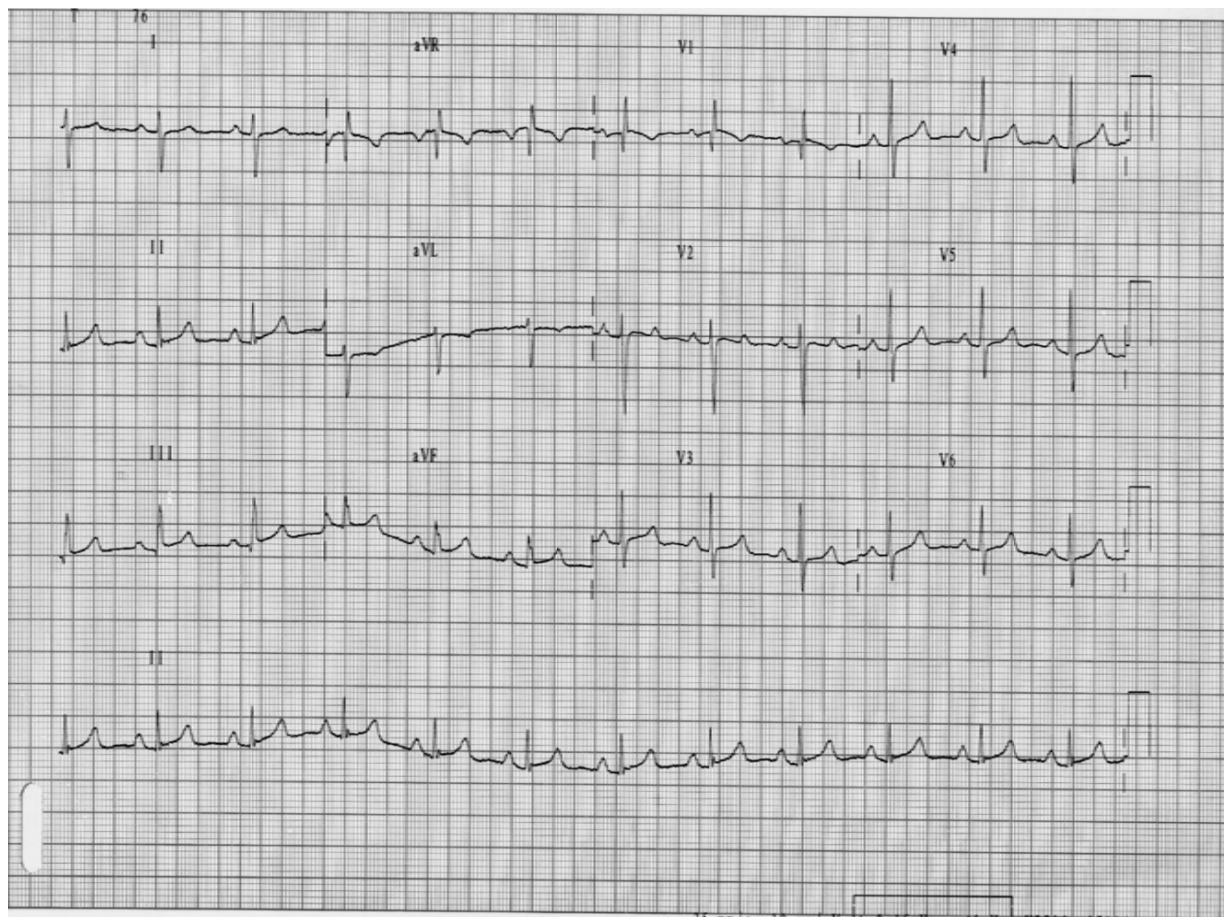


“Thick, Thin, Thick” (A Thin Fellow between 2 thick Fellows)

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This is the ECG of the 48-year-old male who has had heart disease since childhood.

1. What are the ECG signs?
2. Why is this clue?
3. What is the practical implication?

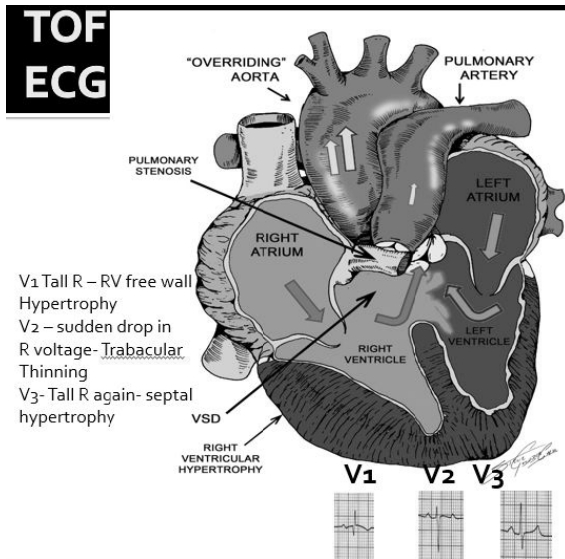
ECG Signs:

The ECG shows signs of RVH and Right Axis Deviation (RAD). Since the patient has a history of heart disease since childhood, it is likely to be Adult Congenital heart disease like ASD, PS, or Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF).

The clue:

There is an important clue in this ECG, which indicates the diagnosis of TOF. The R wave in V1 is tall, and it suddenly drops in voltage in V2, and once again, it picks up in lead V3. This is because, in TOF, the RVH is peculiar. The right free wall is hypertrophied, whereas the trabecular portion is thinned out. There is IVS hypertrophy. This is reflected in ECG as follows:

1. Tall R in V1 – RV free wall hypertrophy
2. Small R in V2 – Trabecular thinning
3. Tall R in V3 – IVS hypertrophy



Because of this, the clue of thick (v1), Thin (V2), Thick (V3) is given.

The practical implication:

The commonest cyanotic heart disease in adults is TOF. The peculiar ECG changes in an adult with central cyanosis make the possibility of TOF the diagnosis even without Echo.