Experimental Studies on Ectopic Atrial Rhythms in Dogs

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EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES ON ECTOPIC ATRIAL
RHYTHMS IN DOGS

by


Summary: In the present experiments, activation of the canine atria
from the region of the coronary sinus or A-V node did not result in
inversion of the P wave in electrocardiographic leads II, III and AVF
unless there was concomitant damage to atrial myocardium. The results
obtained suggest that when the P wave is inverted in these leads, one
should suspect that intra-atrial or interatrial conduction defects
coeexist with ectopic or retrograde activation of the atria.

The absence of change in P wave polarity in leads II, III and
AVF or significant change in mean electrical axis of the P wave
during activation of the atria originating in the coronary sinus or
A-V nodal regions is thought to depend on the function of specialized
intra-atrial conducting paths. Some problems associated with destruction
of the SA node and recording reliable P waves from the dog have been
discussed.

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