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Syncope after aortic valve surgery

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A 49-year-old man with a bicuspid aortic valve with severe stenosis and moderately depressed left ventricular ejection fraction underwent implantation of a mechanical aortic prosthesis. During the pre-operative evaluation, the electrocardiogram (ECG) showed sinus rhythm with first-degree atrioventricular block

and voltage criteria of left ventricular hypertrophy (Fig. 1).

On the fourth postoperative day, the patient complained of sudden onset of rapid palpitations. The ECG is shown in Fig. 2. Both carotid sinus massage and a rapid intravenous bolus of 20 mg adenosine did

Fig. 1 ECG during pre-operative evaluation

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Fig. 2 ECG during rapid palpitations

neither temporarily slow down nor stop the tachycardia. Meanwhile, his blood pressure had declined to 70/40 mmHg. A few minutes later, the patient lost consciousness and underwent immediate direct-current (DC) cardioversion. What is your diagnosis?

Answer

You will find the answer elsewhere in this issue.

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