

## Normal Rhythm

- Normal Heart Rate (60-100 beat/min)

- origin of electrical impulses

- Normal conductive pathway

- Normal velocity



SA node    لو هار فيجي مشكلة  
←    بتفر قلب  
electrical impulses  
من مكان ثاني ← قلب  
لا Heart Rate يكون أقل من 60

## Pathophysiology-Arrhythmia

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**Velocity to conduct the action potential through it's pathway**

**Normal Heart Rate**  
 SA Node ← (60-100) Beat/min

⇒ Normal ⇒ Physiology

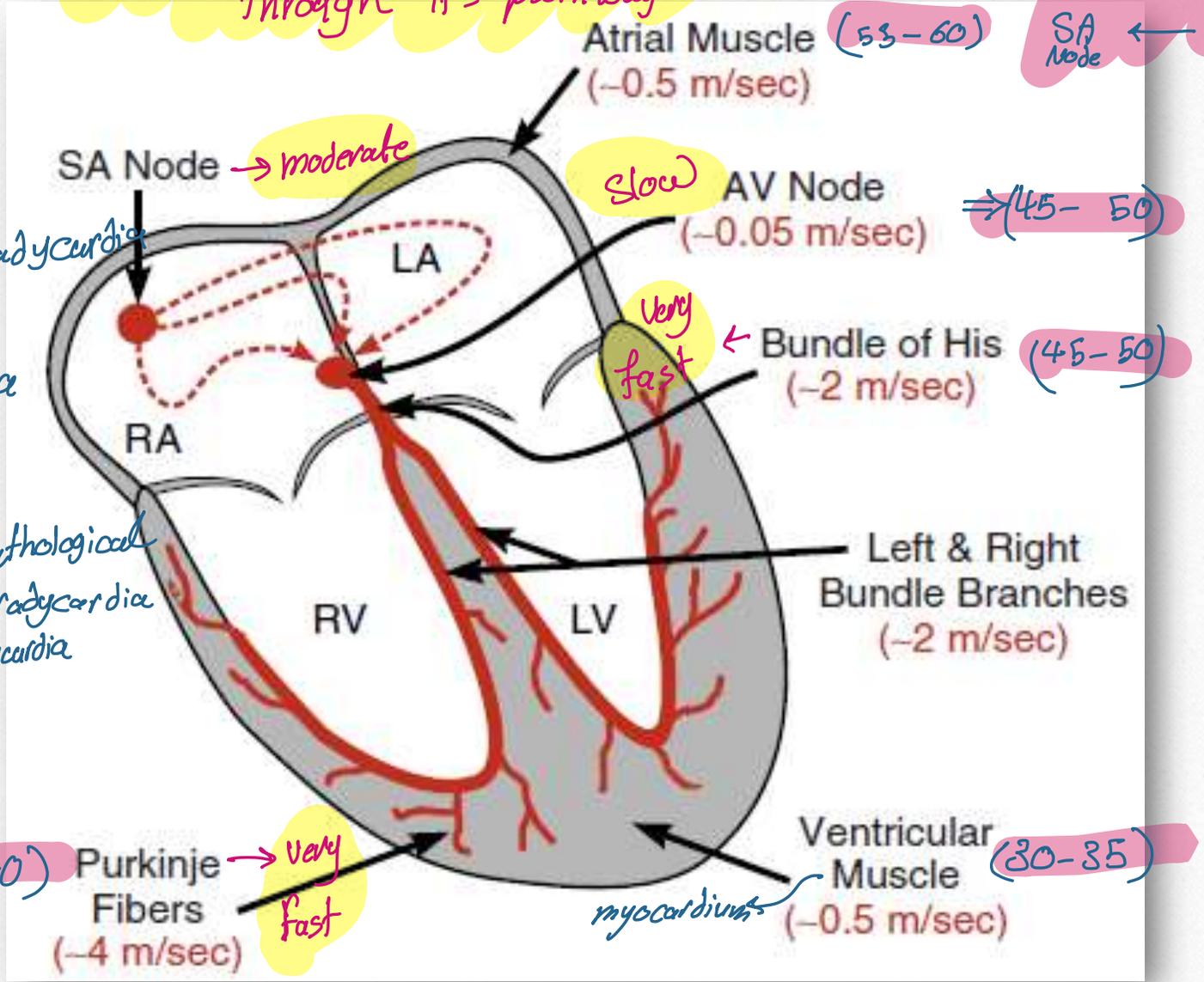
\* sleep → Normal Bradycardia

\* exercise → Normal tachycardia  
 \* pregnancy

⇒ Abnormal ⇒ Pathology

\* Hypothyroidism → Pathological Bradycardia

\* Hyperthyroidism → tachycardia



Tachycardia 100 من 100\*

100 - 150 Simple

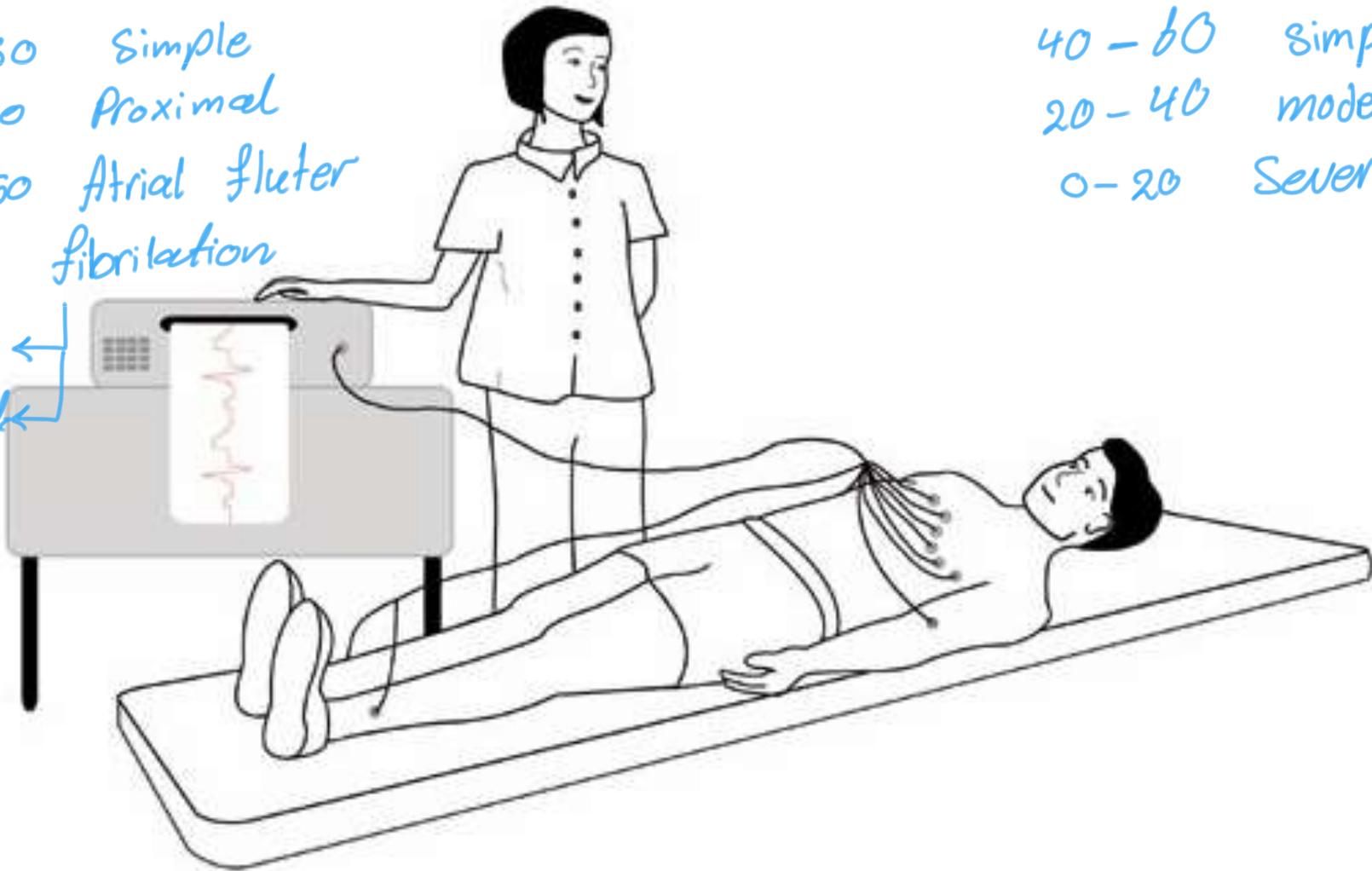
150 - 250 \* فجائبي Proximal

250 - 350 \* النوع الثاني Atrial flutter

> 350 fibrillation

atrial ←

Ventrid ← الأيسر



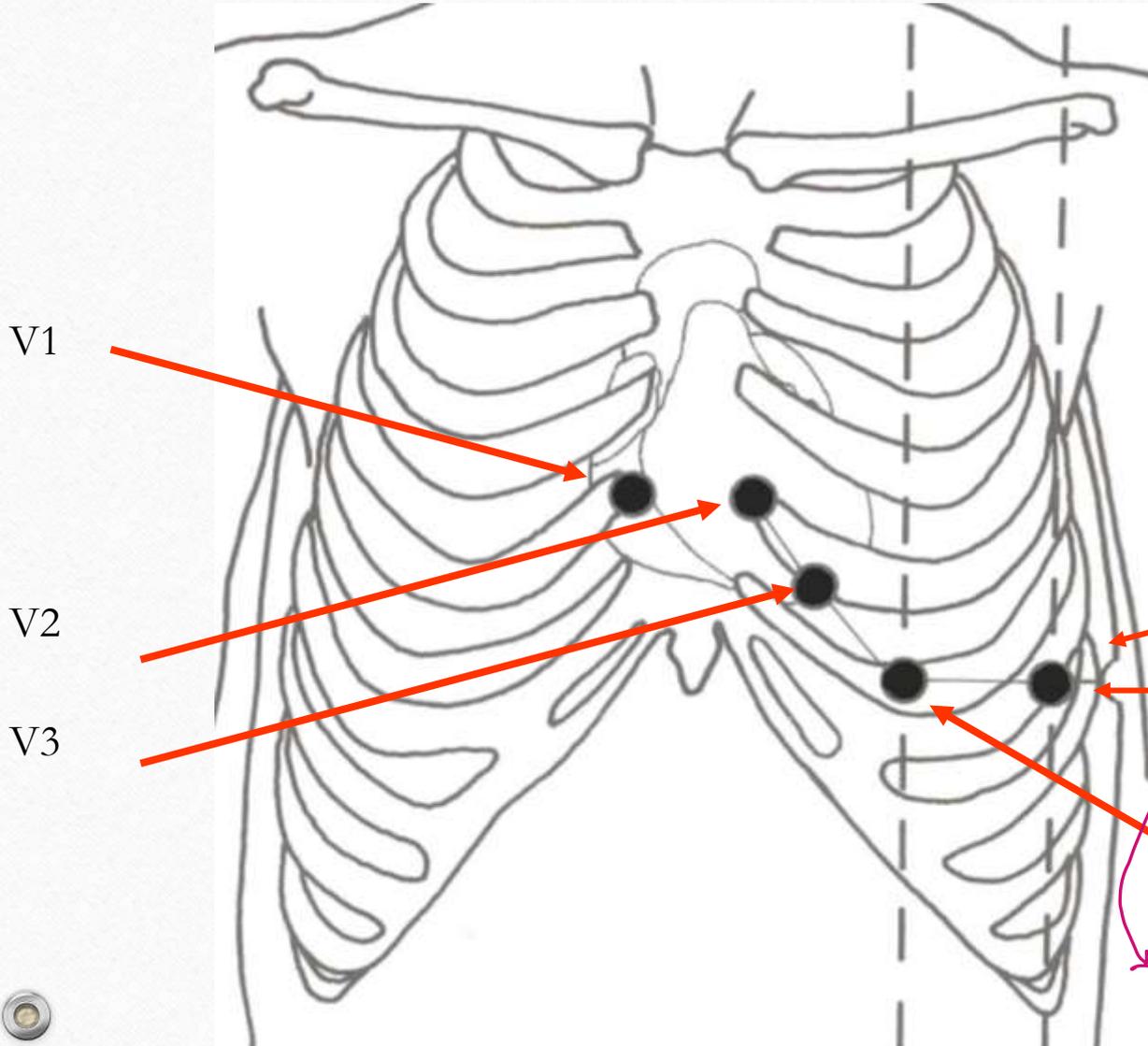
Bradycardia 60 من 60\*

40 - 60 simple

20 - 40 moderate

0 - 20 Severe

MCL AAL



## Placement of Precordial Electrodes

V6 Arrhythmia أنواع ال

V5 SA node → Sinus arrhythmia  
AV node → Atrial arrhythmia

V4 Arrhythmia اضطرابات إيقاع القلب  
Ventricular → ventricular arrhythmia

Above the Ventricle → Supraventricular arrhythmia

# Mechanisms التي بيهي مني

Arhythmia ال

## 1 Increased Automaticity

Beat normal بين سرعة  
عدد النبضات زيادة عن  
Normal ال

عضلة القلب قادرة على  
انتاج action potential من تلقاء نفسها

