- Good morning : My name is Florencia González Amigo, I am a cardiologist from the Bahía Blanca city, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Until now I have behaved as a faithful reader of the messages. Very grateful to allow me to belong to the group.
- I want to consult the group on the tracing of an ECG.

This is an 89-year-old male patient with cardiovascular risk factors (ex-smoker, hypertensive) coronary heart disease (previous AMI in 2000 without treatment that evolved with anteroseptal Q)He is currently hospitalized with a diagnosis of non-ST-segment elevation acute coronary syndrome. Transient depression of the ST segment is observed in the anterolateral wall, which reverses (levels) when the precordial pain subsides.

Positive quantitative troponin.

Attached is his ECG. It has been difficult for us to define it. We see it as An standard. Maskeranding bundle branch block

I await your opinions regarding the layout. Thank you very much!!Kind regards to the whole group.Florence Gonzalez-Amigo

Spanish

Buenos dias

- Mi nombre es Florencia González Amigo, soy cardióloga de la ciudad de Bahía Blanca, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Hasta ahora me he comportado como fiel lectora de los mensajes. Muy agradecida de permitirme pertenecer al grupo.
- Quiero consultar al grupo el trazado de un electrocardiograma.
- Se trata de un paciente de 89 años, masculino, con factores de riesgo cardiovascular (ex tabaquista, hipertenso) cardiopatía coronaria (IAM anterior en el año 2000 sin tratamiento que evolucionó con Q anteroseptal)
- Actualmente está internado con diagnóstico de síndrome coronario agudo sin elevación del segmento ST. Se observa depresión transitoria del segmento ST en pared anterolateral, que revierte (nivela) al ceder el dolor precordial. Troponina cuantitativa positiva.
- Adjunto su electrocardiograma. Nos ha resultado complejo definirlo.
- Lo vemos como un bloqueo de rama enmascarado en estándar.
- Aguardo sus opiniones con respecto al trazado.
- Muchas gracias!!
- Saludos cordiales a todo el grupo

Florencia González Amigo flor amigo@HOTMAIL.COM



- My cardiology sites of scientific interest:
- https://ekgvcg.wordpress.com/ https://cardiacademy.com/





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CV Lattes: http://buscatextual.cnpq.br/buscatextual/visualizacv.do?id=K4244824E7





LAFB Right Frontal Plane Hypothetical depolarization in the FP Frontal -90* 2 gR 180 0°T Х aVF п

+90*

SIII > SII

rS

rS



Prolonged R- Wave Peak Time, Ventricular Activation Time or intrinsicoid deflection in aVL ≥ 45 ms: LAFB;



Clinical diagnosis: Acute coronary syndrome: Non-ST Segment elevation MI: Dynamics ST segment depression

- ECG diagnoses
- LAFB +
- Standard Type" or Standard Masquerading Bundle-Branch Block: consisting of the pattern of left bundle-branch block (LBBB) in the limb leads and right bundle-branch block (RBBB) in the unipolar precordial leads.+
- □ Old Anteroseptal MI +
- □ Non-ST-segment elevation acute coronary syndrome. Transient depression of the ST segment+
- □ Premature suparventricular contractions+
- □ Probable true venticular aneurism: why?



True Left Ventricle Aneurysm after Acute Myocardial Infarction



View of the minor axis of an aneurysm of the left ventricle of the heart

Ventricular aneurysms are one of the late mechanical complications of acute myocardial infarction. What can we do after an AMI? The word aneurysm refers to a bulge or 'pocket' in the wall or lining of a vessel that commonly occurs in blood vessels at the base of the septum or within the aorta. No heart, they usually arise from a wall of the VE with weakened tissue, which distends during systole, forming a large ball of blood. ("What is an Aneurysm?". www.heart.org. Retrieved 14 March 2017.). A ventricular aneurysm is a section of defective wall that is projected to occur during systole or a paradoxical local expansive movement of the wall, "paradoxal contracture". A ventricular aneurysm is a defect in the left ventricle (95%) or right (5%) of the heart, usually caused by transmural infarction. The LV wall aneurysm, in turn, decreased the LV ejection fraction, leading to a lack of systemic blood flow. Ventricular aneurysms can be fatal. Generally they will not break because they will be covered by scar tissue. Characteristically, a non-ECG LV aneurysm is associated with ST-segment elevation.Victor F. Froelicher; Jonathan Myers (2006). Exercise and the heart. Elsevier Health Sciences. p. 138. ISBN 978-1-4160-0311-3.

