

Unconfirmed Report (2011)

Dean Rosenthal

dedicated to the people of the DPRK

for any number of players

few repetitions, excepting the rhythm strip*

players may enlarge the score for ease of interpretation

***Each spike in what is called the rhythm strip (the bottom strip, given horizontally) is named the QRS complex¹, which indicates the contraction of the heart – the heart beat. Following the QRS complex comes the T-wave, which indicates the relaxation of the muscle. The P-wave indicates when the electrical impulse is sent to the heart. The EKG measures the heart from 6 different vantage points (V1–V6). These can each be interpreted as players see fit.**

Thanks to Dr. Sharon Wretzel, for her time and expertise.

¹ This is true of any spike in each vector.

Performance Notes

Unconfirmed Report (2011) is a piece for any number of players, for soloist to large ensemble. The instrumentation is open. There are any number of ways to interpret this score, and the players will arrange the parts in an order that pleases them, or leave some part or part of the score out to suit the music. Perhaps there will be a group leader, or several, who decides on a plan of action. For example, there can be solos, duos, trios, quartets, or other configurations made from the score or the parts. A group of musicians might decide to set a tempo of 69 beats per minute, the rate of the heartbeat. A soloist may interpret any part at a given timing to reflect a familiar mapping of a line or a point or a shape he or she considered in a different score, or approach a graphic element in a completely fresh way, perhaps by employing a foreign technique or a common rhythm or a set of scales. In preparing for a performance, decisions might be left to each performer singly or made as a group together or by a group leader, or perhaps in consultation with 1 or 2 of the other musicians, if performed by an ensemble.

To understand how an EKG is read by a cardiologist is not necessarily inherent to a performance. A performer may wish to consult a physician to learn more about the EKG, watch a YouTube video of a heart beating, reflect on unique medical experiences they or a family member or friend may have or have had. The composer may make himself available for interpretive decisions or consultation with a performer or group of performers or group leader.

The history behind the piece is as follows. I suffer from a mood disorder, bipolar disorder. The experience related directly to this reading of this EKG came in the form of a panic attack I faced one afternoon at my studio. After making an appointment with a local clinic, an EKG was taken. There was nothing found to be wrong with me. I soon realized that this mediation between work and sickness, an exact graphic depiction of my cardiac health, might offer a unique opportunity to respond as a composer. I spent months and months contemplating how this music might be composed and over a year later came up with what might be the simplest and most complex of all notations:

For any number of players.

Dean Rosenthal
March 2011

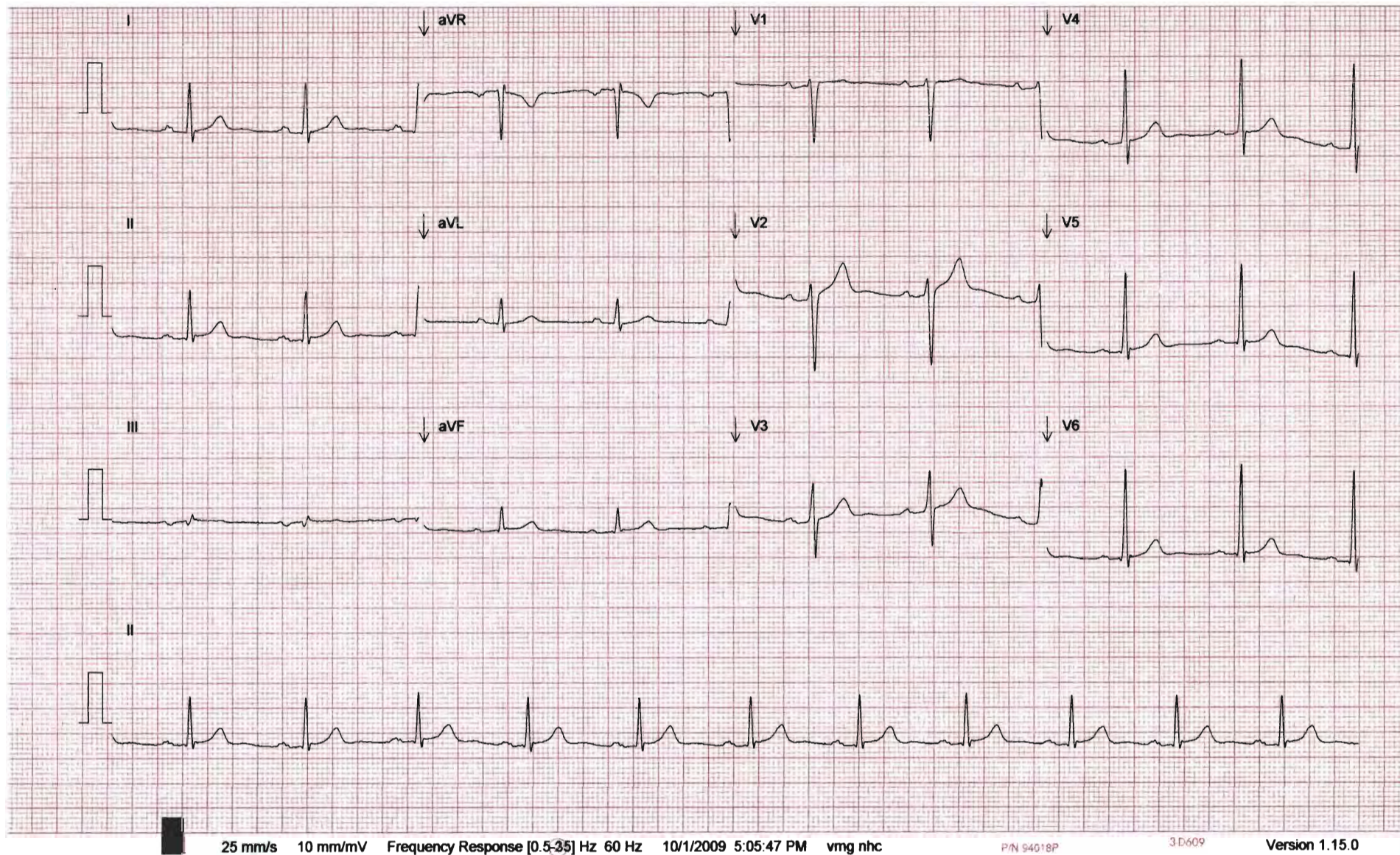
ID:
DOB: 8/27/1974
Weight:
Height:
Gender: Male
Race:

Name: Rosenthal, Dean
Medications:
History:
Comments:

P/PR: 120/192 ms
QRS: 84 ms
QT/QTc: 374/401 ms
P/QRS/T Axis: 4/33/37 deg
Heart Rate: 69 BPM

sinus rhythm
Normal ECG

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Parts

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