

Six Second ECG[®] Quick Steps

- 1. HEART RATE** - Too fast? Too slow? GO!!
- 2. QRS** - Narrow (supraventricular) or Wide (ventricular)?
- 3. P's** - P waves and Pattern

P waves?

Upright P wave = **SA origin**

Biphasic P wave = **Atrial origin**

Inverted or absent P wave = **Junctional origin**

Pattern? If irregular, begin by hunting for normal

AV Blocks

- 1^o AV Block:** long PR Interval (>.20 seconds)
- 2^o AV Block Type I:** Lonely Ps - lengthening of the PR interval
- 2^o AV Block Type II:** Lonely Ps - fixed PR interval
- 3^o AV Block:** Regular rhythm with an ever-changing PR interval

NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS

Wide QRS complexes consistently preceded by P waves likely form a supraventricular rhythm with aberrant ventricular conduction i.e. bundle branch block

If the rhythm is chaotic, think fibrillation. A chaotic rhythm without recognizable QRS complexes is likely ventricular fibrillation or artifact - a chaotic rhythm with recognizable QRS complexes is likely atrial fibrillation

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