← صفت بيهي؟ - لما اخذ Sympathetic pathway  
Ca<sup>2+</sup> agonist → Contraction بتزيد

في وقت قصي بين النبضات بس لسافي وقت

هاد أسود من الي قبله

## 2 Triggered Automaticity

بتأثر على ال Beat نفسه

في صنف نوعين: بيهي هاد النوع كمنوع من رد الفعل

① early after Depolarization (EAD)  
بعد ما بيهي ventricular depolarization

P-wave → QRS قبل ما تنقضي → Second Beat

② Delayed after Depolarization (DAD)  
- بنتهي ال depolarization & Repolarization بس متأخر

بعدها على ال Second Beat

في حالات Ischemia SA Mode بتفكر انه ما في Blood flow فيتزيد ال contraction

# Refractory period

In tachycardia

أقصر

تقل وقت الـ *delaying*

بسبب تحفيز الـ

*Sympathetic*

← لما بدي أمارجه

بثبلا الـ *Sympathetic*

ويحفز الـ *Para sympathetic*

In Brady cardia

أطول

يزيد الـ *delaying*

بسبب تحفيز الـ *Para sympathetic*

← لما بدي امارجه بثبلا الـ

*Para sympathetic*

وأحفز الـ *Sympathetic*

كل ما زاد الـ time  $\Leftarrow$  يعني زاد الـ Delay  $\leftarrow$  Brady والعكس

Interval	Average time (sec)	Range time (sec)	Events in the heart during interval
P wave			Atrial depolarization
PR interval	0.18	0.12 to 0.2	Atrial depolarization and conduction through AV node
QRS duration	0.08	To 0.10	Ventricular depolarization and atrial re-polarization
QT interval	0.40	To 0.43	Ventricular depolarization
ST interval (QT minus QRS)	0.32		Ventricular re-polarization

لو قلت عنها يعني Brady

لو زادت عنها يعني Brady

سؤال الامتحان : يجب تعريف ونمى نوع الـ Heart Blocks

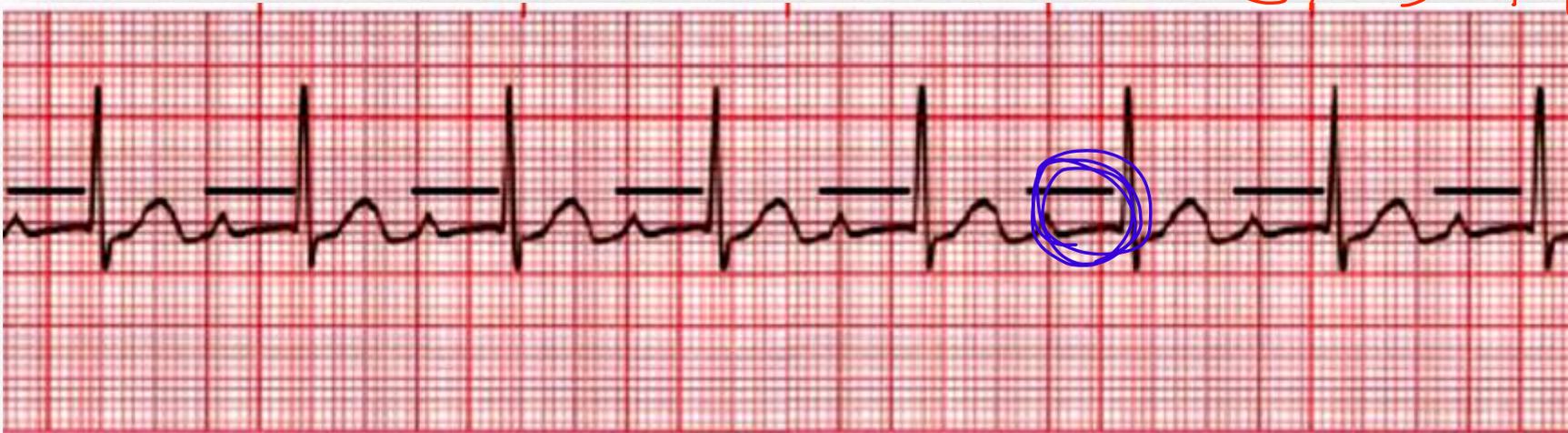
## Heart blocks:

