Alternating bizarrely shaped broad QRS complex tachycardia: What is the mechanism?

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A 78-year-old man known with paroxysmal atrial fibrillation was seen in the emergency department because of palpitations and dyspnoea complaints. He was on beta-blockers, aspirin and flecainide. His electrocardiogram showed a broad QRS-complex tachycardia with a left bundle branch block ‘like’ morphology and QRS alter-

nans (Fig. 1). Two minutes later his rhythm stabilised spontaneously (Fig. 2). What is your diagnosis?

Answer

You will find the answer elsewhere in this issue.

Fig. 1 Broad QRS complex tachycardia with obvious QRS alternans

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Fig. 2 ECG after spontaneous stabilisation of the tachycardia