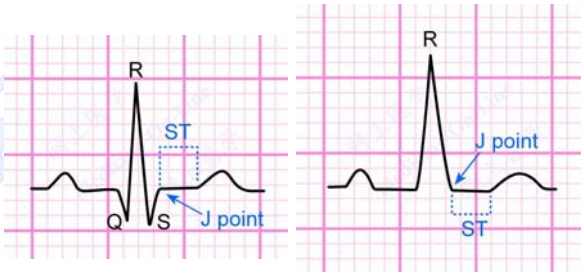
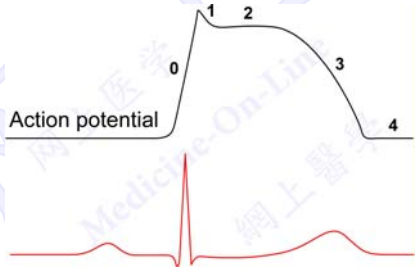
The ST Segment

Following the QRS complex is the ST segment, extending from where the QRS ends (irrespective of what the last wave in the complex is) to where the T wave begins. The junction between the end of the QRS and the beginning of the ST segment is called the J point.

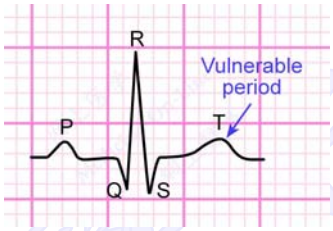




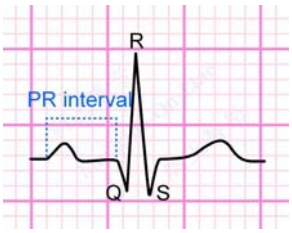
ST segment reflects the current flow associated with phase 2 of ventricular repolarization. Since there is no current flow during this plateau phase of repolarization, the ST segment is normally isoelectric with the baseline.

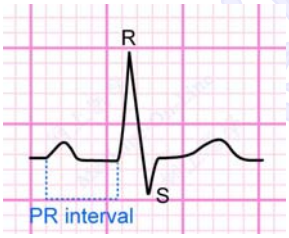
The T Wave

The T wave represents the current of rapid phase 3 ventricular repolarization (see diagram above). The polarity of this wave normally follows that of the main QRS deflection in any lead. The ventricles are electrically unstable during that period of repolarization extending from the peak of the T wave to its initial downslope. A stimulus (e.g. a run away heart beat called a premature beat) falling on this vulnerable period has the potential to precipitate ventricular fibrillation: the so call R-on-T phenomenon.



The PR Interval





The PR interval extends from the beginning of the P wave to the beginning of the QRS, whatever the first wave of this complex may be. This interval measures the time from the initial