Country cardiograms case #66

QUESTION

A 56-year-old male patient is sent to a remote emergency room (ER) in British Columbia, with a week-long history of wheezy chest, persistent cough, production of yellowish sputum and shortness of breath. He has previously been diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Relevant findings on examination include being afebrile, a respiratory rate at rest of 16/min, oxygen saturation in room air of 90% and crackles in the right upper lung zone. His chest X-ray shows pneumonic consolidation in the right lobe and hyperinflated lung fields and flattened diaphragms, suggestive of COPD. A 12-lead electrocardiogram (ECG) is also obtained [Figure 1]. What are the striking features seen in this ECG that may be of relevance to the likely diagnosis of pneumonia superimposed on COPD?

For the answer, please see page 122