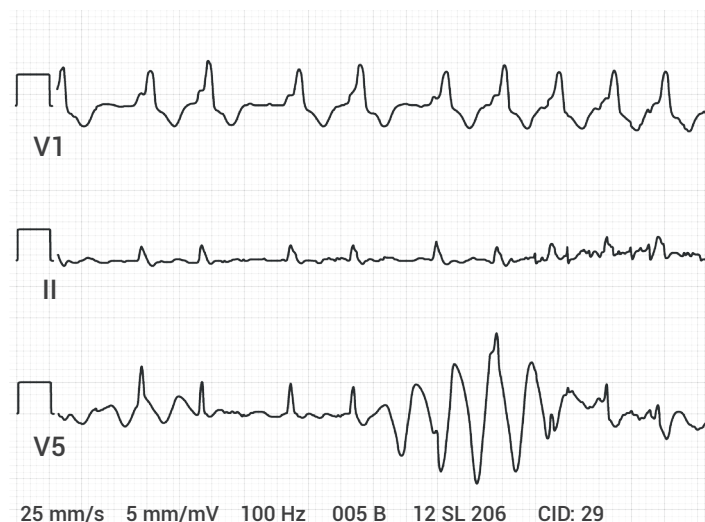
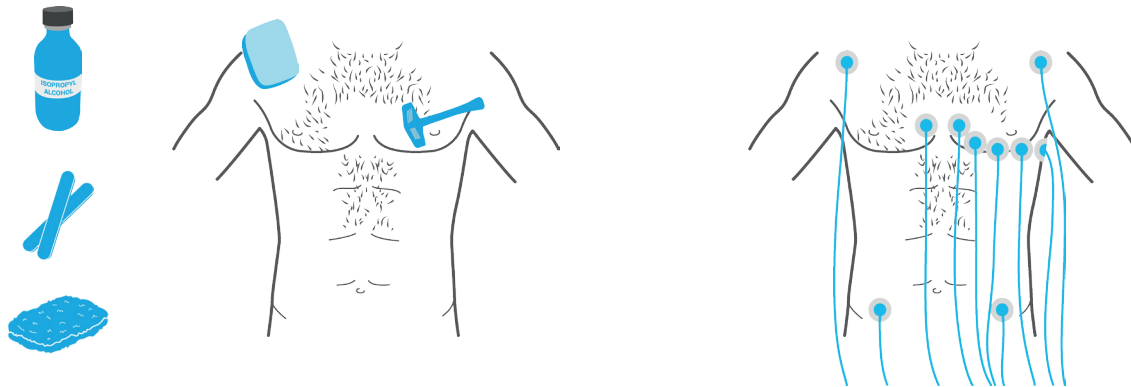


Recording stress ECGs—pearls and pitfalls

MANAGING ARTIFACTS

- Make sure you use ECG electrodes made for stress testing.
- Prepare the skin properly:
 - Shave any hair at electrode sites.
 - Briskly rub the areas with isopropyl alcohol on a gauze pad.
 - Use some sort of abrasive such as a commercially available prepping product.
- Store electrodes properly, and pay attention to expiration dates so that electrodes don't dry out.
- When attaching wires make sure the wires are not being pulled or excessively jostled by motion.
- When dealing with artifacts during stress make use of multiple rhythm leads to "search for the truth".



This looks like a premature ventricular contraction and then a short run of ventricular tachycardia in V5, but if we look in other leads we can see the rhythm is atrial fibrillation with a right bundle branch block.