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EKG INTERPRETATION PART I

WHAT IS EKG?



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- EKG or ECG= **electrocardiogram (~graphy)**
- means the recording of the heart electrical activity
- from Greek kardia= heart, graphein= to write



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CARDIAC CELL PHYSIOLOGY



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- **CARDIAC CELL PHASES: RESTING, DEPOLARIZATION AND REPOLARIZATION**
- **TYPES OF CARDIAC CELLS**
- **MEMBRANE POTENTIAL VS ACTION POTENTIAL**
- **ION CHANNELS**
- **CARDIAC MUSCLE CONTRACTION AND RELAXATION**

CARDIAC CELL PHYSIOLOGY 1



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- 3 phases of cardiac cells:
 - 1. RESTING
 - 2. DEPOLARIZATION
 - 3. REPOLARIZATION
- 1. At rest, cell is more negative inside than outside mainly due to ATP pumps, e.g. Na/K pump (3Na out/2K in). Proteins and phosphates are big negative molecules found inside the cell.

CARDIAC CELL PHYSIOLOGY 2



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- **2. DEPOLARIZATION:** cell turns from negative to **positive inside**.
- The cause of depolarization is an influx of ions of **Na and Ca inside** the cell.
- Depolarization is **propagated from cell to cell** producing a wave of depolarization that can be transmitted to the entire heart. This wave represents a **flow of electrons** (negative charges outside), an electrical current that can be detected by **electrodes** placed on the surface of the body.
- **3. REPOLARIZATION:** cardiac cells restore their **resting polarity** (**negative inside**)
- Cause: Na and Ca channels close and K channels open so an efflux of **K ions leaves** the cell.
- Repolarization can be sensed by recording electrodes.
- All of the different **waves** that we can see **on an EKG** are manifestations of these 2 processes: **depolarization** and **repolariation**.

CARDIAC CELL PHYSIOLOGY 3



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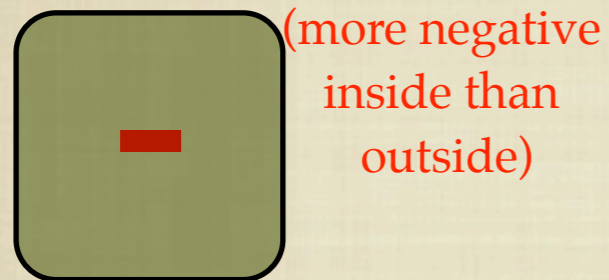
	resting	depolarization	repolarization
inside of the cell	negative	positive	negative
due to	proteins phosphates Na/K pump	influx Na, Ca	efflux K
propagation from cell to cell	no	yes	yes

CARDIAC CELL PHYSIOLOGY 4

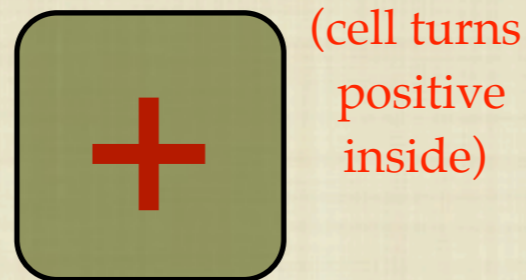


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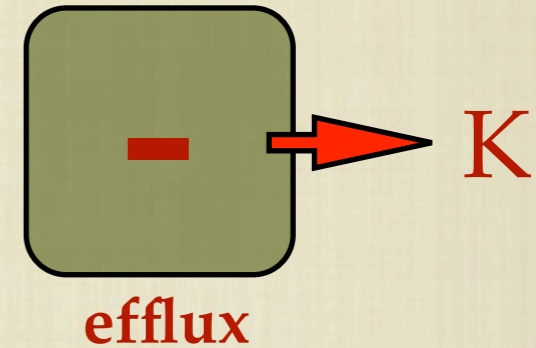
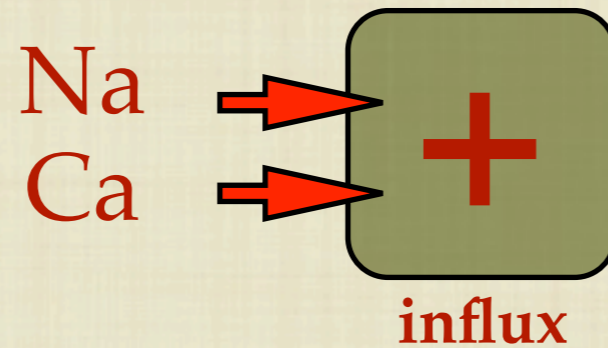
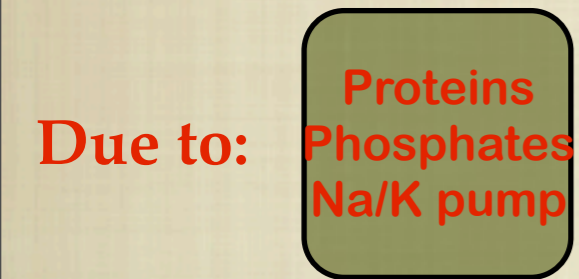
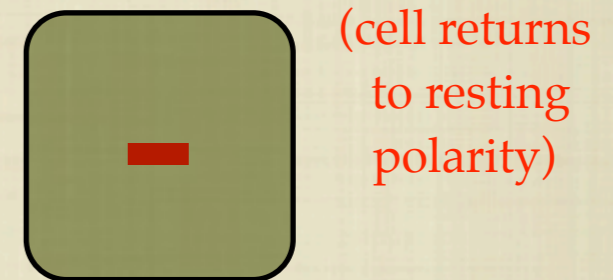
1. Resting cell=polarized cell



2. Depolarization



3. Repolarization

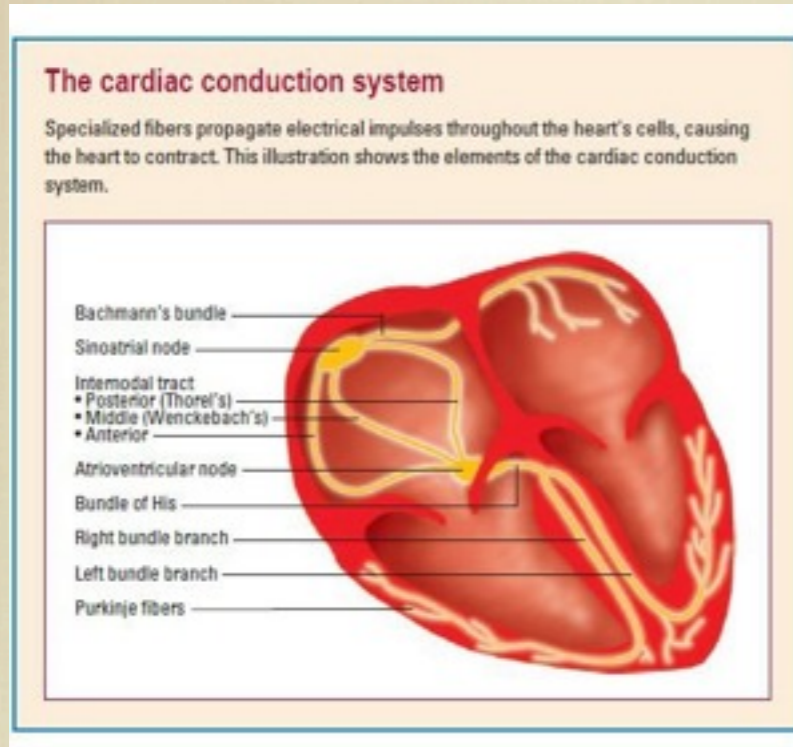


	MEMBRANE POTENTIAL	ACTION POTENTIAL
def	difference in electrical charge (voltage) across the cell membrane in resting state	short living event including Depolarization and Repolarization
cell	ALL CELLS	EXCITATORY CELLS only (nerve, cardiac*, muscle, endocrine)

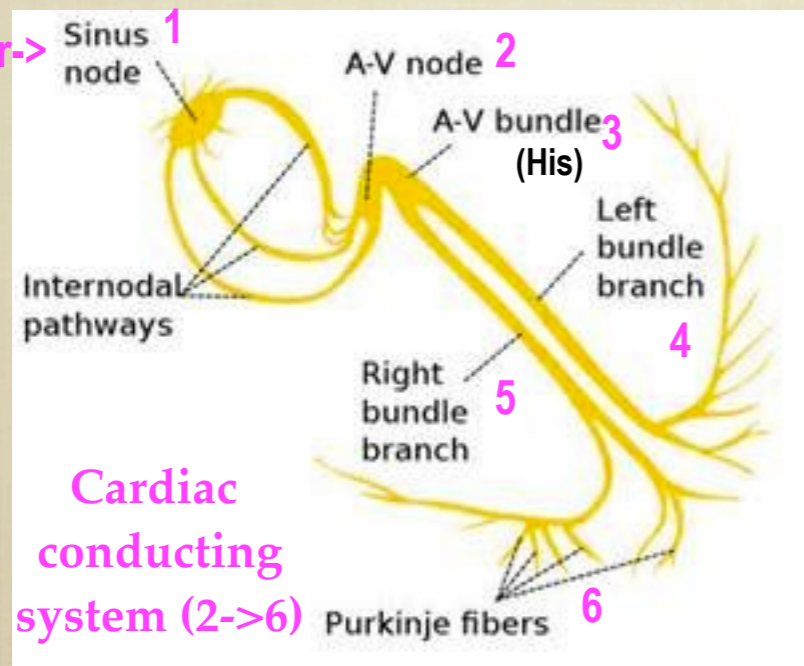
3 TYPES OF CARDIAC CELLS



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Pacemaker -> (1)

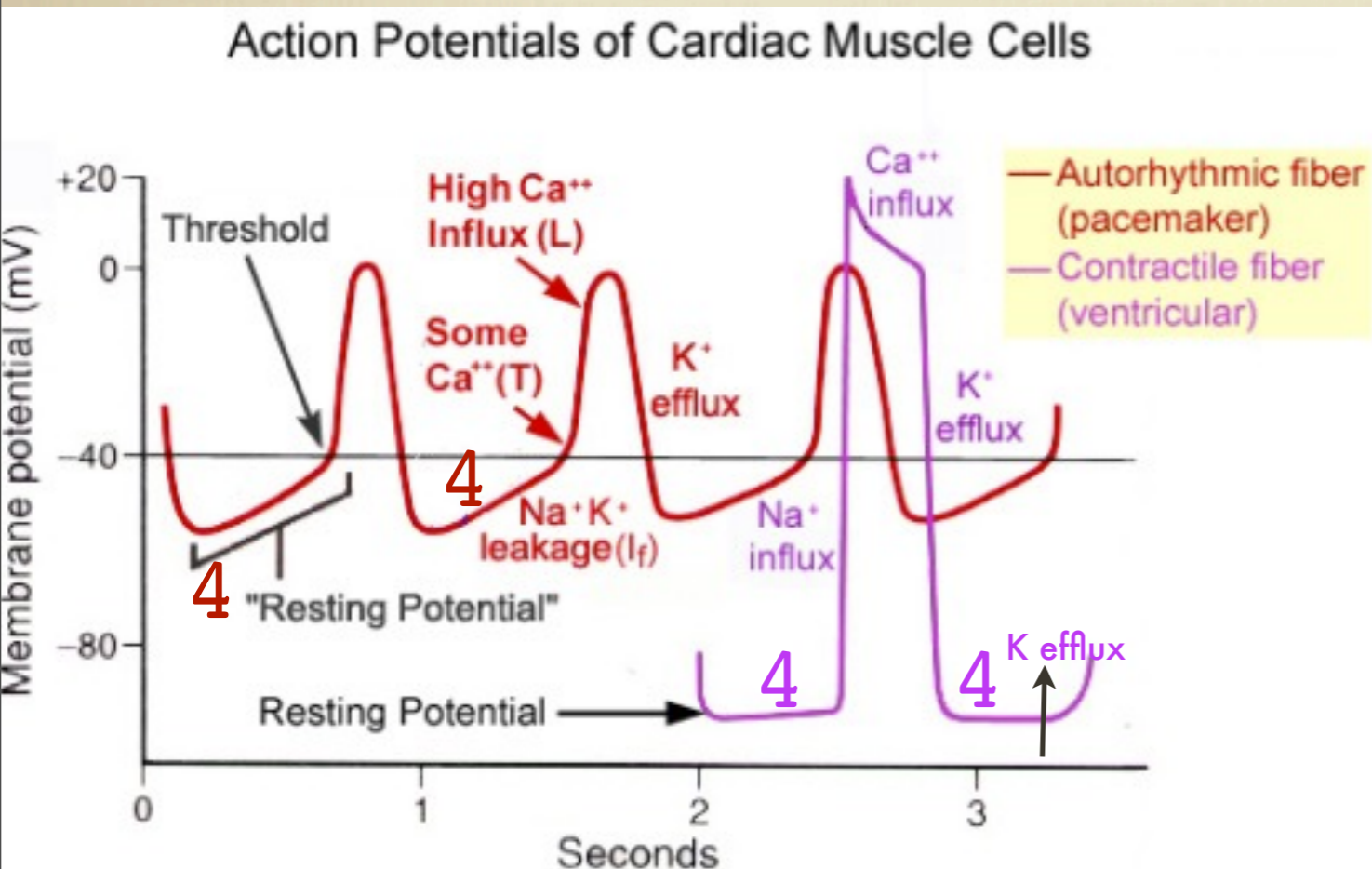


- 3 TYPES of CARDIAC CELLS:
- **pacemaker cells**
= electrical power source
SA node (1) or AV node (2)
- **electrical conducting cells**
= wire of the heart
AV node(2) His bundle(3) with 2 branches(4,5) and Purkinje fibers(6)
- **myocardial cells**
= contractile pump of the heart

