

# ECG di...vino

Asti 24 Settembre 2016

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**Ospedale Cardinal G. Massaia - Asti**  
**SOC Cardiologia**

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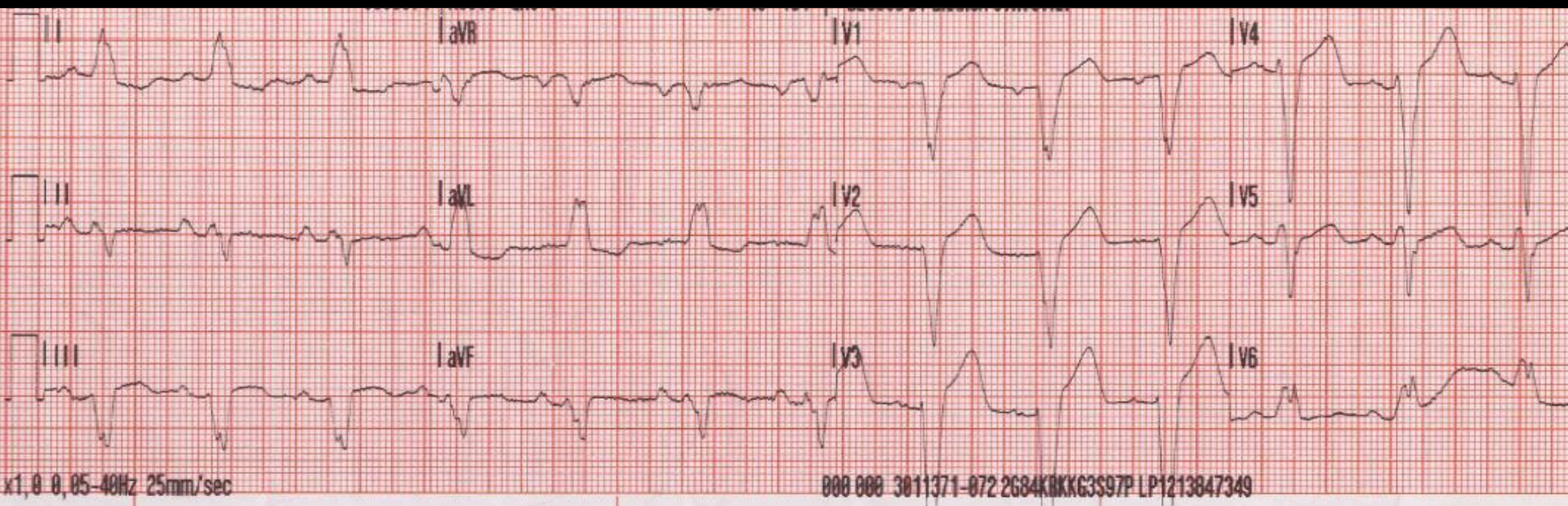
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# Clinical history

Severe fatigue for months

## ECG



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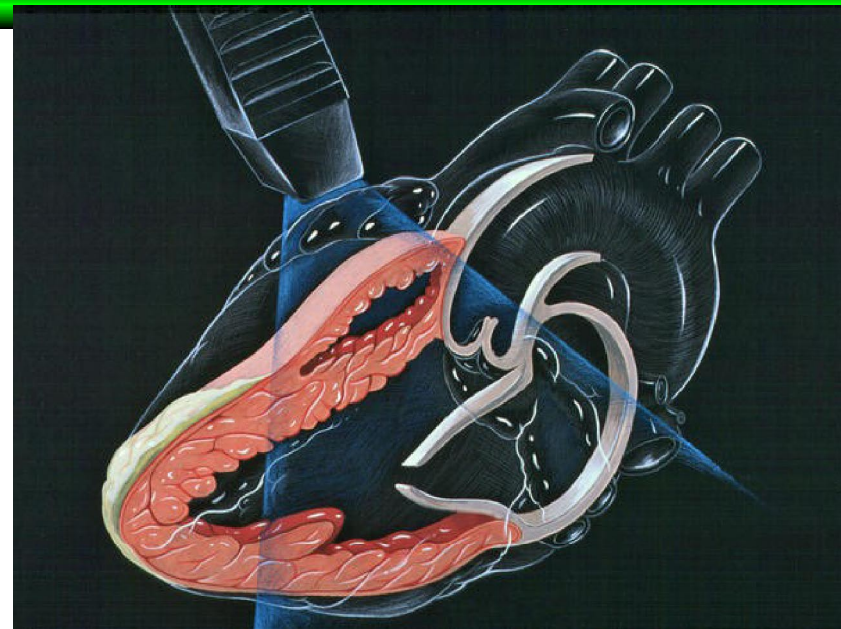


# Clinical history

- **65 yr old woman**
- **Metabolic syndrome**
- **Hx of alcohol abuse**
- **Syncopal episode during orthostasis**



# Echocardiogram



**Dilated hypertrophied left ventricle with antero-apical akynesia and posterior septum. EF assessed around 30%. Moderate mitral regurgitation and late activation of the lateral wall.**





