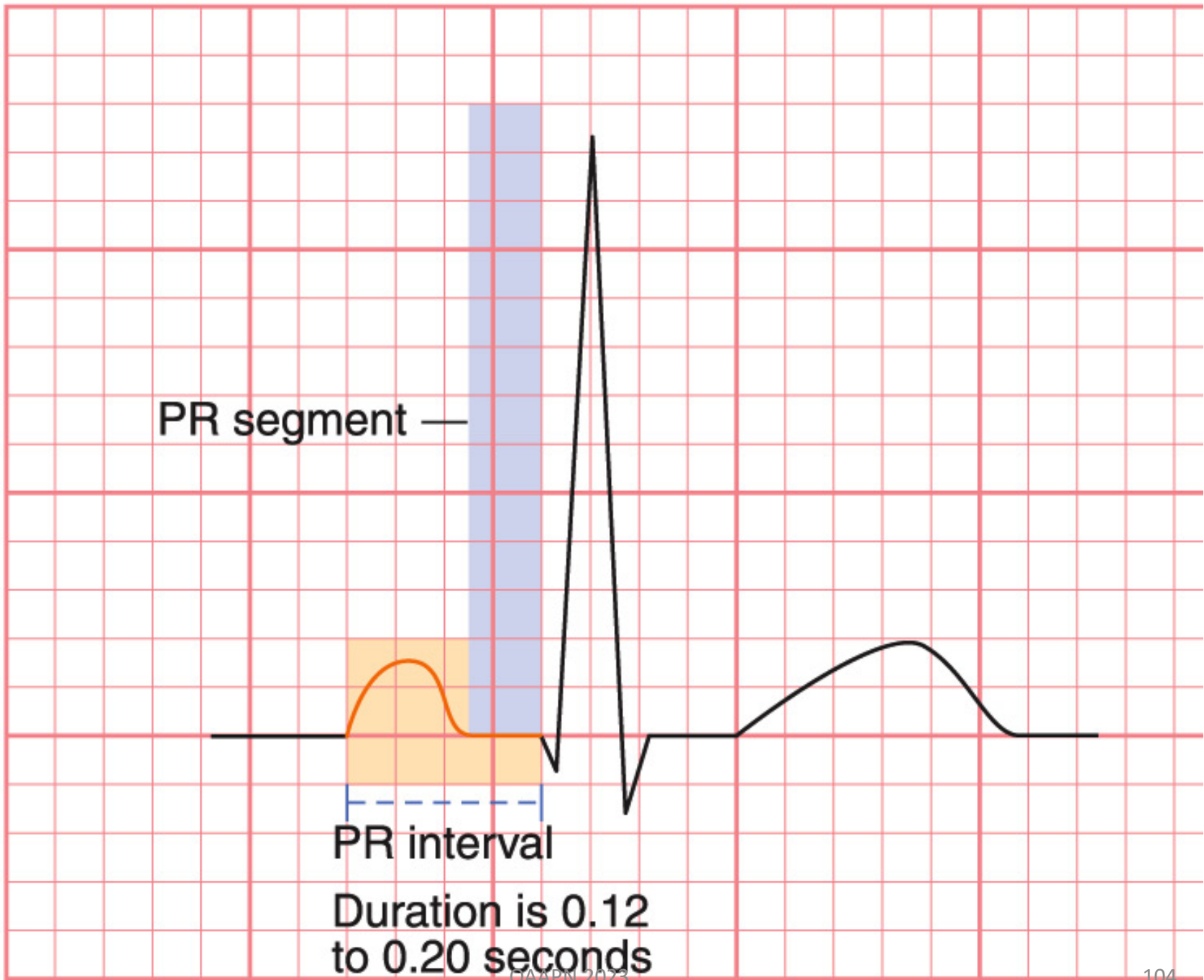
Time (duration, rate)

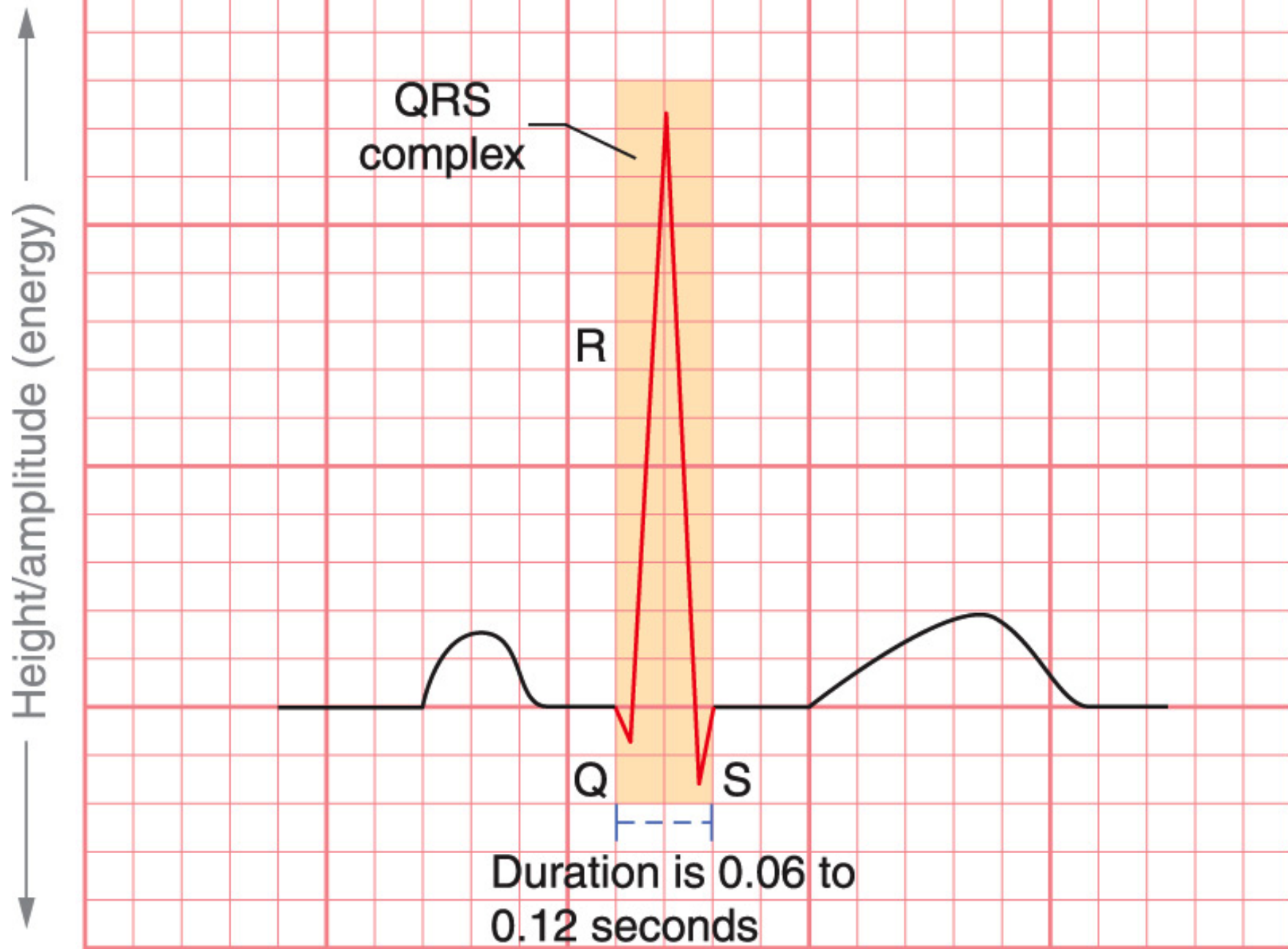
OAAPN 2023

Height/amplitude (energy)

