

EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES ON ECTOPIC ATRIAL
RHYTHMS IN DOGS

by

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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 coexist 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.