

INTRODUCTION

The normal electrical rhythm of the heart depends upon the spontaneous repetitive initiation of a wave of depolarization in the sinoatrial node with sequential spread to the atria, atrioventricular node and remainder of the conduction system. Tachyarrhythmias are defined as the rates which are more rapid than normal, regular or irregular arising from the sinus node, the atria, the atrioventricular junction or the ventricles (Forrest, and Moss, 1968). In general, arrhythmias are neither as common in children nor as varied as those seen in adults, but neither are they rare. (Courtney, 1979).

Tachyarrhythmias are due to either increased rate of spontaneous discharge in conducting tissue or impaired conduction in part of the system leading to formation of re-entry circuits. So, the drugs used to treat them ought either to decrease automatic discharge or to affect conduction in reentry circuits. They are divided according whether the pacemaker is above or below the bundle of His.