# Diagnostic work-up



**Holter ecg: sinus rhythm with constant LBBB. Occasional PVCs with rare couples of different morphologies**

**Coronary angiography: no significant lesions**

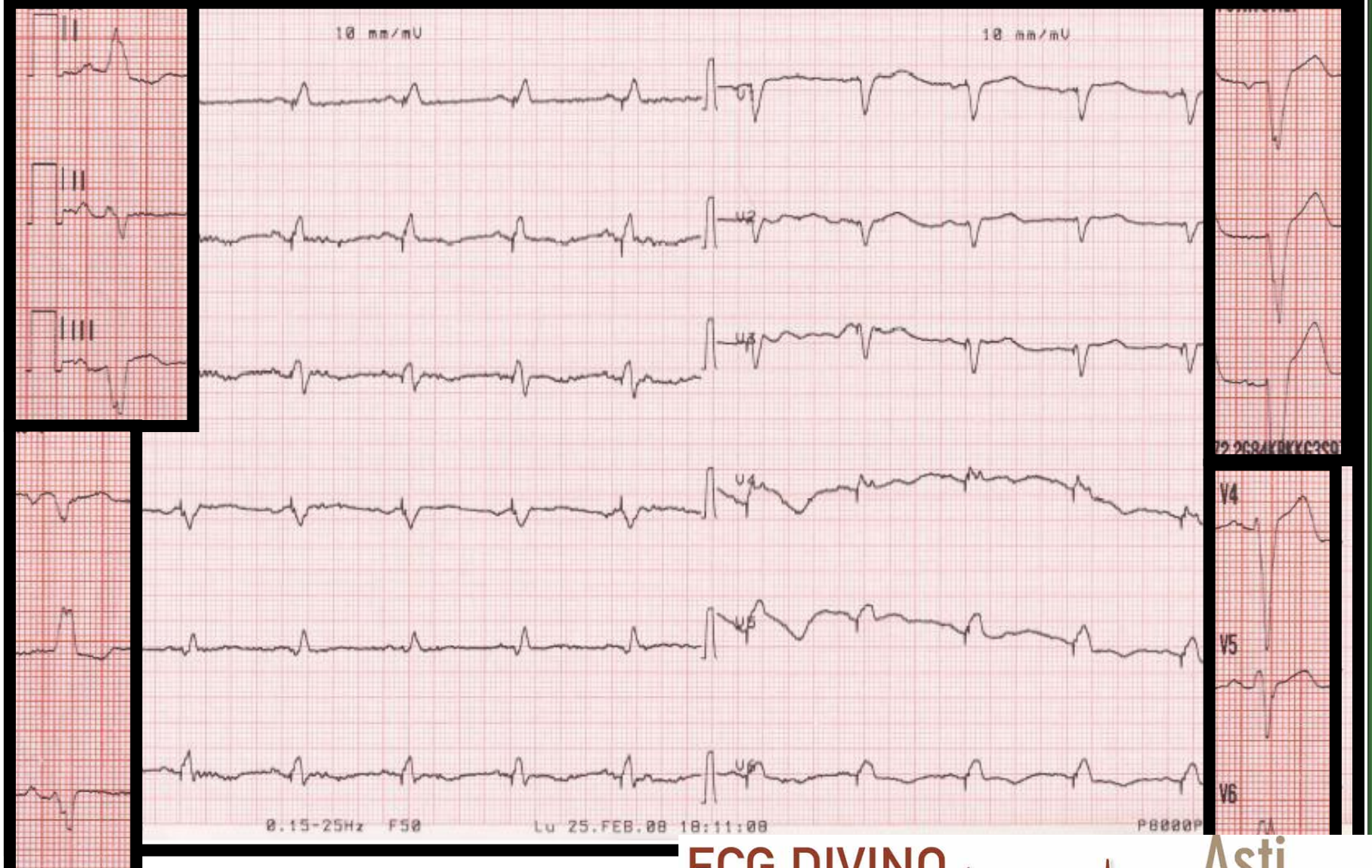


# ....what to do?

1. **HUT**
2. **EP study**
3. **Reveal**
4. **Amiodarone**
5. **PM**
6. **ICD**



# ECG post ICD-implant



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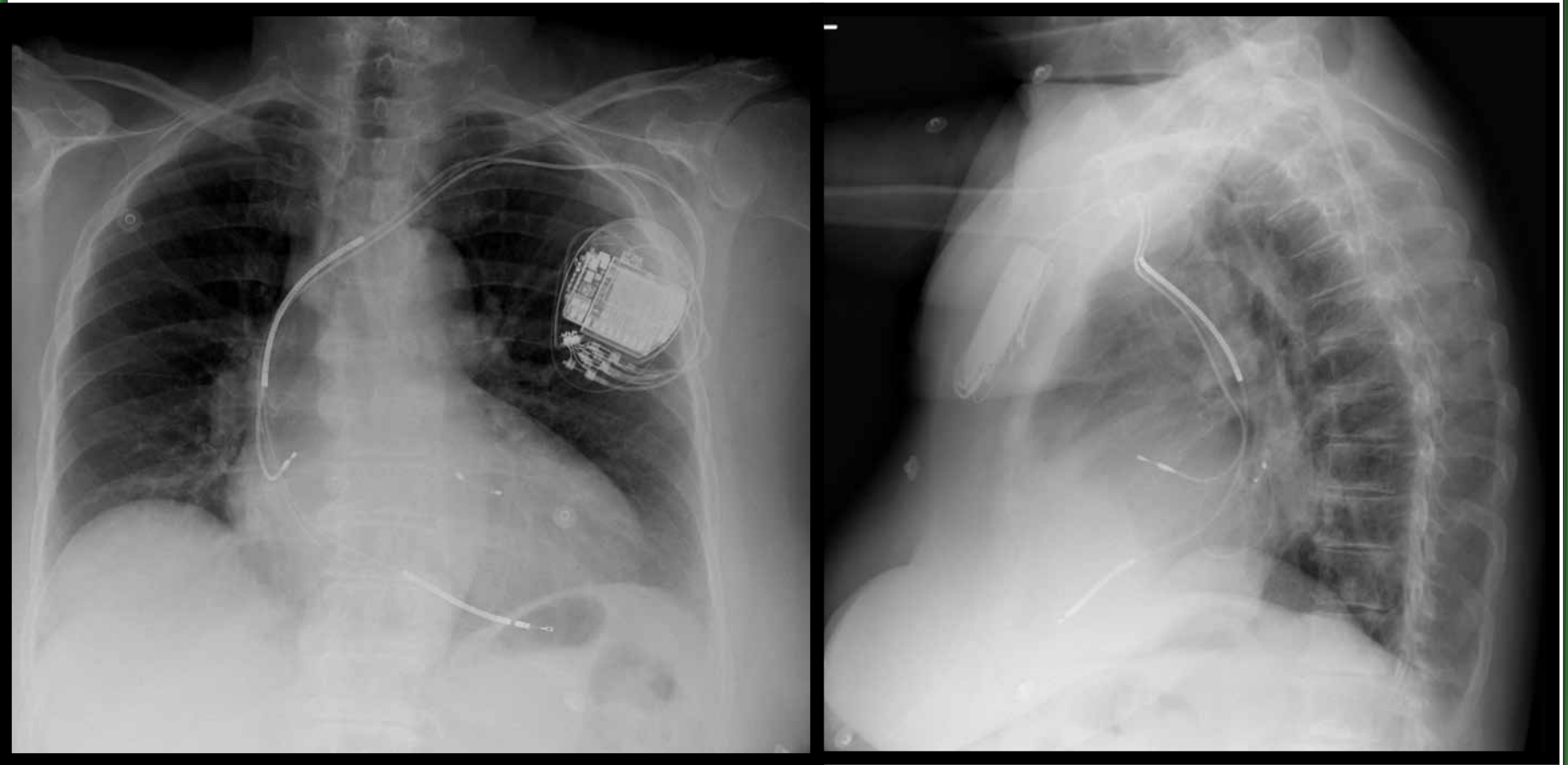


# What is the pacing site ?

- 1 **Biventricular pacing**
- 2 **Bifocal pacing**
- 3 **Multisite pacing**
- 4 **RV septal pacing**