### I. Block at the level of AV node:

عن طريق Vagus nerve → يزيد Para وبخل Sympath →  
عندى دوا اسمه Digoxin نستخدمه عشان نكل من tachycardia

A. First degree heart block: every atrial depolarization is followed by conduction to ventricle but delay. ECG changes prolongation of PR interval to more than 0.22 second.

كلهم ظاهرين بس PR طويلة





## C. Third degree heart block (complete heart block):



High dose of calcium  
⇒ بتزید مدة ال Plateau  
وبالتالي بزیاد ال delay  
لدرجة یفصل ال conduction  
بین ال atrial & ventricular

Rate: Atrial: 60–100 bpm; ventricular: 40–60 bpm  
Rhythm: Usually regular, but atria and ventricles act independently. It occurs when all atrial activity fails to conduct to the ventricle so the Bundle of His will be responsible for generation of impulses.

Heart Rate کما نلاحظ ان  
Normal (60-100) تمام  
في نهاية العادة ال atrial  
ما يشتغل بشكل متوافق مع  
Ventricle فينبغي ان يفسر ال Rates

**Caused by:** Acute myocardial infarction, calcify aortic stenosis, cardiomyopathy, drugs (digoxin), increase of potassium.

*→ HF*  
*increase Repolarization*

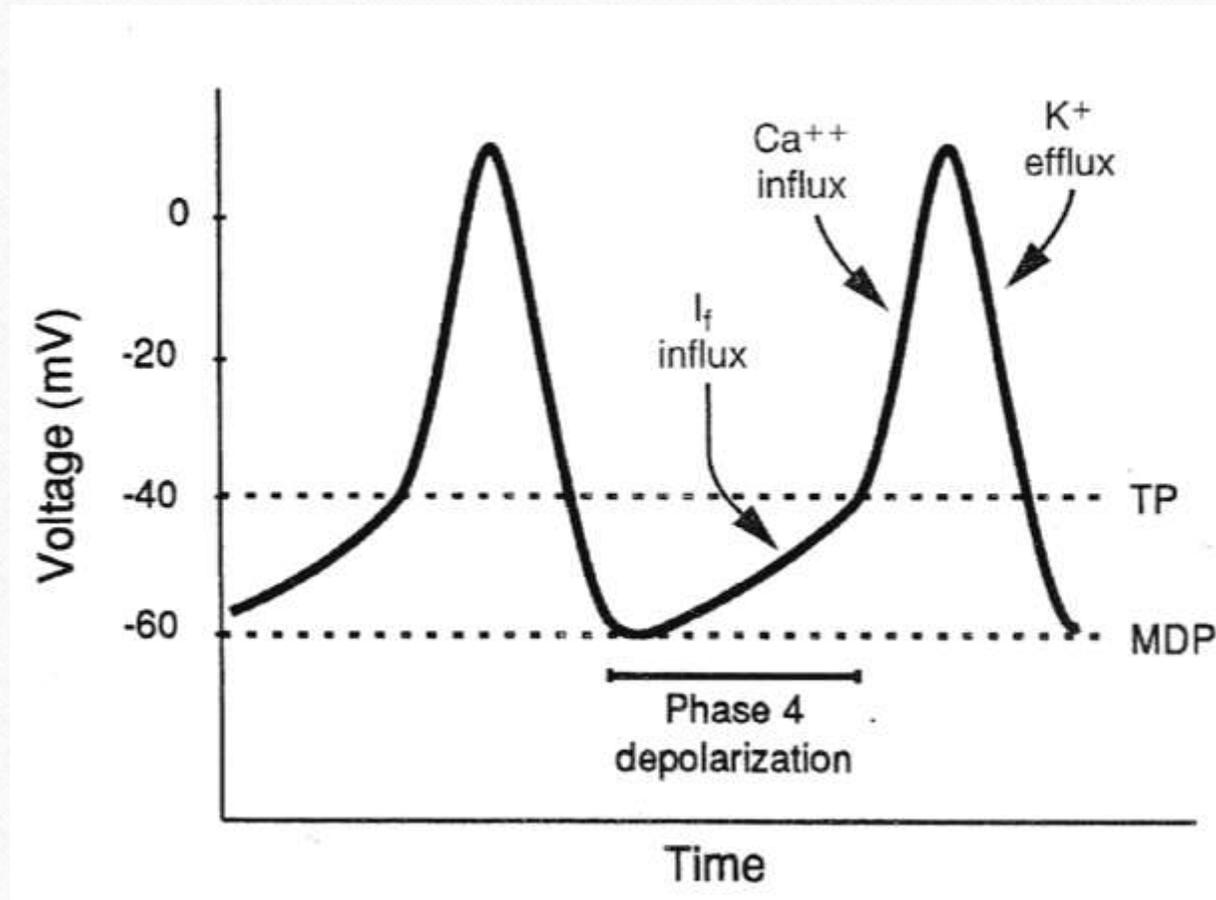
**Block below AV node:** A. block at Bundle of His, B.  
Block at the branches (Right or Left branch).

□ Sinus rhythm:  $\Rightarrow$  SA Node Failure

It is caused by the changes of number of impulses emitted from SA node. Heart rates more than 100/min is called (tachycardia), while less than 60/min is called (bradycardia).

**It is usually of two types:**

# Normal Pacemaker Activity in the SA Node



# 1. Sinus bradycardia:

□ Abnormally slow heart rhythm.

< 60

← المشكلة بال SA node  
راجع يهني قلعة بال HR اقل من 60

المشكلة بال AV node

□ May result from:

لا يعمل Conduction Block  
الرجي لانه به يعمل Propagate

- Abnormal impulse formation (Sinus bradycardia).
- Abnormal conduction of impulses (AV conduction block).

# 1. Sinus bradycardia:

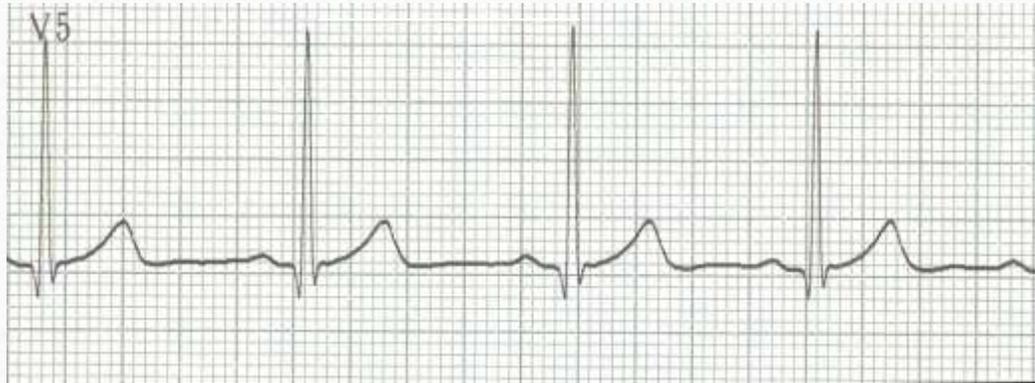
➤ Sinus node disorders.

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➤ Sinus node (and AV Node) Function is profoundly influenced by autonomic nervous system tone.

