

Focus on ECGs:

A New Feature of the *Texas Heart Institute Journal*

The art of reading the 12-lead ECG is diminishing. Young cardiologists are focusing on mastering newer and more direct cardiac imaging techniques, such as echocardiography, computed tomography, and MRI, and they are devoting less effort to mastering the ECG. Yet the ECG is still widely used in clinical practice for evaluating patients with chest pain, shortness of breath, palpitations, syncope, and various other signs and symptoms.

We're happy to announce a new section titled *Focus on ECGs*, beginning with the February issue of the *Journal*. This section will present a case with interesting and challenging ECGs, along with a quiz and a short comment to describe a practical approach for interpreting these ECGs.

Our first *Focus on ECGs* case (presented on page 94) features a patient with a cardiac pacemaker in place, which adds a level of complexity to the interpretation of an ECG. The associated quiz provides a good exercise to prepare physicians—particularly cardiology fellows in training—to read pacemaker ECGs.

Once an article is published, readers are invited to participate in an accompanying blog, which will be available at THIJournal.blogspot.com. This blog will provide an opportunity for further discussion and dissemination of the knowledge of ECG interpretation. The blog discussion will close 2 weeks after the original publication.

Guidelines are presented below for authors to follow as they prepare their manuscripts for submission. We look forward to receiving your contributions to the new section, as well as your thoughts posted on the blog. We hope that you enjoy this new offering from the *THI Journal*.

*James T. Willerson, MD,
Editor-in-Chief,
Texas Heart Institute Journal, and
President, Texas Heart Institute,
Houston*

Author Guidelines

Submissions for the *Focus on ECGs* section should present an unusual or difficult-to-interpret ECG, along with pertinent case details and a question about the ECG. This should be followed by the authors' answer to the question, with a brief explanatory comment. An additional image or two may be submitted to illustrate the answer as needed.

A cover letter is required to introduce yourself and your paper to the Editor-in-Chief. The text of your manuscript should contain these elements: a title page (limit number of authors to 4), a question of no more than 150 words, an answer of no more than 250 words, and a maximum of 4 supporting references in the answer section (optional). A maximum of 3 images will be allowed. (Be sure to see our Digital Image Guide in Information for Authors; ECGs need to be scanned at very high resolution and submitted in grayscale.)

Once an article is published, a blog will be available at THIJournal.blogspot.com for authors to discuss various aspects of the presented ECG. *The discussion will close 2 weeks after the original publication.*