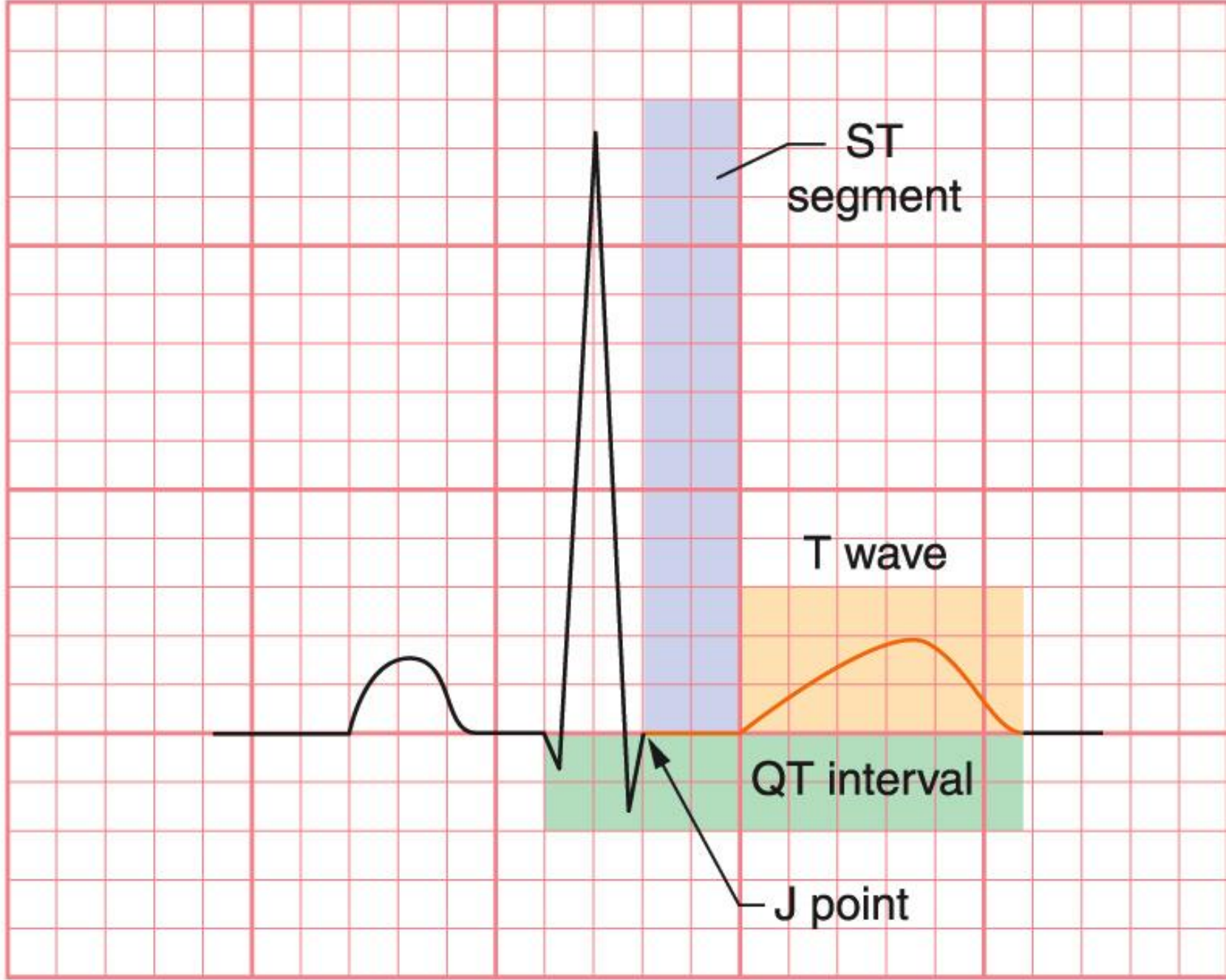


Height/amplitude (energy)





Height/amplitude (energy)



