

Country cardiograms case 58

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*This article has been peer
 reviewed.*

A 66-year-old woman, coming from home, presents with a decreased level of consciousness, a high leukocyte count and fever. She has a “goals of care” directive that outlines the use of full medical and surgical management to cure or control symptoms without use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation or care in the intensive care unit. Vital signs reveal hypotension, along with tachycardia and hypoxia. A septic workup, including urinalysis, and chest radiography show

no source of infection, and results from blood and urine cultures are pending. She is given empiric antibiotics, oxygen to maintain oxygen saturation and intravenous fluids. Her medical history is significant for atrial fibrillation and dementia. What is the electrocardiogram interpretation (Fig. 1), and what is the required treatment?

For the answer, see page 26.

Competing interests: None declared.

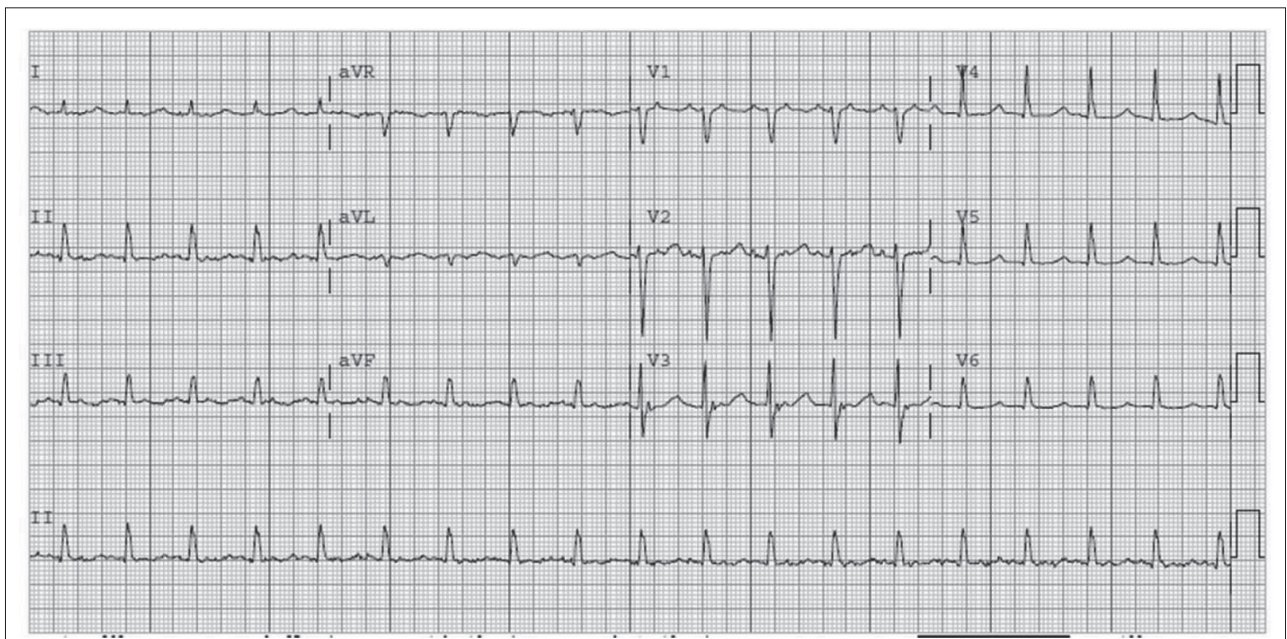


Fig. 1. Electrocardiogram of a 66-year-old woman with decreased level of consciousness, a high leukocyte count and fever.