

Bundle branch block or ventricular rhythm?

The QRS complexes are wider than normal in both BBB and ventricular rhythm. But the rhythm in BBB is supraventricular in origin. There is a one-to-one P wave to QRS relationship in BBB:



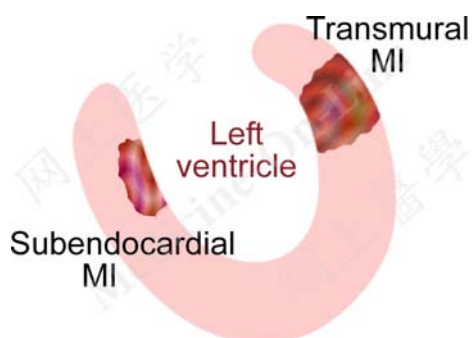
In sinus rhythm with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree heart block, there are regular P waves that are totally asynchronous with the QRS complexes, which represent escape rhythm from a ventricular focus.



In ventricular rhythm with sinus arrest, only wide QRS complexes are seen and P waves are absent.



## Acute Myocardial Infarction



Acute myocardial infarction (MI) affects both ventricular depolarization (appearance of pathological Q waves) and repolarization (ST-T wave changes). Specific manifestations depend on whether the lesion is subendocardial or transmural in location.