

Dysrhythmias

Normal Sinus Rhythm: 60 -100 BPM with P waves, P –R interval, QRS complex and S – T segments normal.

Entopic Beat: HB originates outside the SA node.

Sinus Dysrhythmia: ECG normal, spacing between cardiac cycles varies excessively.

Sinus Tachycardia: Above 100 BPM with all waves and complexes normal.

Sinus Bradycardia: Below 60 BPM with all waves and complexes normal.

AV Block: Cardiac impulse delayed or complex blocked as it passes through the AV node.

1st Degree Heart Block: All impulses from SA node pass through the AV node, but the P – R interval is greater than 0.2 seconds.

2nd Degree Heart Block: Series of non-conducted impulses followed by some impulses that pass through. (Ex. 2-1 or 3-1)

3rd Degree Heart Block: None of SA impulses pass through the AV node. Atrial and ventricular contractions are at a slower and unrelated pace.

Atrial Ectopic Beats: Premature Atrial Contraction (PAC), atrial flutter, atrial fibrillation.

Premature Ventricular Contractions (PVC): Caused by ectopic pacemaker in the ventricles, may be unifocal (one ectopic focus) or multifocal (greater than one ectopic foci).

Ventricular Tachycardia: 3 or more consecutive PVC.

Ventricular Fibrillation: Chaotic wave forms on ECG. Weak or no pulse felt. Pumping action of heart compromised.