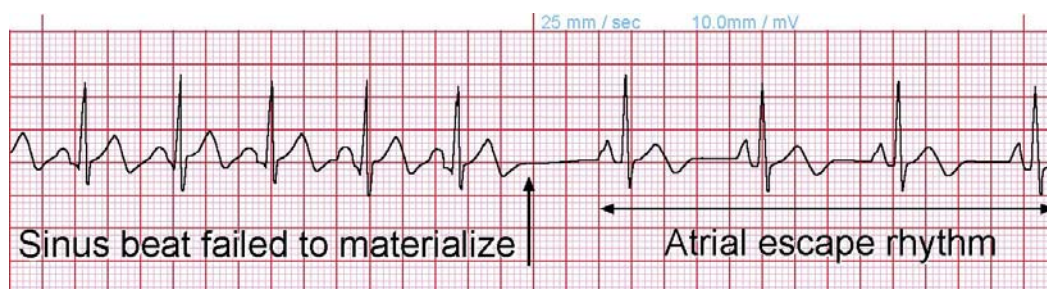
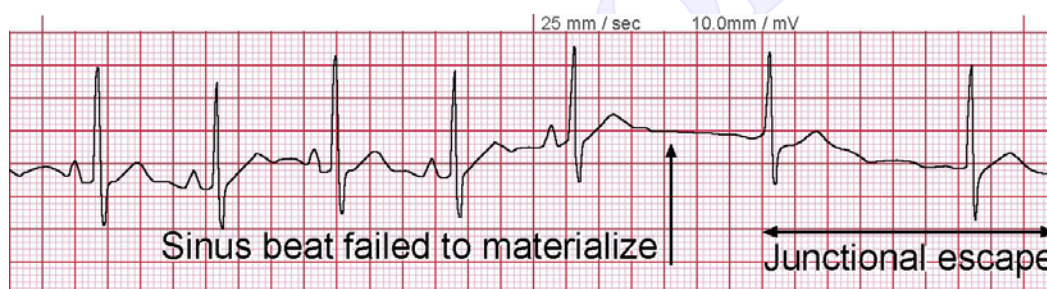


Atrial Escape



Atrial escape, either in escape beat or escape rhythm, produces a P wave that has abnormal axis and looks different from the P wave produced by the sinus beat. However, depolarization spreads to the ventricles normally down the AV junction, the His bundle, and bundle branches. Therefore the QRS complex of the atrial escape beats looks exactly like the QRS complex of the sinus beat. The inherent rate of atrial escape rhythm is between 60 and 80 beats/min.

Junctional Escape



In junctional (AV junctional) beat or rhythm the atrial depolarization current points cephalad and to the right, away from lead II and toward lead aVR. Therefore the P wave, if seen, would be negative in lead II and positive in lead aVR. However this P wave is usually buried by the QRS complex and not visible. On less common occasions when the P wave is visible, it may be either immediately before or immediately after the QRS complex. Since the impulse is conducted to the ventricles via the His bundle and bundle branches, the QRS complex of junctional beats is narrow and looks exactly like the QRS complex of the sinus beat. The inherent rate of junctional escape rhythm is 40 – 60 beats/min.

