Ventricular tachycardia with frequent retrograde P waves

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A 28-year-old male patient was admitted to our cardiology department with sustained palpitations for 10 h. During the episode, he had no syncope, chest pain or other symptoms. Intravenous injection of 70 mg propafenone before admission did not terminate the acute episode of palpitations. The patient had no history of heart disease. Physical examination, laboratory test and echocardiography did not demonstrate any abnormalities after admission. A 12-lead surface

electrocardiogram (ECG) was taken (Fig. 1), which showed that the ventricular rate was about 120 beats/min and the QRS complex duration was about 120 ms. What is your diagnosis?

Answer

You will find the answer elsewhere in this issue.

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Fig. 1 The 12-lead surface ECG during onset of palpitations. Paper speed is as usual (25 mm/s) and the voltage amplitude is half the usual (5 mm/mv). Arrow denotes retrograde P wave