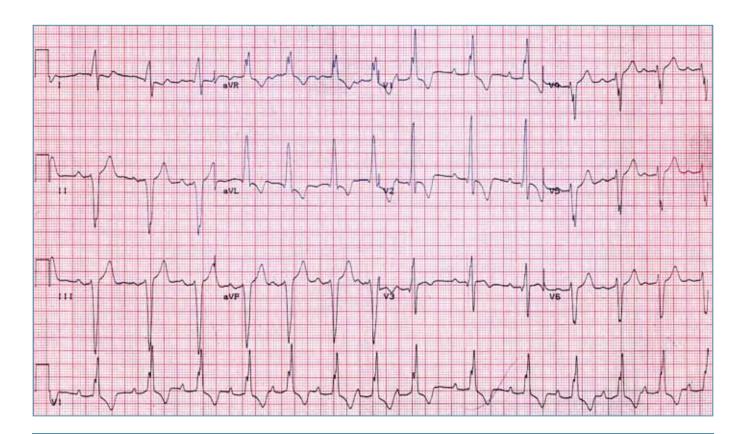




R. Scott Millar

Cardiac Clinic, University of Cape Town / Groote Schuur Hospital Cardiac Arrhythmia Society of Southern Africa (CASSA)



ECG of an 85-year-old woman prior to hip replacement surgery. She had no cardiac symptoms and was on no cardiac medication. The anaesthetist brings you the ECG and asks your advice.

QUESTION I: Which ONE of the following best describes this ECG:

- a. Trifascicular block.
- b. Right bundle branch block, left axis deviation, old lateral myocardial infarct.
- c. RBBB with left anterior fascicular block and prolonged PR interval.
- d. RBBB with pre-excitation.
- e. Accelerated idioventricular rhythm.

QUESTION 2: Which of the following would you advise:

- a. Defer surgery and perform coronary angiography.
- b. Defer surgery and implant a permanent pacemaker.
- c. Insert a temporary pacemaker and proceed with surgery thereafter.
- d. Suggest proceeding with surgery, with appropriate monitoring and precautions.

Please analyse the ECG carefully and commit yourself to an answer before checking the explanation.

ANSWER on page 640