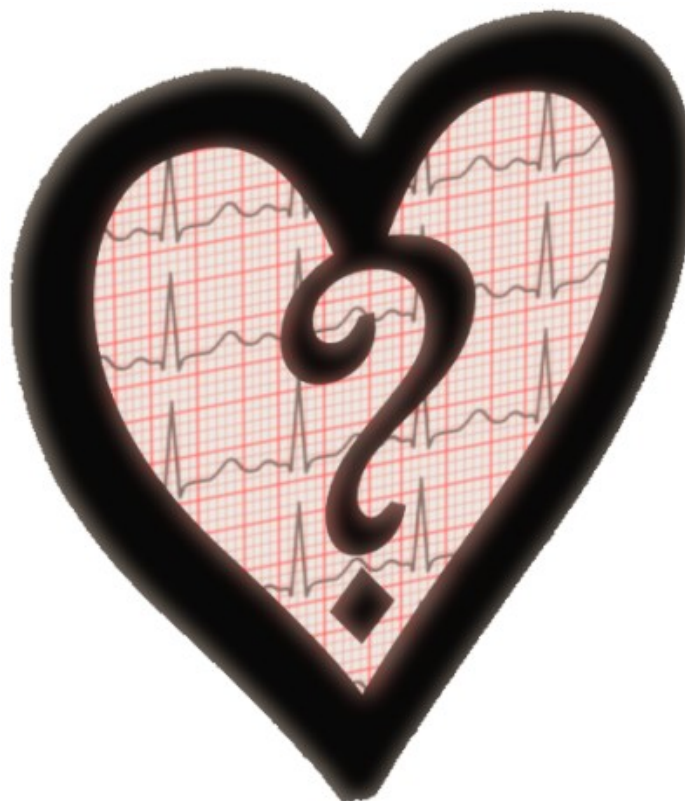


Hypokalemia: *Electrocardiographic & Arrhythmic Manifestation!*

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Description & Discussion

Three electrocardiograms (EKGs) are presented below with variable degrees of hypokalemia. In Figure A, the potassium level is 3.2 mmol/L. Prominent U waves are indicated by the blue arrows adjacent to the T wave, long known to be a sign of hypokalemia [1], causing prolongation of the QT interval due to QT-U fusion [2].

In Figure B, the potassium level is 1.7 mmol/L. Tall U waves, which exceed the T waves in height and fuse with them, are evident as indicated by the red arrows [3]. In Figure C, the potassium level is 2.4 mmol/L. Prolonged QT interval is indicated by the orange arrow probably due to QT-U fusion. Premature ventricular contractions (PVCs; fourth and sixth

beats from left) are noted by the green arrows. The second PVC, having followed the compensatory pause of the first PVC, initiated Torsade de Pointes [4, 5] conceivably due to an R-on-T phenomenon [6].

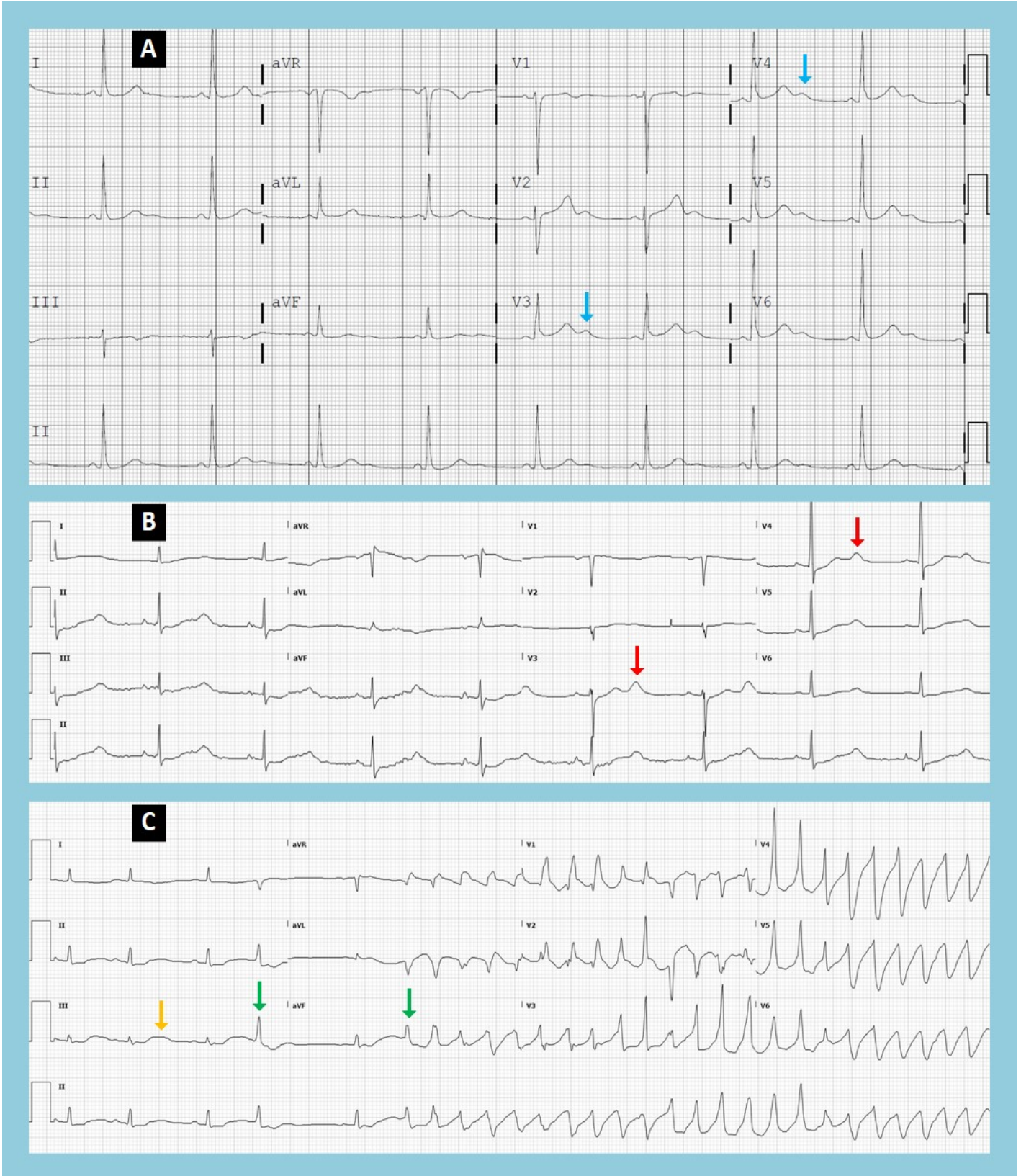
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KEYWORDS: Hypokalemia; Torsade de Pointes; Prolonged QT.

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