# Biv ICD implanted

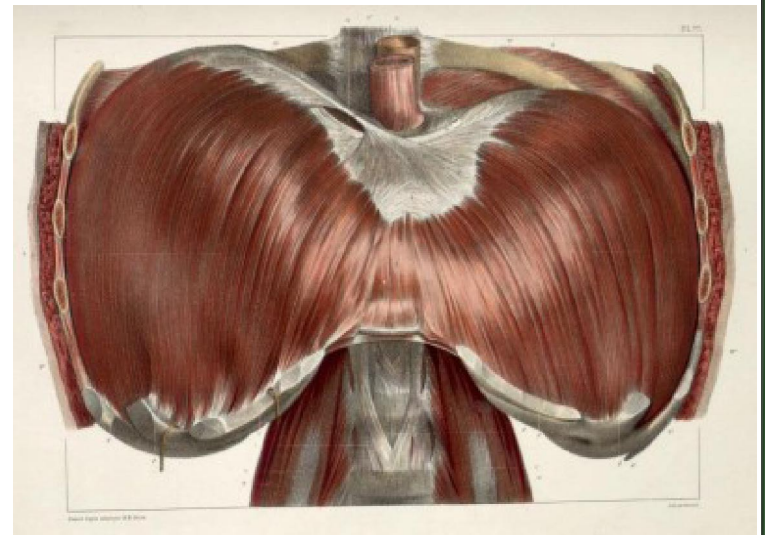


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**Two months later....**



**Admission in emergency room  
because of “*abdominal  
contractions*” for ~~three days~~**

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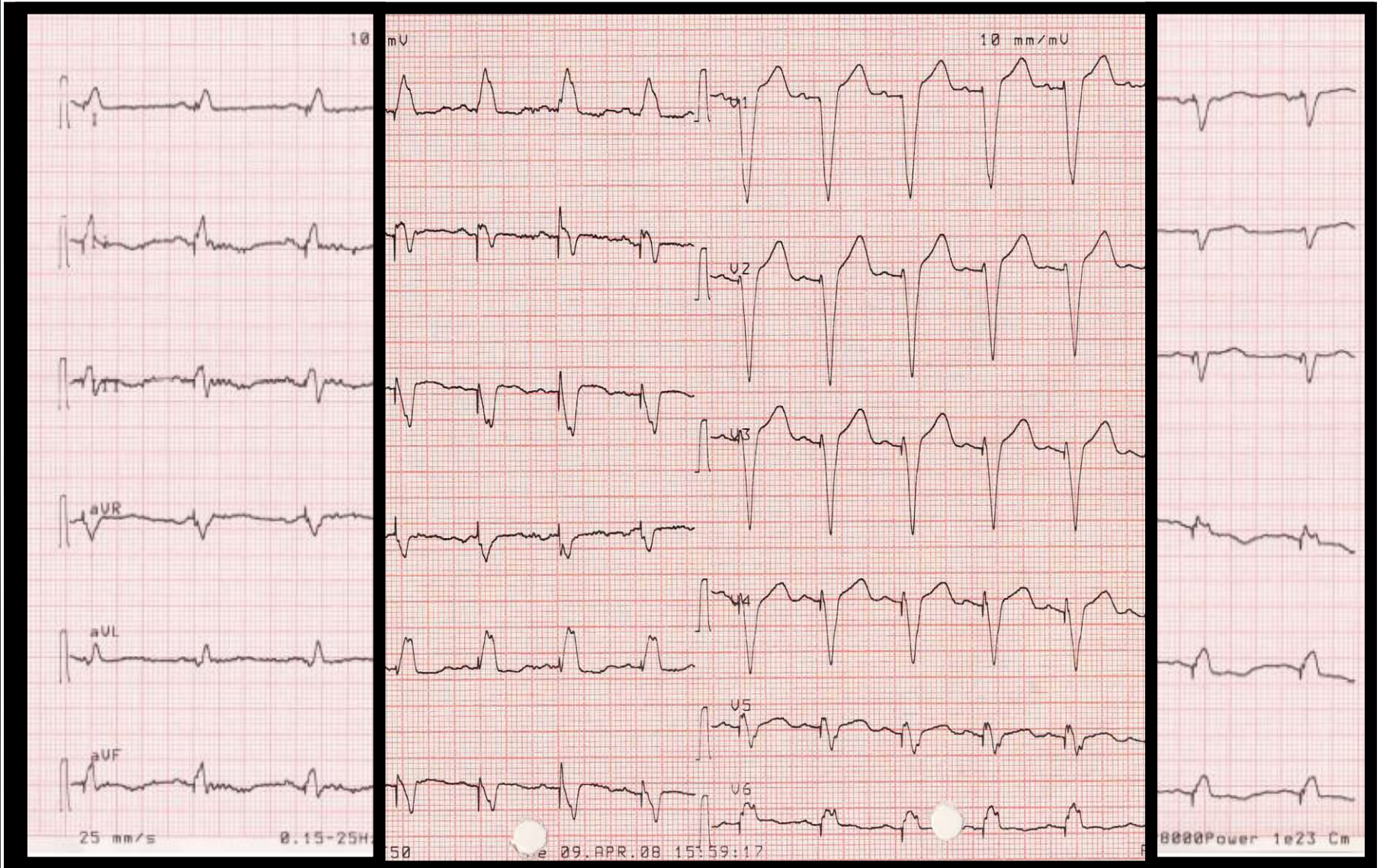
# Clinical exam



- **No signs of congestive heart failure**
- **Evidence of involuntary abdominal wall contractions variable in frequency and duration**



# ECG



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# How to explain the symptoms ?

- 1 **Increase of left ventricular amplitude threshold**
- 2 **CS catheter dislocation**
- 3 **Either 1 and 2**
- 4 **Worsening of intraventricular conduction**