2 TYPES OF RESTING POTENTIAL

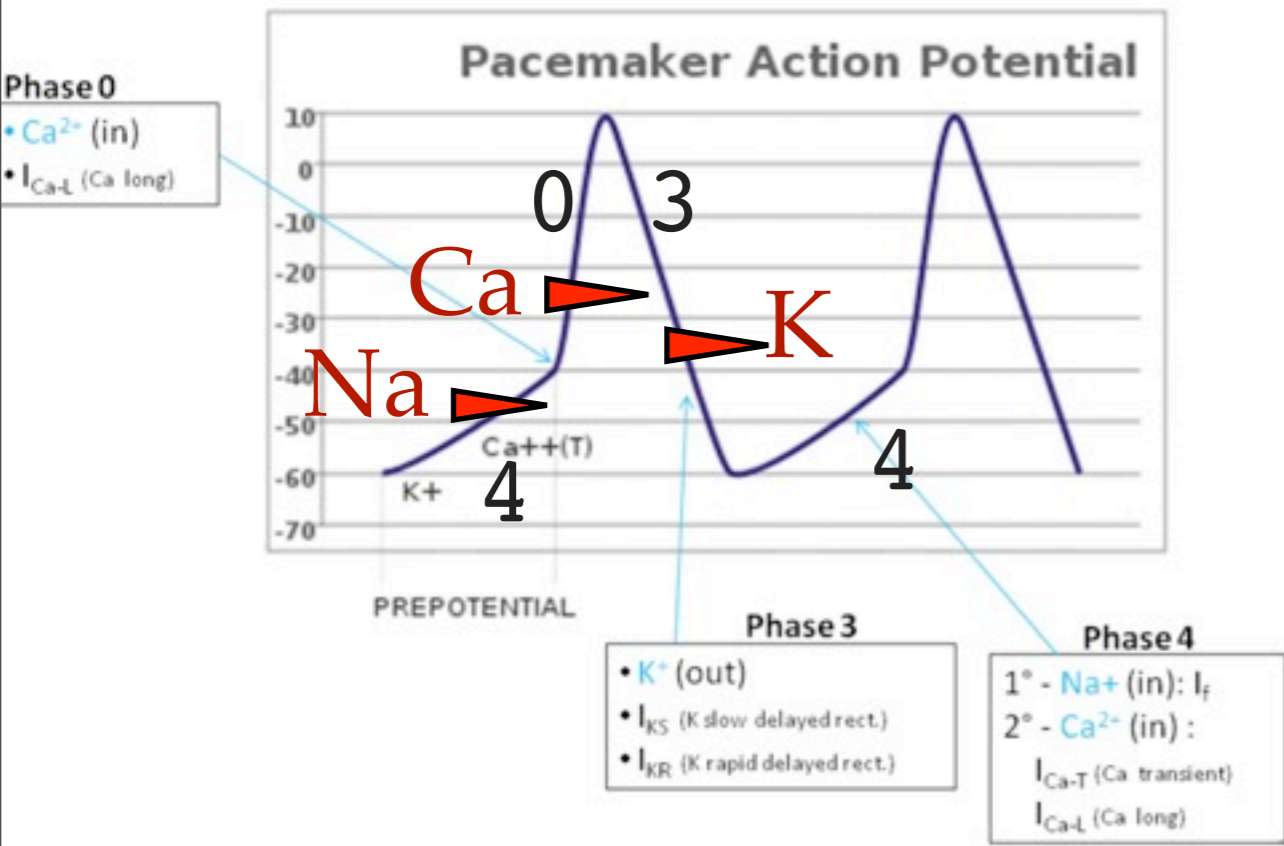


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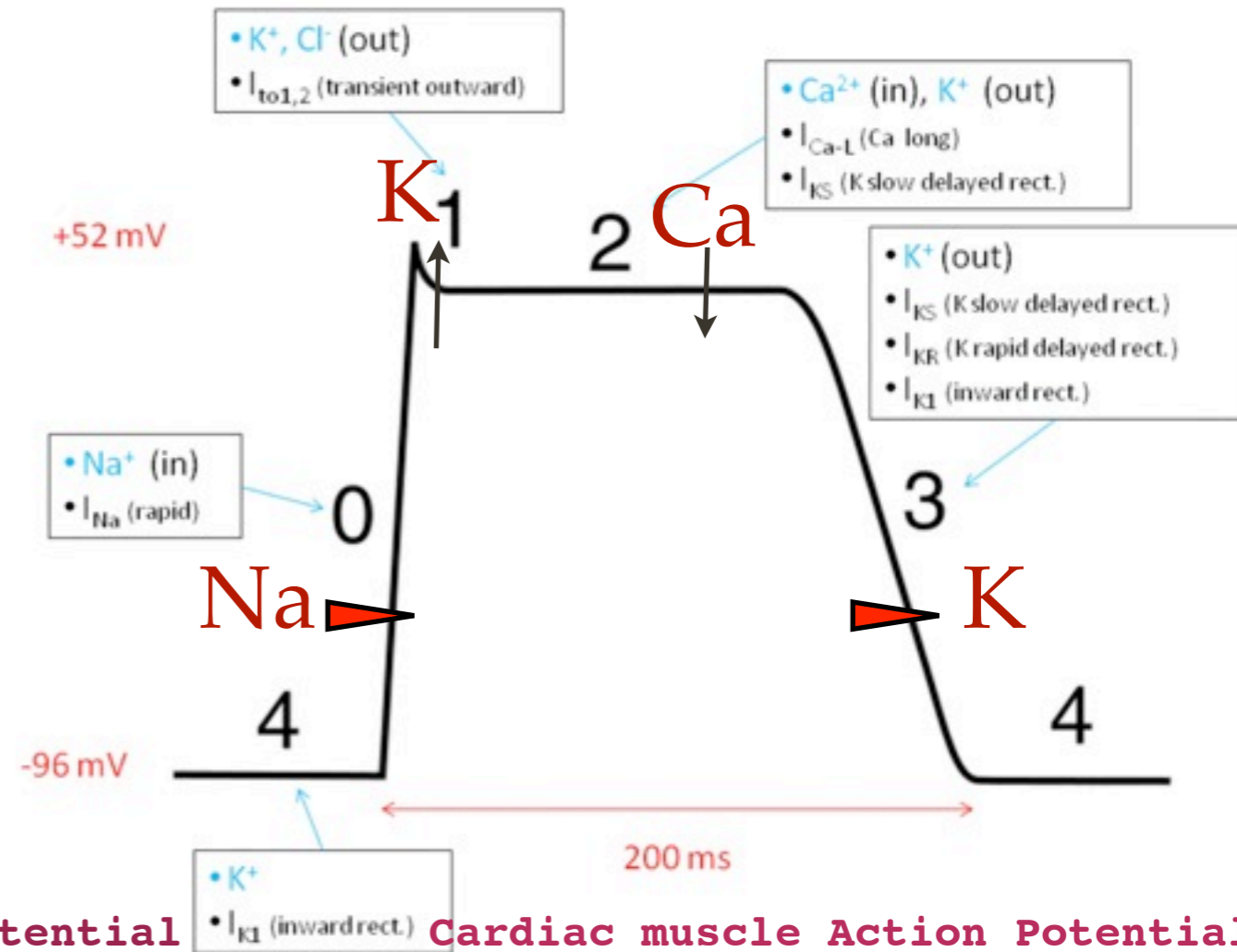


	Pacemaker	Cardiac muscle
Resting Potential (4)	variable -60 to -40 mV	stable -96 mV
Due to:	slow influx of Na = "funny current" (I_f) and some CaT (transient)	ions inside vs outside the cell; K efflux (I_{K1})

2 TYPES OF ACTION POTENTIAL



SA node, AV node Action Potential



Cardiac muscle Action Potential

0	Depolarization	Ca influx	Na influx
3	Repolarization	K efflux	K efflux
1-2	Rapid repolarization(1) and Plateau (2)	-	K efflux(1) & Ca influx(2)

3 TYPES OF ION CHANNELS



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	TYPE OF CHANNELS	DESCRIPTION
I	VOLTAGE GATED	<p>“GATED” called like this because of an imaginary gate that opens or closes in this case at voltage variation across the cell membrane allowing or not ions inside the cell. There are voltage gated channels for Na, Ca and K, usually more than one type for each ion.</p> <p>When one channel opens (is activated) in one phase, the previous opened channel usually closes (is inactivated).</p> <p>Order of activation/inactivation in action potential: Na -> Ca ->K</p>
II	RECEPTOR GATED	<p>“GATE” opens or close in this case in response to a molecule binding to a receptor. e.g. ATP binding to a receptor on a K channel or Acetylcholine binding to a receptor on a K channel</p>
III	LIGAND GATED (SPECIFIC IONS AND CHEMICAL LIGANDS)	<p>opens in response to ions influx in the cell</p> <p>e.g. Ca influx in vascular smooth muscle opens a K channel</p>

3 TYPES OF ION CHANNELS



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Na channels	
slow Na I_f	"funny current" in phase 4 of pacemaker potential
fast Na	phase 0 (depolarization) of non-pacemaker cardiac action potential
K channels	
transient outward I_{to}	phase 1 of non-pacemaker cardiac action potential
slow delayed rectifier I_{KS}	phase 3 of cardiac action potential, starts in phase 2
rapid delayed rectifier I_{KR}	phase 3 of cardiac action potential, continues in phase 4
inward rectifier I_{K1} or I_{ir}	phase 4 of cardiac action potential and late 3
Ca channels	
L-type I_{Ca-L}	long-lasting current: phase 0 (depolarization) of pacemaker AP, phase 2 of non-pacemaker cardiac AP
T-type I_{Ca-T}	transient current: phase 4 of pacemaker action potential in SA and AV node

II

K channels	
ATP sensitive $I_{K, ATP}$	K_{ATP} channels, inhibited by ATP; in vascular smooth muscle, adenosine (final ATP metabolite) opens K channels resulting hyperpolarization* (more negative repolarization) and vasodilation
Acetylcholine activated $I_{K, ACh}$	opened by Acetylcholine; G_i protein coupled

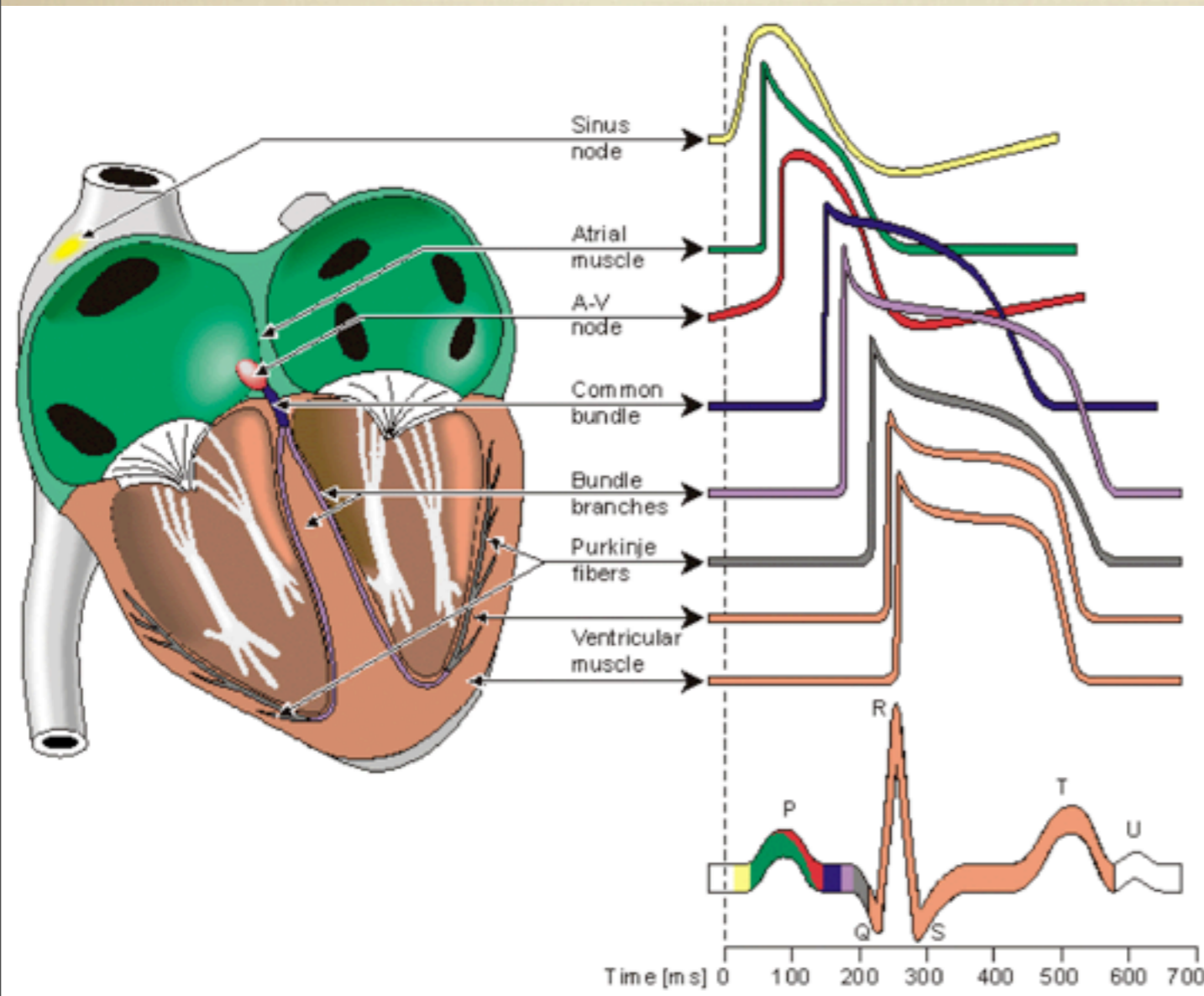
III

K channels	
Calcium activated $I_{k, Ca}$ or BK_{Ca}	open in response to Ca influx in vascular smooth muscle