The two most common symptoms are dyspnea and angina alone or in combination. In 15-20% there are

ventricular arrhythmias and systemic embolism. Areas of scar tissue around these foci for the origin of

ventricular arrhythmias: sustained ventricular tachycardia, syncope or sudden death. Arrhythmias occur in

20% of patients with large aneurysms and 3% with small ones. The most valuable physical sign is a double,

diffuse, or dislocated apical impulse. Either the diagnosis was made with an echocardiographic study by

radioventriculography or, at the time of cardiac catheterization, by left ventriculography. A computerized

tomography and nuclear magnetic resonance also are important.

Predisposition to an increased risk of: Ventricular arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death (arrhythmogenic

myocardial scar tissue), Congestive heart failure (CHF) and Formation of mural thrombus and subsequent embolization

Characteristics of the ECG with aneurysm of the left ventricle

- 1. ST elevation observed > 2 weeks after AMI: **The present case**;
- 2. Most commonly recorded in the precordial leads **The present case**;
- 3. The ST segments can be concave or convex **The present case**;
- 4. Generally associated with Q- or QS waves **The present case**;
- 5. The T waves have a relatively small amplitude compared to the corresponding QRS complex (unlike the hyperacute T waves of acute STEMI). **The present case:** T-wave/QRS ratio < 0.36 in all precordial leads favors LV aneurysm, T-wave/QRS ratio > 0.36 in *any* precordial lead favours anterior STEMI

Masquerading Right Bundle Branch Block concept

The ECG complex coined since Richman as "masquerading bundle-branch block" (Richman 1954) to day we know that is essentially a complete RBBB and high degree LAFB, with further modifications of the initial and final QRS vectors, so that standard leads, and at times the left precordial leads, resemble left bundle-branch block (Schamroth 1975). Masquerading BBB is not a specific entity but is an electrocardiographic complex the result of RBBB with varying combinations of LAFB, intramural left ventricular block, left ventricular enlargement/hypertrophy and anterior myocardial infarction or fibrosis. Since the pioneer Rosembaum's et al studies (Rosembaum 1968; Rosembaum 1973) we know two ECG types of "Masquerading" Bundle-Branch Block. There are a third type that is the association of both:

- I. The "Standard Type" or Standard Masquerading Bundle-Branch Block: consisting of the pattern of left bundle-branch block (LBBB) in the limb leads and right bundle-branch block (RBBB) in the unipolar precordial leads.
- II. The "Precordial Type" or Precordial Masquerading Bundle-Branch Block
- III. The Standard and Precordial Masquerading Bundle-Branch Block in Association.

The four main developmental ECG patters of standard Masquerading type

	aVL	Ι	II	III
1. Uncomplicated LAFB: QRS duration <120ms	qR	qR	rS	Rs (SIII>SII)
2. LAFB with CRBBB: QRS duration ≥120ms	qRS	qRS	rS with notch on ascending ramp of S	Rs with notch on ascending ramp of S
3. LAFB with CRBBB and diminution of the final QRS vectors. QRS duration≥120ms	qR	qR	rS	rS
4. LAFB with CRBBB and diminution of the final QRS vectors and diminution of the initial QRS vectors	R	R	QS	QS

I. The "standard type" ("standard masquerading right bundle-branch block") The present case

In *"standard masquerading right bundle-branch block* the presence of a high degree left anterior fascicular block (LAFB) obscured totally or partially the diagnosis of right bundle branch block (RBBB) only on frontal plane by abolishing (or becomes very small) the final broad S wave in the leads I and aVL (Ortega-Carnicer 1986). Consequently, the limb leads may resemble left bundle branch-block (LBBB) although the precordial ECG remain typical for CRBBB. The precordial leads reflect the feature of RBBB. Conditions necessary for the presence of standard Masquerading Right Bundle –Branch Block

- 1. High degree of left anterior fascicular block ,(the present case)
- 2. Right Bundle-Branch Block ,(the present case)
- 3. Bilateral bundle-branch lesions of considerable intensity, which do not completely disrupt the continuity of the branches (**Unger 1958**), (the present case)
- 4. Left Ventricular Enlargement or Hypertrophy (LVE/LVH) ,(the present case) and marked biventricular hypertrophy
- 5. Localized block in the left ventricle.
- 6. Frequent severe fibrosis, or truly massive myocardial infarction mainly in anterior wall.

Etiologies: Coronary heart disease,(the present case) Long standing systemic hypertension. ,(the present case) Cardiomyopathy Ex. Chronic Chagasic myocarditis. Lev's disease and Association of previous one. Prognosis: always poor.