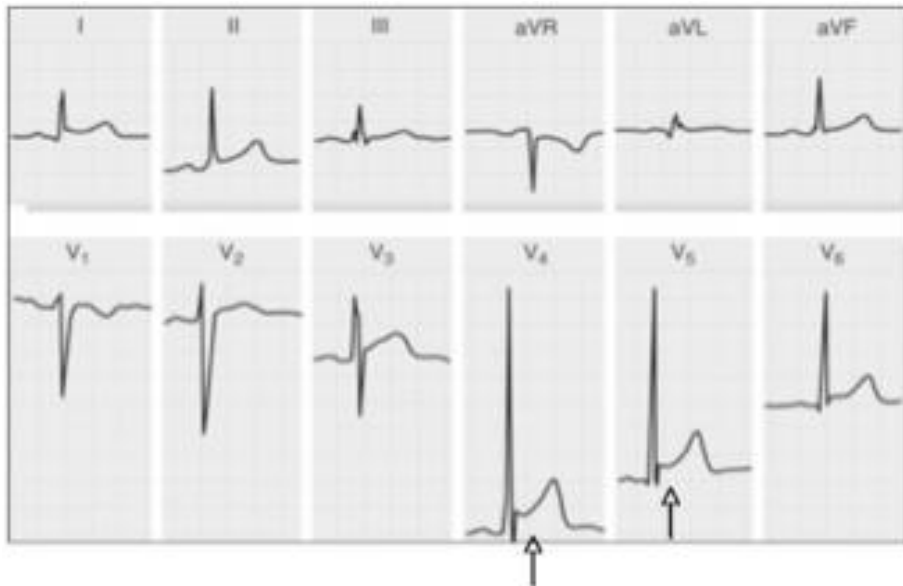
ST segment

T wave

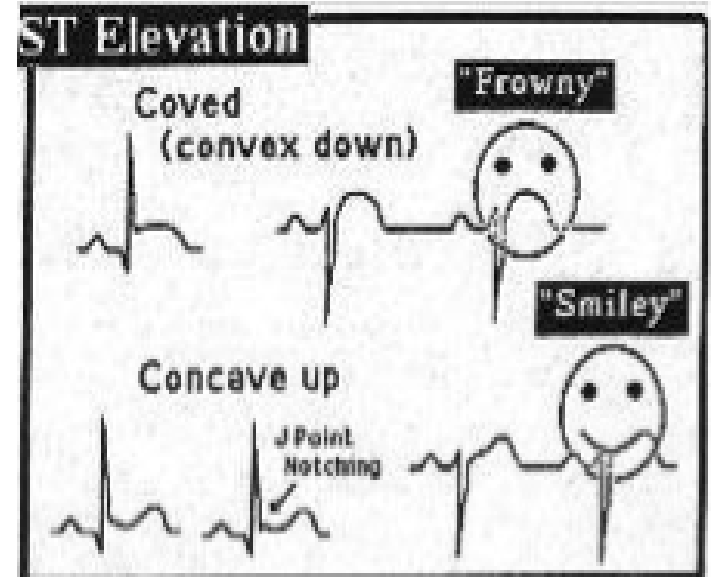
QT interval

J point



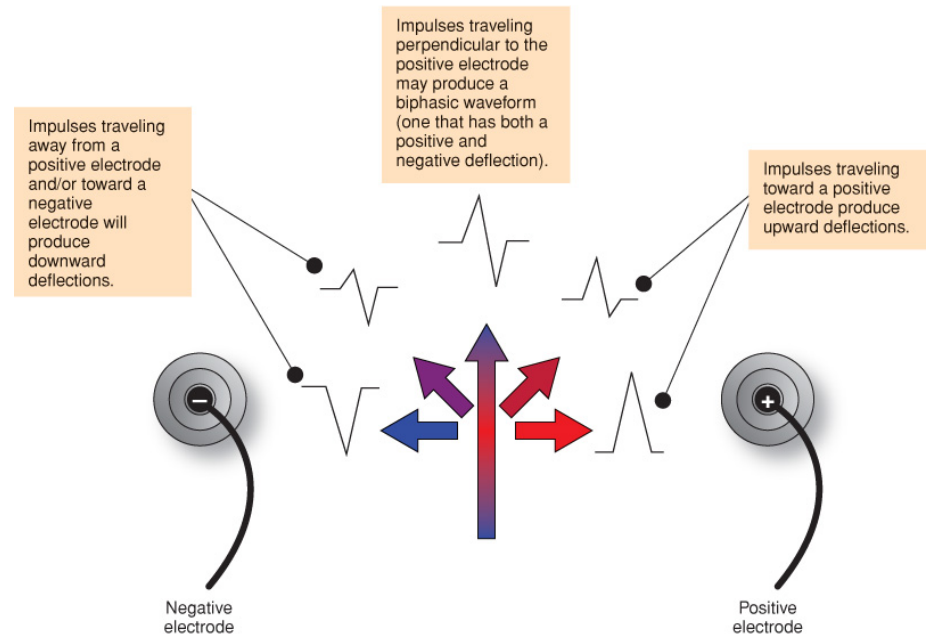


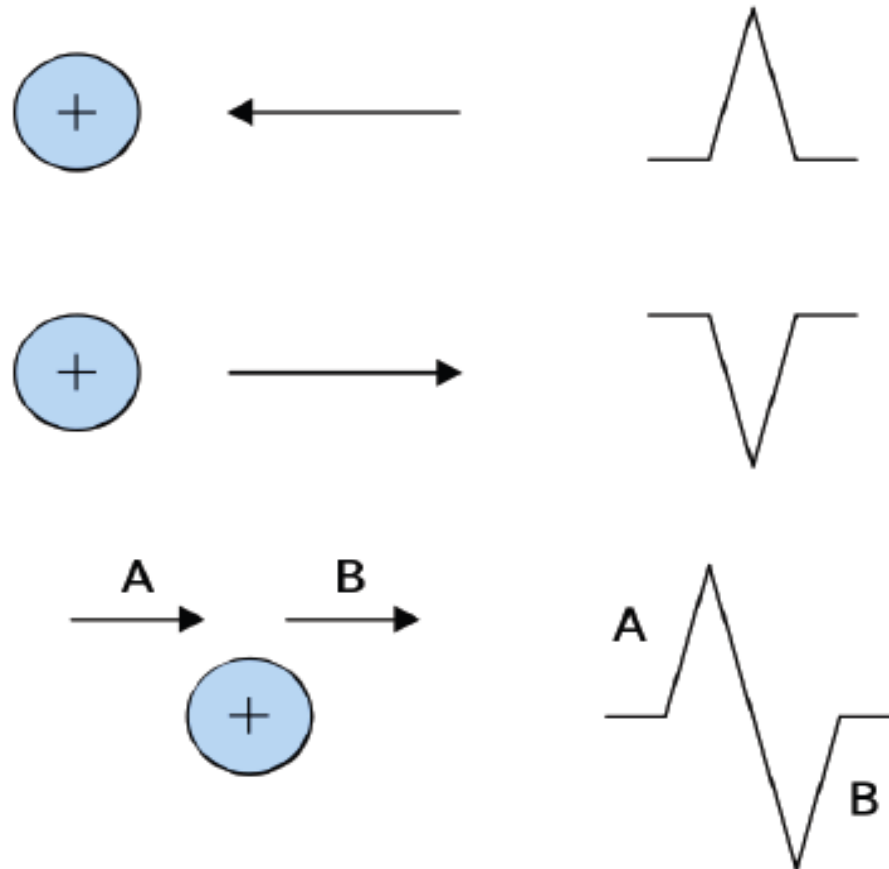
J point elevation, notching of the QRS downstroke, concave, mid-precordial, no evidence of reciprocal changes



# ECG Leads

- Direction an ECG waveform takes depends on whether electrical currents are traveling toward or away from a positive electrode