HEART: ACTION POTENTIALS

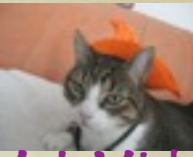


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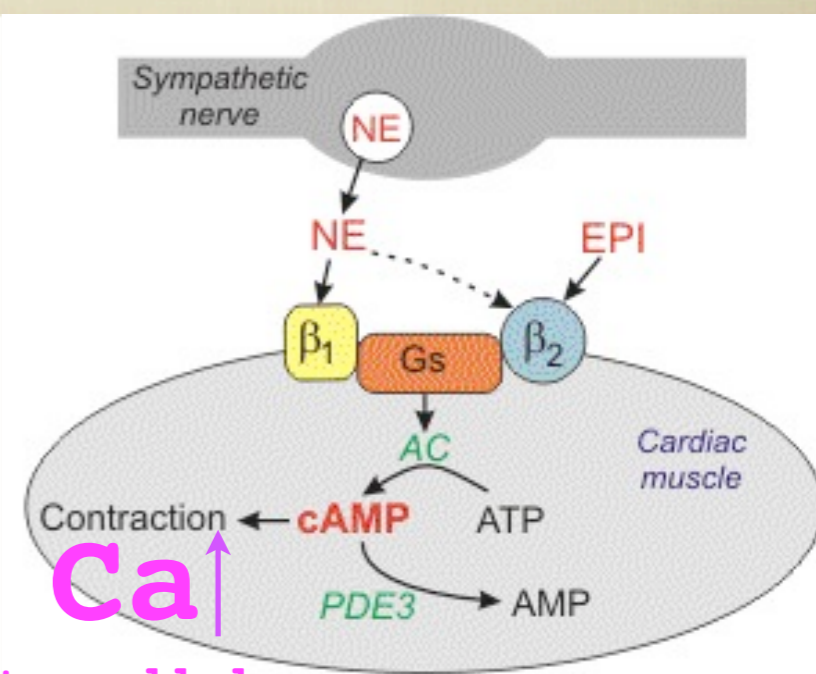
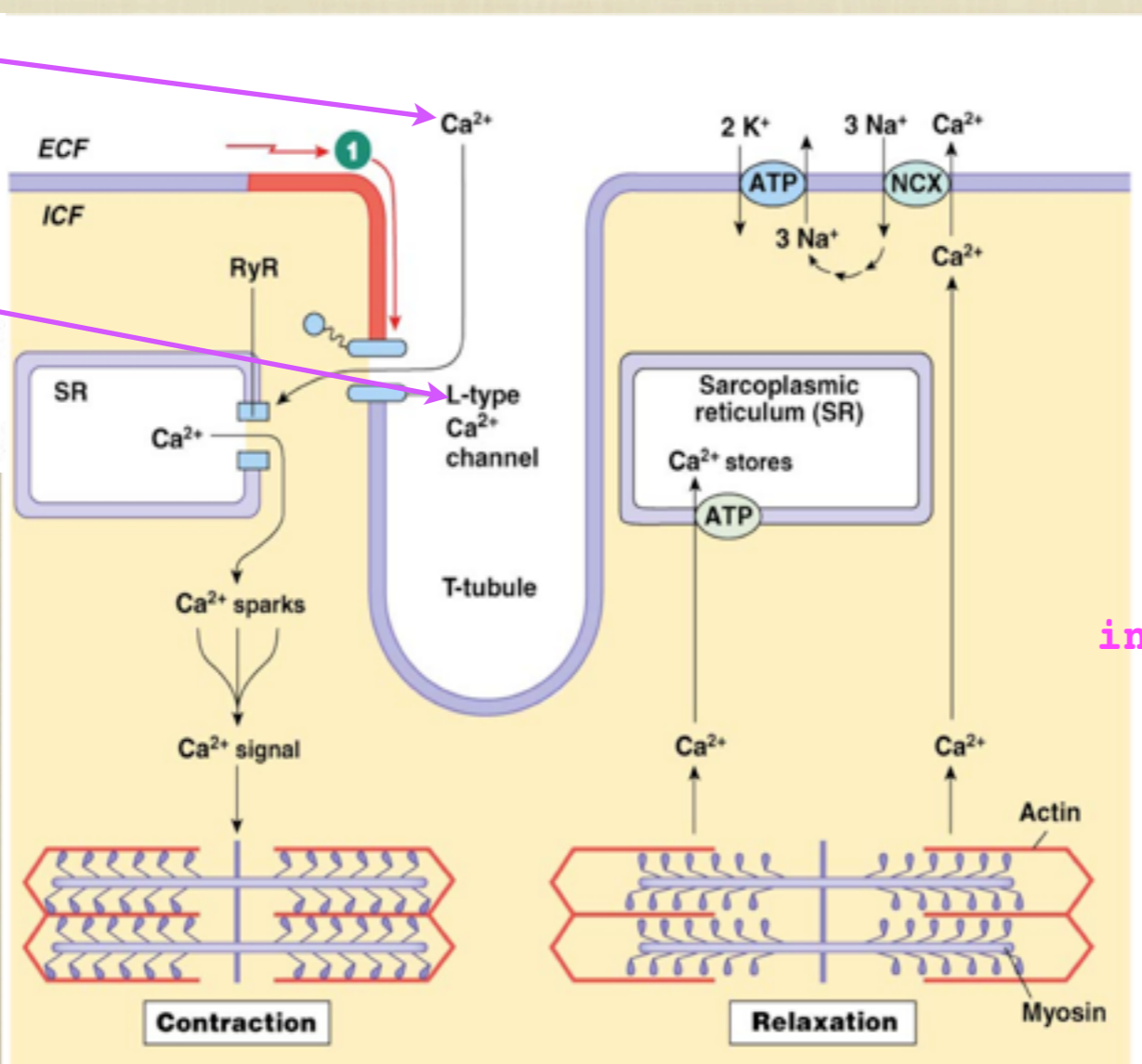
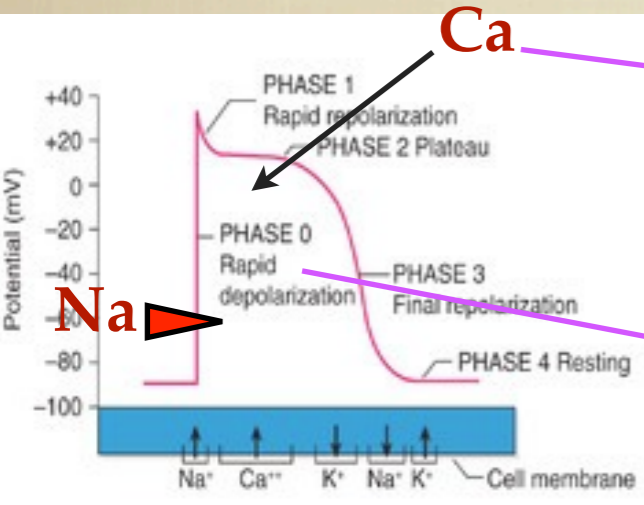


- Action potential (AP) is propagated from cell to cell. It is generated by the **pacemaker (sinoatrial node)**
- Then it is propagated to **atrial muscle cells, AV node, bundle of His** then **bundle branches** and finally through **Purkinje fibers** to the contractile pump which is **ventricular myocardium**.
- Depolarization and repolarization phases of the **action potentials passing through these tissues** are recorded on a **special paper** by **electrodes** placed on the skin and is called **EKG** or **ECG**.

AP: MYOCARDIAL CONTRACTION



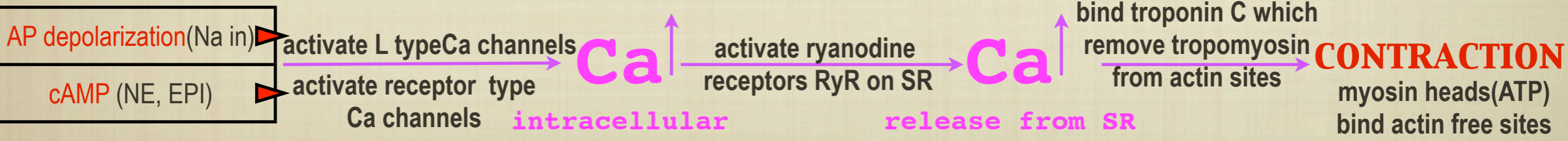
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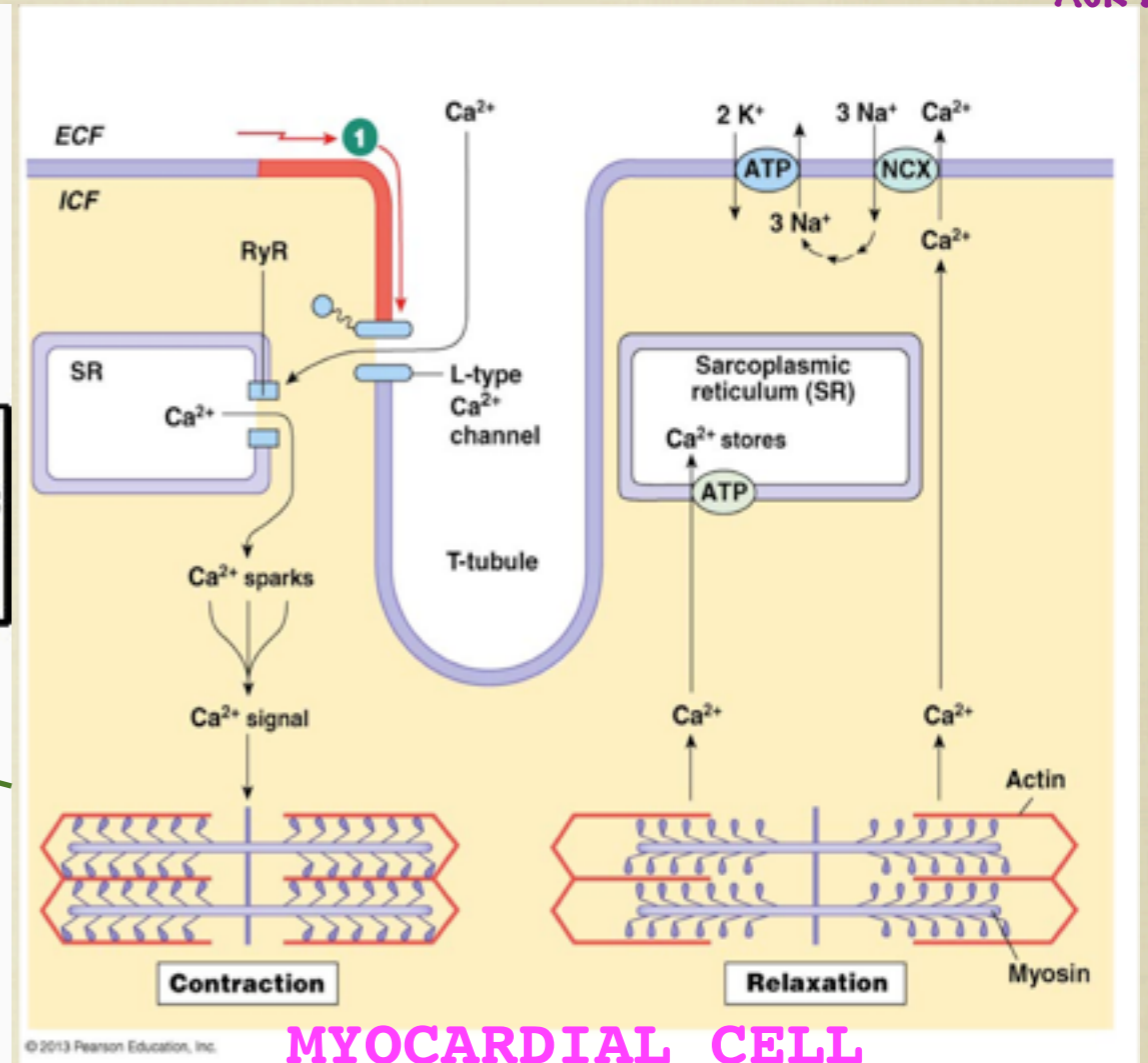
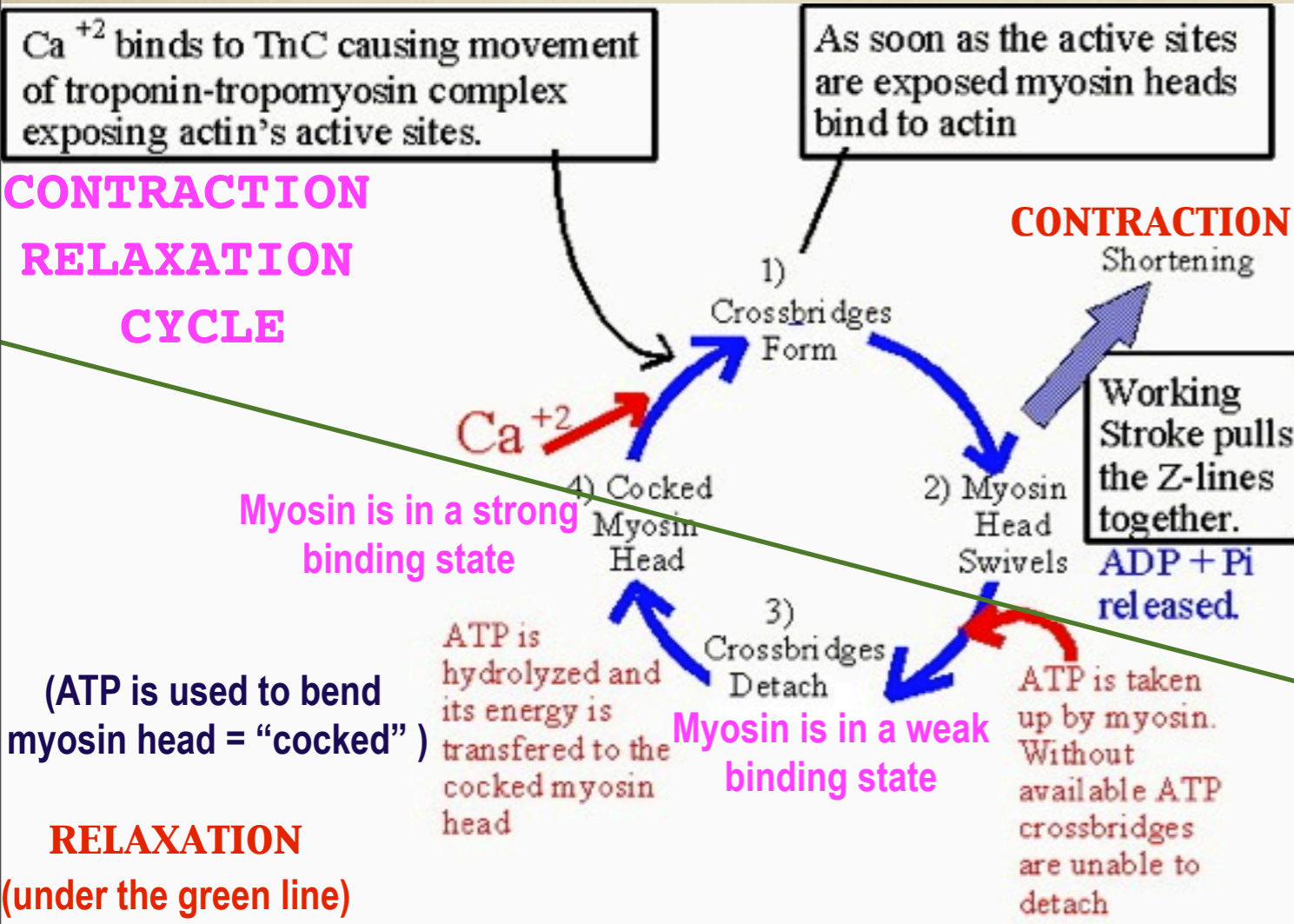
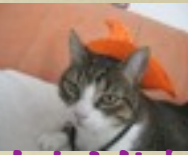
Ca ↑
intracellular

Ca ↑
intracellular

MYOCARDIAL CELL



AP: MYOCARDIAL RELAXATION





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NORMAL EKG

■ **EKG: 10 ELECTRODES, MACHINE AND PAPER**



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■ **12 LEADS EKG: 6 LIMB AND 6 CHEST LEADS**

