What Do YOU Think…?

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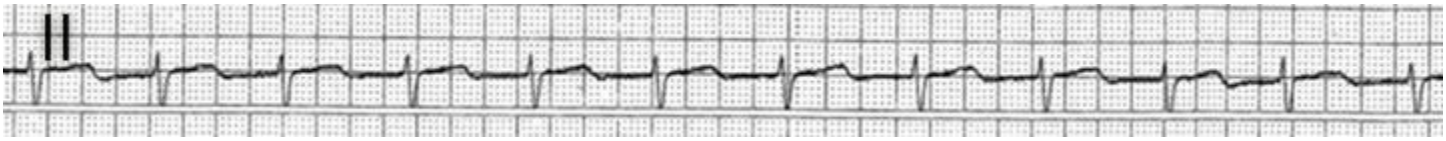

Figure 1

I'll bet you said a junctional rhythm. If so, then you were wrong – but let me explain.

Looking at this rhythm strip alone, I can't fault you for saying "junctional rhythm." All the classic indications are there. But remember one thing (especially you cardiology fellows looking at boards later this year)…

This was a test… and a trap!

You should always wonder, "*What else could it be?*" no matter HOW obvious it appears!

Look at the same rhythm strip a few seconds later…

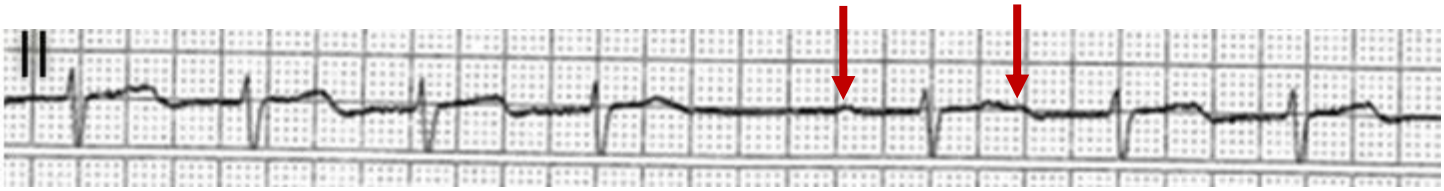

Figure 2

There is a pause and then a P wave with a rather profound first degree AV block. Following that beat, we see another P wave about to be swallowed up by the T wave, and following the next beat there is no longer any P wave visible.

Regarding the Imaging/ECG section of the cardiology boards, if a rhythm strip or an ECG looks simple and obvious… it isn't!

So this wasn't a junctional rhythm after all – it was an ***atypical Mobitz I AV block***. The length of this Mobitz I AV block was so long that only portions from the beginning, the middle and the end were published. *So always be sure that a "junctional rhythm" really isn't a sinus rhythm with a 1st degree AV block whose P waves are hidden in the T waves*.

This is just a teaser for the online presentation that I am giving **February 15, 2026 at 6 pm CST** on ***AV Blocks and AV Dissociation***. Come join us for a really "deep dive" into AV blocks and AV dissociation. Just send your email address to me at: (jwjmd@medicusofhouston.com) or message me through LinkedIn. I will send you the link to the Zoom meeting a couple of days before (you don't need Zoom on your computer!).