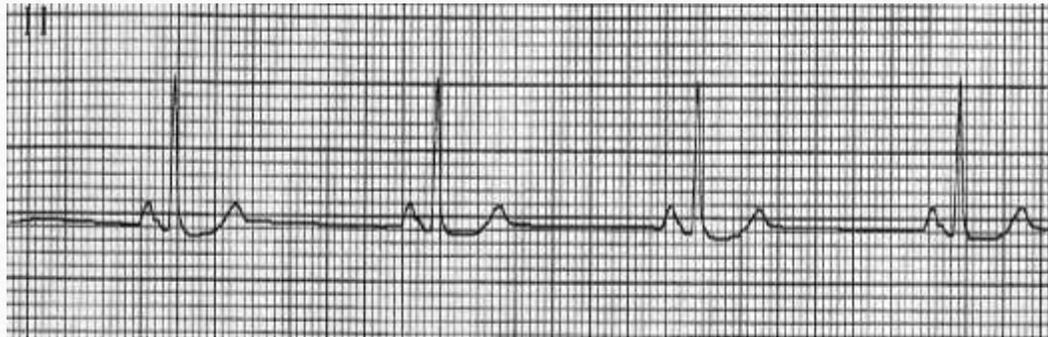
- Increase in sympathetic tone or circulating catecholamines increases sinus rate.
- Increase in parasympathetic tone slows sinus rate.

**Normal Sinus Rhythm: 60 – 100 beats per minute (bpm)**



**Sinus cycle length=920 ms  
Heart rate = 65 bpm**

**Sinus Bradycardia: < 60 bpm**



**Sinus cycle length=1400 ms  
Heart rate = 43 bpm**

# 1. Sinus bradycardia:



## Causes:

- 50-60 bpm
- قلت هرمونات ال thyroid  
انخفاض الحرارة
- ← خارجة عن عتبة القلب  
ارتفاع ضغط العين -
- A. Extrinsic causes: hypothermia, hypothyroidism, and raised intra cranial pressure, **drugs** (beta-blockers, digitalis, and anti-arrhythmic drugs).  
عكس Sympathetic مع Parasympathetic
- ← من القلب نفسه
- B. Intrinsic causes: acute ischemia, infarction of SA node.
- ECG changes**: Prolonged R-R interval.

## 2. Sinus tachycardia

✓ **Abnormally rapid heart rhythm.**

✓ **May result from:**

○ **Abnormal impulse formation :**

• Automaticity.

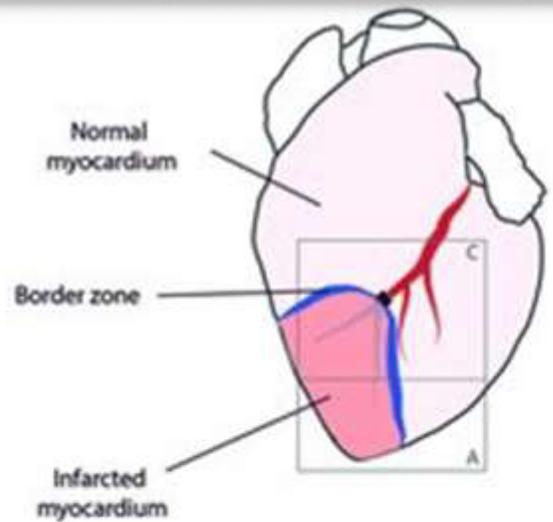
• Triggered activity.

شرحناهم بالأول

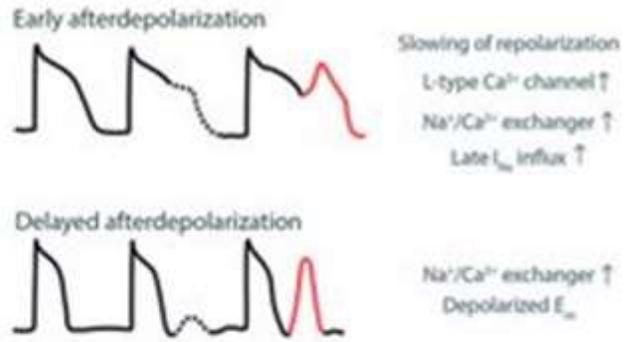
○ **Abnormal impulse conduction:**

• **Re-entry.**

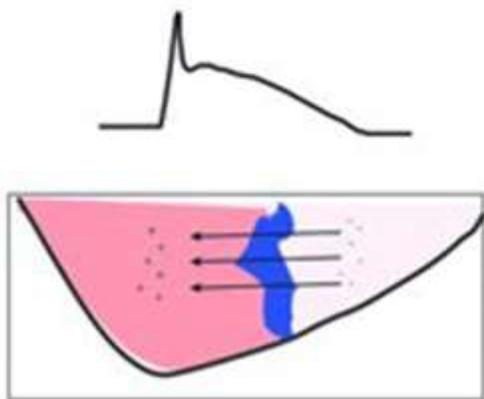
Block بتسمى لأنه عندي  
او ischemia



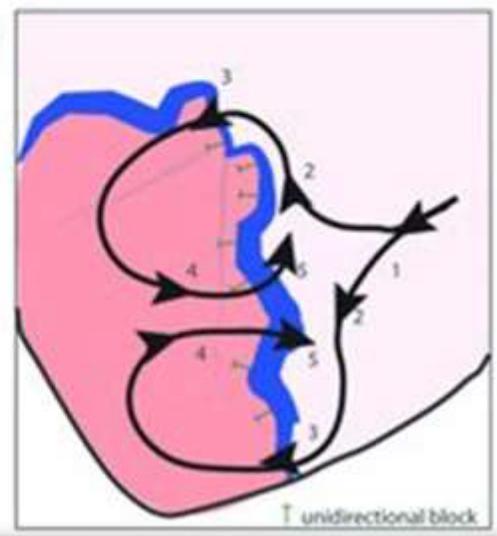
**B** Triggered activity



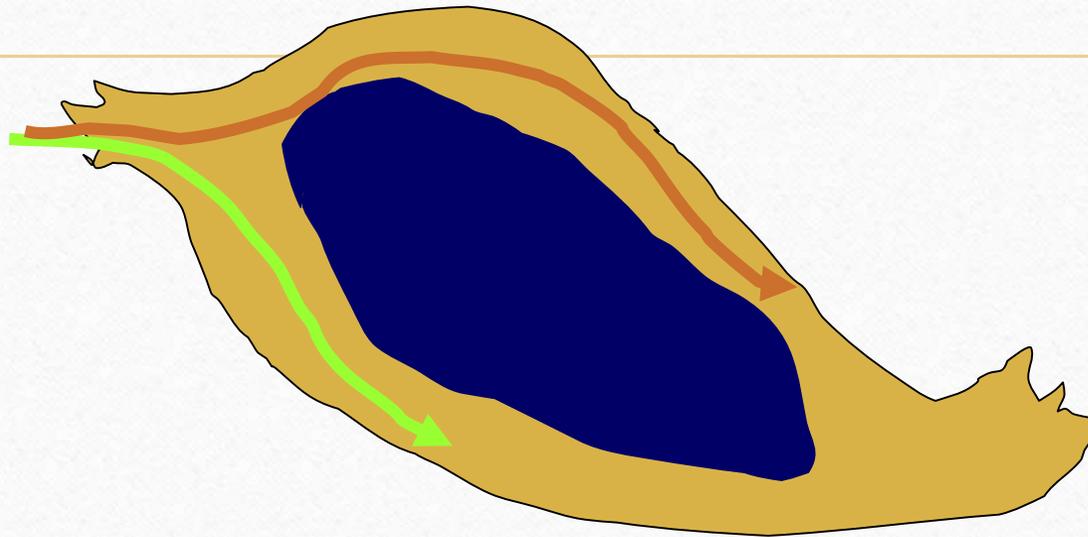
**A** Automaticity (Injury current)