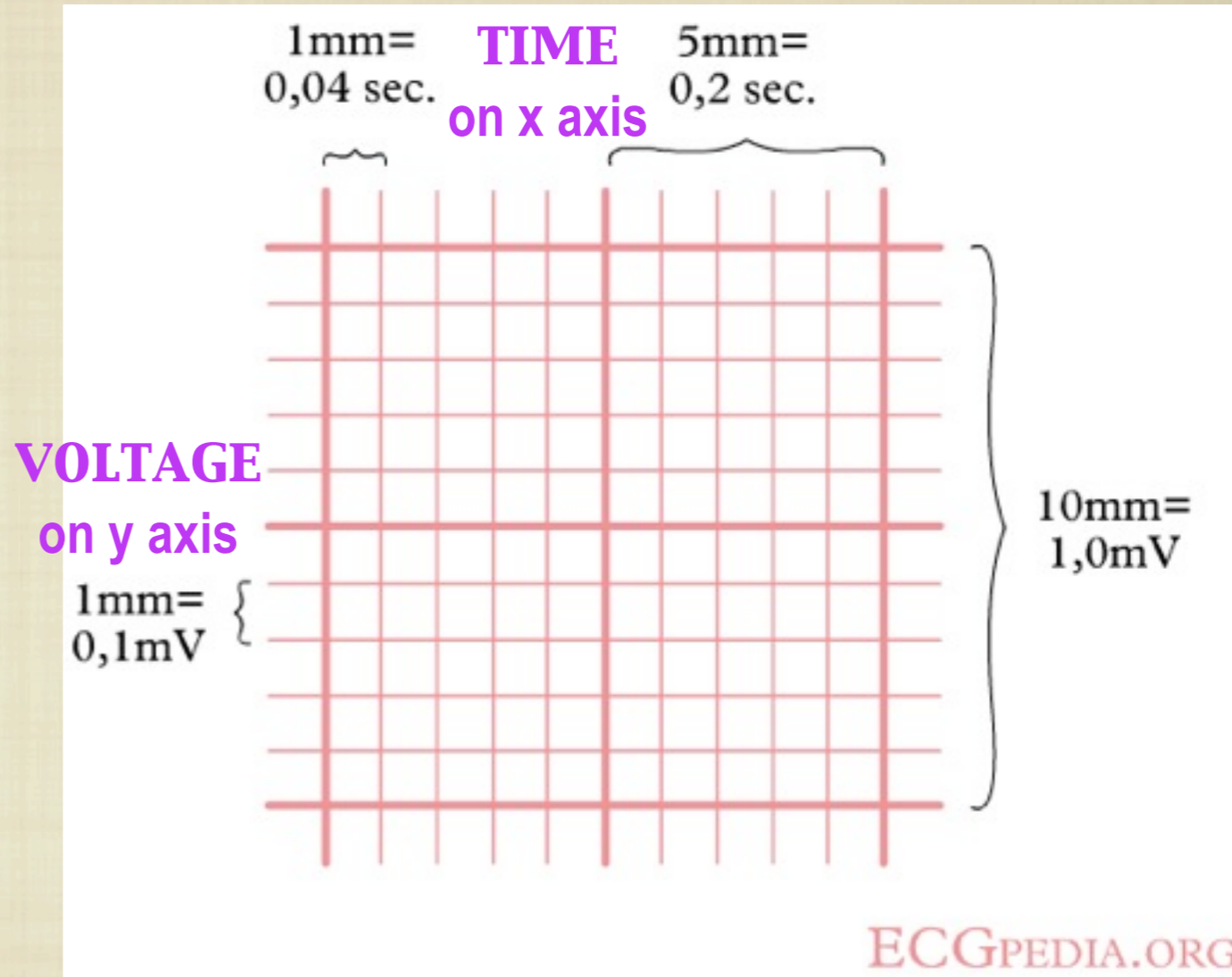
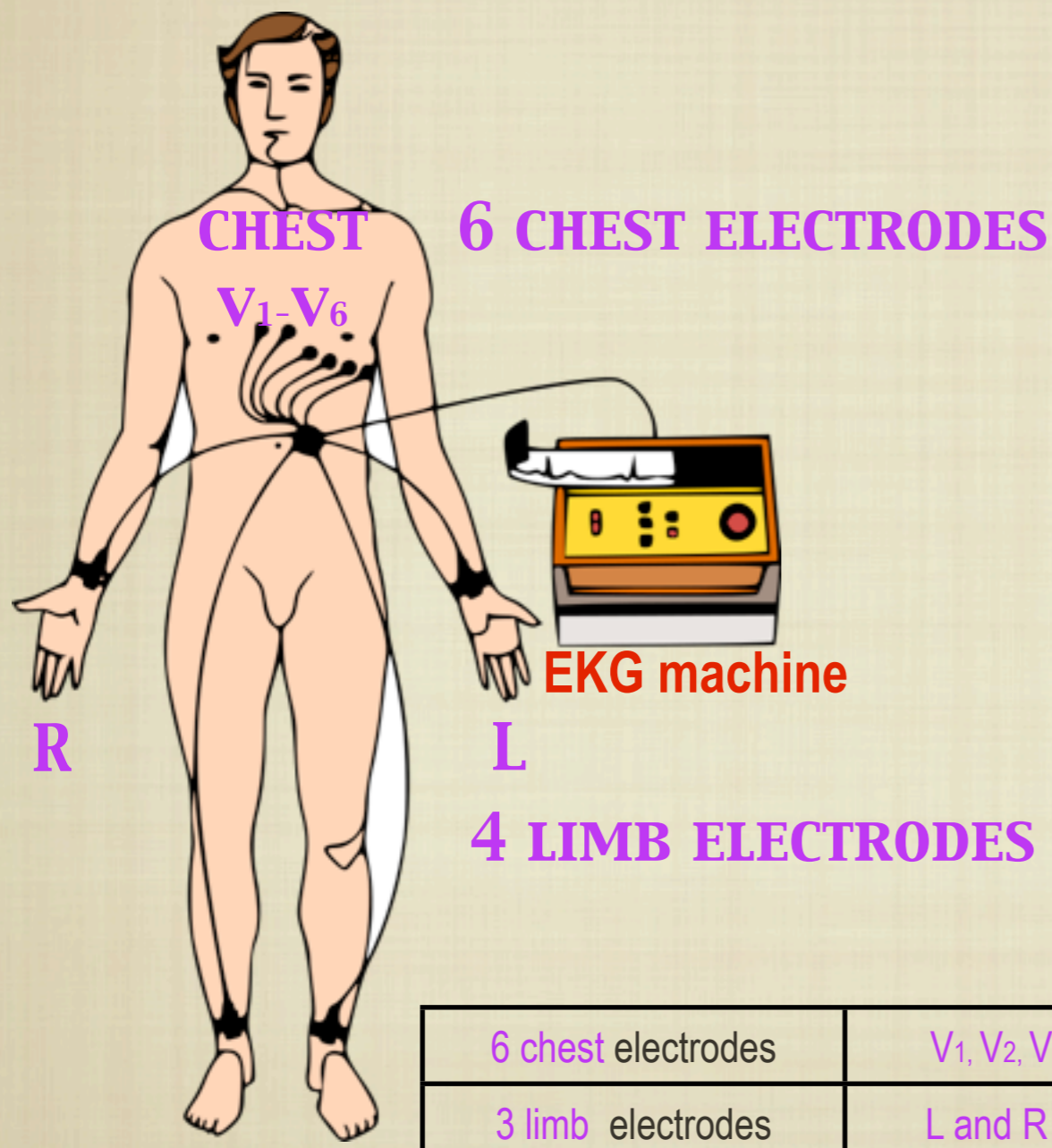
■ **EKG AT REST**

■ **INTERVALS**

■ **WAVES**

■ **SEGMENTS**

EKG: 10 ELECTRODES AND PAPER



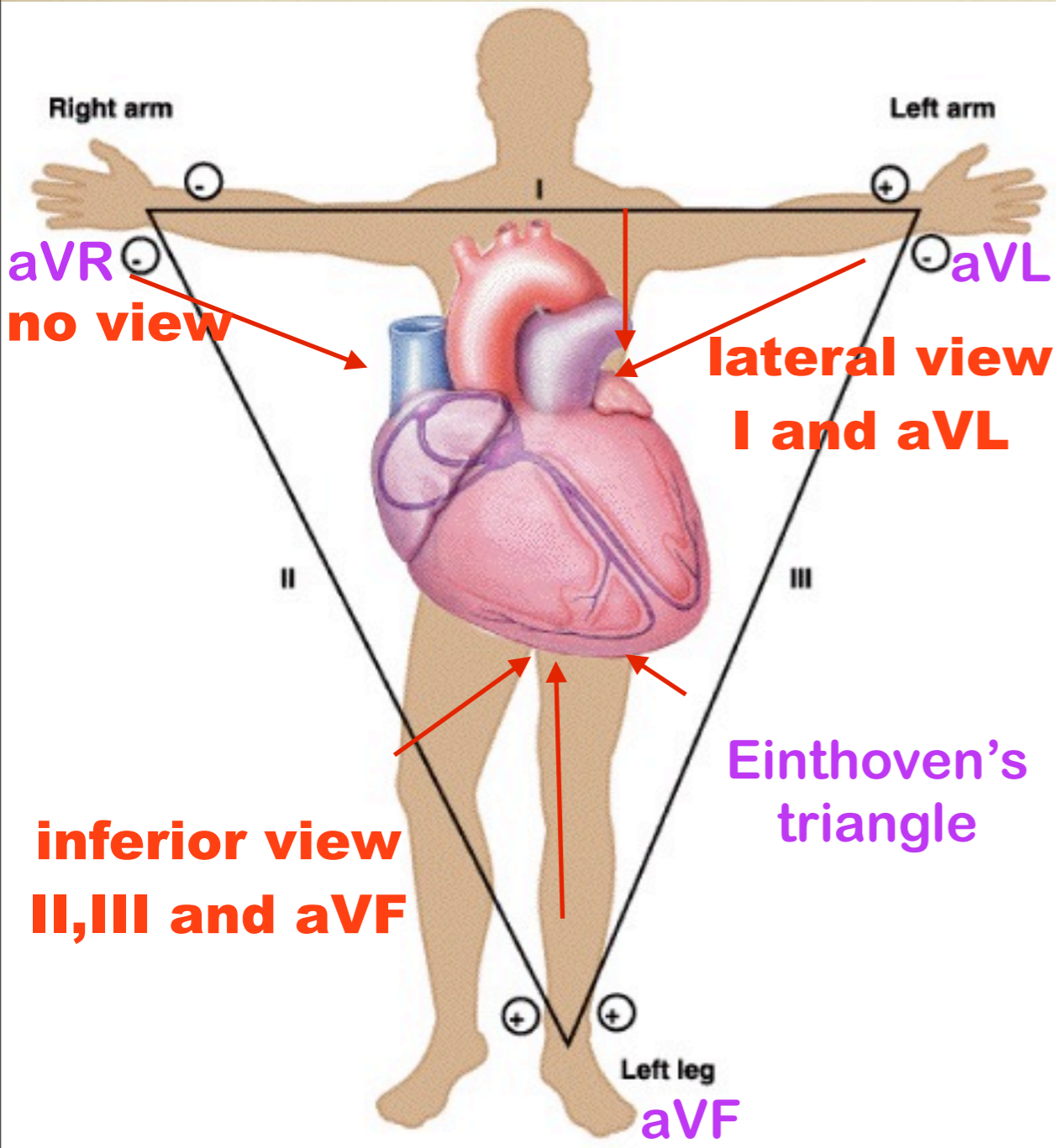
R=ground **L**

6 chest electrodes	V ₁ , V ₂ , V ₃ , V ₄ , V ₅ , V ₆	detect action potentials from antero-posterior plan of the heart
3 limb electrodes	L and R arm, L leg	detect action potentials from frontal plan of the heart
1 limb electrode	R leg	non-detector, represents the ground

12 LEADS EKG: 6 LIMB LEADS



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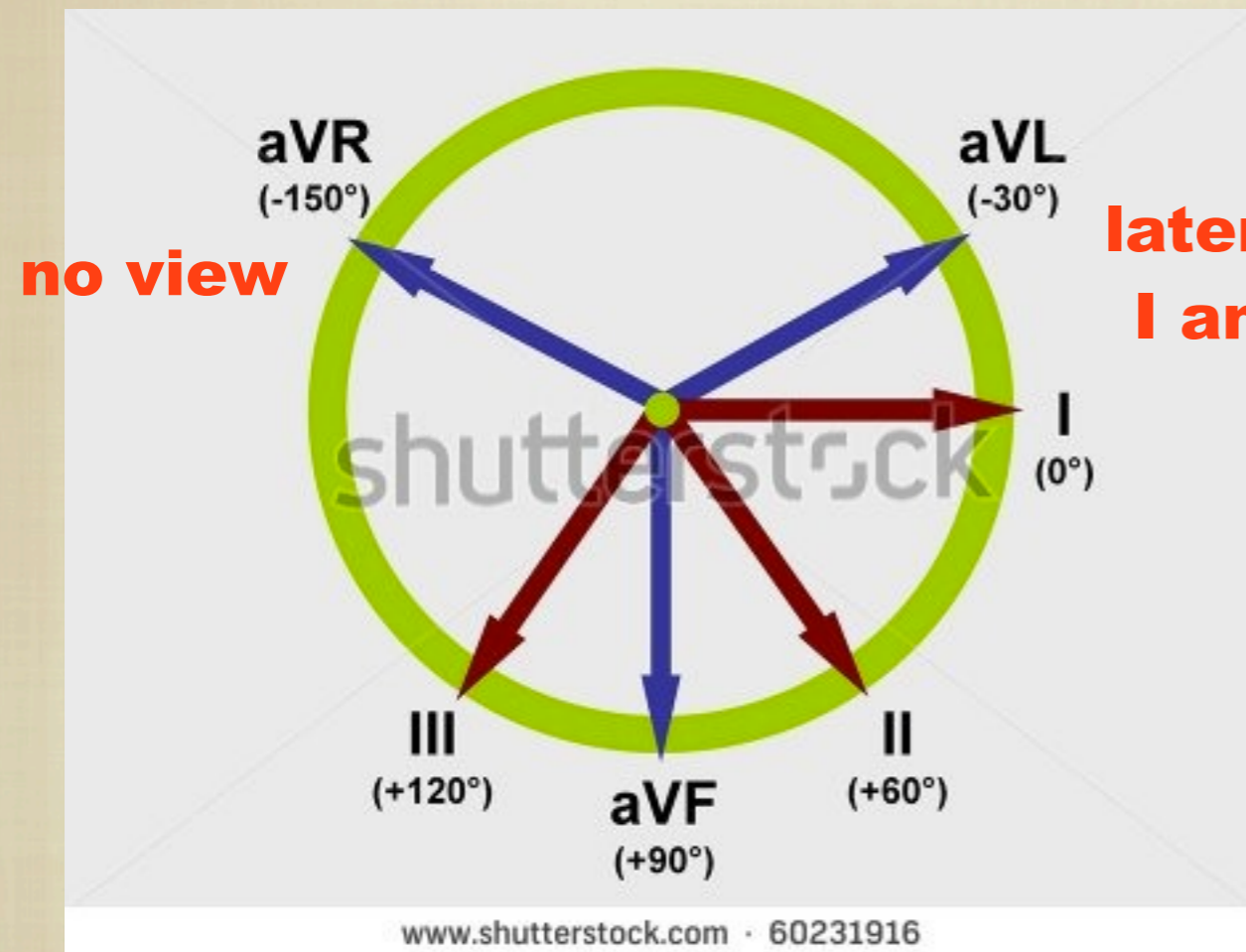


LEADS (12) 6 limb + 6 chest	12 views of different anatomic parts of the heart obtained from 9 detectors (electrodes)
LIMB LEADS (6) red arrows	6 views of different anatomic part of the heart from 3 limb electrodes; possible by adding lead I, II, and III obtained by 3 imaginary lines through electrodes (Einthoven's triangle)
LEAD I bipolar	machine combines information from 2 poles: L and R arms
LEAD II bipolar	machine combines information from 2 poles: R arm and L leg
LEAD III bipolar	machine combines information from 2 poles: L arm and L leg
LEAD aVL unipolar	aV = augmented voltage; voltage coming only from one arm (L in this case) needs to be boosted cos it's far from heart
LEAD aVR unipolar	information comes from the R arm
LEAD aVF unipolar	information comes from the L leg

