



A patient with a dilated cardiomyopathy and a cardiac resynchronisation therapy (CRT) pacemaker presents to the device clinic for follow-up. He had an initial response to CRT, but has noticed a decline in effort tolerance for the past few weeks. The CRT pacemaker was programmed in DDD mode with a lower base rate of 60bpm. His current ECG is shown.

Possible causes for a deterioration in his clinical response include:

- a) Atrial fibrillation
- b) Premature ventricular complexes
- c) Atrial undersensing
- d) Intermittent lack of left ventricular pacing
- e) a, b, and c
- f) a, b, c, and d

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

ANSWER on page 218