# Chest Xray

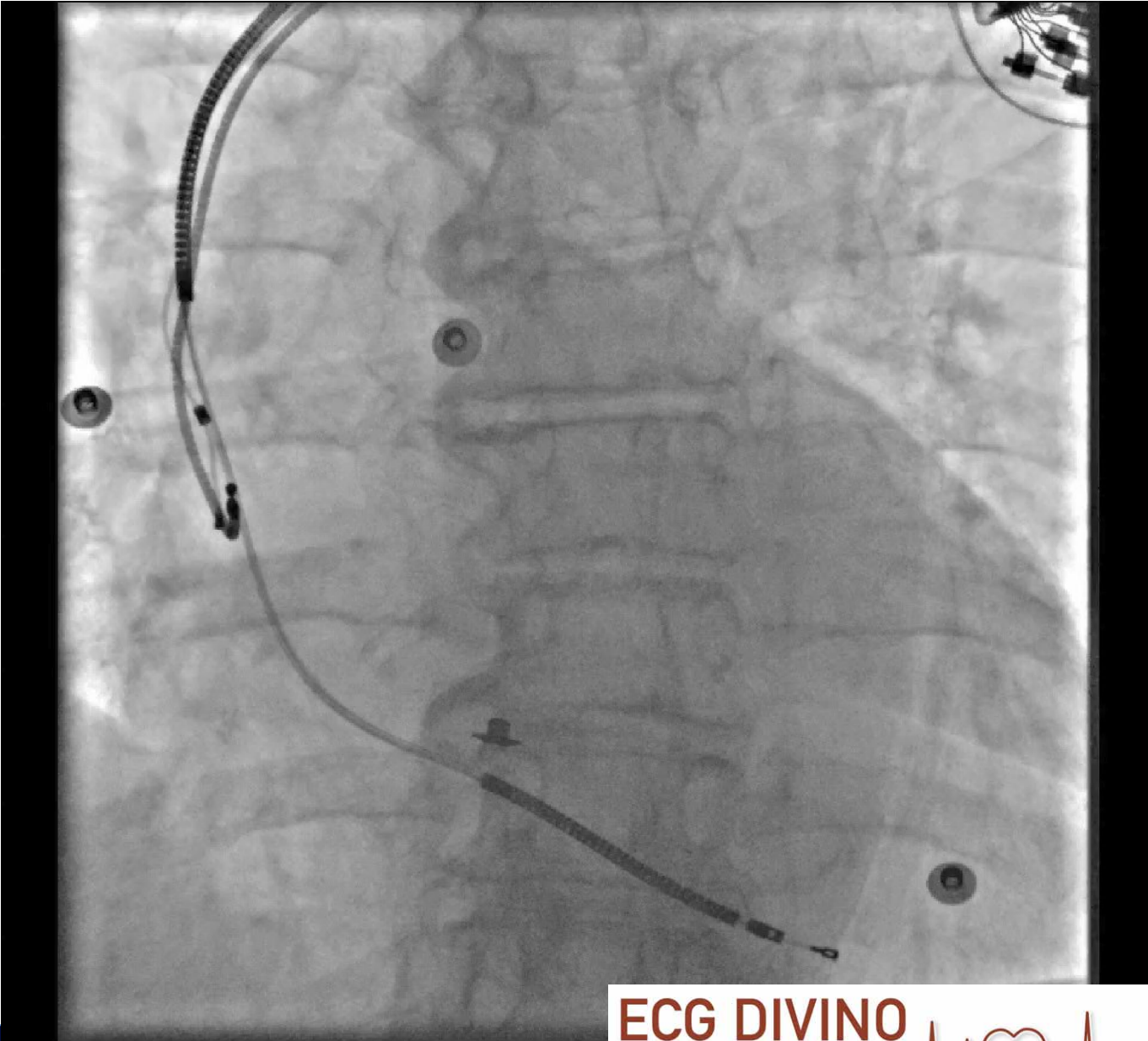


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# Chest X-ray



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# Chest X-Ray



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# Are diaphragmatic contractions related to pacing ?

1. **Yes**
2. **No**

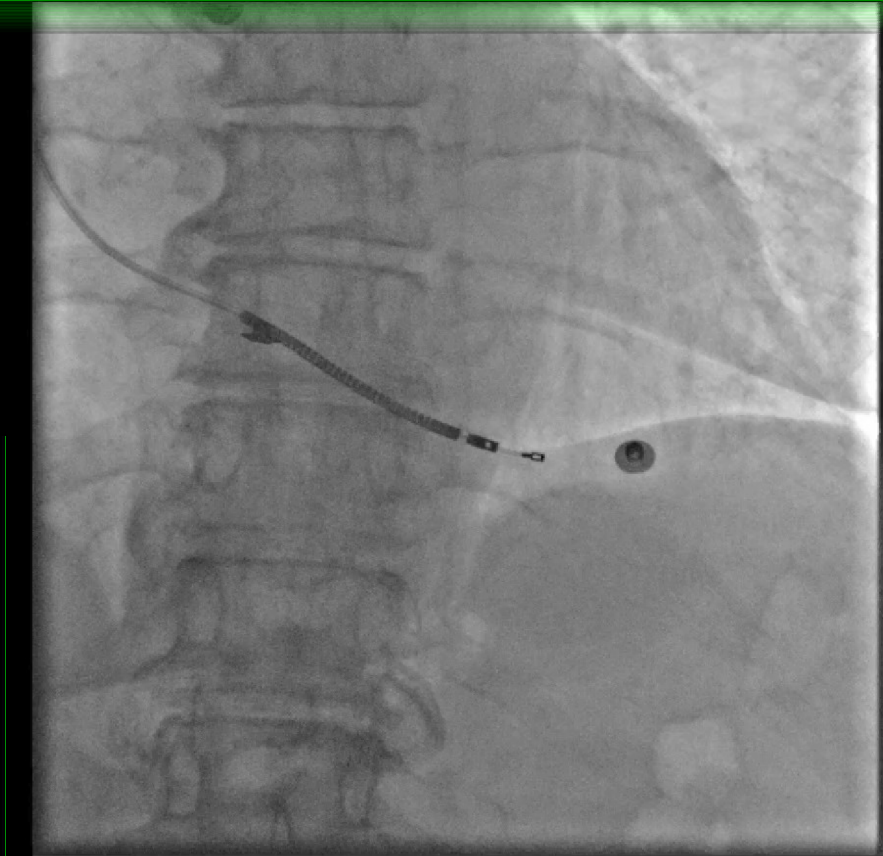


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# X-Ray



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# -ray



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# Are diaphragmatic contractions due to CS or atrial catheter capture ?