12 LEADS EKG: 6 LIMB LEADS



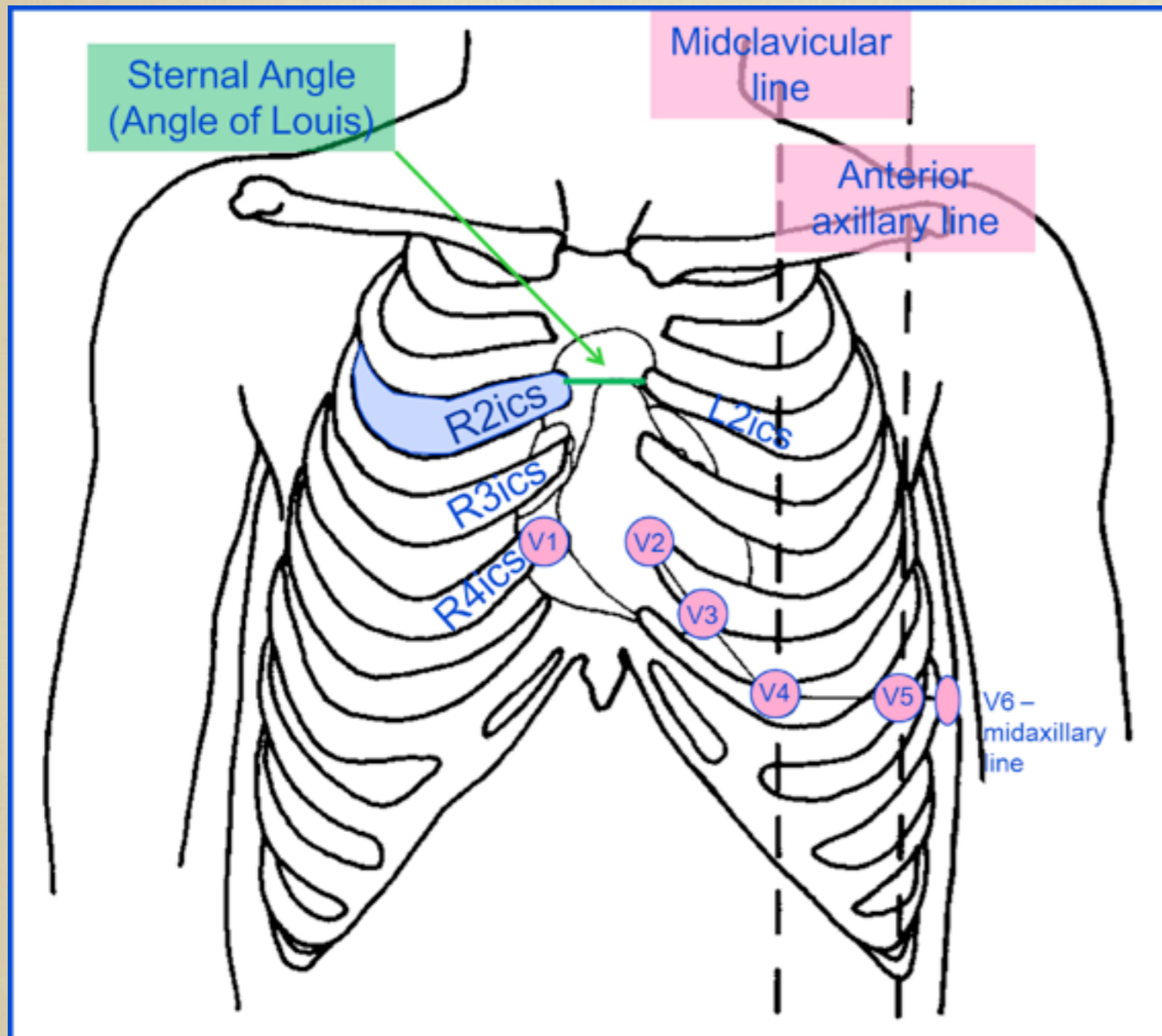
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inferior view
II,III and aVF

- Moving the limb leads to a center we obtain the **angles** btw frontal heart views
- By convention, **+** is the direction of AP propagation (up to down) in the heart; negative is the opposite

12 LEADS EKG: 6 CHEST LEADS

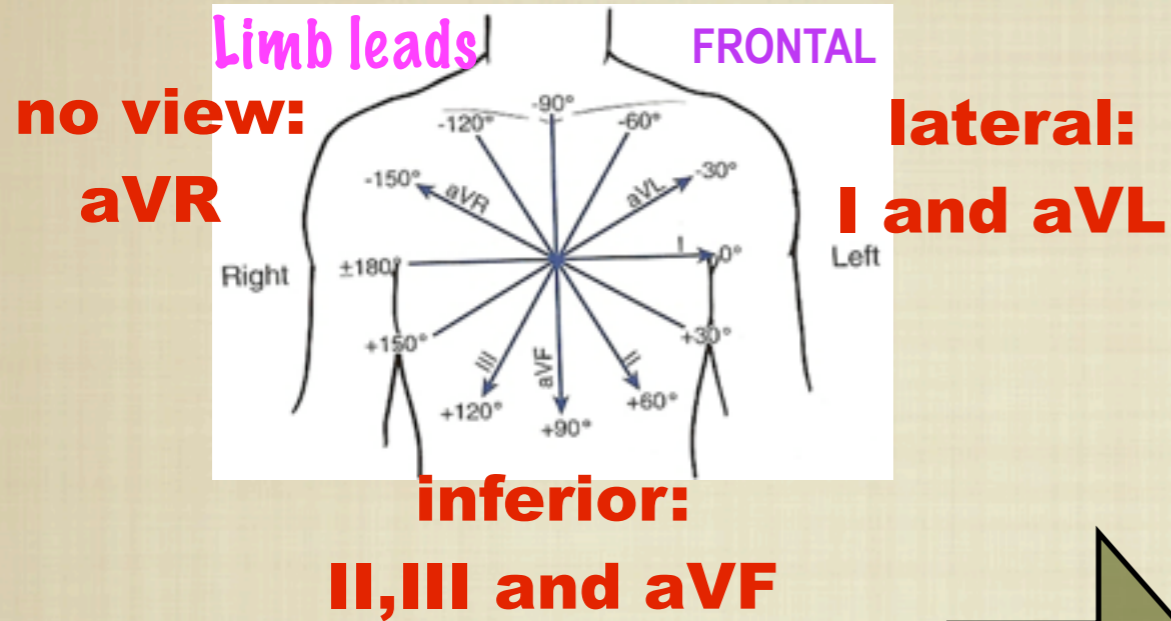


- Position of chest (precordial) leads:
- V1 and V2 on R and L sternal border at level of the 4th rib
- V4, V5 and V6 on the level of the 5th rib as follows
- V4 : midclavicular line
- V6 : midaxillary line
- V5 : midway V4-V6 or anterior axillary line
- V3 : midway V2 - V4

12 LEADS EKG: VIEWS OF HEART

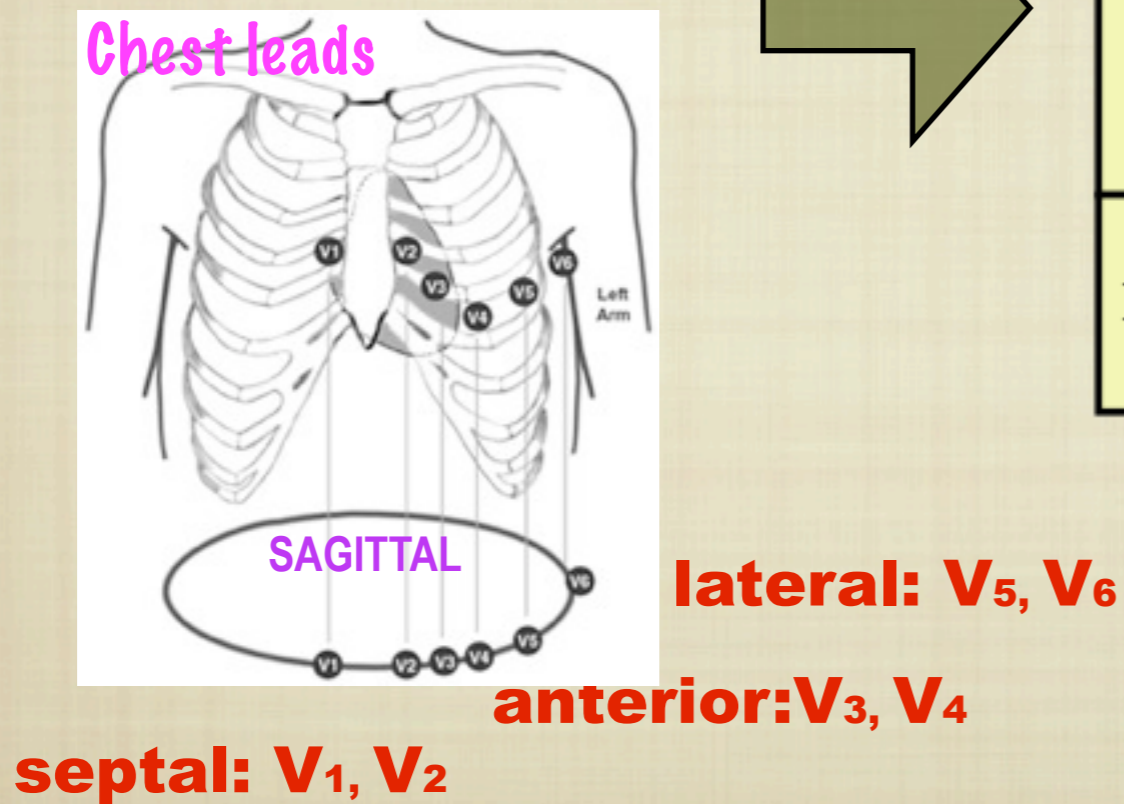


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Leads: name, view and standard color

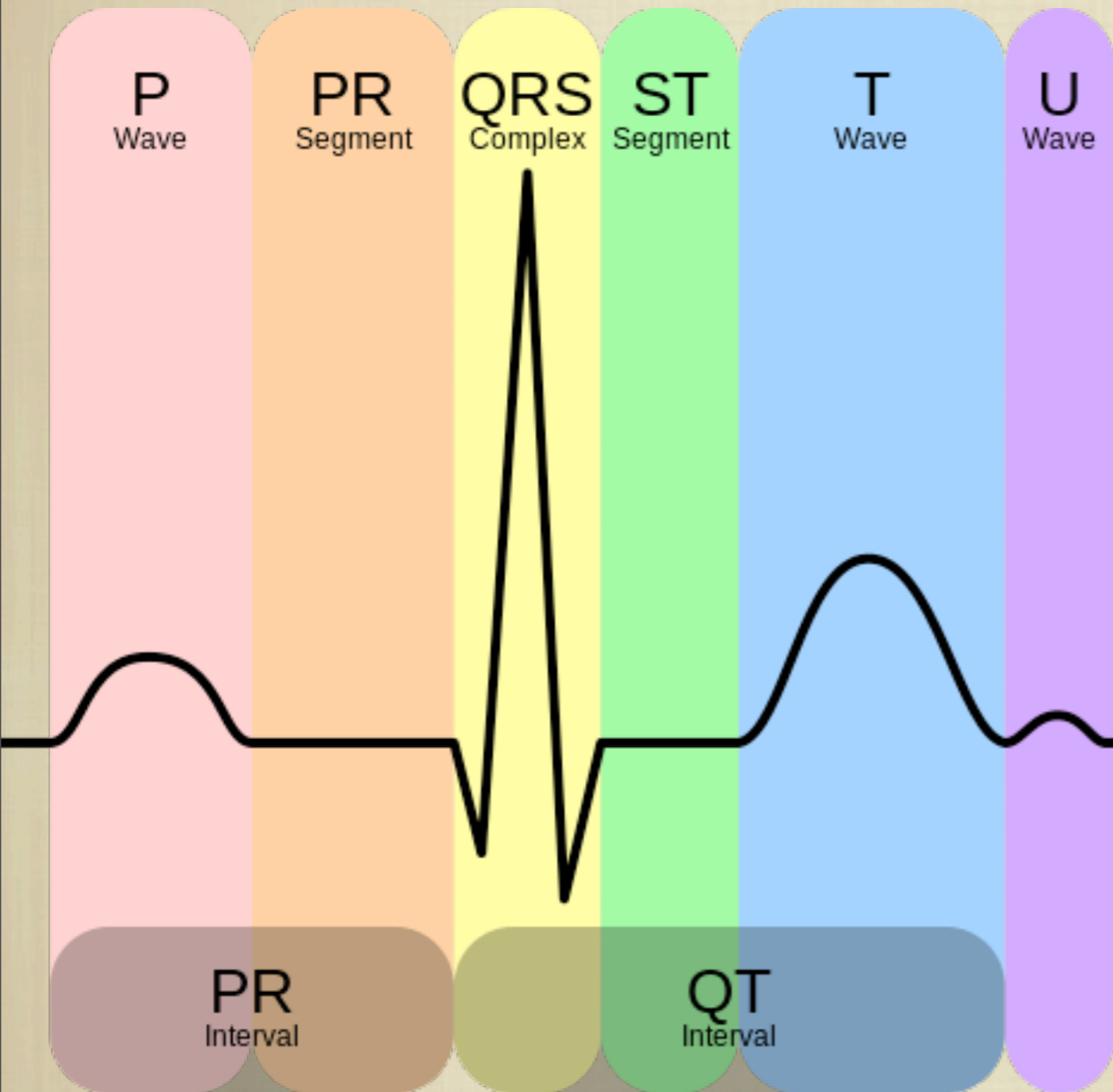
I Lateral	aVR	V1 Septal	V4 Anterior
II Inferior	aVL Lateral	V2 Septal	V5 Lateral
III Inferior	aVF Inferior	V3 Anterior	V6 Lateral



