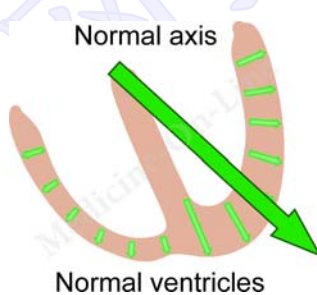
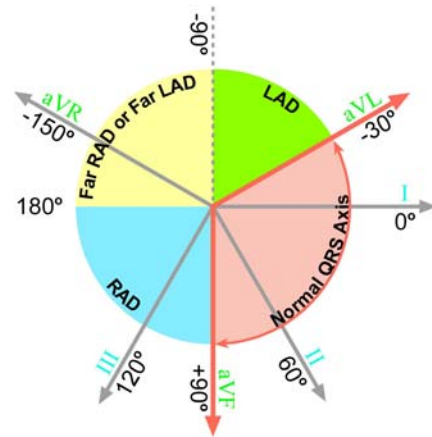


QRS Axis

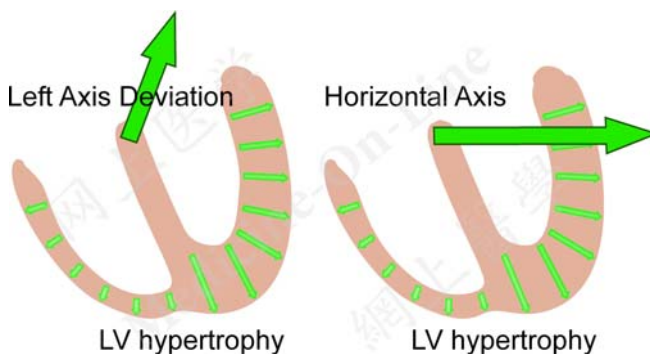
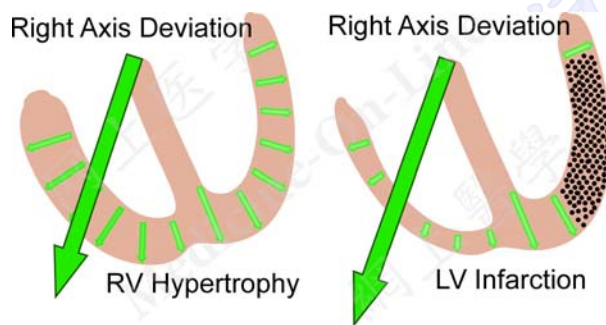
There are many ways to determine QRS axis. The one described below combines simplicity and efficiency.

The limits of normal and abnormal QRS axis are summarized in the diagram to the right.



QRS axis is the direction in which the mean QRS current flows. The normal axis points mostly downward and to the left because the more muscular left ventricle generates a stronger depolarizing current that overwhelms that generated by the less bulky right. Although both right axis deviation (RAD) and left axis deviation (LAD) are not necessarily associated with organic heart disease, they are seen in a number of settings and their presence can provide added evidence to support a clinical diagnosis.

RAD is seen in right ventricular (RV) hypertrophy and in infarction involving the left ventricle (LV). Right ventricular muscle bulk is relatively larger than that of the left in both conditions and generates a stronger depolarizing current in its direction.



LAD is seen, but not always, in patients with left ventricular hypertrophy. More commonly the QRS axis is horizontal in this condition.