**C** Reentry



# Requirements for Reentry

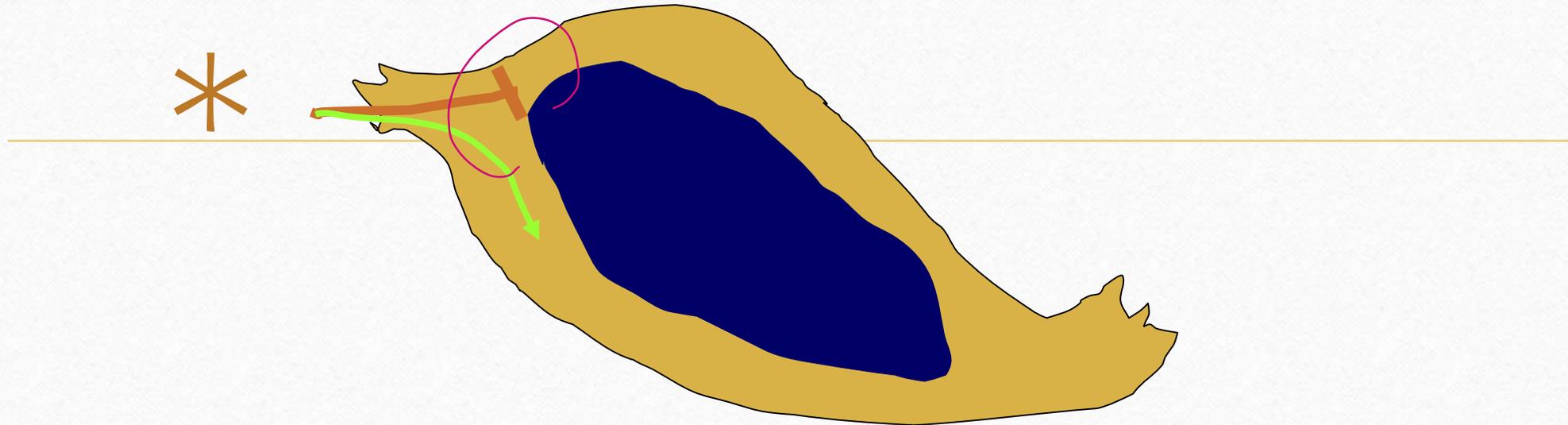


الوضع الطبيعي

Basal state – conduction over both pathways – wavefronts collide

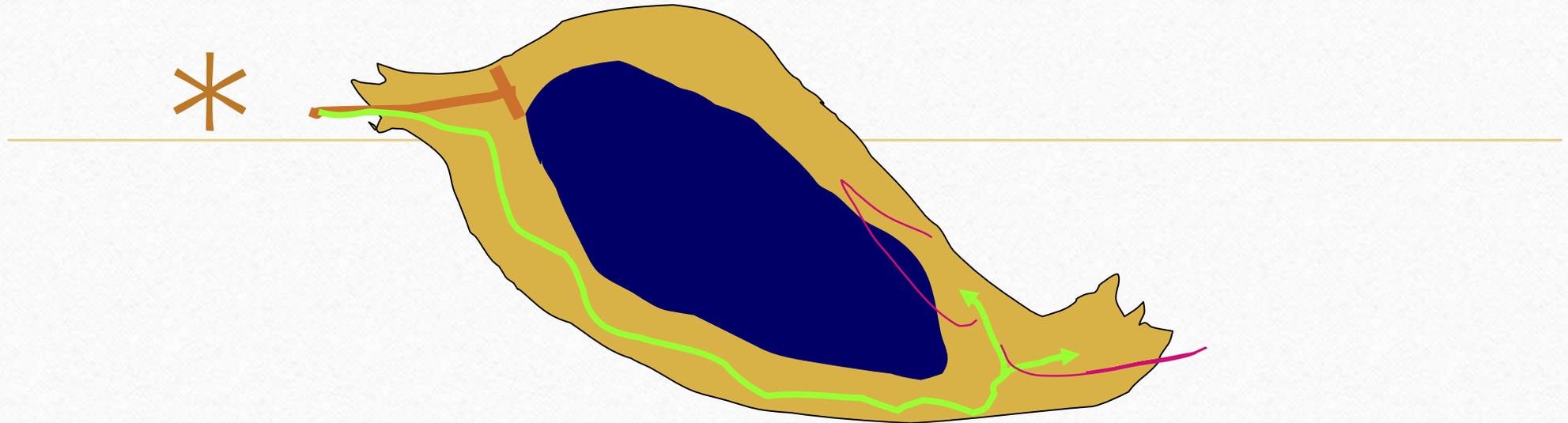
فرق موجات

# Initiation of Reentry



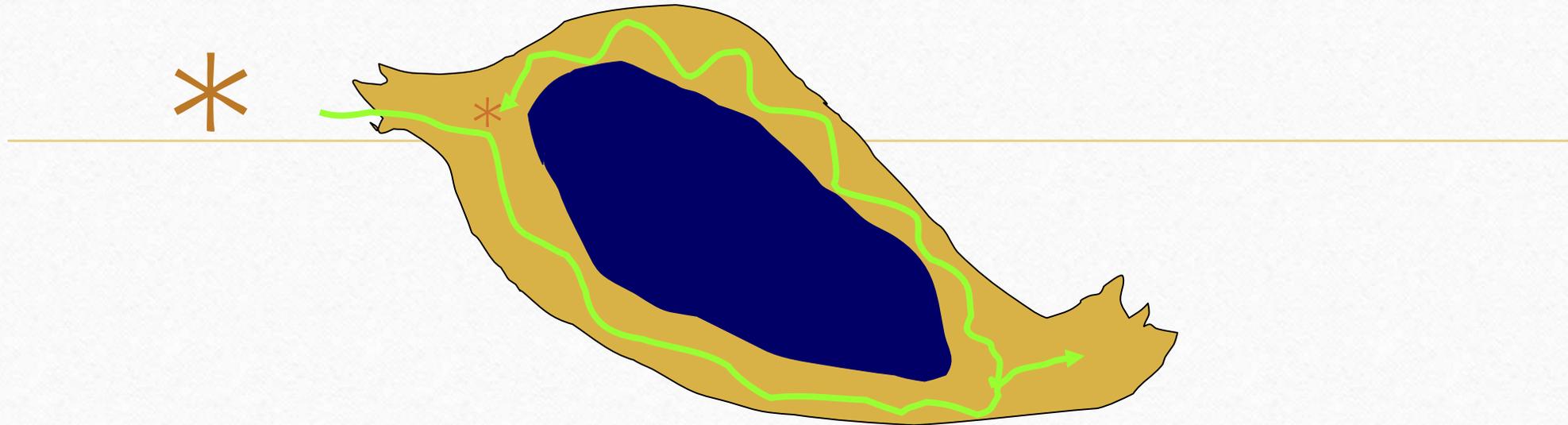
Premature impulse (\*) finds one pathway (blue) refractory, hence conduction blocks. The alternate pathway (green) is excitable, and able to conduct.

# Initiation of Reentry



Although the **green** is able to conduct, because it was activated prematurely the tissue was still in its **relative refractory period**. Therefore, conduction over this pathway occurs more slowly than normal.

# Initiation of Reentry



If conduction over **green** is adequately slow, enough time may elapse for the original site of **blue** conduction block (\*) to recover excitability. If this occurs, the green impulse may establish **REENTRY**.