EKG: COMPONENTS & DESCRIPTION



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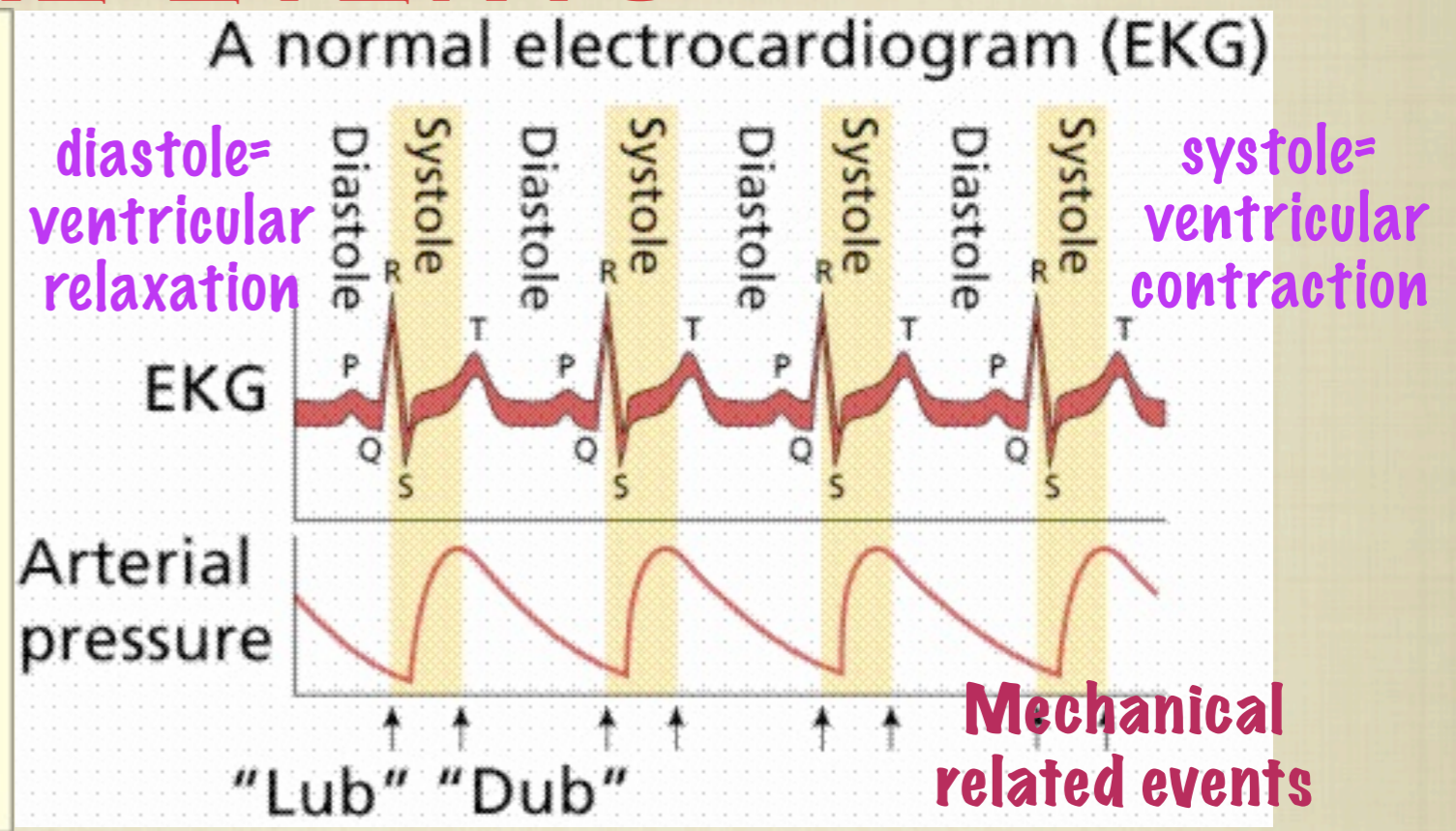
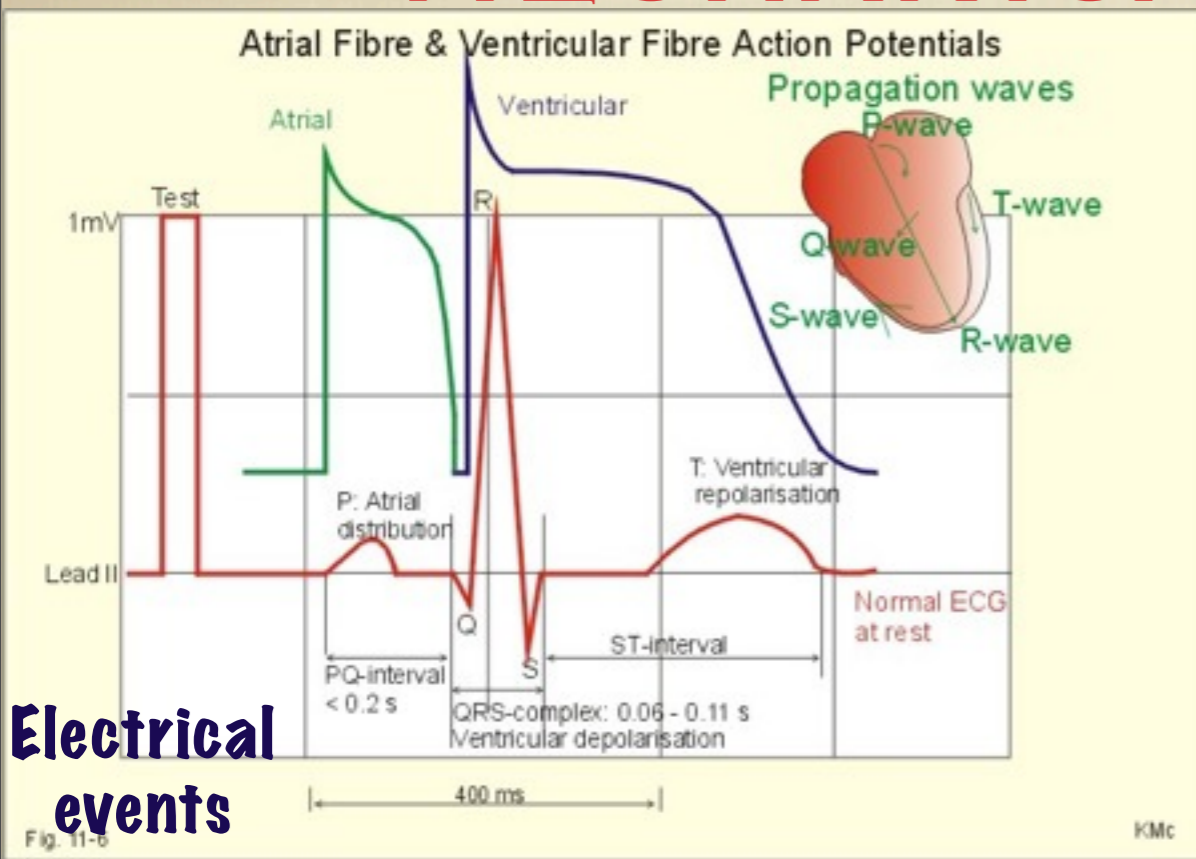


wave	deflection up/down
segments	horizontal lines btw waves
interval	wave(s) + segment(s)
P wave	atrial depolarization
QRS complex	ventricular depolarization
T wave	ventricular repolarization
U wave	not known; after repolarization
PR segment	short AP block at AV node
ST segment	time btw ventricular depol. and repolarization

EKG: RELATED ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL EVENTS



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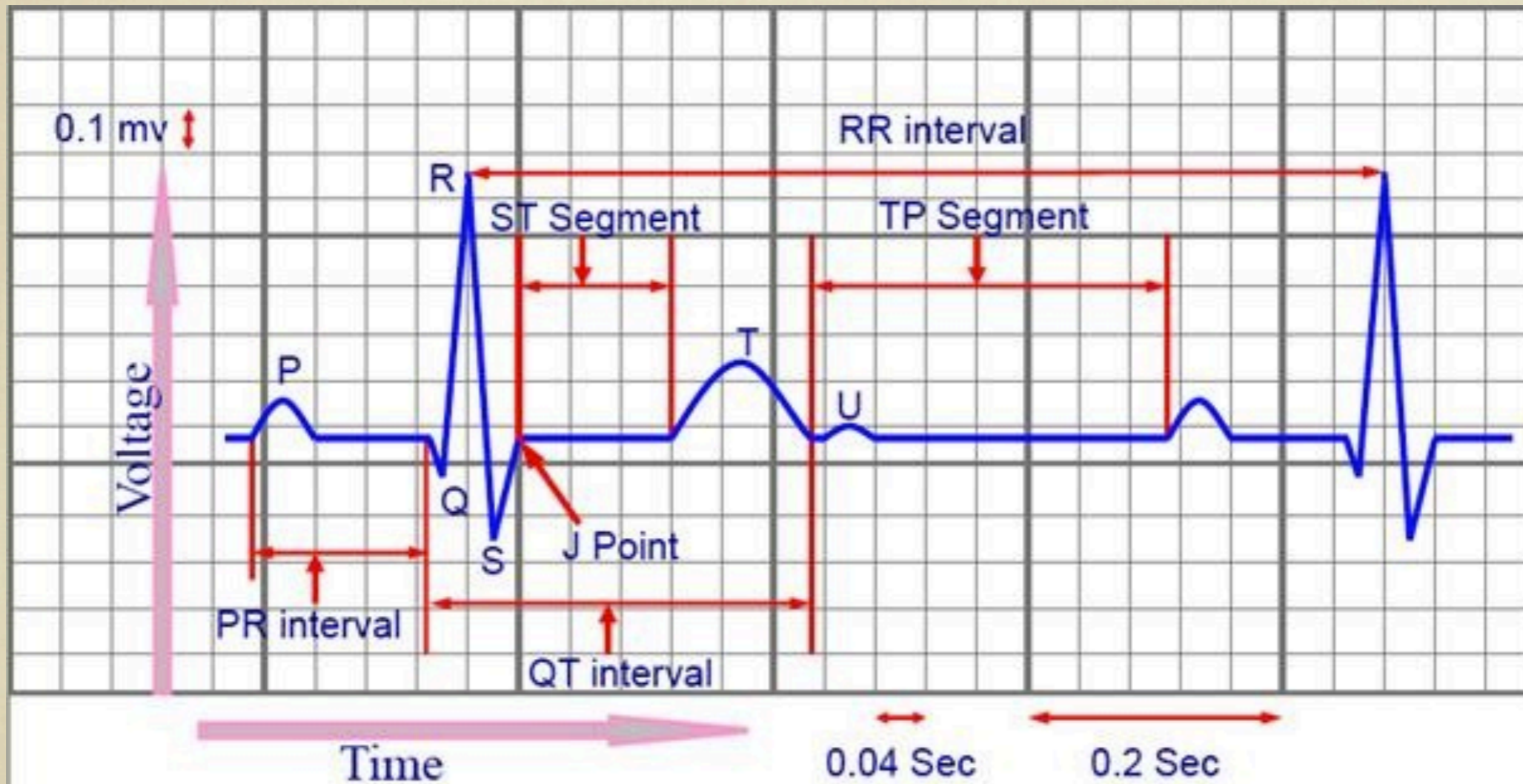
EKG	ELECTRICAL EVENTS	MECHANICAL related EVENTS
P wave	ATRIAL depolarization	ATRIAL contraction; VENTRICULAR relaxation
QRS complex	VENTRICULAR depolarization	VENTRICULAR contraction
T wave	VENTRICULAR repolarization	VENTRICULAR relaxation

EKG AT REST: INTERVALS



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DURATION OF THE EKG MAIN INTERVALS AND QRS COMPLEX



- PR interval 0.12 – 0.20 sec
- QRS duration 0.08 – 0.10 sec

- QT interval 0.4 – 0.43 sec
- RR interval 0.6 – 1.0 sec

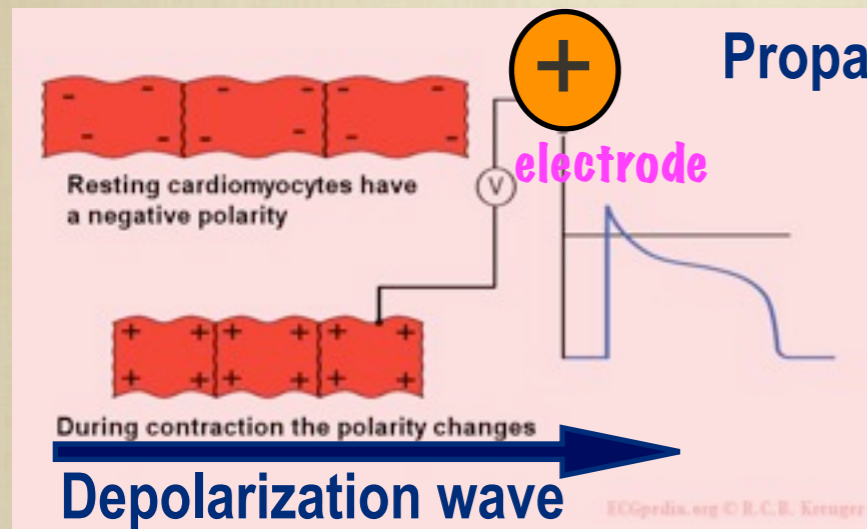
EKG: DEPOLARIZATION WAVES



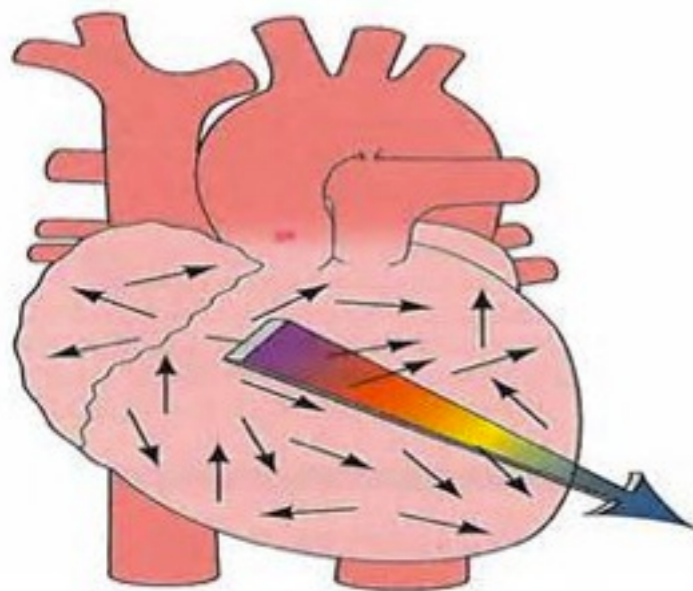
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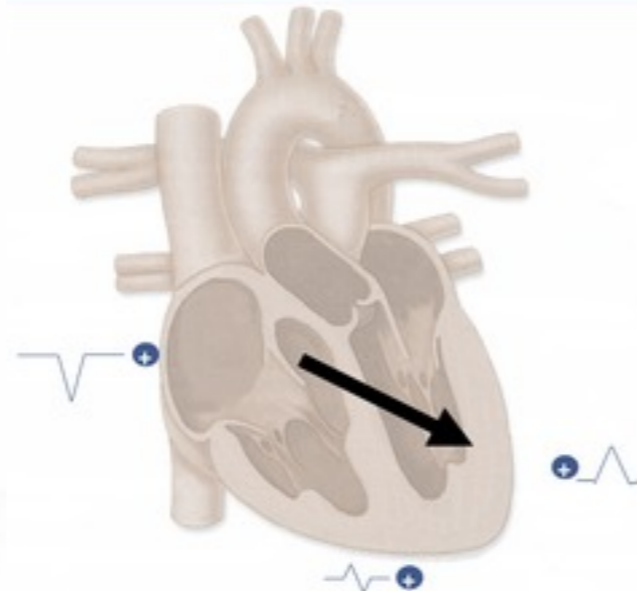
Depolarized cell



Propagation direction



Summation vector



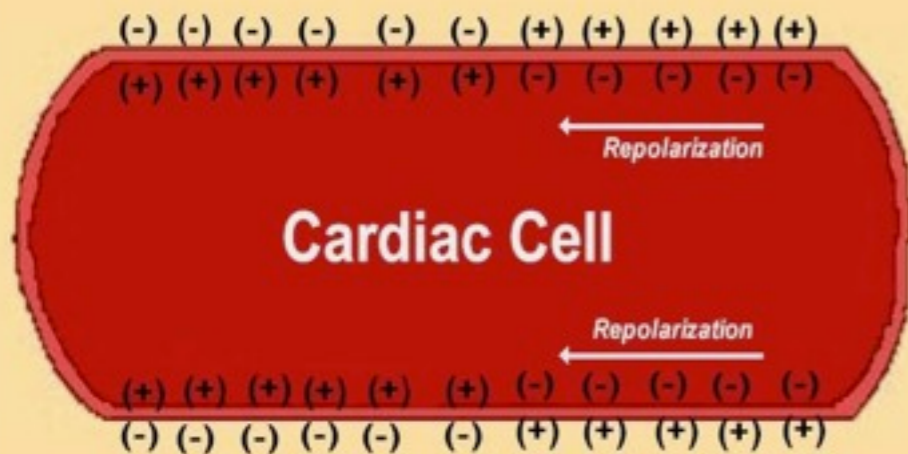
Waves up, down, biphasic

- Depolarization: cell **more positive inside** than outside.
- Negative charges propagate toward positive electrode.
- Summing up all the individual directions of depolarization we obtain a **summation (integral) vector** of depolarization.
- If the vector is **toward** the electrode, the wave registered on EKG is **up**, if **away** from the electrode, the wave is **down** and if **perpendicular** to the electrode the wave is **biphasic**
- the **peak** of the wave = tissue **fully depolarized** and the **isoelectric line** = all **charges** reached the electrode and were **neutralized**.

