

EKG Fundamentals

Approach to Bradydysrhythmias

Bradycardia is a catch-all category for any rhythm that is abnormally slow. There are many causes but they fall into several general categories including an atrial rate that is too slow or AV nodal problems slowing or blocking atrial beats. Some examples like sinus bradycardia are normal variants but others like complete heart block are life threatening. Arrhythmias that classically cause high rates like atrial flutter and atrial fibrillation can present with bradycardia as well. Additionally the underlying cause of the bradycardia is extremely important as well with a wide range of etiologies including hypothermia, hypoxia, cardiac ischemia, hypothyroidism, hyperkalemia, elevated intracranial pressure, medication effects, and even some infections.

In addition to your physical exam and EKG take as complete a history as the patient's stability will allow with a particular focus on the following aspects.

Medical History—Congenital or acquired heart problems, medications, autoimmunity or infiltrative disease

Symptoms—Chest pain, dyspnea, syncope, hypothyroidism equivalents, fever or rash

Please match the following types of bradycardia with the rhythm strips

- A. Sinus Bradycardia
- B. Sinus Bradycardia with 1st Degree AV Block
- C. Sinus Bradycardia with 2nd Degree AV Block Type 1
- D. Atrial Fibrillation with Slow Ventricular Response
- E. Atrial Flutter with High Degree AV Block

Review Information: [LITFL 1st Degree AV](#) [LITFL 2nd Degree, Type I](#) [LITFL Slow AFib](#) [LITFL Slow Flutter](#)

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Please match the following rhythm strips to the types of bradycardia listed above

