Title: What is Bundle Branch Block?

Author: Pamela Paufler

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Abstract:

This Patient Education Tool defines bundle branch block for patients and their families.

hat happens if my doctor ds bundle branch block my ECG?

ur ECG shows bundle branch k, your doctor may want to do her testing. Your doctor may order ltrasound, called an ocardiogram, of your heart. The asound is essentially a picture of heart that evaluates its structure function.

more information please visit the erican Heart Association Website: ://www.americanheart.org

Materials prepared by:
Pamela Paufler, MS3
University of Minnesota
Medical School
Minneapolis, MN

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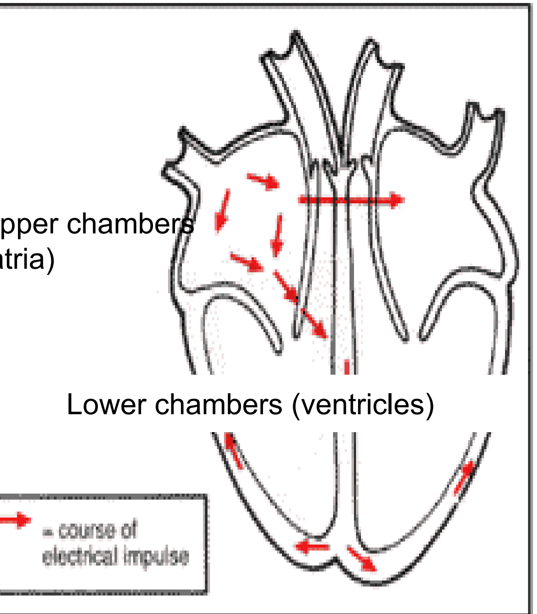
tomy: The heart has 2 upper
mbers (the atria) and 2 lower
mbers (the ventricles).



ction: The primary function of the
rt is to supply blood and nutrients
e body. Each contraction or beat
e heart pumps blood throughout
body.

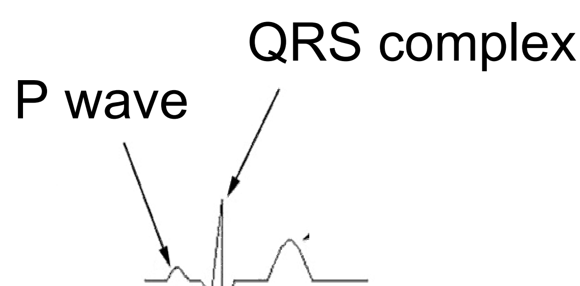
siology: The heart is a specialized
cle that contracts (beats) when
ulated by electrical activity.

The heart's normal pacemaker:

The normal pacemaker of the heart is a specialized group of cells in the right atrium (one of the upper chambers). This pacemaker sends out an electrical impulse that travels through the heart along a preset track. The impulse travels first through both upper chambers, and then after a brief delay, along left and right tracks (bundles) in the lower heart chambers. The impulse path is shown by the red arrows in the picture to the left.

ECG: The ECG is a recording of the impulses traveling within the heart.

The first deflection on the ECG is the P wave caused by the impulse traveling through the upper chambers. The next deflection is the QRS complex caused by the impulse traveling through the lower chambers.

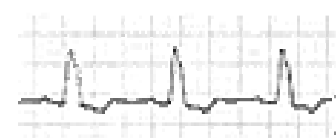


What is Bundle Branch Block?

Normally, the electrical impulse trav along the right and left bundles in th lower chambers of the heart simultaneously. In bundle branch block, one of the bundles is disrupte Because of the block, the impulse travels through the nondisrupted bundle first and then slowly to the remainder of the heart. When this happens, the ECG looks different.

In Left BBB, the impulse travels through the right bundle first and th spreads to the left side of the heart.

LBBB



In right BBB, the impulse travels through the left bundle first and the spreads to the right side of the hea

RBBB