EKG: REPOLARIZATION WAVES



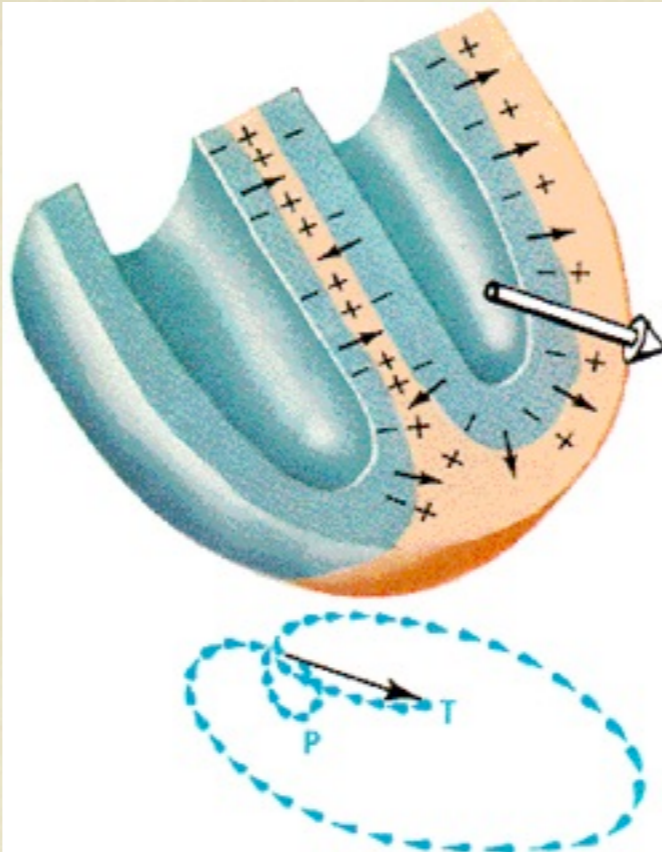
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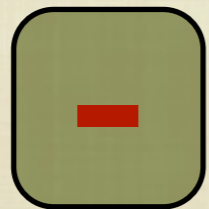
Repolarization wave



electrode



Repolarization summation vector



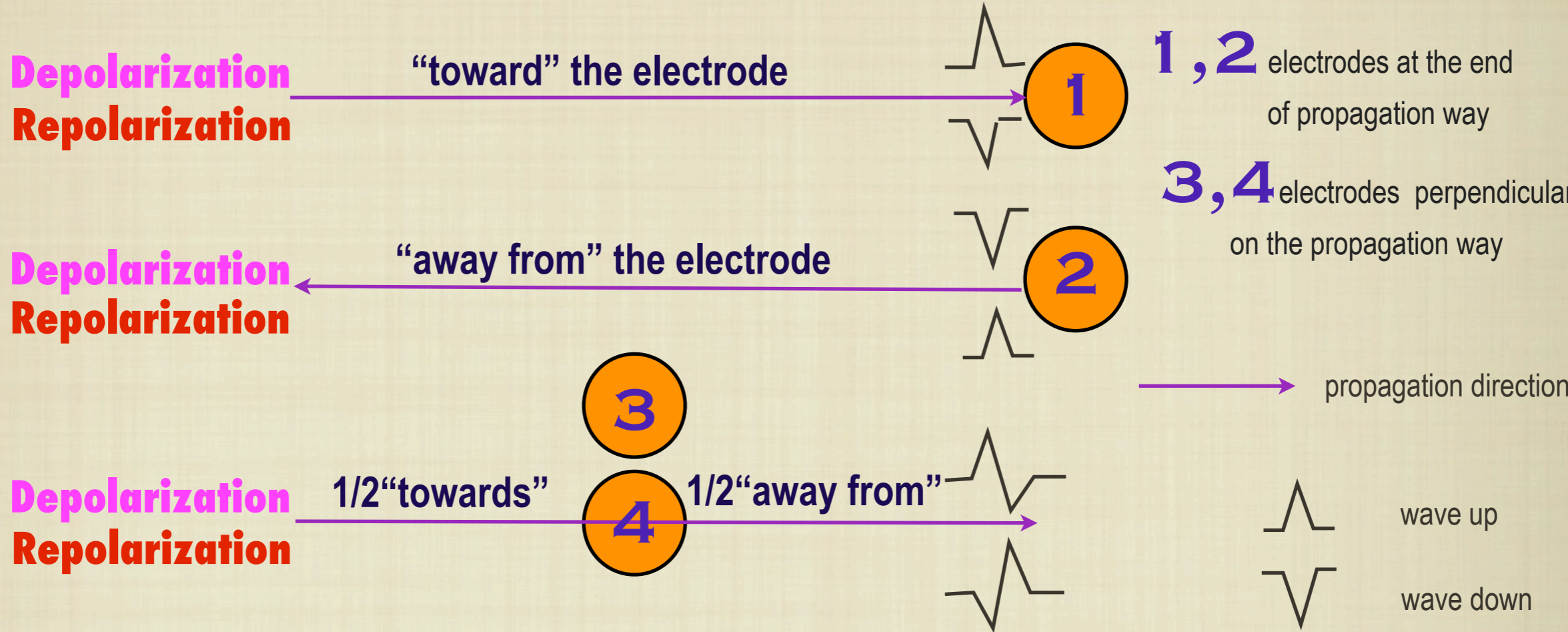
Repolarized cell

- Repolarization: comes after depolarization and cell turns **negative** inside from positive.
- Repolarization begins where the depolarization ends up and goes all the way back until all the tissue(cells) is fully repolarized.
- Despite **reverse polarity** during repolarization, the **summation vector points the same direction as the depolarization one**, so the repolarization wave (T wave) points in the same direction as the depolarization one(R wave).

EKG AT REST: ALL WAVES (1)



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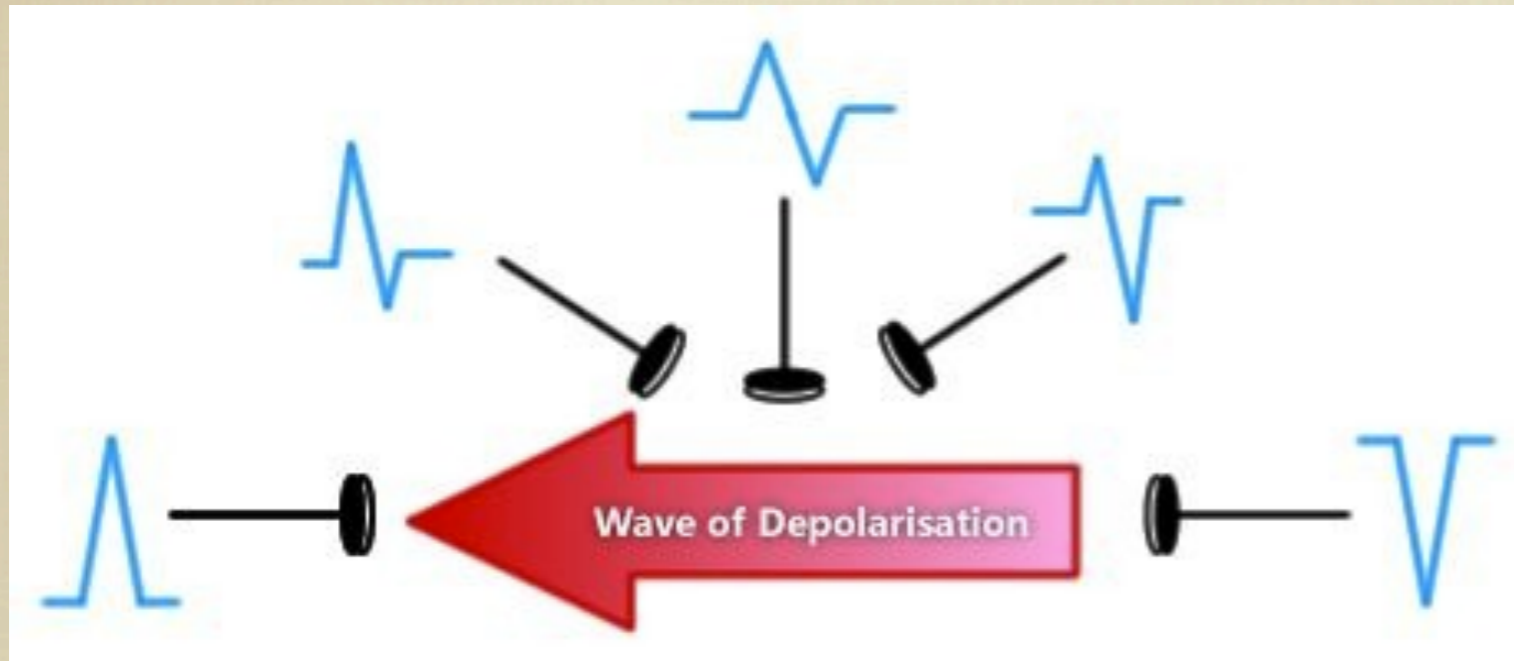


EKG waves	Depolarization wave	Repolarization wave
toward the electrode	UP (positive deflection)	DOWN
away from electrode	DOWN (negative deflection)	UP
reaching electrode	isoelectric line	isoelectric line
electrode perpendicular	biphasic	biphasic

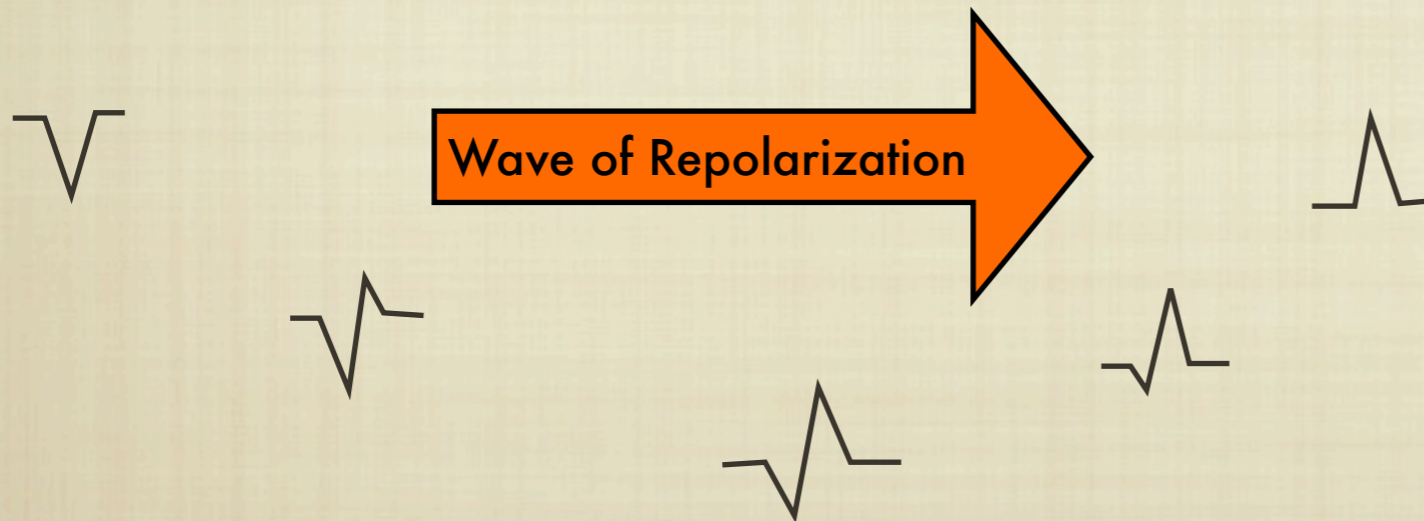
EKG AT REST: ALL WAVES(2)



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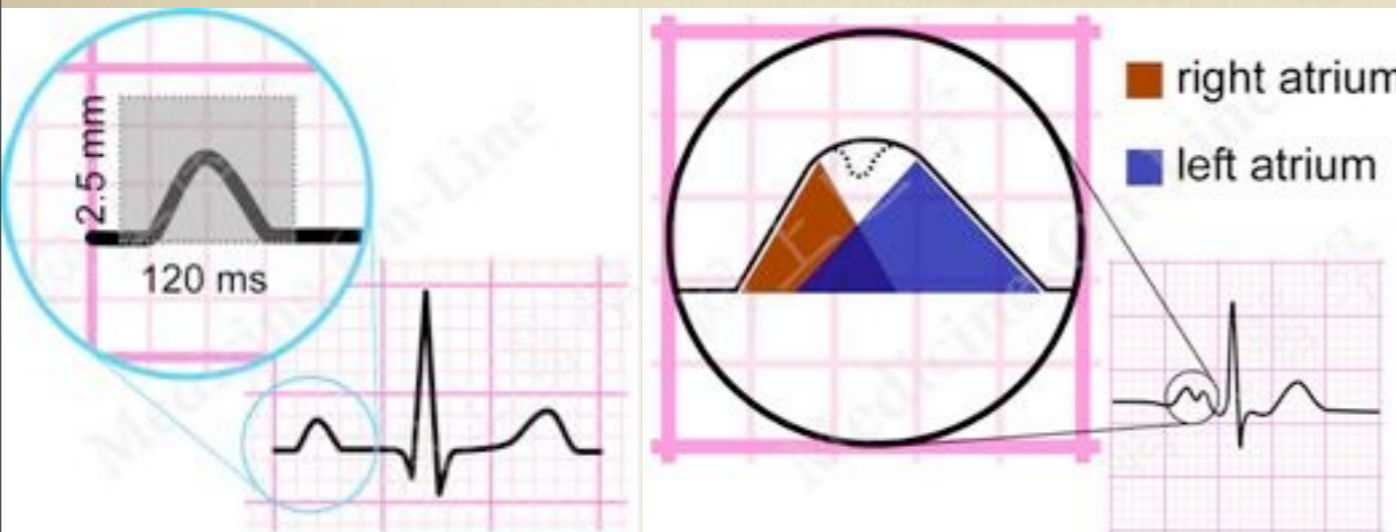
- Electrodes placed in btw those situated on the propagation wave and perpendicular on the propagation wave produce **various shaped waves** related to the location of the electrode: on the direction of depolarization/ repolarization or away from it.