1. **Yes**
2. **No**



# Chest X-ray

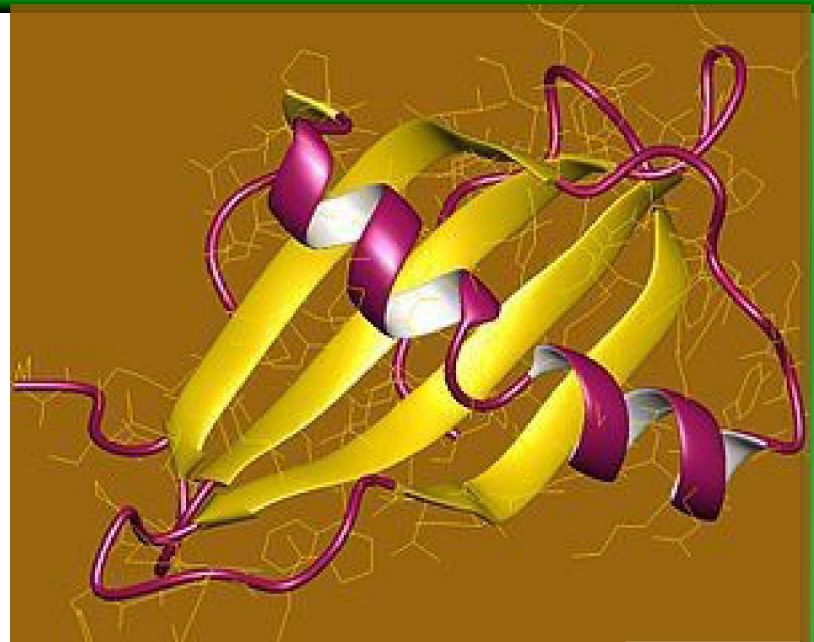


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# Diaphragmatic myoclonus:

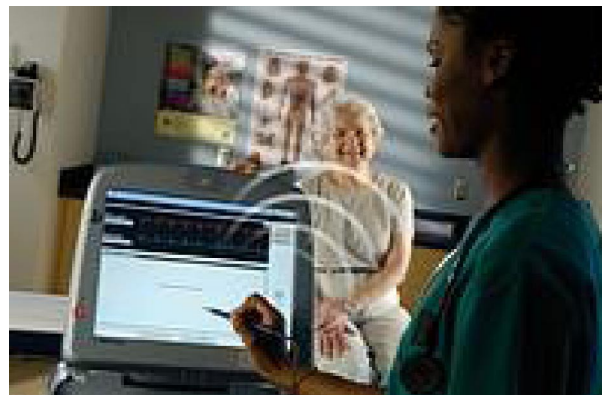


**More frequent during the day  
and “white coat effect”**





# ICD check



**Electrical parameters ok and no diaphragmatic contractions with atrial, right ventricular and left ventricular stimulation**



# Is there an alternative diagnostic hypothesis ?



- 1) **Yes**
- 2) **No**



# Further diagnostic work-up



**EEG**            **normal**

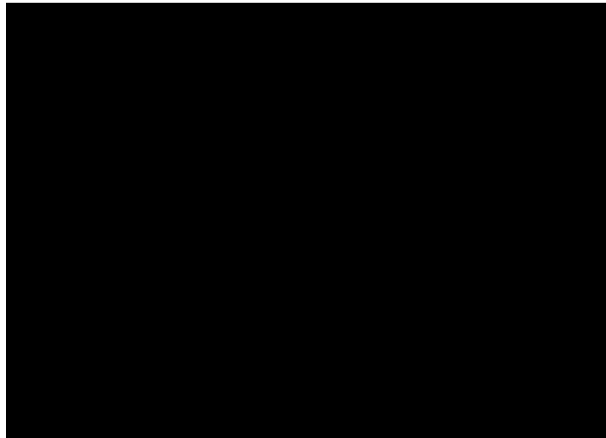
**EMG**            **no spontaneous activity of the abdominal  
muscles recorded**

**Cerebral CT**        **negative**





# Further diagnostic work-up



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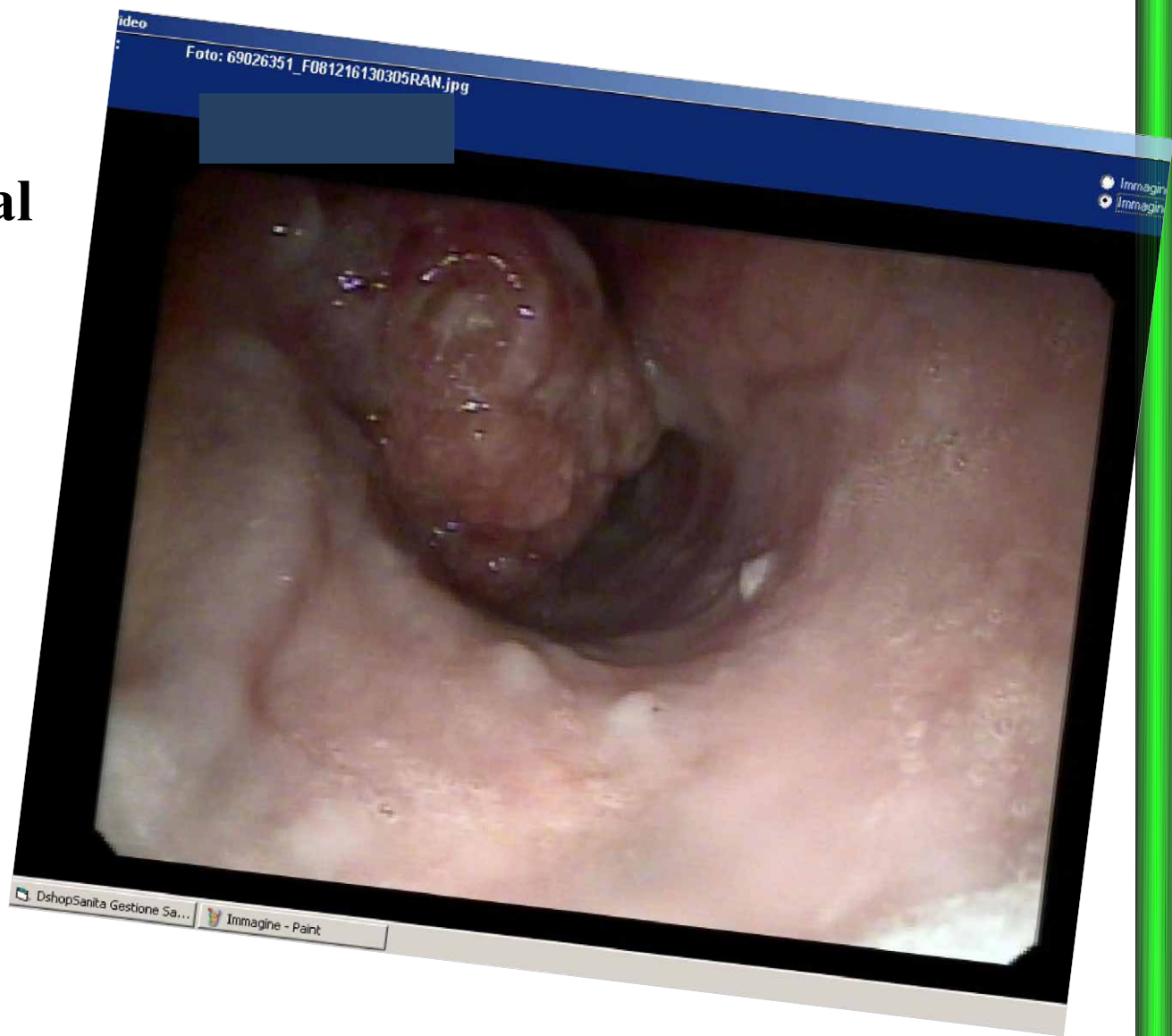