Example of "Standard Masquerading Right Bundle-branch Block"



Extreme QRS left axis deviation (SÂQRS -50°), SIII>SII: LAFB. The limb leads show a LBBB-like pattern, but the precordial leads show a RBBB. SIII > 15mm: Type IV Rosembaum LAFB: association of LAFB + LVE or LVH.

Case report (similar) Symptomatic elderly man (syncope) with critical coronary obstruction on LAD treated 6 Months ago with stent implantation and current dynamic dromotropic disorder on his successive ECGs

Patient of 67 years carrying Coronary Artery Disease (CAD), with the antecedent of stent implantation on

the LAD artery 6 months ago.

The first ECG was performed on admission at 10.14.02 08: 21' AM.

The second one was recorded shortly after the syncopal episode occurred approximately two hours after admission (02.10.14 10: 38').

The Holter monitoring 24h revealed an intermittent LBBB pattern. Later we will send the Holter study and the VCG.

The electrophysiological study (EPS) revealed HV interval prolongation = 84 ms (normal 55 ms).

Concomitantly, the AH interval also was prolonged.

We would like to hear your valuable opinions.

Raiundo & Andrés

ECG1=02-10-14 08:21' admissão



ECG diagnosis: Standard Masquerading Right Bundle-Branch Block +LAFB+LSFB+prolonged PR interval: probable claudication of posteroinferior fascicle suggesting tretrafascicular block. Why ? See next slide



In *"standard masquerading right bundle-branch block* the presence of a high degree LAFB obscured totally or partially the diagnosis of RBBB only on FP by abolishing (or becomes very small) the final broad S wave in the leads I and aVL. Consequently, these limb leads may resemble LBBB although the precordial ECG remain typical for CRBBB.





ECG2= 02-10-14 10:38'







2:1 2nd degree AV block or pseudo 2:1 2nd degree AV block, the second (non conducted) and third P waves (P') have a different morphology from the conducted P wave, being ectopic, premature and not conducted: sinus rhythm with blocked atrial extrasystoles. P' waves are atrial extrasystoles.

V1: qR pattern RBBB with septal myocardial infarction.

V1-V2: qR pattern, Increased intrinsicoid deflection of V₁ and V₂, R wave "in crescendo", R wave voltage of V₁ \geq 5 mm, small q wave in V2 or V1 and V2, R wave of V2 > 15 mm, absence of q wave in V5, V6 and I (by absence of the first septal vector 1_{AM}): Left Septal Fascicular Block.



Conclusions:

- 1. First degree AV block
- Second degree AV block Mobitz type I (Wenkebach) in the second ECG and pseudo 2:1 2nd degree AV block?)
- 3. LAFB: extreme left axis deviation SIII > SII
- 4. LSFB: qR pattern, Increased intrinsicoid deflection of V₁ and V₂, R wave "in crescendo", R wave voltage of V₁ \ge 5 mm, small q wave in V2 or V1 and V2, R wave of V2 > 15 mm, absence of q wave in V5, V6 and I (by absence of the first septal vector 1_{AM}).
- 5. Standard masquerading RBBB
- 6. RBBB with septal MI: qR pattern in V1
- 7. First degree AV block + bifascicular left fascicular block + RBBB = tetrafascicular block (this is a new nomenclature used by us.)
- 8. LBBB on Holter monitoring is indicative of alternanting BBB, such as the following next three slides.
- 9. EPF study shows HV and AH prolongation and Holter monitoring transiente LBBB pattern.



Acute extensive anterior myocardial infarction associated with standard masquerading bundle branch block: LAFB associated with RBBB. Extreme QRS left axis deviation (SÂQRS -70°), SIII>SII: LAFB. The limb leads show an atypical LBBB-like pattern (isolated r wave in I and aVL), but the right precordial leads show a RBBB.

II. The precordial type ("precordial masquerading right bundle-branch block"

This type shows the pattern of CRBBB in the right precordial leads and complete left branch block pattern (CLBBB) in the left-side precordial leads. This result from CRBBB associated with severe left ventricular hypertrophy/enlargement (LVH/LVE), a localized block in the anterolateral wall of the left ventricle often due to myocardial infarction, and usually LAFB. Presumably, the intramural left ventricular block, together with the LVH or the LAFB, or both, produce predominant leftward forces which tend to cancel out the late rightward forces of the RBBB in the left precordial leads. Finally, masquerading bundle-branch block can be associated with severe and diffuse conduction system disease, and that patients with this finding may require permanent pacemaker implantation, especially if they are symptomatic (Kowey 1989).



