

TABLE 3-10 ■ Selected Heart Rates and Rhythms

Cardiac rhythms may be classified as regular or irregular. When rhythms are irregular or rates are fast or slow, an ECG is required to identify the origin of the beats (sinus node, AV node, atrium, or ventricle) and the pattern of conduction. Note that with AV (atrioventricular) block, arrhythmias may have a fast, normal, or slow ventricular rate.

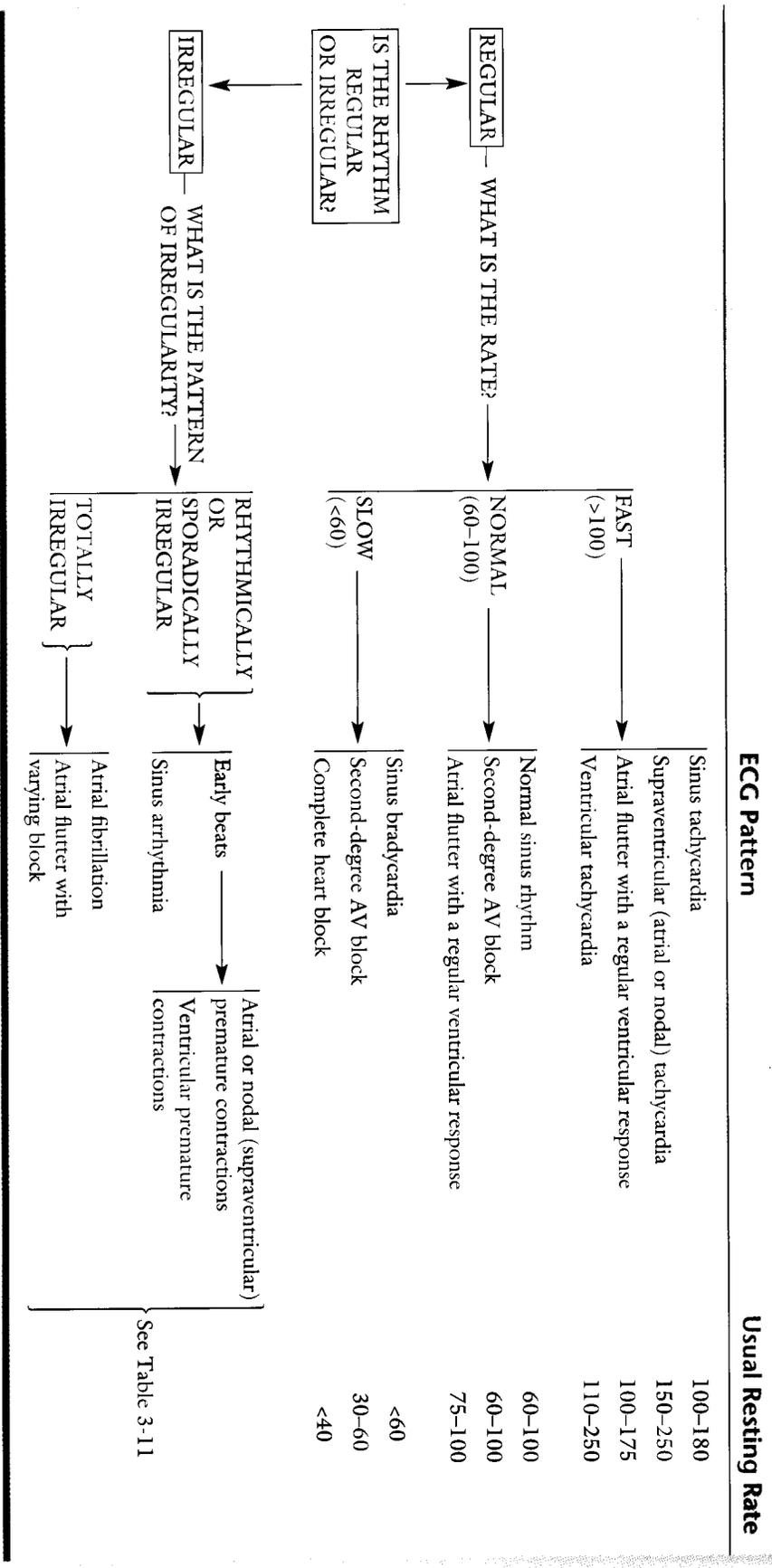


TABLE 3-10 ■ Selected Heart Rates and Rhythms

TABLE 3-11 ■ Selected Irregular Rhythm

Type of Rhythm	ECG Waves and Heart Sounds	Rhythm	Heart Sounds
Atrial or Nodal Premature Contractions (Supraventricular)		A beat of atrial or nodal origin comes earlier than the next expected normal beat. A pause follows and then the rhythm resumes.	S ₁ may differ in intensity from the S ₁ of normal beats, and S ₂ may be decreased. Both sounds are otherwise similar to those of normal beats.
Ventricular Premature Contractions		A beat of ventricular origin comes earlier than the next expected normal beat. A pause follows and the rhythm resumes.	S ₁ may differ in intensity from the S ₁ of the normal beats, and S ₂ may be decreased. Both sounds are likely to be split.
Sinus Arrhythmia		The heart varies cyclically, usually speeding up with inspiration and slowing down with expiration.	Normal, although S ₁ may vary with the heart rate.
Atrial Fibrillation and Atrial Flutter With Varying AV Block		The ventricular rhythm is totally irregular, although short runs of the irregular ventricular rhythm may seem regular.	S ₁ varies in intensity.