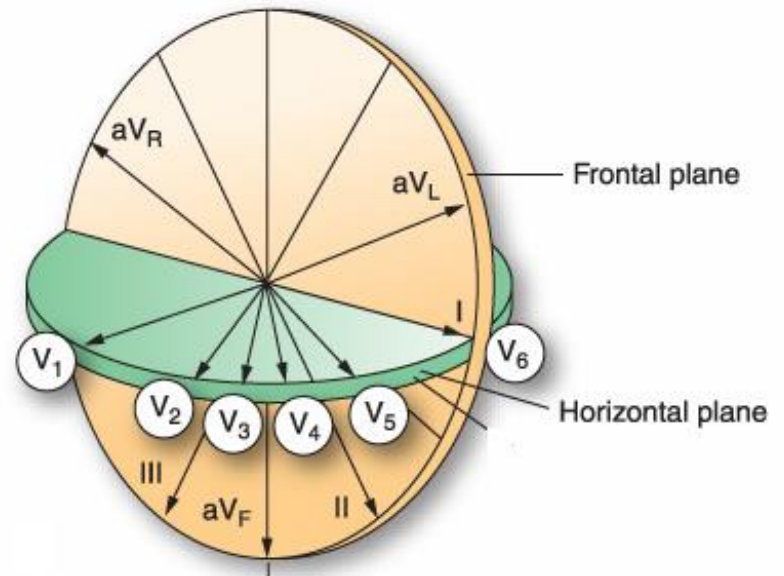


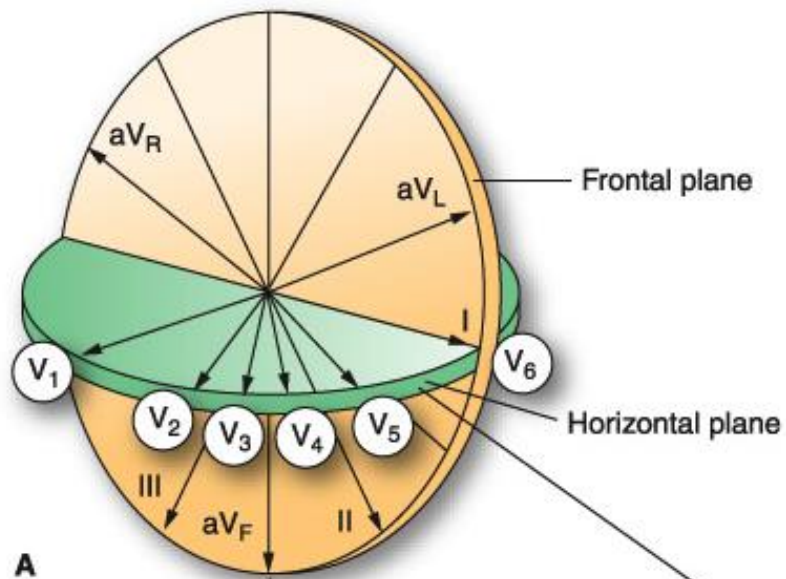


Graphic showing the relationship between positive electrodes, depolarization wavefronts (or mean electrical vectors), and complexes displayed on the ECG.

# ECG Leads

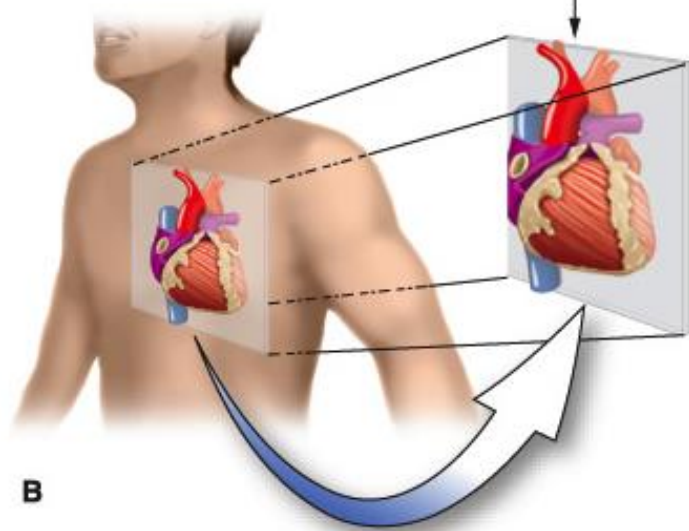
- Planes provide a cross-sectional view of heart
  - Frontal plane
  - Horizontal plane





