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Image quiz: "strange" rhythm, (physiologic) right ventricular hypertrophy

Image quiz

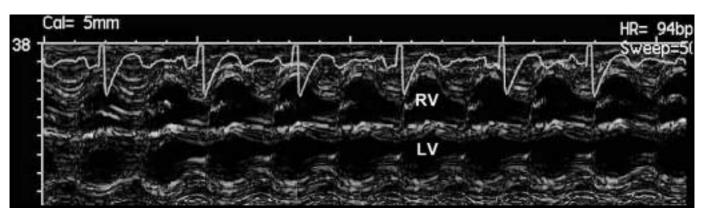


Figure 1

"Strange" rhythm, (physiologic) right ventricular hypertrophy.

Solution

One image, simultaneously obtained from two hearts. The ECG (94 beats per minute) belongs to the 17-year-old pregnant woman, the Mmode tracing of the right (RV) and left ventricle (LV) to the much faster beating heart (150 beats per minute) of the 31-week-old fetus. Because of the high vascular resistance present in the not yet functional lung and the similar loading conditions of the ventricles during fetal life, there is a physiologic RV hypertrophy.

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