## 2. Sinus tachycardia

### Reentry

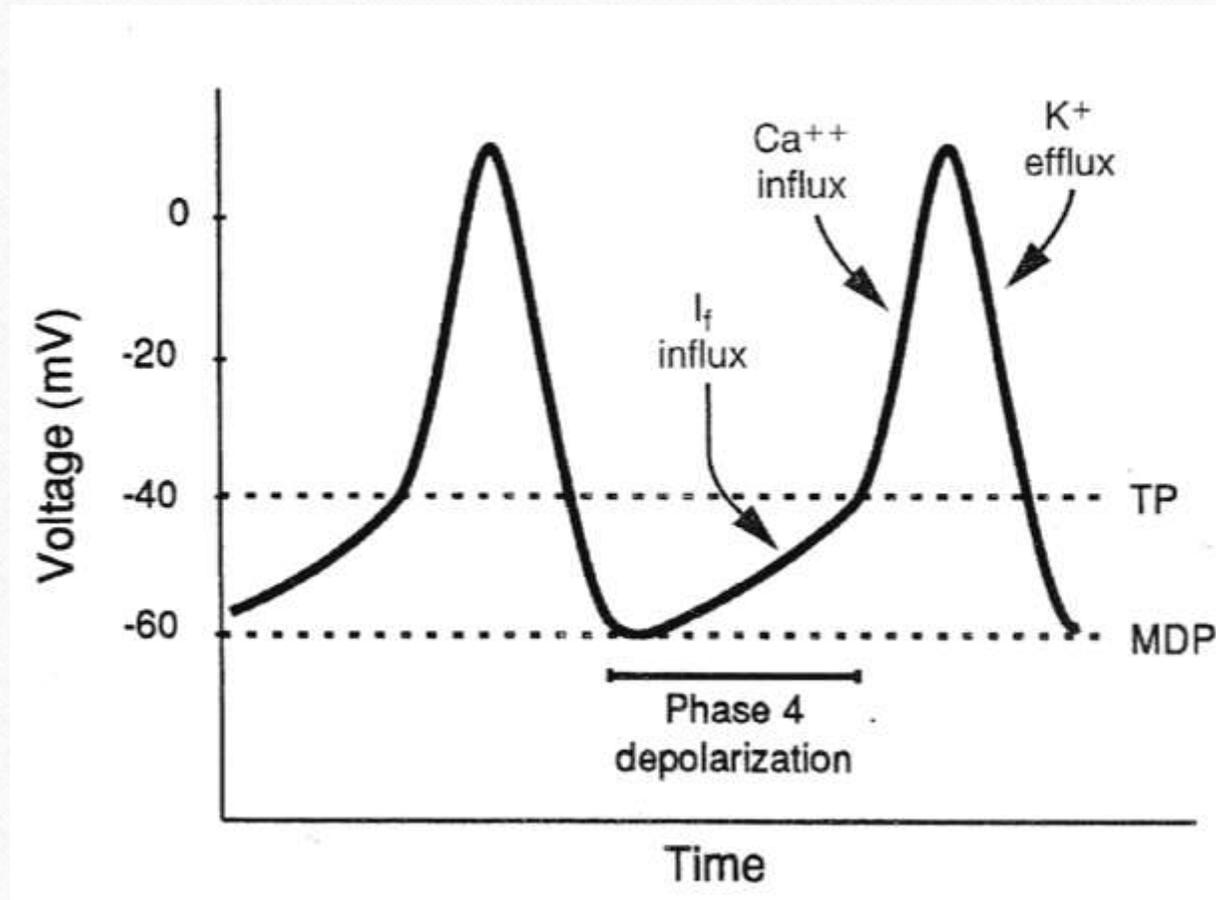
#### ❖ Requisites:

≥ 2 pathways for impulse conduction that can be joined proximally and distally.

#### ❖ Initiation of reentry requires :

1. Unidirectional block in one pathway.  
*احادي الاتجاه*
2. Slow conduction in the alternate path.
3. Recovery of excitability at the original site of block.

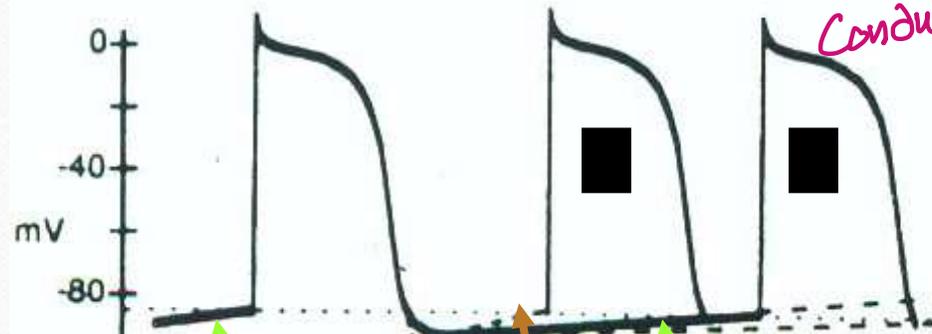
# Normal Pacemaker Activity in the SA Node



# 2. Sinus tachycardia

## Enhanced Normal Automaticity

المشكلة بال SA Node بتزيد HR اقل من 100  
المشكلة بال AV Node بتقلل من ال Conduction

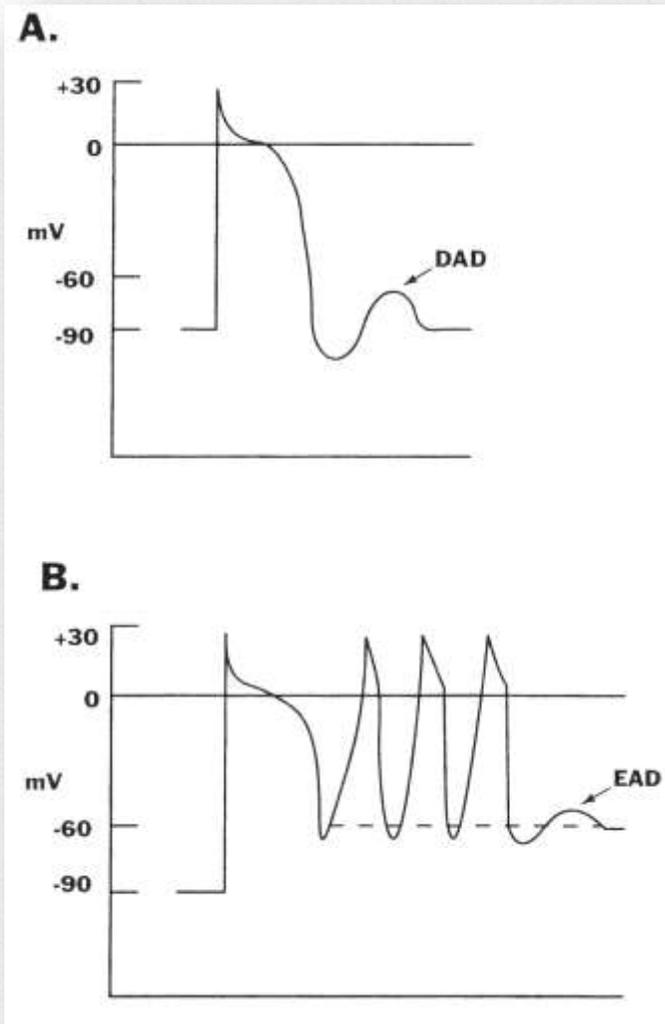


Basal condition

Increased slope of phase 4 depolarization

## 2. Sinus tachycardia

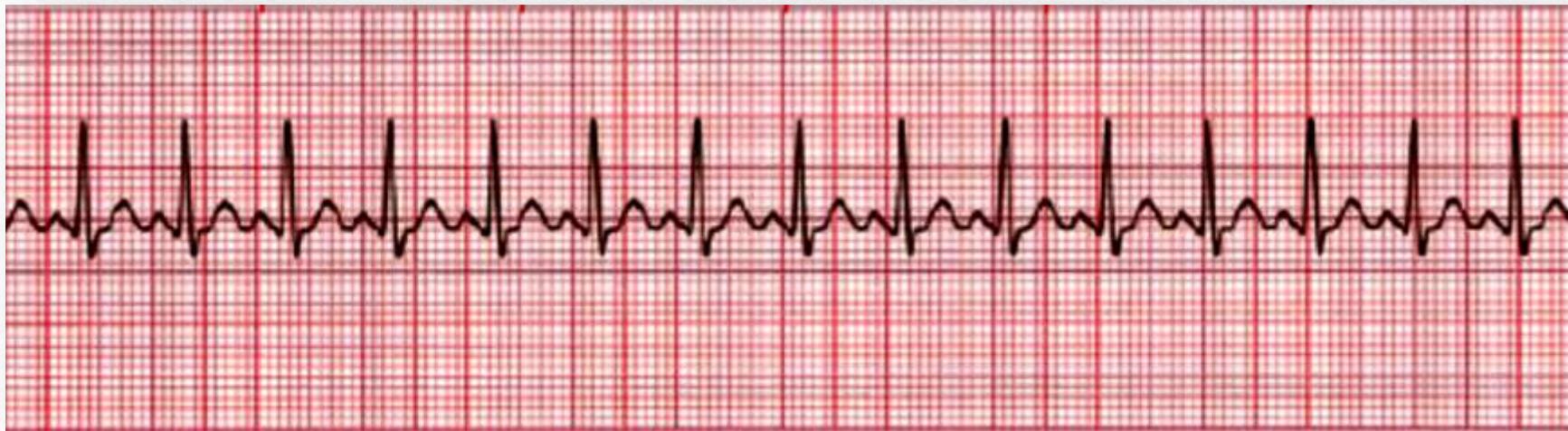
### Triggered activity



**Delayed Afterdepolarization:**  
(typical of digitalis toxicity)  
Arises after repolarization  
is complete.

**Early Afterdepolarization:**  
(associated with LQT  
Syndrome). Arises  
during phase 2 or 3 of  
repolarization.

**2. Sinus tachycardia:** causes A. **acute causes:** exercise, emotion, pain, fever, acute heart failure, B. **chronic causes:** pregnancy, anemia, hyperthyroidism, excess catecholamine. ECG: short R-R interval.



