

INTRODUCTION

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Disturbances of cardiac rhythm are frequently encountered both in the operating room and in the intensive care unit. The anaesthetist should be aware of factors involved in the prevention of such arrhythmias, be able to diagnose the type of rhythm abnormality, discover its aetiology and initiate the appropriate primary treatment.

Arrhythmias may affect myocardial performance to different extents, depending on the nature of rhythm, the presence of cardiac disease and the patient's general condition.

This essay has been suggested to discuss all forms of cardiac arrhythmias that may occur during anaesthesia and in the intensive care unit and the role of the anaesthetist in the diagnosis and management of such cases.