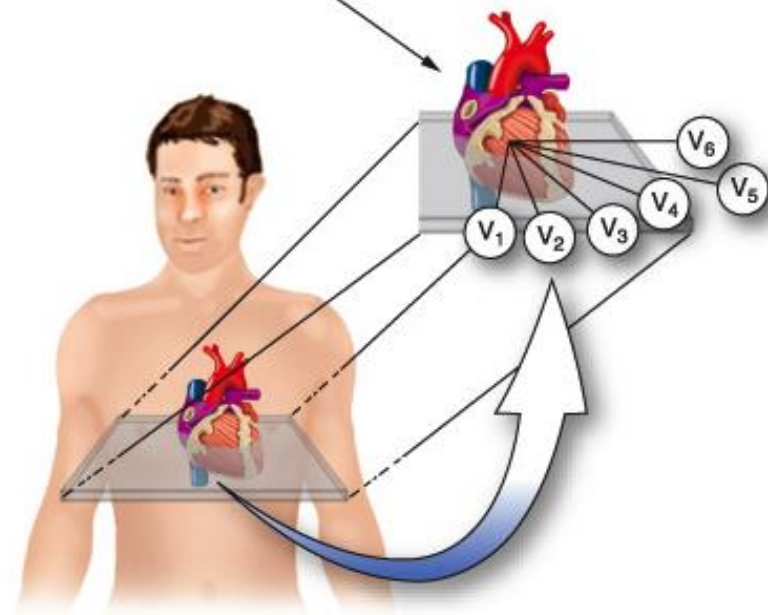
A

Frontal plane  
Limb leads I, II, III,  $aV_R$ ,  $aV_F$



B

Horizontal plane  
Precordial (chest) leads  $V_1$  to  $V_6$

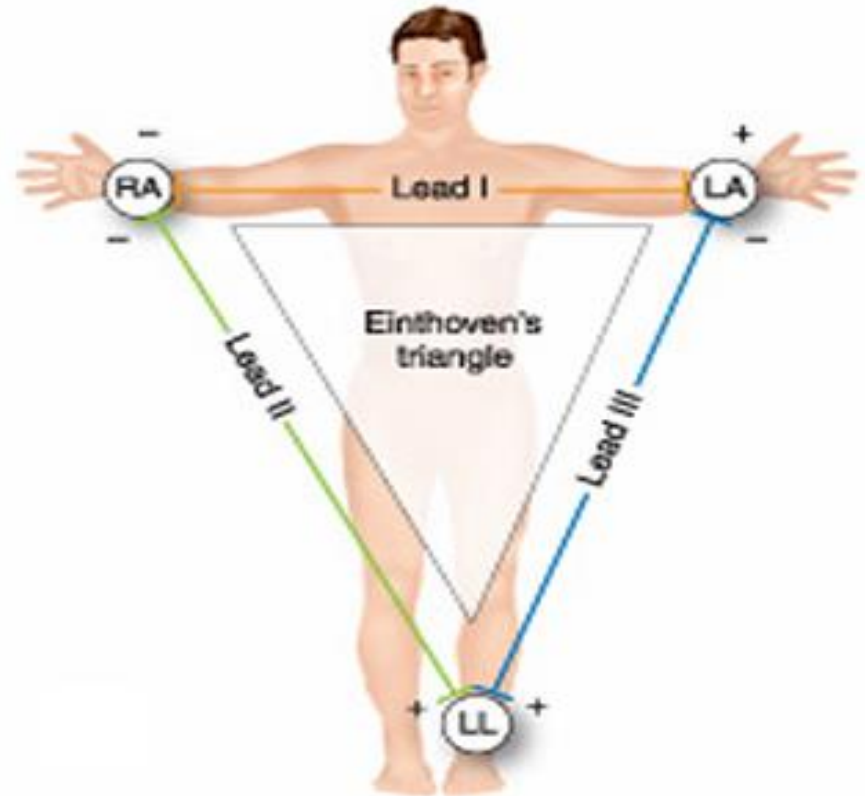


C

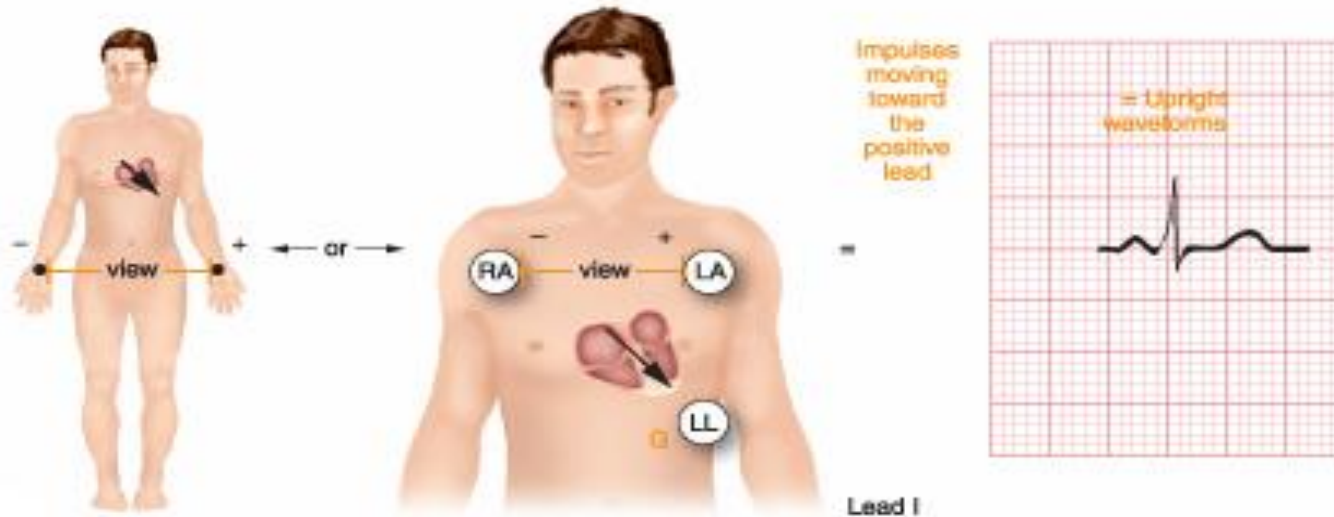


# Bipolar Leads

- Record difference in electrical potential between a positive and negative electrode
- Uses a third electrode called a ground
- Include leads I, II and III

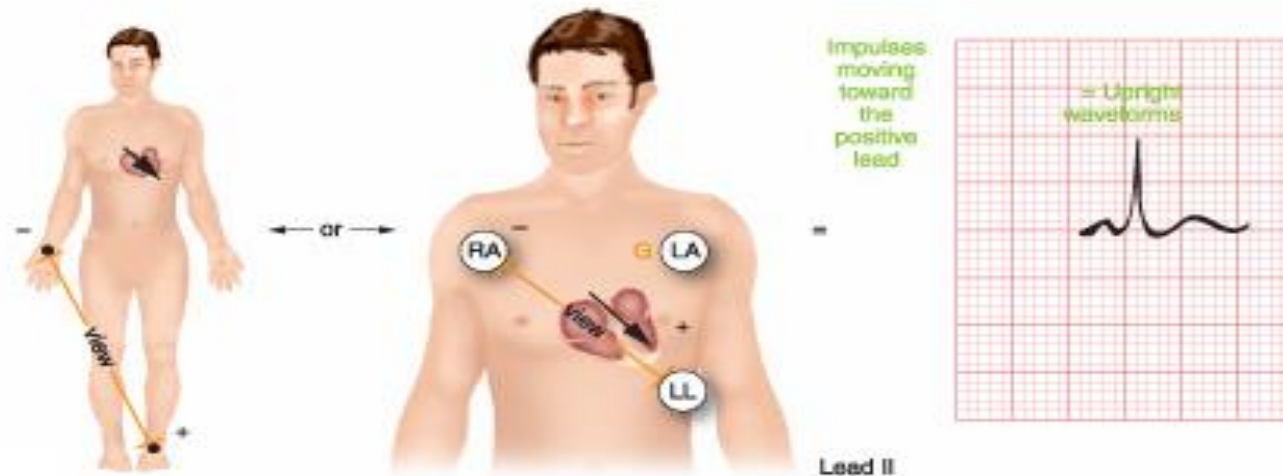


# Limb Leads - Lead I



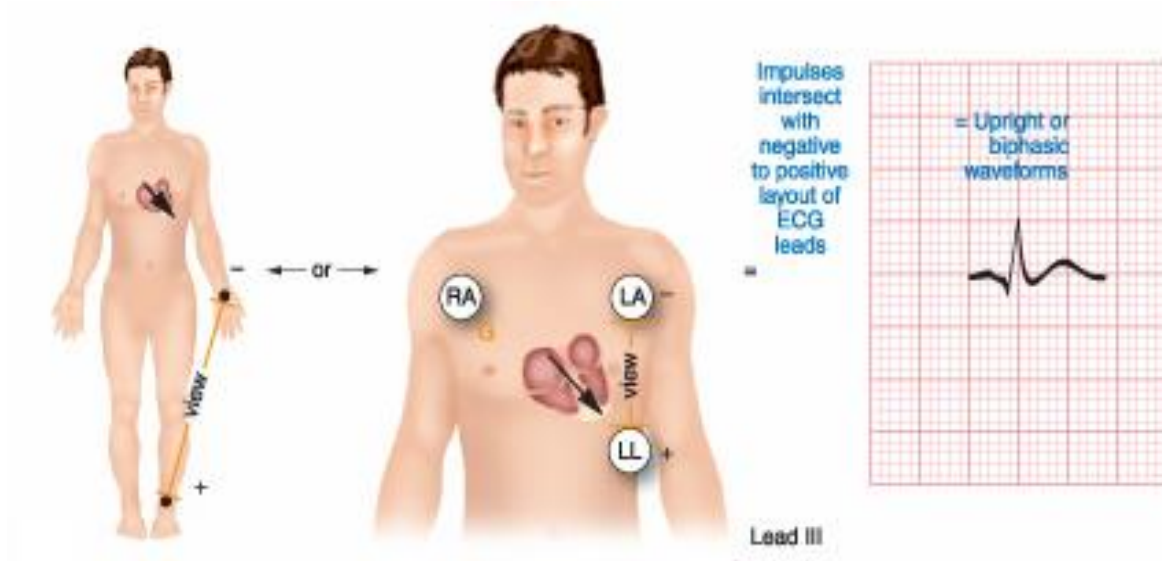
- Positive electrode - left arm (or under left clavicle)
- Negative electrode - right arm (or below right clavicle)
- Ground electrode - left leg (or left side of chest in midclavicular line just beneath last rib)
- Waveforms are positive

# Limb Leads - Lead II



- Positive electrode - left leg (or on left side of chest in midclavicular line just beneath last rib)
- Negative electrode - right arm (or below right clavicle)
- Ground electrode - left arm (or below left clavicle)
- Waveforms are positive