S

**Extensive vegetation  
20 cm from the dental  
arch**

**tology**

**Severe squamous  
epithelial dysplasia  
in malignant  
transformation**



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# Treatment

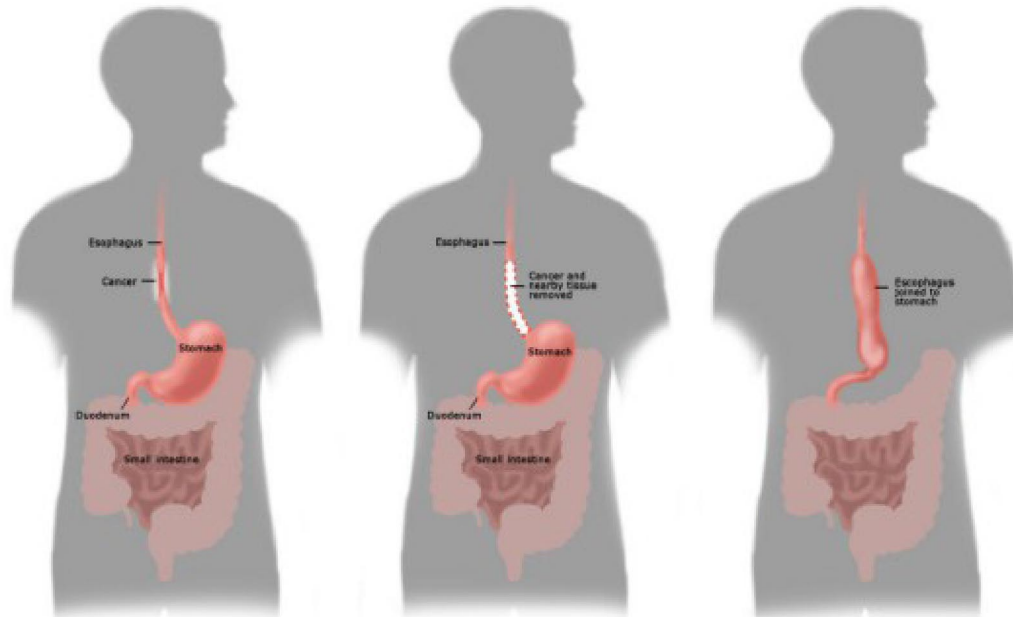


- **Clonazepam 0,5/die up to 1 mg x 3**
- **Levosulpiride 25 mg x 3**
- **Droperidolo 2,5 mg**
- **New trial with Clonazepam 2 mg 1 cp x 3 (effective)**





# Surgery

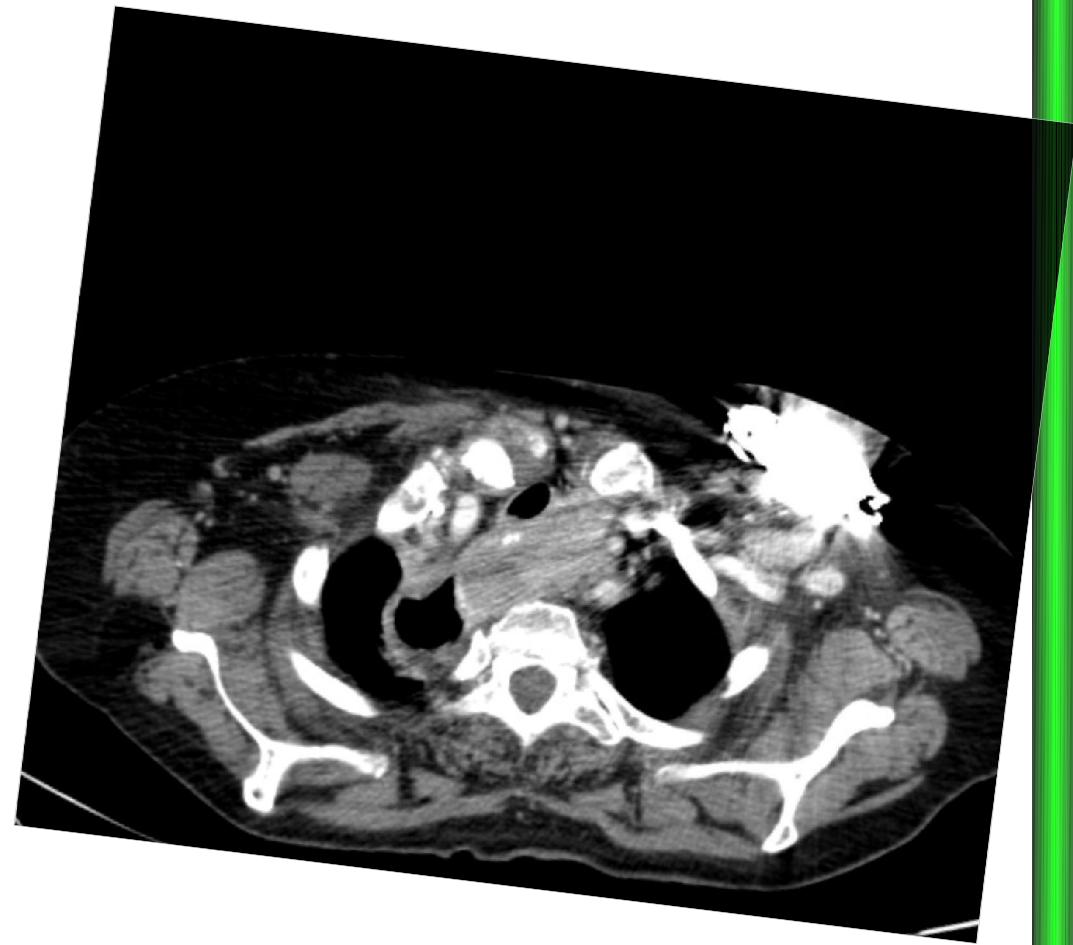


- Esophageal carcinoma resection (G2,pT3,pN0) with subtotal esophagectomy and esophago-gastroplasty and digiunostomy



# 5 months later repeat CT

**New solid 5 cm  
inhomogenous lesion at  
the cranial anastomosis  
protruding in the lumen  
and extending for 7 cm**



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# Antony van Leeuwenhoek (1632-1723)



LEUWENHOEK, A. De generationem animalium, et de palpitazione diaphragmatis. *Phil. Tr., Lond.*, 32: 438, 1723.

