DeWinters

REFRESHER

RECOGNIZE IT

- A STEMI-equivalent ECG pattern signifying proximal LAD artery occlusion
- Seen in ~2% of acute LAD occlusions, and often under-recognised by clinicians
- Presents in patients with chest pain — without ST elevation in the precordial leads

ASSESS

- Upsloping ST segment depression >1 mm at the J point in the precordial leads
- Tall, prominent, symmetrical T waves in the precordial leads
- Absence of ST elevation in the precordial leads
- Reciprocal ST segment elevation (0.5–1 mm) in aVR
- Typical STEMI morphology may precede or follow the de Winter pattern

ACT — FIRST MOVES

1. Treat the pattern as a STEMI equivalent — it is an indication for immediate reperfusion therapy
2. Do not let the missing ST elevation slow you down: unfamiliarity with this pattern delays cath lab activation, with negative effects on morbidity and mortality

PEARLS

- Depression plus peaked T waves in the precordials is the LAD talking — the culprit vessel named on the page is the proximal LAD

Take Home Message:

Upsloping ST depression with tall, symmetrical T waves is a STEMI equivalent — a proximal LAD occlusion that needs immediate reperfusion.

[Guideline/Source: Verouden NJ 2009 (cited on the original page)]