Amaurosis Fugax in a 45-Year-Old Woman

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Figure: ECG in a 45-year-old woman with amaurosis fugax.

What is your diagnosis?

Explication follows on next page.
DIAGNOSIS: Normal sinus rhythm; left atrial enlargement.

The negative component of the P wave in lead V1 is 1 mm (0.1 mV) deep and 0.08 seconds in duration, more than sufficient to meet the criteria of Morris et al. for left atrial enlargement. In addition, P waves in lead II, aVF, and V2-V6 are 0.12 seconds in duration and bifid with ≥0.04 seconds between the two peaks – the two defining features of P mitrale.

Left atrial enlargement often is the initial, and may be the only, electrocardiographic manifestation of mitral stenosis. In addition, evidence of a systemic embolus, such as amaurosis fugax, in a young or middle-aged woman suggests mitral stenosis, even though its prevalence in the developed world has decreased strikingly over the last half century. This patient had moderately severe mitral stenosis with a valve area of 1.1 cm.

REFERENCES


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