A 27-year-old woman presents to a rural emergency department. She fainted at home and has sensations of a racing heart. She has no previous cardiovascular history of note.

Electrocardiograms reveal a narrow complex tachycardia, with a rate of 140 beats/min. A number of treatments are attempted, including vagal manoeuvres, adenosine, verapamil, cardioversion and amiodarone, all of which are unsuccessful.

A slight change then becomes evident in the electrocardiogram, which allows the rhythm to be identified (Fig. 1). What is the interpretation, and what treatment should be considered?

For the answer, see page 117.

Competing interests: None declared.

Fig. 1. Electrocardiogram of a 27-year-old woman.