Coupled beats in a boogie dance duet. What is the mechanism?

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Question

A 67-year-old woman, known with alcoholic-dilated cardiomyopathy and paroxysmal atrial flutter, was admitted to our department because of repeated pre-syncope. She was on carvedilol, quinapril, spironolactone, bumetanide, atorvastatin

and digoxin. Her electrocardiogram (ECG) on admission is shown in Fig. 1. What is the rhythm and how can you explain the mechanism of these coupled bigeminal beats?

Answer

You will find the answer elsewhere in this issue.

Fig. 1 Electrocardiogram on admission showing group beating with an alternating short-long cycles and narrow QRS complex

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