

Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy

Arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC) is an adult-onset inherited disease, with the presenting age, and range of clinical symptoms in the offspring of affected parents being quite variable. It also known as “Boxer Cardiomyopathy” and is characterized by irregular and rapid ventricular arrhythmias.

The disease may take one of three forms:

- 1) asymptomatic with premature ventricular beats (PVCs)
- 2) symptomatic with PVCs resulting in collapse/fainting
- 3) heart failure due to a reduction in cardiac contractility

The prognosis of a patient with AVRC is very difficult to predict. Antiarrhythmic medications are frequently used to combat arrhythmias, frequency of collapse events, and sudden death. Since a normal ECG does not rule out the presence of AVRC, a 24-hour holter monitor is considered standard for diagnosis.

Below is an ECG (EKG) showing several premature ventricular beats (PVCs) which are the high spiked waves. At the end of the example there are three PVCs in a row that represent a triplet, three in a row. Many PVCs together are more likely to cause symptoms.



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