

INTER-INDIVIDUAL VARIABILITY OF ECG WAVE FORMS; HOW TO COPE WITH ITS LIMITING EFFECT ON DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES

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Abstract

The inter-individual variability of electrocardiographic signals imposes a limitation on the quality of their diagnostic application. This invited paper presents a personal view on the major causes of this variability, its measures and on ways to limit their effect. It identifies the location of the electrodes relative to that of the actual heart as the dominant factor. In addition the relevance of constitutional variables is discussed, treated against the background of allometry. Finally, some developments are mentioned that aim at providing a clearer view on the heart's electric activity than the classical features derived from the ECG.