❖ Ectopic beat (extra-systoles, premature beat):

عندئذ ينبهني على تأخرها بتعدي فجأة

A premature contraction is contraction of heart before the time that normal contraction would have been expected. Most premature contraction result from ectopic foci in the heart, which emits abnormal impulses at odd time during cardiac rhythm.

## Possible causes of ectopic foci are:

- ❶ The local area of ischemia.
- ❷ Small calcified plaques at different points in the heart press against the adjacent cardiac muscle so some fibers are irritated.
- ❸ Toxic irritation of the AV node, Purkinje system, or myocardium caused by drugs, nicotine, or caffeine. If an irritable ectopic focus discharges once, the result is an ectopic beat. If the ectopic foci discharge repetitively at a rate higher than that of the SA node, it produces rapid, irregular tachycardia.

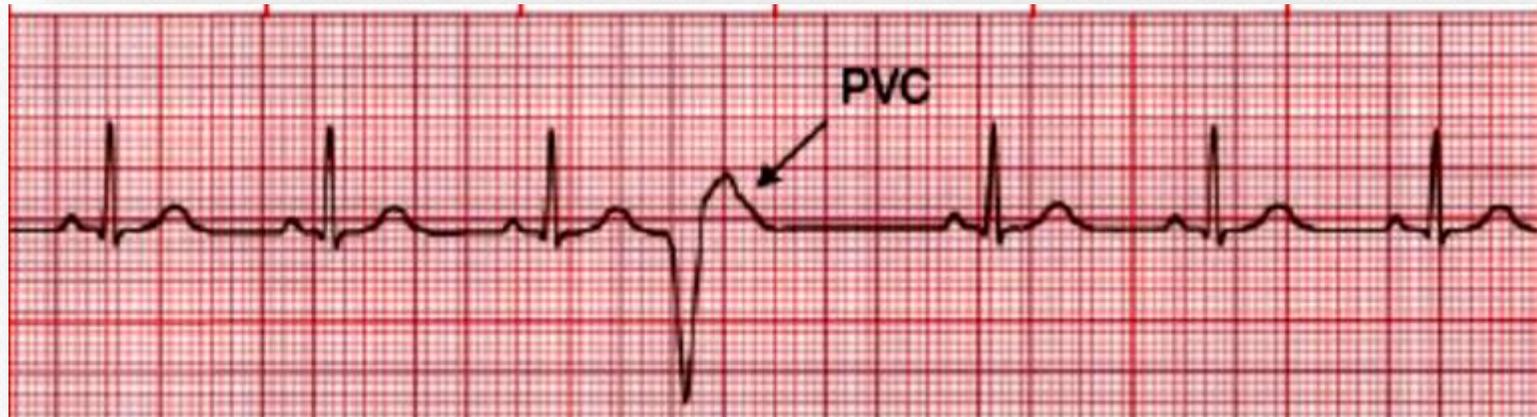
It could be:

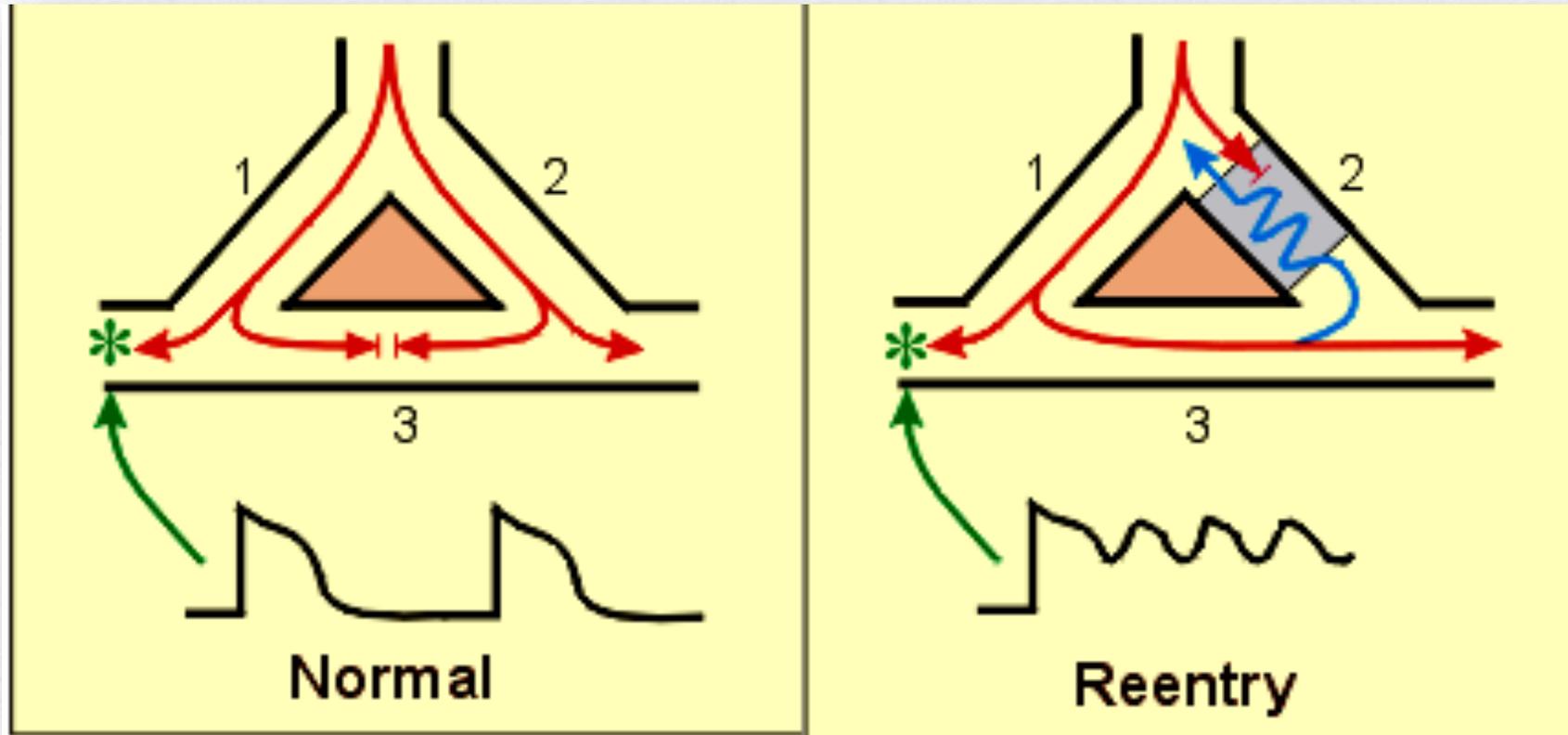
**1. Atrial ectopic:** The ECG changes are:

- ❶ The P wave of this beat occurs too soon in the heart cycle,
- ❷ The P-R interval is shortened, indicating that the ectopic origin of the beat is near the A-V node
- ❸ The interval between the premature contraction and next succeeding contraction is slightly prolonged, which is called (compensatory pause).