EKG AT REST: P WAVE



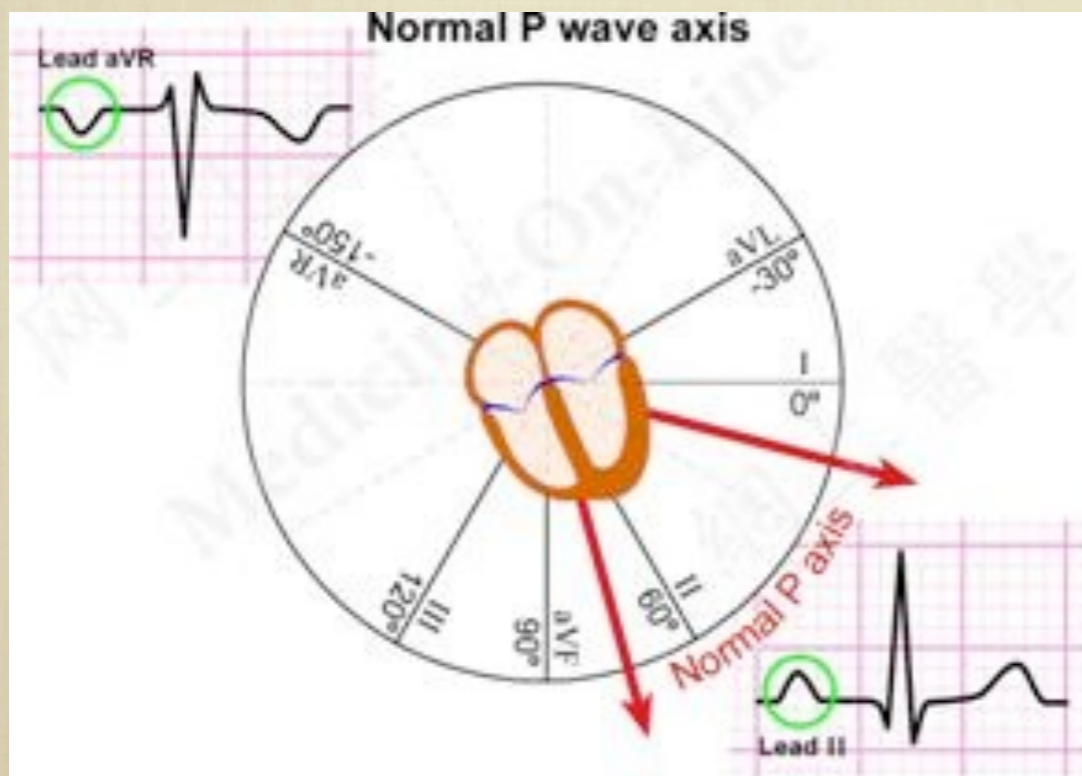
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- P wave= atrial depolarization

- Amplitude of P wave < 2.5 mV (2.5 mV = 2.5 small squares); Duration of the P wave < 120 ms

- Since right atrium depolarizes before left atrium, P wave first half is right atrial depolarization and second half is left atrium depolarization



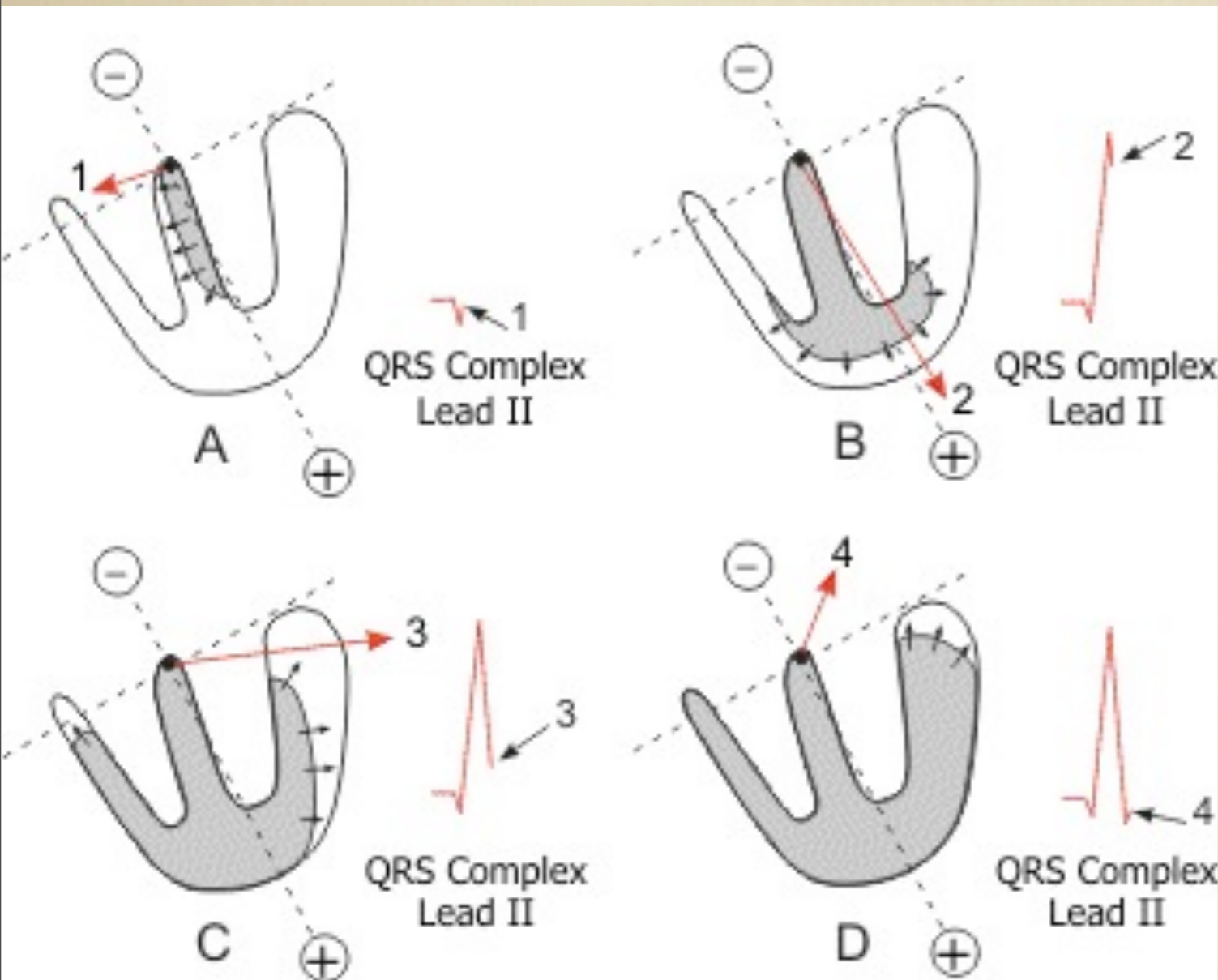
- Atrial depolarization vector normal range is 30-75 degrees.

- P wave is normally + in lead II, - in lead aVR and biphasic or negative in lead III

EKG AT REST: QRS COMPLEX(1)



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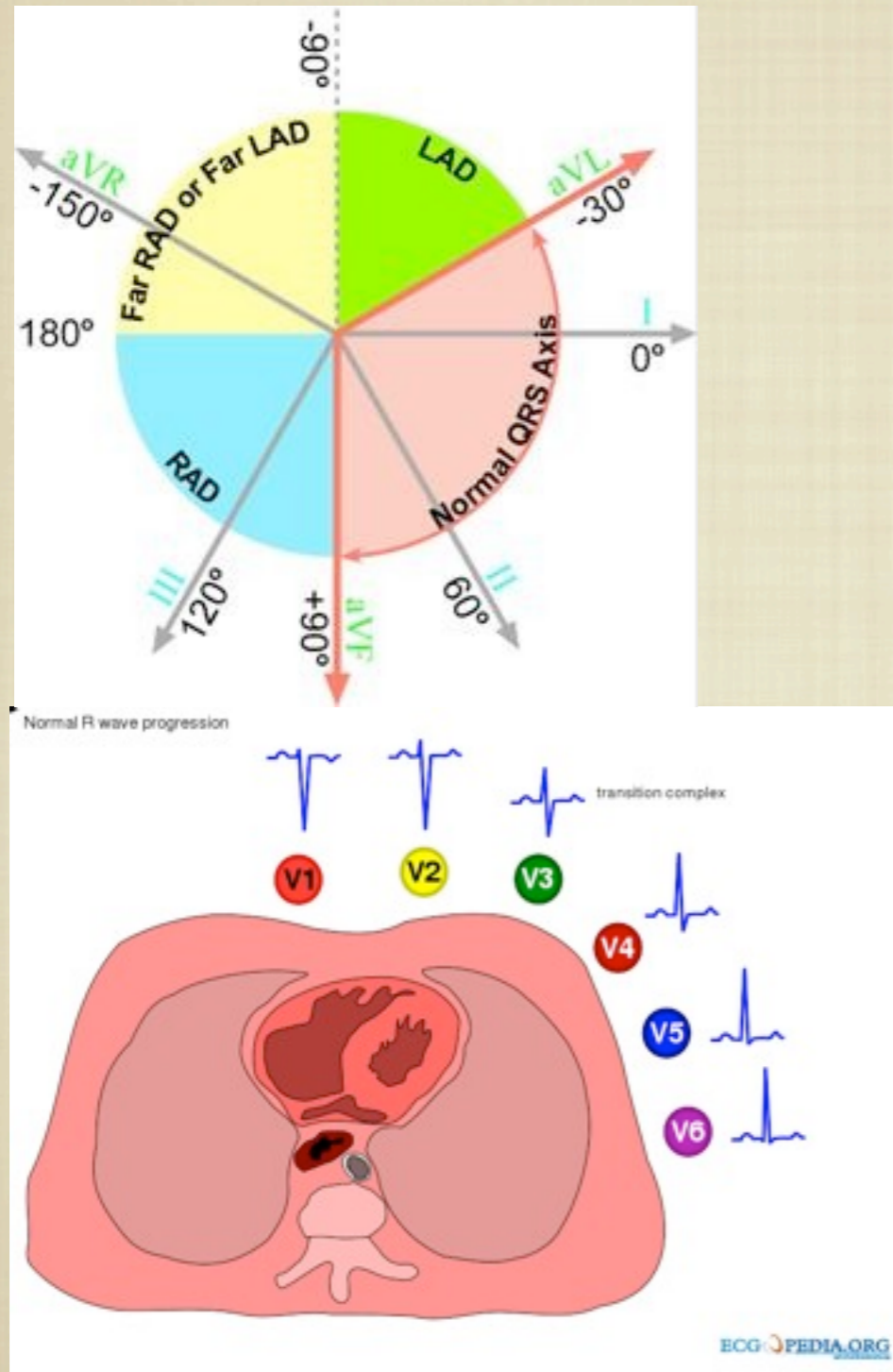


- Q wave represents septal (wall btw R & L ventricles) depolarization. This is the beginning of ventricular depolarization.(1)
- It is propagated from left to right.
- The septal depolarization is initiated by the action potential arrived at the septal fascicle of left bundle branch (LBB)
- Q wave appears as a negative deflection in lateral, inferior and anterior leads with an amplitude < 0.1 mV
- Sometimes Q wave is not visible on a normal EKG

EKG AT REST: QRS COMPLEX(2)



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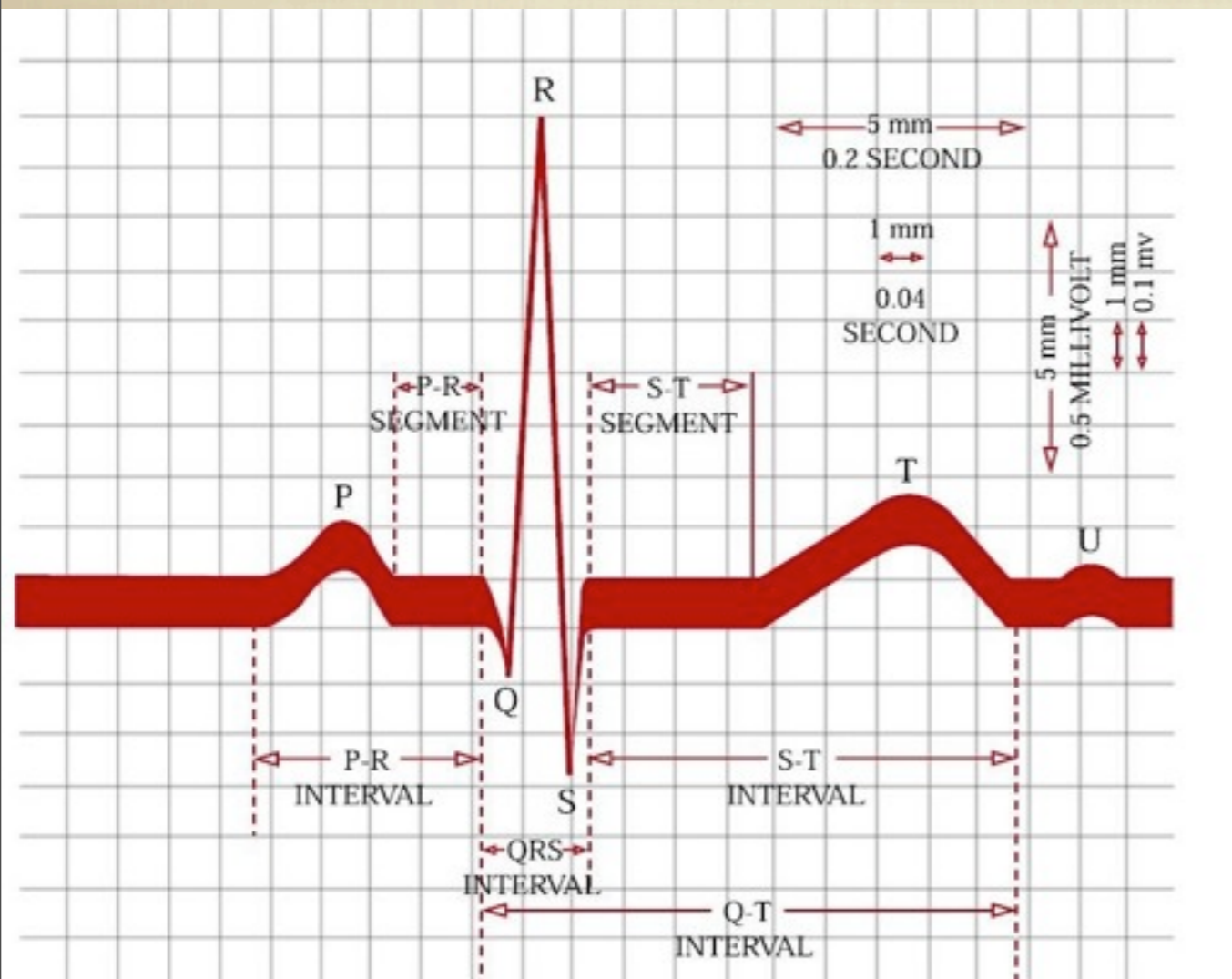


- RS represents **VENTRICULAR MUSCLE depolarization**. R is the positive deflection and S the negative one.
- Left Ventricle is more massive than the right one and the average vector points left, anywhere from **-30 to +90 degrees**. So R (positive) waves will be found in the inferior and lateral leads while S(negative wave)in aVR for ex.
- In sagittal plan: **V1 and V2** covers the **R ventricle** while **V5 and V6** the **L ventricle**. So an S wave will appear in the first 2 V leads and an R in the last 2 V leads. V3 and V4 are biphasic and called transition zone.
- The progressively increasing R wave from right to left in the precordial leads is known as **R-wave progression**
- **QRS amplitude >> P wave amplitude** due to much more muscle mass of the ventricles in comparison with the atria generating a greater action potential

EKG AT REST: SEGMENTS



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- **PR segment** represents the time from the end of atrial depolarization and the beginning of ventricular depolarization.
- **Normal PR: 0.12-0.2s.**
- **ST segment** represents the time from the end of ventricular depolarization and the beginning of the ventricular repolarization.

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Ask Mish

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