Country cardiograms case 48

50-year-old man with excruciating chest pain is brought to the emergency department in a remote Canadian community. Figure 1 shows the initial electrocardiogram (ECG). The initial troponin level is normal (< 0.03 µg/L). Acute anterior ST elevation myocardial infarction is diagnosed, and thrombolytic therapy is provided with tenecteplase.

About 45 minutes later, the monitor screen indicates that the rhythm has changed to a regular wide complex tachycardia at a rate of 105 beats/min, with no P waves apparent. While preparations are being made to record this rhythm on the ECG, sinus rhythm redevelops, and the ECG shown in Figure 2 is obtained.

What has happened, and what needs to be done?

For the answer, see page 109.

Competing interests: None declared.
Fig. 2. Electrocardiogram recorded 45 minutes after administration of thrombolytic therapy.

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