Contents

1. Introduction, Anatomical and Physiological Consideration 1

- **The Cardiac Conduction System: The Wiring System of the Heart 1**
  - Origin and Spread of Cardiac Excitation 1
  - Impulse Conduction through the Heart 3
  - SA Node of Keith and Flack 4
  - Internodal Conduction Pathways 4
  - The AV Node 5
  - The Bundle of His and the Bundle Branches 5
  - Purkinje Fibers or Purkinje Cardiomyocytes 6
- **The Cardiac Cell Action Potential 7**
  - Action Potential in Cardiomyocytes 7
  - Refractory Period 10
- **ECG Waveforms 12**
  - J Wave and U Wave 14

2. Technical Aspects of ECG 16

- **What is an ECG? 16**
  - Utility of ECG: With ECGs We Can Identify 17
- **ECG Paper and Timing 17**
  - ECG Leads 19
  - Placement of Electrodes 21
  - Standard Sites Unavailable 21
  - Precordial Leads 24
  - Color Codes Given by AHA 24
  - Limb Leads Electrodes 26
  - Ambulatory ECG Monitoring 33

3. Rate, Rhythm, and Axis 40

- **Reading 12-Lead ECG 40**
- **Rate 40**
  - Rule of 300 40

- 6-Second Rule 42
- For Irregular Rhythms 42

♦ **Rhythm 43**
- Determine Regularity 43
- Normal Sinus Rhythm 44
- Sinus Bradycardia 44
- Sinus Tachycardia 45
- Sinus Pause 45
- Atrial Fibrillation 45
- Atrial Flutter 46
- Ventricular Fibrillation 46
- Ventricular Tachycardia 46
- Torsades de Pointes 47
- Supraventricular Tachycardia 47
- Types 47

♦ **Axis 48**
- The QRS Axis 48
- Cardiac Axis 48
- Genesis of QRS 48
- Determining the Axis 51

4. Waves, Segments, and Intervals 62

♦ **Understanding ECG Waveform 62**

♦ **P Waves 63**
- Assess the P Waves 63
- Abnormalities of P Wave 63
- Other P Wave Abnormalities 65

♦ **PR Interval 65**
- Atrioventricular Block 66
- Short PR Interval 67

♦ **PR Segment 69**

♦ **QRS Complex 70**
- Glassglow Scoring System 79
- Bundle Branch Blocks 80
- QRS Complex 82

♦ **J Point 86**

♦ **ST Segment 86**

♦ **T Wave 87**

♦ **QT-Interval 93**

- **U-Wave 97**
  - Normal Variants 98
  - Electrocardiogram Rules of Normal ECG 98

5. ECG in Myocardial Infarction 103

- **Acute Coronary Syndrome 103**
- **Myocardial Infarction 103**
  - ECG Changes: Ischemia 104
  - ECG Changes: Injury 105
  - ECG Changes: Infarct 107
  - Evolving MI and Hallmarks of AMI 107
  - Reciprocal Changes 107
- **Use of ECG in a Setting of MI 107**
- **Localization of MI Based on ECG 109**
- **Blood Supply of the Heart 110**
- **Anterior Wall Myocardial Infarction 111**
  - Left Main Coronary Artery Stenosis 115
- **Wellens' Syndrome 115**
  - De Winter's T Waves 116
- **Inferior Infarction 117**
  - Complications of Inferior Infarction: The Big Three 119
- **Right Ventricular Infarction 119**
- **Posterior Myocardial Infarction 120**
- **Lateral STEMI 121**
- **Diagnosis of STEMI in a Setting of LBBB 121**
- **Non-ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction 123**
  - ECG Manifestation 123
- **Complications of Acute Coronary Syndrome 124**

6. Tachyarrhythmia 126

  - Narrow QRS Complex 127
  - Wide QRS Complex 127
- **Narrow Complex Tachydysrhythmias 128**
  - Sinus Rhythm 128
  - Sinus Tachycardia 128
  - Sinus Arrhythmia 129
  - Atrial Flutter 130
  - Supraventricular Tachycardia 131

- AV Nodal Re-entrant Tachycardia 132
- Atrioventricular Reciprocating Tachycardia 134

♦ **Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome 135**
- Treatment of SVT 140
- Junctional Rhythm 141
- Atrial Fibrillation 141
- Atrial Flutter with Variable Block 144
- Multifocal Atrial Tachycardia 146

♦ **Wide Complex Tachycardia 148**
- Causes 148
- Ventricular Tachycardia 148
- Torsades de Pointes 158
- Ventricular Fibrillation 159

7. Bradyarrhythmias 164

♦ **Sinus Bradycardia 164**

♦ **Heart Block 164**
- AV Block 164
- Sinus Node Dysfunction/Sick Sinus Syndrome 167
- Sinoatrial Nodal Exit Block (SA Exit Block) 167

♦ **Cardiac Arrest Rhythms 169**
- Pulseless Electrical Activity 170
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation 170
- Asystole 171

8. Electrolytes and ECG 172

♦ **Potassium Disorders 172**
- ECG Features of Hyperkalemia 172
- ECG Features of Hypokalemia 176

♦ **Calcium Disorders 177**
- ECG Features of Hypocalcemia 177
- ECG Features of Hypercalcemia 177

♦ **Magnesium Disorders 178**
- ECG Features of Hypomagnesemia 178
- ECG Features of Hypermagnesemia 180

9. Drugs and Miscellaneous 182

♦ **Drugs and ECG 182**
- Rhythm and Rate 182

- **Digoxin Effect 186**
  - Digoxin Toxicity 186
  - Tricyclic Antidepressant Overdose 187

Miscellaneous 188

- **Pericarditis 188**
- **Myocarditis 190**
- **Hypertrophic Obstructive Cardiomyopathy 190**
- **Pulmonary Embolism 191**
- **Brugada Pattern 192**
- **Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Dysplasia 193**
- **Benign Early Repolarization 193**
  - Benign Early Repolarization versus Pericarditis 194
- **Hypothermia 194**
- **Congenital Long QT Syndromes 195**
- **Pacing 196**
  - Ventricular Pacing 196
- **Atrial and Ventricular Ectopics 199**
  - Classification of PVCs 200

10. Review—Multiple Choice Questions 204

11. Practice ECGs 224

Index 257