# Limb Leads - Lead III

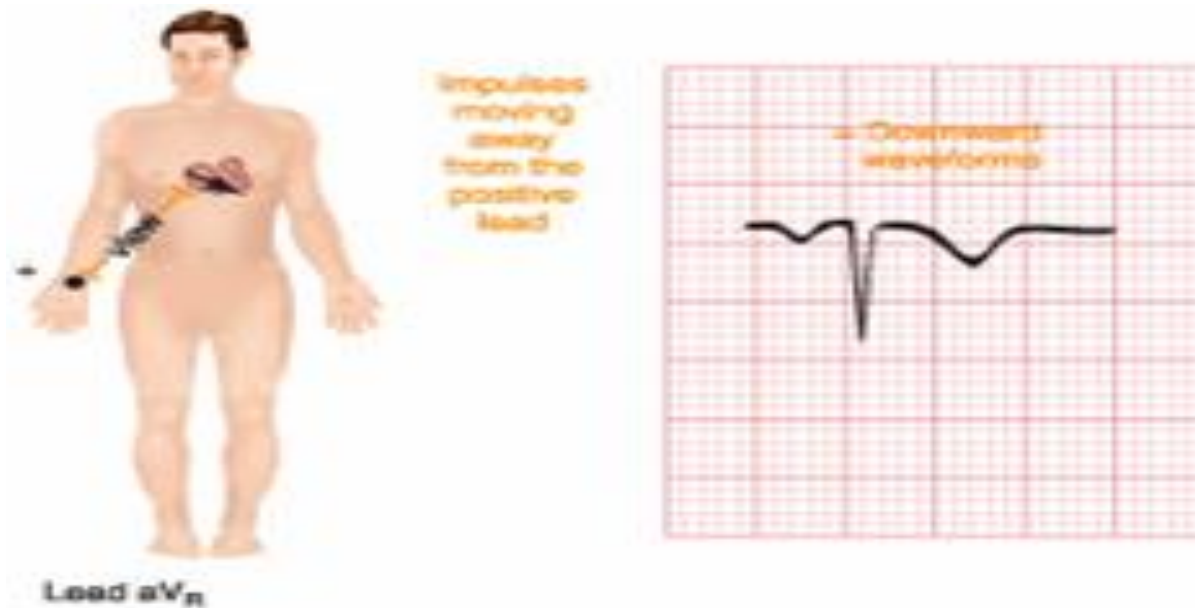


- Positive electrode - left leg (or left side of the chest in midclavicular line just beneath last rib)
- Negative electrode - left arm (or below left clavicle)
- Ground electrode - right arm (or below right clavicle)
- Waveforms are positive or biphasic

# Limb Leads - Augmented Leads

- Includes  $aV_R$ ,  $aV_L$  and  $aV_F$
- Unipolar
- Enhanced by ECG machine because waveforms produced by these leads are normally small