III. The Standard and Precordial masquerading bundle-branch block in association

In this case the limb leads show an apparent Left bundle-branch block pattern with extreme left axis deviation (LAFB) and the precordial leads exhibit the pattern of CRBBB in the right precordial leads and LBBB pattern in left precordial leads V5-V6. Additionally, an abnormal Q waves are frequently present on right precordial leads



Case report

RMC female patient, 36 years old, Caucasian, married, housewife, basic education, born and raised in Cametá, Pará (PA) Brazil.

Main complaint: tiredness on mild exertion and leg swelling for four months.

For the past four months she began displaying symptoms of chest discomfort not related to exertion, epigastrial pain and fatigue with great efforts initially, progressing rapidly to moderate and slight, followed by the appearance of swelling in the legs and abdomen. One day before the consultation she had been notified by the municipality sanitary authorities as a carrier of Chagas disease and due to complaints was referred to the local tertiary referral Hospital for cardiological evaluation.

At the time when seeking medical attention she was diagnosed with congestive cardiac heart failure and treated with association of furosemide 80mg/daily, spironolactone 25 mg, enalapril maleate 20 mg 2 x daily, and carvedilol 25 mg 2 x day. Enalapril maleate was suspended in a few days due to presenting very low blood pressure. At the time of consultation the patient was in New York Heart Association (NYHA) functional class III even on optimized medication. (Marked limitation in activity due to symptoms, even during less-than-ordinary activity, e.g. walking short distances (20–100 m). Comfortable only at rest.).

Personal history: denied hypertension, diabetes mellitus, dylipidemia, smoking, or any other addiction.

Family history: Nothing of note.

Epidemiological background: In spite of residing in an urban area, her house was made of wood and mud roofed and with no backyard. Food habits: red meat, poultry and fish. She frequently ate the "açai" fruit (*Euterpe oleracea*) bought in street booths.

Physical Examination

Vital signs: blood pressure 84/56 mmHg, heart rate 96 lpm, dyspnea at rest +++/4, no fever, pale skin and mucous membranes ++/4, acyanotic.

Neck: Distended neck veins, JVD to 12 cm. Carotids without bruits.

Lungs: pulmonary auscultation: bilateral vesicular murmur. Absence of adventitial sounds.

Heart: visible and palpable ictus cordis in the sixth intercostal space on anterior axillary line, not covered with two fingertips. Arrhythmic heart sounds, holosystolic murmur Grade 3/6 in mitral focus, radiated to the armpit; protodiastolic murmur audible in the aortic and accessory aortic focus. Systolic murmur of tricuspid regurgitation and third heart sound with gallop cadence.

Abdomen: Liver palpable five centimeters below right costal margin and slightly tender. HJR+. Non-tender to palpation, +Bowel sounds 4 quadrants.

Extremities: 4+ pitting edema of lower limbs up to the knees. Nail beds minimally cyanotic, no clubbing. Pulses present, arrhythmic and filiform.

Positive Chagas antibody tests

ECG

Figure 1

Echo: significant increase in diameter of the left ventricle and left atrium, severe diffuse hypokinesis, significant degree of mitral regurgitation, mild aortic reflux, minimal pericardial effusion and pulmonary artery systolic pressure estimated at 56 mmHg

Holter Monitoring: 676 polymorphic PVCs, short non-sustained VT, 359 supraventricular premature contractions and wide permanent QRS duration complexes.

Management: Optimization of medication and repeated the echocardiogram Doppler, which revealed a thrombus in the apex of the left ventricle without changing other parameters. The anticoagulant warfarin 5mg/day was added.

Evolution: Refractory Cardiac heart failure with anasarca, jaundice, low output and death from ventricular arrhythmias within a few days.

Figure 1 Which is the ECG diagnosis?





Hypothetical ventricular activation in FP



P wave, PR interval and QRS complex duration







Impossible CRBBB diagnosis on right precordial leads.

Preserved first vector. Fibrosis low septal and free lateral wall

- 1. Association P axis in 0° in FP with P axis to front (left anterior quadrant) in HP = biatrial enlargement
- 2. Singnificative negative final P wave component in V1+ positive 1mm P wave in V3 is suggestive of biatrial enlargement



Complete RBBB complicated with low septum and free wall extensive fibrosis




ECG analysis Figure 1

Rhythm: Sinus rhythm

Heart rate: 82bpm.

