SYMPOSIUM

THE U WAVE OF THE ELECTROCARDIOGRAM

INTRODUCTION

By Eugene Lepeschkin, M.D.

The U wave of the electrocardiogram has received but little attention in clinical electrocardiography because its significance was not clear. However, during the last 15 years an increasing number of reports has appeared in which changes of the U wave were found to be the chief clue leading to the correct clinical diagnosis. The development of intracellular electrography during the last few years has also made it possible to obtain considerable information concerning the significance and electrophysiologic basis of the U wave.

In order to summarize our knowledge concerning the U wave and to further this knowledge through informal discussion among the investigators who have studied it, a symposium on the U wave was held on September 11, 1954, in Burlington, Vermont. It was sponsored by the Vermont Heart Association and the University of Vermont College of Medicine, and featured outstanding European as well as American speakers.

It was originally planned to publish the entire proceedings of the Symposium in this Journal. However, the great length of the manuscripts made it necessary to select for publication only those presentations that contain observations not previously reported elsewhere, to abbreviate some of the papers, and also to exclude the discussion that took place at the end of each paper. It is planned to publish the full proceedings of the Symposium in monograph form.

PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE SYMPOSIUM

Papers marked by an asterisk (*) appear in this issue, partly in abbreviated form.


*II. Various Types of Fusion between the T and U Waves, Max Holmman, M.D.

III. The Afterpotentials of the Frog's Heart, Marcel Segers, M.D. (With comments by S. Bellet, M.D., E. Bozler, M.D., E. Lepeschkin, M.D., and L. Nahum, M.D.)

IV. Nonpropagated Action Potentials of Cardiac Muscle, Emil Bozler, M.D. (With comments by E. Lepeschkin, M.D., L. Nahum, M.D., F. Sichel, Ph.D., and B. Surawicz, M.D.)

V. The Intracellular Afterpotentials of the Heart and Their Interpretation, E. Lepeschkin, M.D. (With comments by H. Hecht, M.D., M. Kleinfeld, M.D., W. Trautwein, M.D., and S. Weidmann, M.D.)

*VI. Genesis of the U Wave, E. Lepeschkin, M.D., (With comments by E. Bozler, M.D., and L. Nahum, M.D.)

VII. Instantaneous Equipotential Distribution on the Body Surface during Moments in the U Wave in Normal Subjects and in Patients with Cardiac Pathology, L. H. Nahum, M.D., and S. Nuland, M.D. (With comments by E. Lepeschkin, M.D.)

VIII. The U Wave in Esophageal Electrocardiograms, Jan Nyboer, M.D., Sc.D. (With comments by E. Lepeschkin, M.D.)

IX. The Form of the Normal U Wave, E. Lepeschkin, M.D.

X. The Duration of the U Wave in Relation to the Heart Rate and the Mechanical Events of the Cardiac Cycle, E. Lepeschkin, M.D., and B. Surawicz, M.D.

*XI. Coupling Intervals of Ventricular Extrasystoles in Relation to the Heart Rate, the U Wave, and the Supernormal Phase of Excitability, M. B. Rosenbaum, M.D., and E. Lepeschkin, M.D.

*XII. Polarity and Amplitude of the U Wave of the Electrocardiogram in Relation to that of the T Wave, Borys Surawicz, M.D.,
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Robert L. Kemp, M.D., and Samuel Bellet, M.D.

*XIII. Prognostic Significance of Negative U Waves in the Electrocardiogram in Hypertension, Robert L. Kemp, M.D., Borys Surawicz, M.D., John C. Bettinger, M.D., Harry Gottlieb, M.D., and Samuel Bellet, M.D.

*XIV. Clinical Study of the Abnormalities of the Terminal Complex TU-U of the Electrocardiogram, Joseph Lambert, M.D.

*XV. U Wave in Coronary Disease, Cornelio Papp, M.D., (With comments by R. L. Kemp, M.D., E. Lepeschkin, M.D., M. B. Rosenbaum, M.D., and B. Surawicz, M.D.)

XVI. The Clinical Significance of Inverted U Waves, J. H. Palmer, M.D. (With comments by M. Holzmann, M.D., R. L. Kemp, M.D., E. Lepeschkin, M.D., L. Nahum, M.D., M. B. Rosenbaum, M.D., and B. Surawicz, M.D.)

XVII. The Incidence of Negative U Waves in Different Electrocardiographic Patterns in Relation to Myocardial Hypertrophy and Ischemia, E. Lepeschkin, M.D.

XVIII. The U Wave in Positive and Negative Exercise Tests, E. Lepeschkin, M.D., and B. Surawicz, M.D.

XIX. Some Positive Knowledge Regarding the U Wave, Stephen E. Elek, M.D.
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