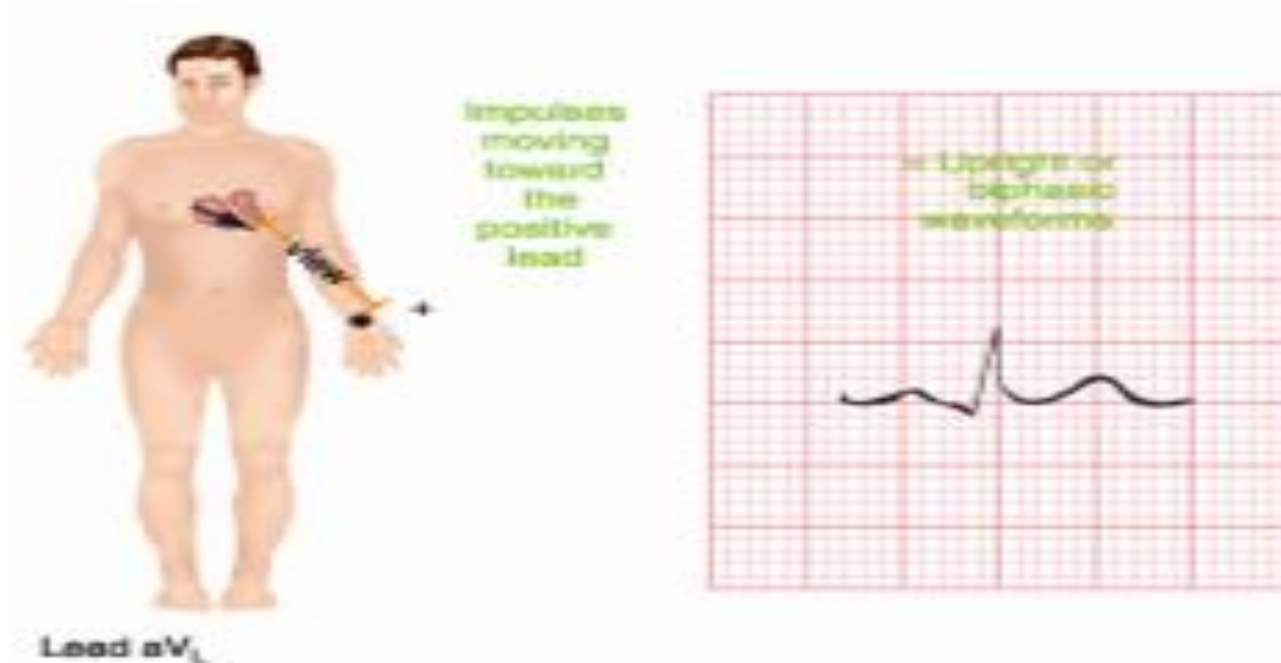
# Limb Leads - Lead aV<sub>R</sub>



- Positive electrode placed on right arm
- Waveforms have negative deflection

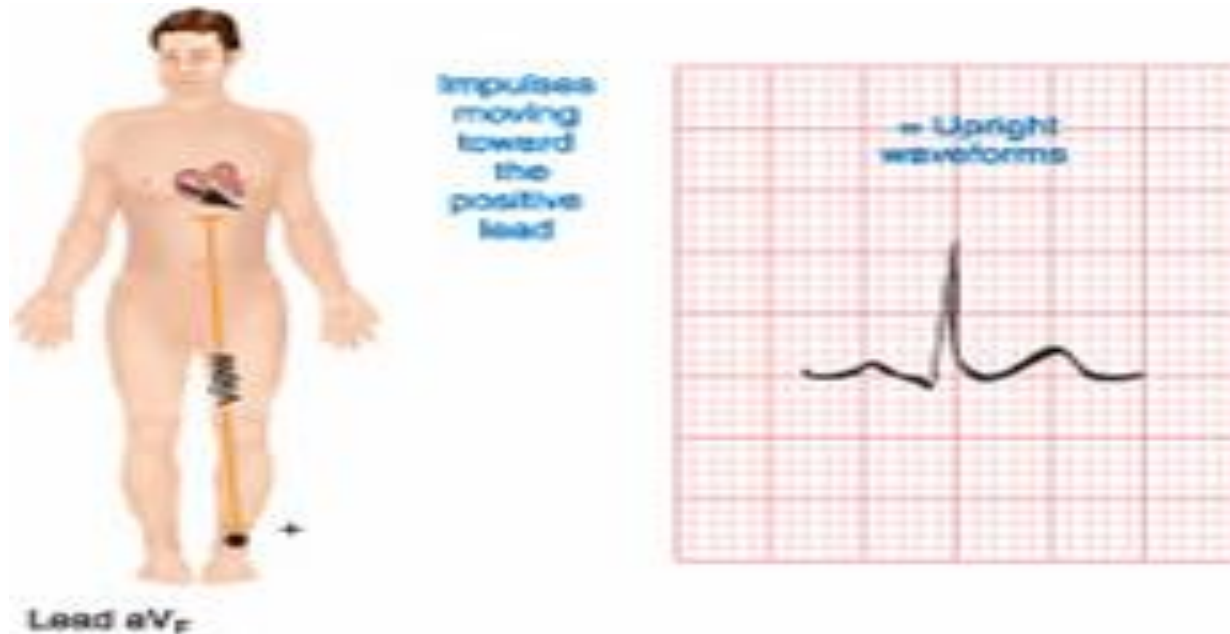


# Limb Leads - Lead aV<sub>L</sub>



- Positive electrode placed on left arm
- Waveforms have positive deflection

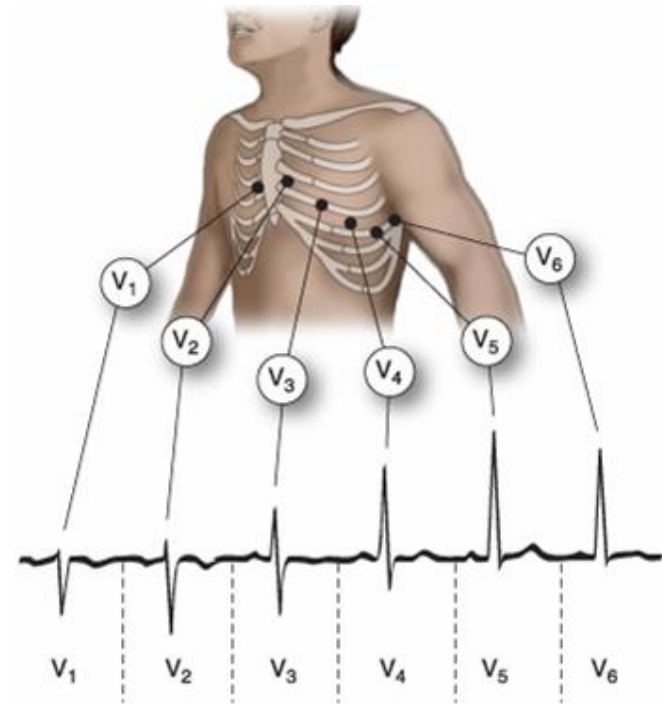
# Limb Leads - Lead aV<sub>F</sub>



- Positive electrode located on left leg
- Waveforms have a positive deflection

# Precordial Leads

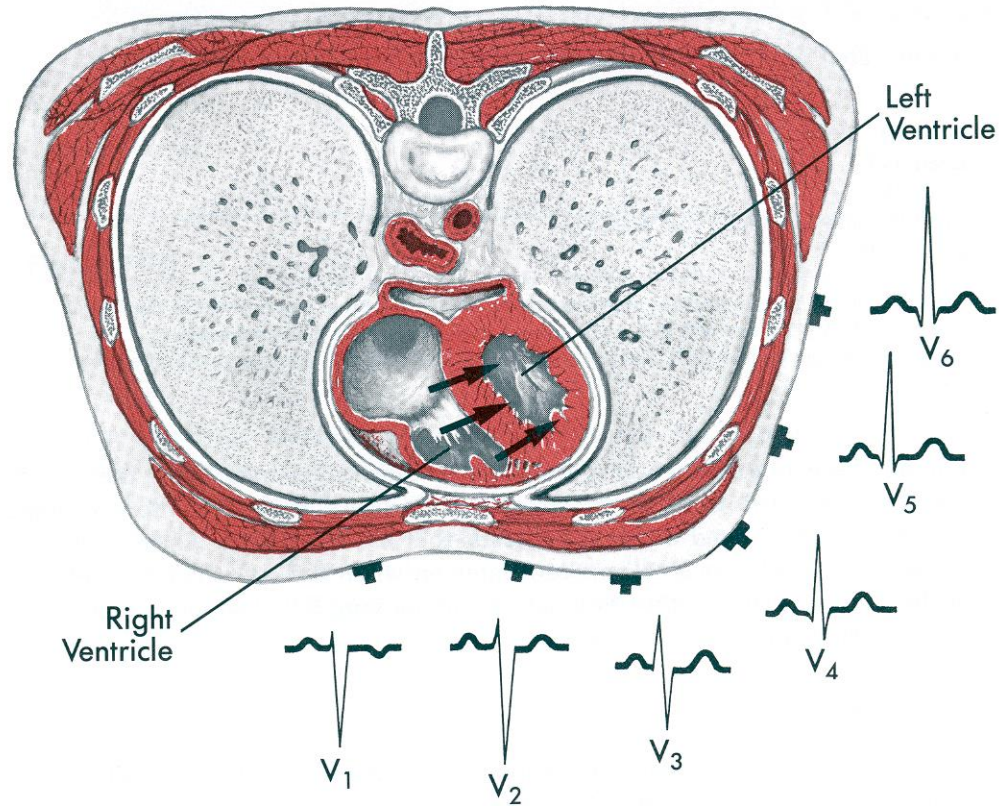
- Includes leads  $V_1$ ,  $V_2$ ,  $V_3$ ,  $V_4$ ,  $V_5$  and  $V_6$
- Positioned in order across the chest
- Unipolar
  - Opposing pole is center of heart as calculated by ECG



Electrodes positioned to the right of the left ventricle have waveforms with a downward deflection.

Electrodes positioned over the left ventricle have waveforms with an upright deflection.