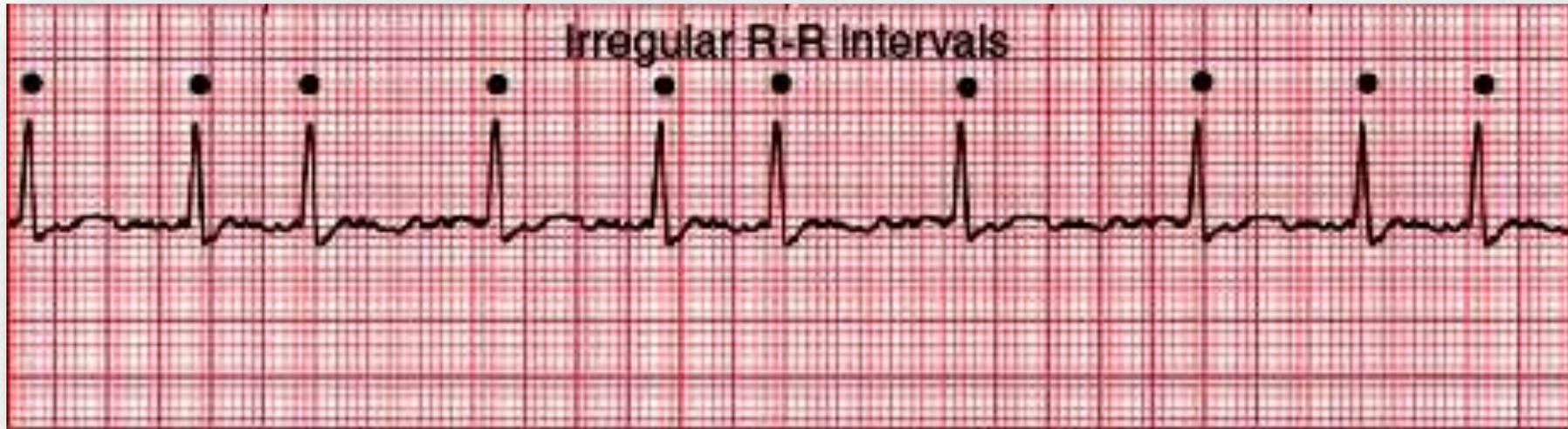
## 2. ventricular ectopic:





**2. Re-entry:** when the tachycardia is initiated by an ectopic beat but sustained by a closed-loop or re-entry circuit. Most tachyarrhythmias are due to re-entry.

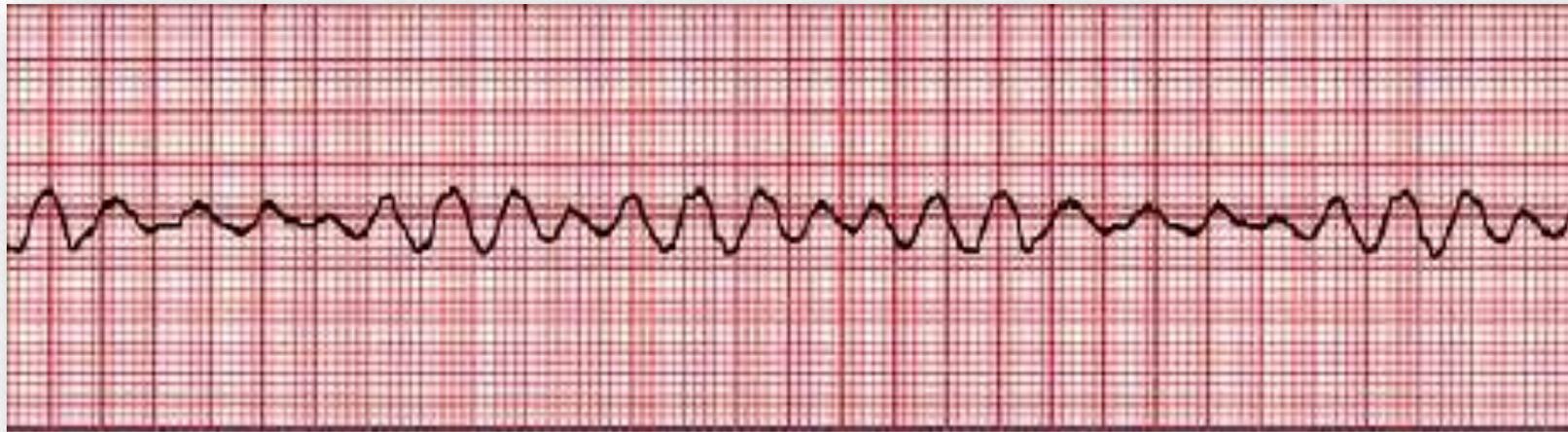
A. Atrial fibrillation: ECG: normal but irregular QRS, there are no P waves but the baseline may show irregular fibrillation waves.



## **B. Ventricular fibrillation:**

The effects of ventricular fibrillation: The fibrillating ventricles, like the fibrillating atria, look like a quivering "bag of worms". The fibrillating ventricles cannot pump blood effectively and circulation of the blood stops. Therefore, in the absence of emergency treatment, ventricular fibrillation that last more than a few minutes is fatal. The most common cause of sudden death in patients with myocardial infarction is ventricular fibrillation. The ventricular fibrillation can often be stopped and converted to normal sinus rhythm by mean of electrical shock. The ECG changes: it shows waves of varying frequency and amplitude.

**B. Ventricular fibrillation:**



## □ Anti-arrhythmic drugs:

Classification of anti-arrhythmic drugs (Vaughan-Williams classification):

### Goal of therapy:

a. Therapy aims ① to restore normal pacemaker activity ② modify impaired conduction that leads to arrhythmias. Conduction velocity depends on the size of the inward current during upstroke of the action potential ( $\uparrow$ inward current  $\rightarrow$   $\uparrow$  the velocity of conductance)

**b. Therapeutic effects are achieved by:**

❶ sodium- or calcium-channel blockade, ❷ prolongation of the effective refractory period (it is slightly longer than an absolute refractory period), ❸ blockade of sympathetic effects on the heart. Many anti-arrhythmic drugs affect depolarized tissue (ectopic foci) to a greater extent than they affect normally polarized tissue.

## □ Anti-arrhythmic Drugs:

### Treatment of tachy-arrhythmias:

#### Class I:

- a. Quinidine
- b. Disopyramide
- c. Lidocaine [Xylocaine]
- d. Flecainide
- e. propafenone



activation  $\Rightarrow$  sympath  
de activation  $\Rightarrow$  para

## Class II:

Class II drugs are  $\beta$ -adrenoceptor antagonists, including propranolol, which act by reducing sympathetic stimulation. They inhibit phase 4 depolarization, depress automaticity; prolong AV conduction, and decrease heart rate (except for agents that have sympathomimetic activity) and contractility.

### Major drugs:

- a. Propranolol [Inderal],
- b. Atenolol,
- c. Metoprolol
- d. Bisoprolol
- e. Sotalol

## Class III:

Class III drugs prolong action potential duration and effective refractory period. These drugs act by interfering with outward K currents or slow inward Na currents.

### - Amiodarone [Cordarone]:

a. Amiodarone is structurally related to thyroxine. It increases refractoriness, and it also depresses sinus node automaticity and slows conduction.

## Class IV drugs:

*Calcium Channels Blockers*

### Mechanism

- a. Class IV drugs selectively block L-type calcium channels.
- b. These drugs prolong nodal conduction and effective refractory period and have predominate actions in nodal tissues

### - Verapamil [Calan, Isoptin]:

- a. Verapamil is a phenylalkylamine that blocks both activated and inactivated slow calcium channels.

## Other anti-arrhythmic drugs:

- ✓ Digoxin: can control ventricular response in atrial flutter or fibrillation.
- Digoxin toxicity
  - Extracardiac manifestations
    - a. anorexia, nausea, vomiting
    - b. Diarrhoea
  - Cardiac manifestations
    - a. Bradycardia
    - b. Multiple ventricular ectopics
    - c. Ventricular bigeminy (premature ventricular contraction)

## □ Treatment of Brady-arrhythmia:

### 1. Atropine

- a. Atropine blocks the effects of acetylcholine. It elevates sinus rate and AV nodal and sinoatrial (SA) conduction velocity, and it decreases refractory period.
- b. Atropine is used to treat bradyarrhythmias that accompany MI.

### 2. Isoproterenol [Isuprel]

- a. Isoproterenol stimulates  $\beta$ -adrenoceptors and increases heart rate and contractility. agonist
- b. Isoproterenol is used to maintain adequate heart rate and cardiac output in patients with AV block.