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# Diaphragmatic Flutter\*

## *Report of a Case and Review of Literature*

MARIO RIGATTO, M.D. and NILO P. DE MEDEIROS, M.D.  
*Porto Alegre, Brazil*

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE

**I**N 1723 Leuwenhoek [1], the father of microscopy, wrote in a letter to a friend that he “had been disturbed for three days by strong pulsations of the epigastric area which his doctor had diagnosed as palpitations of the heart.” Nevertheless, after counting his arterial pulsations and observing that they were regular and slower than the epigastric movements, Leuwenhoek concluded that the epigastric beats had their origin in the diaphragm. Apparently, this was the first report in the literature of a case of diaphragmatic flutter, one of the most unusual disturbances of diaphragmatic motility.

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**RESPIRATORY MYOCLONUS (LEEUVENHOEK'S DISEASE)**

JAMES R. PHILLIPS, M.D., AND FREDERIC L. ELDRIDGE, M.D.

In the 250 years since Leeuwenhoek, only 48 additional cases have been reported. Most of the early cases are mentioned in a review article,<sup>3</sup> the remainder being referenced individually.<sup>4-14</sup>

**Altri 40 casi segnalati sino ad oggi di cui 9 pediatrici**



# Diaphragmatic flutter (1)

” Unusual movement disorder with abnormal diaphragmatic activity, which may be associated with respiratory symptoms

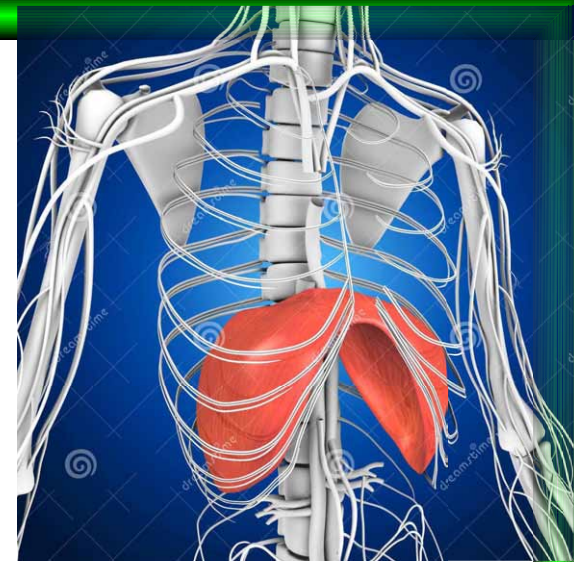
” Diaphragmatic flutter called also “Respiratory myoclonus”

” Etiology: abnormal excitation of the phrenic nerve

” CNS: encephalitis, psychogenic origin ...

” Irritating factors anywhere along the phrenic path (cervical rib, enlarged mediastinal lymphnodes, enlarged heart\*, fractured xiphoid)

” Irritation of the diaphragm itself (pleurisy, peritonitis, ischemia)

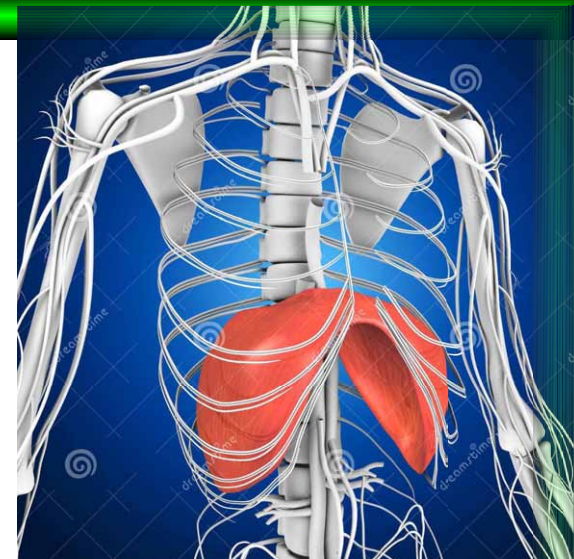


# Diaphragmatic flutter (2)

**Rate varied from case to case and on different occasions**

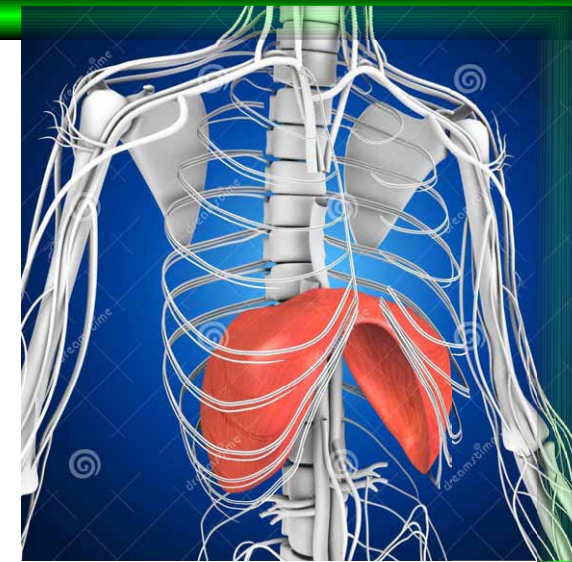
**Amplitude and force: ..forceful enough to shake the bed.. too slight to transmit any movement to the chest or abdominal wall..**

**Precipitating and suppressing factors: Emotional tension and excitement, cough, deep breathing, pressure on the abdomen, menstruation, sleeping\*, deep inspiration, breath holding, speaking, walking, open mouth....**



# Diaphragmatic flutter (3)

Paroxysmal beats of the abdominal wall (especially the epigastric area) and/or the lower intercostal spaces, unrelated to the heart beat.



Respiratory symptoms: interference with respiration, tachypnea of variable degree, respiratory alkalosis

Pain: abdominal wall, thoracic wall simulating angina pectoris, myocardial infarction or pericarditis