# Precordial or Horizontal leads





# Essential parts of the ECG

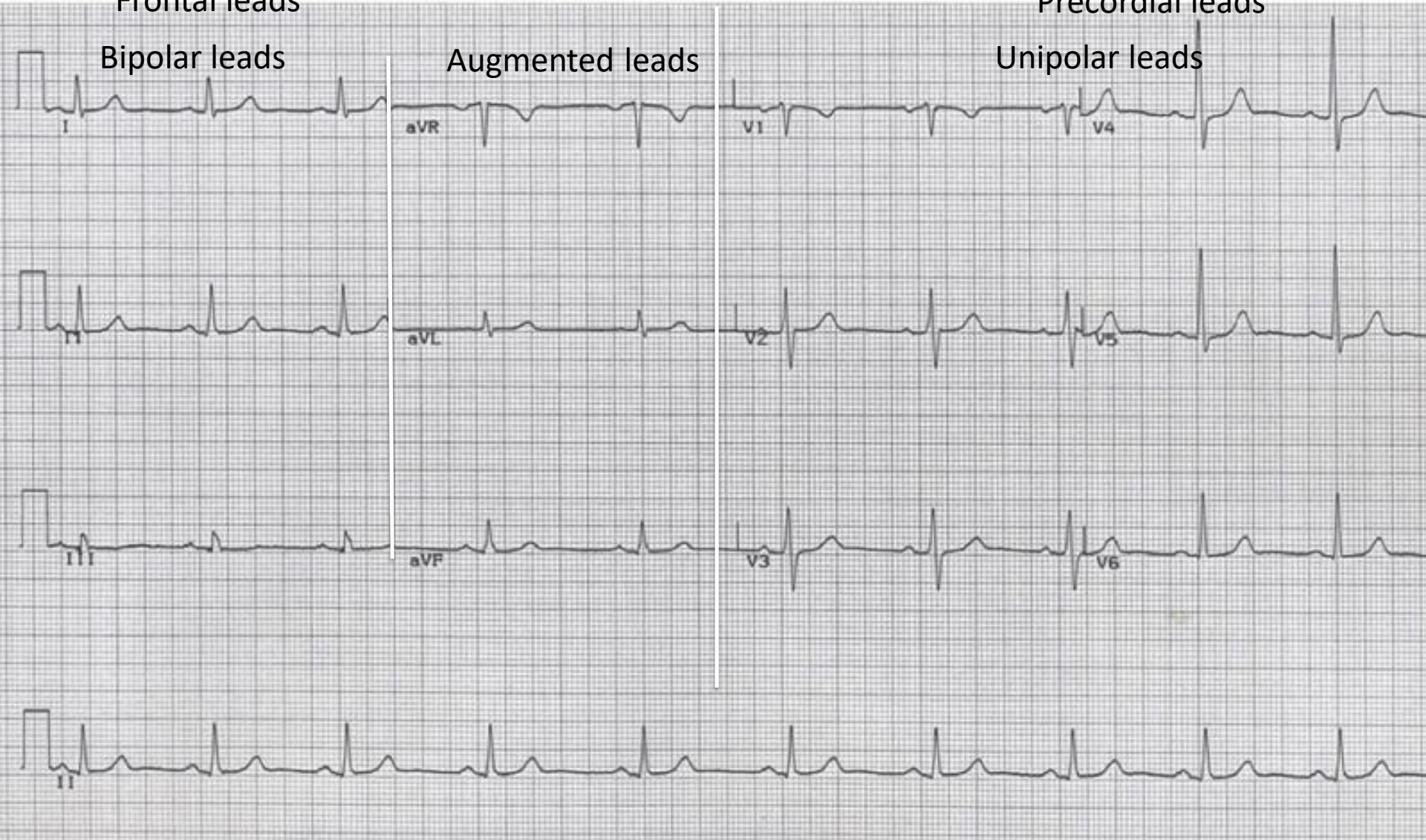
Frontal leads

Precordial leads

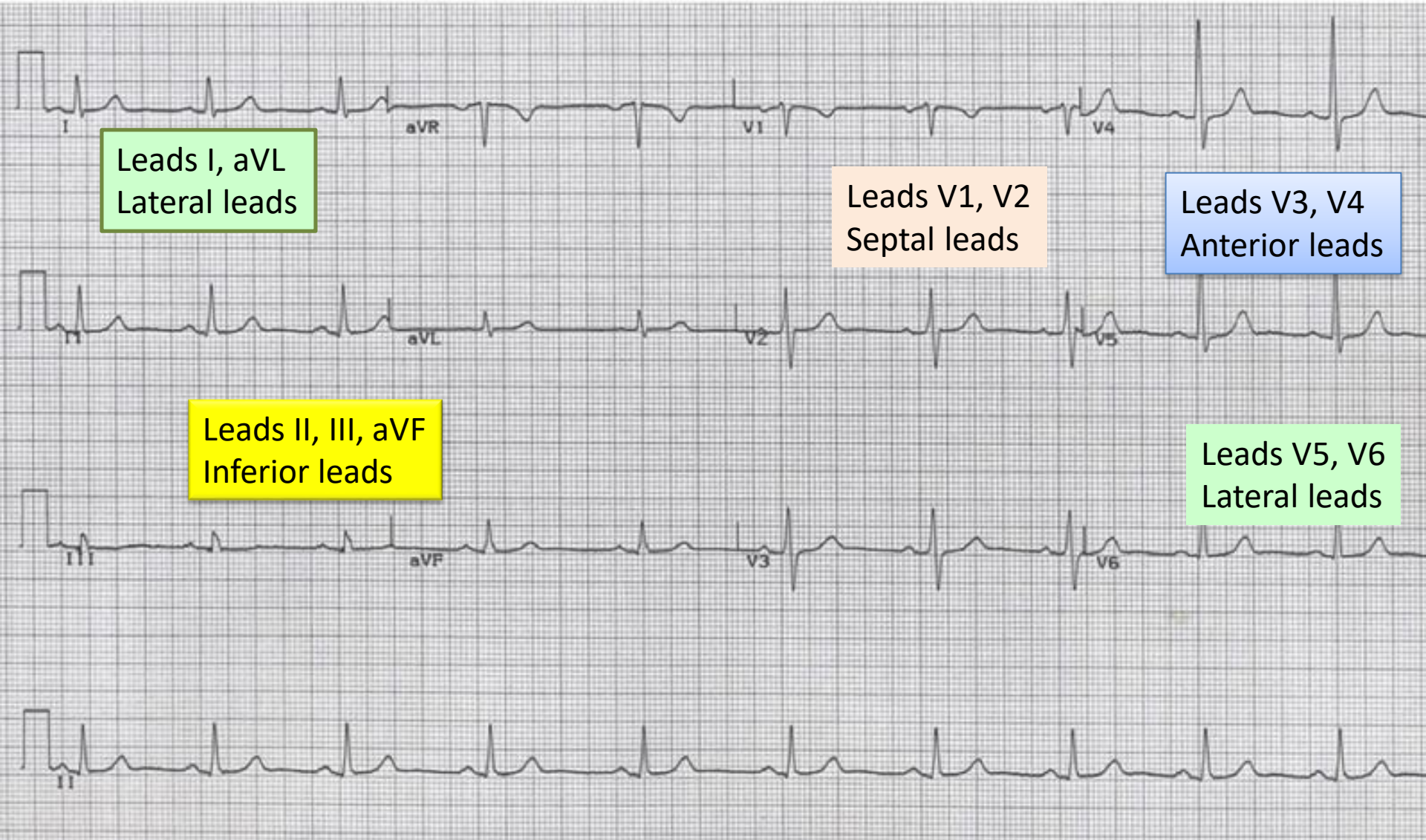
Bipolar leads

Augmented leads

Unipolar leads



# Normal EKG



Leads I, aVL  
Lateral leads

Leads V1, V2  
Septal leads

Leads V3, V4  
Anterior leads

Leads II, III, aVF  
Inferior leads

Leads V5, V6  
Lateral leads



I Lateral	aVR	V1 Septal	V4 Anterior
II Inferior	aVL Lateral	V2 Septal	V5 Lateral
III Inferior	aVF Inferior	V3 Anterior	V6 Lateral

Diagram showing the contiguous leads in the same color

