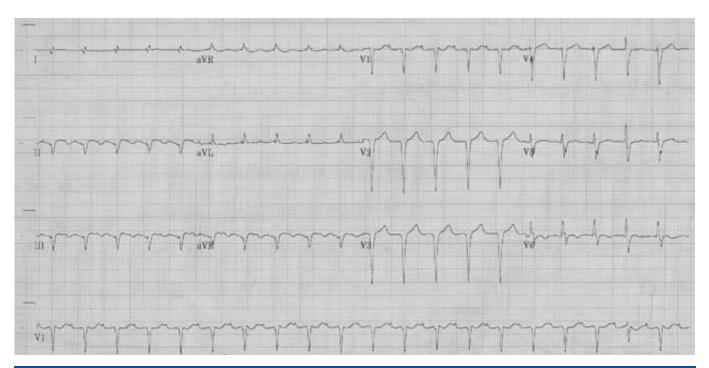


A Okreglicki Cardiac Clinic, University of Cape Town / Groote Schuur Hospital Cardiac Arrhythmia Society of Southern Africa (CASSA)



A 50-year-old man with dilated cardiomyopathy was referred for further management. He has NYHA Class III symptoms and intermittent nocturnal dyspnoea which are refractory to medical therapy comprising oral diuretic, angiotensin receptor blocker, spironolactone, nitrates, aspirin and digoxin. He does not have ischemic heart disease.

An ECG was done. This was identical to the one from the referring hospital done weeks before.

QUESTION: Which ONE of the following is the best management option?

- (a) Intensification of medical therapy with intravenous diuretic and dobutamine
- (b) Cardiac resynchronization therapy with a biventricular pacemaker
- (c) Electrical cardioversion urgently
- (d) Cardioversion and implantation of implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD)
- (e) Warfarin and radiofrequency ablation of arrhythmia
- (f) Radiofrequency ablation and VVI permanent pacemaker ("ablate&pace")
- (g) Addition of beta-blockers
- (h) Addition of regular amiodarone
- (i) Cardiac transplantation

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

ANSWER on page 188