

Preoperative Electrocardiography in Ramathibode Hospital

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To evaluate the usefulness of the preoperative electrocardiogram, we retrospectively studied 1,067 patients scheduled for surgery under general or regional anesthesia from January until June 1990. We found 325 electrocardiograms suggested abnormality, only 3 of them were Q-wave abnormality and 29 of them were supraventricular tachycardia (SVT) or ventricular ectopic beats. Only age and systemic disease predicted the yield of the admission electrocardiograms. To reduce costs related to unnecessary tests, routine use of ECG is warranted only in selected subsets of patients, including those at risk of occult heart disease, particularly older patient.