P wave: P axis near 0° (LAE), P duration = 100ms, notched P wave in II and peaked P wave in V3 (RAE) = Suggestive of biatrial enlargement?

PR interval: 170ms. Normal.

QRS axis: axis -60° Extreme left axis deviation. QRS duration (QRSd) = 240ms very broad.

QRS voltage: Low QRS voltage complexes in the frontal plane (FP) no wave exceeds 5 mm (one large square or 5 small squares, vertically). In the FP it is considered low voltage. In the horizontal plane no wave exceeds 10 mm: QRS low voltage un both planes. Why? consequence of severe universal fibrosis.

Left Anterior Fascicular Block (LAFB): QRS axis -60°, isodyphasic QRS complexes in aVR (QRS perpendicular to aVR), negative QRS complexes in inferior leads with rS pattern, r III > r II, SIII > SII, and qR pattern in I and aVL, prolonged R peak time

Electrically inactive low and inferior septum with lateral wall extension(Low R voltage waves V5-V6).

"Standard Masquerading Right Bundle Branch Block" this is an atypical form of RBBB with LAFB where S wave in I and aVL becomes very small or disappears, the limb leads may resemble LBBB.

In other words, LAFB obscured totally the diagnosis of CRBBB only in FP by abolishing the broad S final wave in left standard leads I and aVL.

In the unipolar anterior precordial wall leads from V1 to V4 as a consequence of low septum anterior electrically inactive area the Complete RBBB is almost totally hidden and is reflected by a Rs, QS or Qr pattern in these leads. The presence of Complete RBBB could be register by recording high right-sided chest leads (Sclarovsky 1979). The final wide S waves in left precordial leads denounce the presence of Complete RBBB.

CRBBB associated to SFB





Name: AB; Date: 07/10/1988; Age: 45 yo.; Gender: M.; Race: W.; Weight: 70 Kg.; Height: 1.70 m.; Biotype: athletic; Medication in use: nothing stated.

Clinical diagnosis: chronic chagasic cardiomyopathy, dromotropic form.

ECG diagnosis: CRBBB + SFB = bifascicular block. Sinus Rhythm; HR: 79 bpm; P WAVE: SÂP close to 0° and to the front; PR interval: 170 ms; SÂQRS: perpendicular to the frontal plane, duration: 220 ms, morphology: broad S from I and aVL, qR from V₁ to V₃ with peaked R waves and without the plateau proper of CRBBB. Broad descending branch of V₂ and V₃. intrinsicoid deflection in V₂ < 50% of total duration of QRS.

Rs waves from V_4 to V_6 , voltage of R grows from V_1 to V_2 and V_3 and decreases from V_4 to V_6 , absence of q in V_5 and V_6 and s wave a little broadened and with small depth in these leads, as it would be in CRBBB in isolation.



VCG in the three planes, where in the horizontal plane we observe typical CRBBB associated to SFB. Vectors of initial 10 ms pointing backward; loop almost completely located in the left anterior quadrant. The frontal plane shows ECD in the right superior quadrant.

ECG/VCG correlation on HP (SFB + CRBBB)



Intrinsicoid deflection in V2 < 50% of total duration of QRS R V2 > R V3

ECG/VCG correlation in the horizontal plane that shows association of CRBBB and SFB: vectors of initial 20 ms heading backward, QRS loop open and rounded of clockwise rotation and predominantly located in the left anterior quadrant. Leads V1, V2 and V3, qR pattern with peaked R waves. Absence of q wave in V5 and V6, voltage of R waves decreasing from V4 to V6 and S waves a little broadened.

CRBBB associated to inferior electrically inactive area and LAFB



Name: DS; Sex: Male; Age: 65 yo; Race: White; Weight: 80 Kg; Height: 1.72m; Date: 19/09/1994

Clinical diagnosis: Coronary insufficiency; myocardial infarction two years ago.

ECG diagnosis: electrically inactive area in inferior wall: abnormal Q wave (II, III and aVF) associated to Complete RBBB. rsr' in V1 with broad final S wave in left leads.

ECG of patient with coronary disease that shows CRBBB and inferior electrically inactive area with extreme deviation of the axis in superior quadrants, indicating the possibility of associated LAFB.

ECG/VCG correlation on Frontal Plane



ECG/VCG correlation in the frontal plane. The QRS loop shows clockwise initial rotation and final counterclockwise rotation proper of LAFB associated to inferior electrically inactive area and ECD to the right, configuring the triple association of CRBBB + LAFB + inferior electrically inactive area.

ECG/VCG correlation on Horizontal Plane



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