Others: hiccups, inspiratory stridor, belching, retching

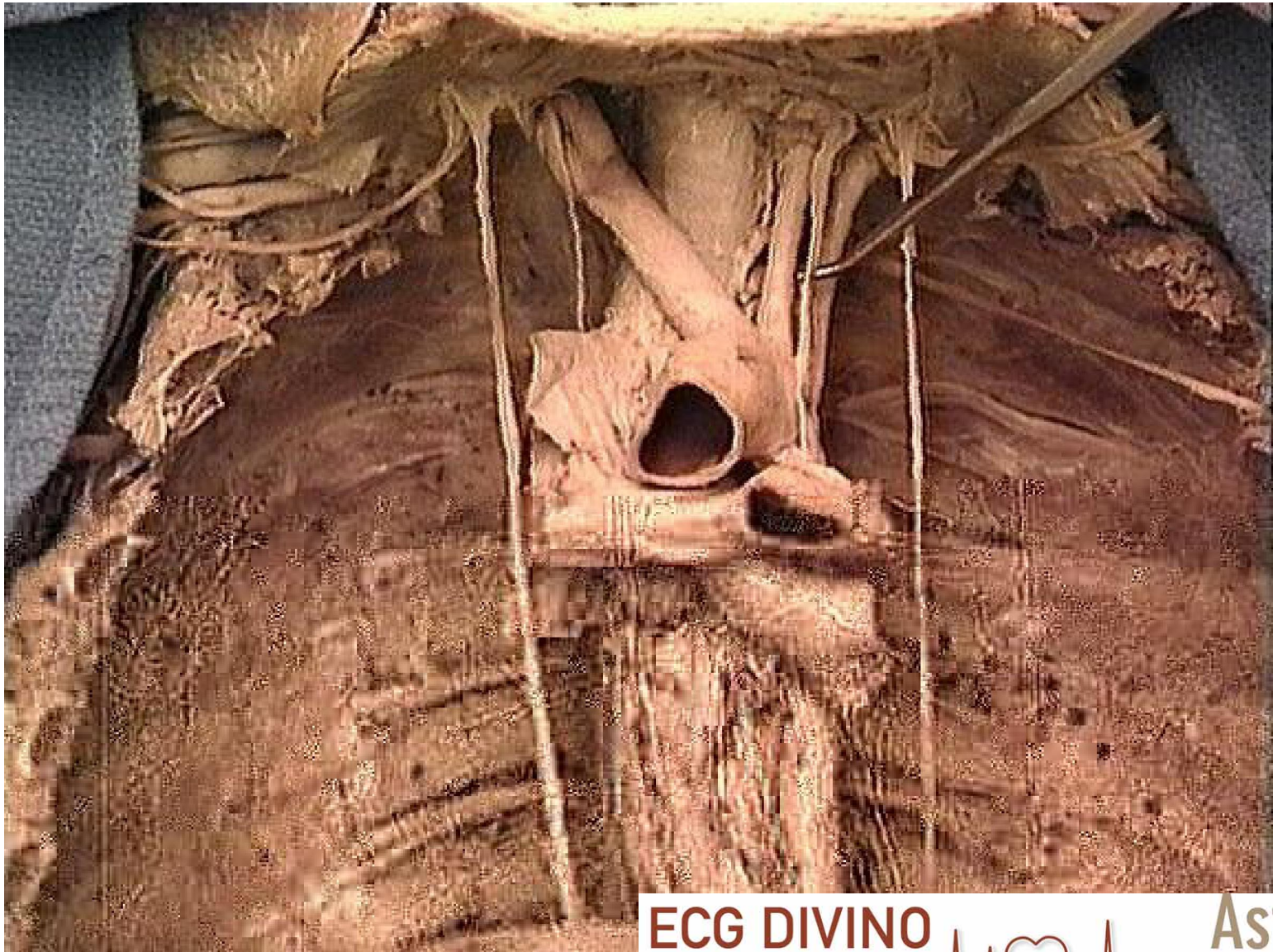
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# Phrenic nerve course

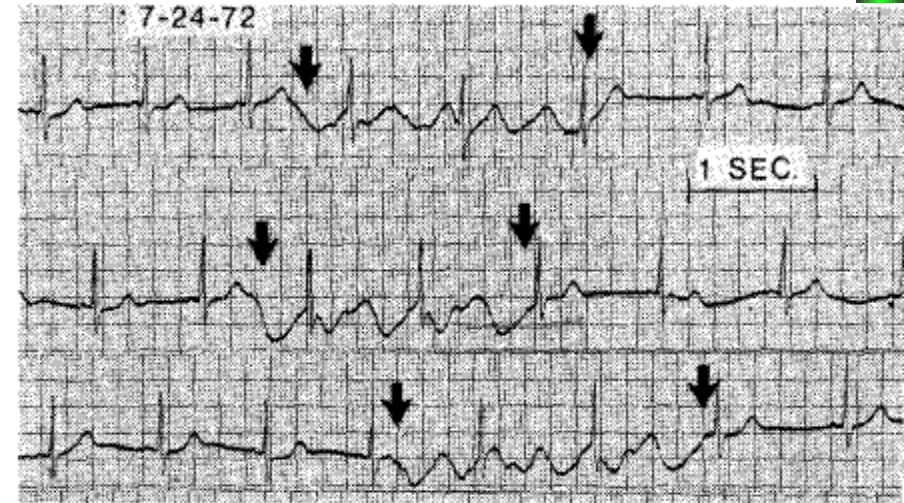
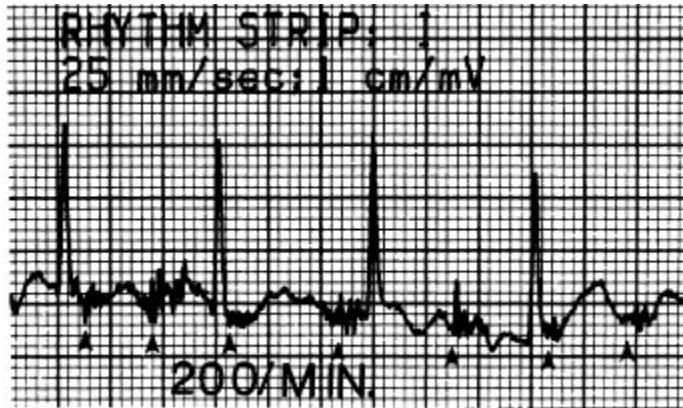


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# Diagnosis



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# Diagnostic work-up



- **EEG**
- **EMG: abdominal rectus, intercostals and scalene muscles**
- **Needle EMG of the diaphragm**
- **Spirometry**
- **Cerebro-spinal MRI**



# Treatment



The therapeutic approach to the symptoms of diaphragmatic flutter has been quite varied. Leeuwenhoek used port wine laced with nutmeg. Although there seemed to be some initial benefit, retrial after recurrence was ineffective. Long-term follow-up results

THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE

Dec. 27, 1973

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# Treatment



## DRUG

- Clonazepam\*
- Lorazepam
- Diazepam
- Fluoxetina
- Clonidina
- Aloperidolo
- Carbamazepina\*
- Difenildantoina\*
- Gabapentin\*
- Levotiroxina

## DOSAGE

- High

## PHRENICOTOMY

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# CONCLUSIONS

- ☐ Very rare reports in the literature
- ☐ Complex diagnosis
- ☐ Often unknown etiology
- ☐ Psychological factors
- ☐ High dosage therapy

