

First Degree and Second Degree Mobitz Type I (or Wenckebach) Heart Block in Your Child

Normal Heart

The electricity of the heart begins in the top chambers of the heart at the sinoatrial (SA) node. The electricity then passes through the top chambers and to the atrioventricular (AV) node. The AV node is a muscular bridge that allows the electricity to pass from the top chambers to the bottom chambers (ventricles) of the heart. The AV node then sends the electricity on to the ventricles. Each time the electricity passes through the heart it causes the heart muscle to squeeze, resulting in a heartbeat. The electricity then begins again, and the process repeats itself.

First Degree Heart Block

First degree heart block is when there is a delay in the AV node and the electricity takes longer than normal to get from the SA node to the ventricles. In first degree AV block, every SA node signal does still get through the AV node and to the ventricles. First degree AV block can be normal if it happens at rest or during sleep. Your heart doctor may suggest more tests and clinic visits.

Second Degree Mobitz Type I (or Wenckebach)

Wenckebach is a when there is a delay in the AV node that gets longer with each beat until there is a single dropped beat (one electrical signal does not get through the AV

node to the ventricles). This type of heart block may be normal during rest or sleep but is not normal at increased heart rates or during exercise. Your heart doctor may suggest more tests and clinic visits.

Signs and Symptoms

Most infants and children have no signs or symptoms of first degree AV block or Wenckebach.

Possible Testing

A member of the health care team does a complete exam and a health history.

Your child will have an ECG or EKG to look at how the heart is working. Normal numbers depend on your child's age. Your heart electricity slows over time as you age.

A Holter monitor records the heart for 24 or 48 hours to look the heart's electrical system.

Who to Call

Your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic staff can answer any questions. Our phone number is **(608) 263-6420**. Please ask for Pediatric Cardiology.

AFCH Pediatric Cardiology Website:
www.uwhealth/kidshearts.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 2/2024 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#7629