



THE PRACTITIONER LE PRATICIEN

Country cardiograms case 28: Answer

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ECG INTERPRETATION

Normal sinus rhythm at a rate of 63 beats/min. There is evidence of left and right ventricular hypertrophy with repolarization changes. Interpretation of the ECG (Fig. 1) reveals the following. The R-wave in lead VI, in addition to the S-wave in lead V5 or V6, is $>1.10\text{mV}$, which meets the criteria of right ventricular hypertrophy. The S-wave in VI in addition to the R-wave in V5 is $>3.5\text{mV}$, which meets the criteria for left ventricular hypertrophy. There are ST-T changes throughout the ECG,

which are consistent with repolarization changes associated with the biventricular hypertrophy. The axis is approximately 95° , which is consistent with right axis deviation. The left atrial abnormality is noted by the duration of the terminal, negative portion of the P-wave in lead VI (>0.04 sec). This is the most sensitive criterion for left atrial enlargement. There is also a wide notched P-wave in lead II, which is the most specific criterion for left atrial enlargement.

For the Question, see page 260.

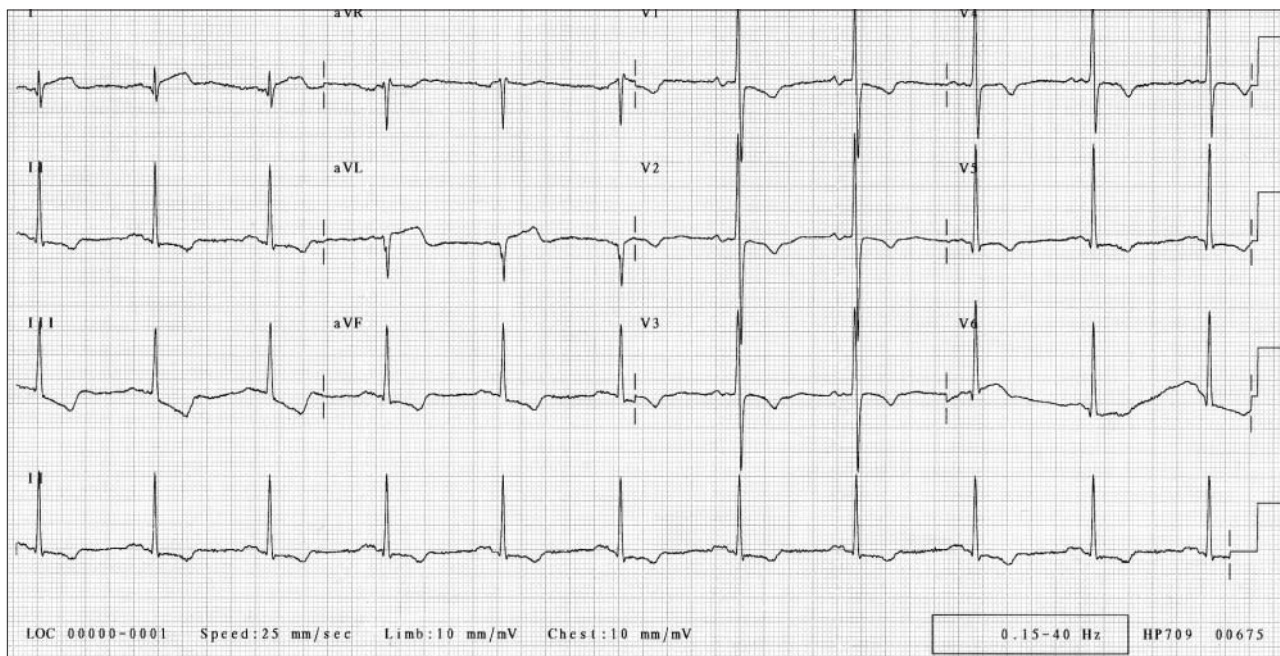


Fig. 1. ECG (as shown in the Question section, page 260), done at the time of presentation to the emergency department.