

What Is YOUR Diagnosis?

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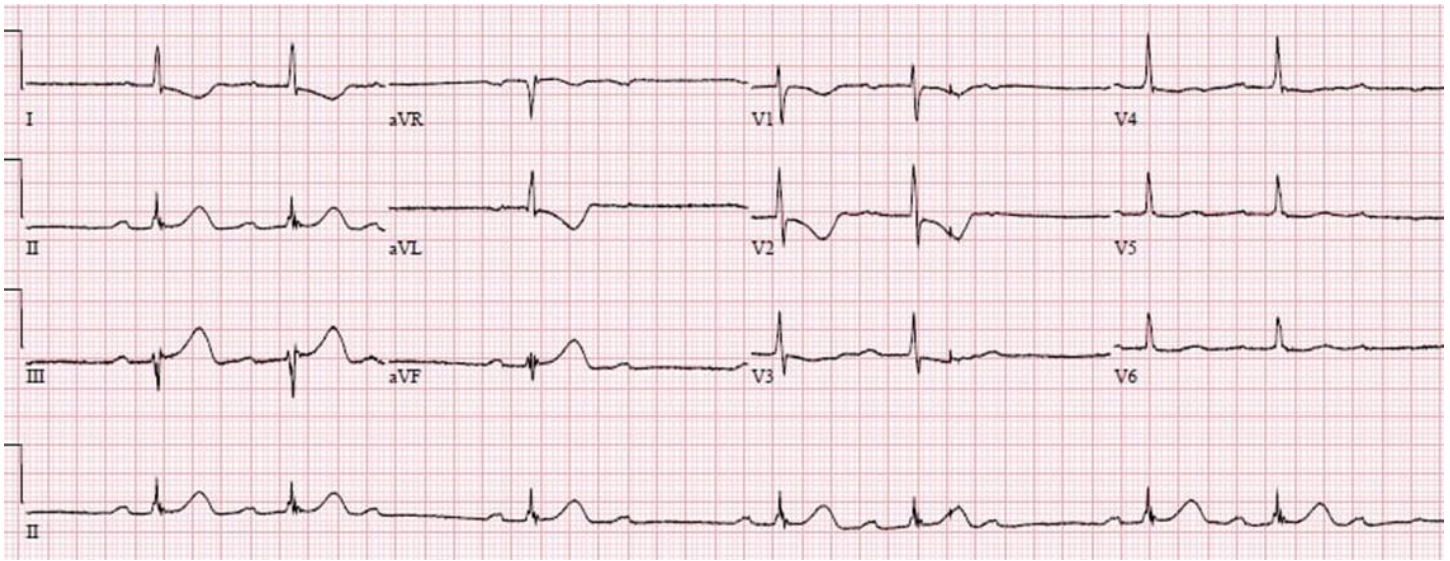


Figure 1

There are two blocks on this ECG and both are second degree AV blocks:

1. Mobitz I AV block
2. 2:1 AV block

You should NOT have said “Mobitz II block” because from the ECG we cannot say exactly if the second non-conducted P wave is due to a Mobitz I or Mobitz II AV block. We need two consecutive PR intervals to make that determination.

PEARL | Mobitz I and Mobitz II blocks are based on two completely different mechanisms located in different areas of the conduction system of the heart. Therefore, they are not considered to ever appear in the same tracing.

This “PEARL” applies especially when a 2:1 AV block appears during sinus rhythm *with no other AV block present*. But here we have both.

Following extensive study regarding this topic, it appears not so much that the two types of block CANNOT ever appear in the same ECG, but simply that there is no way to determine the cause of the 2:1 block using the 12-lead ECG alone.

So, perhaps the old aphorism should read “Mobitz I and Mobitz II AV cannot be diagnosed on the same ECG based on the presence of episodes of 2:1 conduction.”