

Runaway Pacemaker a Very Rare But Dangerous Phenomenon

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Abstract

Runaway pacemaker is a dangerous dysfunction characterized by fast spikes that induces ventricular tachycardia usually caused by electronic failure of the device.

The runaway pacemaker is a very rare phenomenon with modern device but if present may be associated with devastating clinical consequences.

Clinical Image

A 72-year-old man with a single chamber (VVIR) Pacemaker (PM) was transported to our hospital because of dyspnea and palpitations.

A 12-lead ECG revealed paced rhythm with ventricular pacing at the rate of 190 bpm (Figure 1). The pacemaker-induced ventricular tachycardia was stopped by applying a magnet to the device. After the application of the magnet, appeared a spontaneous rhythm with a frequency of 67 bpm. The device was explanted with replacement of new VVIR PM. The patient was discharged asymptomatic after 2 days.

Runaway pacemaker was the final diagnosis [1,2].

Conclusion

The Runaway is a very rare phenomenon, but it may be associated with devastating clinical consequences.

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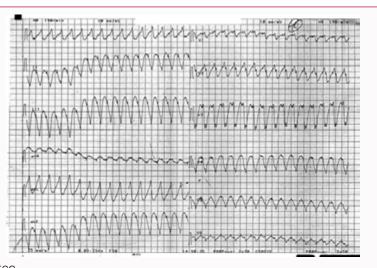


Figure 1: ECG.

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