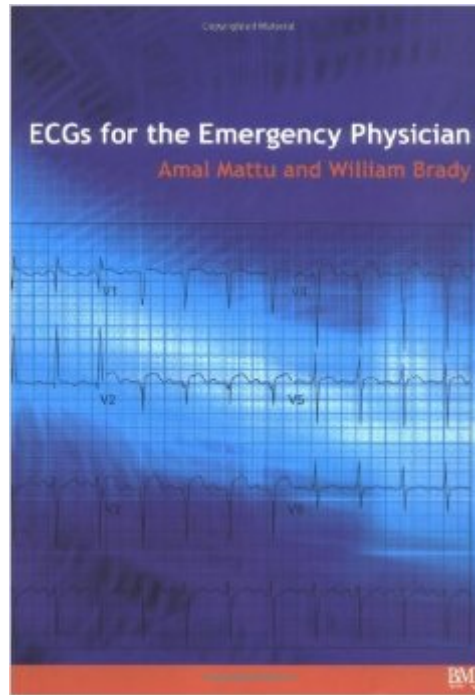


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# ECG's For The Emergency Physician 1



## Synopsis

With over 200 traces to test your knowledge, this book is a first class learning tool for emergency physicians. Basic student-level knowledge of ECGs is assumed, so the reader can move directly to learning about the more complex traces that occur in the emergency department. The level of difficulty is stratified into two sections for specialists in training and specialist emergency physicians. A minimum amount of information is given beneath each trace, as if in the real situation. The full clinical description is printed in a separate section to avoid the temptation of "looking up".

Accompanied by learning points, and with the cases presented randomly, this book provides a rich source of information on the interpretation of ECGs – a core skill for all emergency department staff.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The EKGs and interpretations are all first rate, and this text has the potential to be a superb learning guide. However the Kindle edition is severely flawed. The Kindle edition EKGs are presented in one section and the interpretations many pages later. Why's that a problem? After reviewing an individual EKG, you have to aimlessly wander through the later book to find the appropriate interpretation. They're not linked in any way and you can't use Kindle search to find them. It's totally haphazard. Amazingly dumb! This is a classic case of a lazy translation of "old" technology (a physical book) into new (Kindle). The author/publisher simply needs to put a link on each EKG to the interpretation and visa versa. That way you can see the EKG then instantly reference the

interpretation. Of course they could re-edit the whole book to put the interpretation on the page following individual EKGs, but the link method would be SO much simpler. As a result, I would strongly recommend avoiding the Kindle edition until the above problem is fixed. Buy the paperback. That way you can keep a finger in the interpretation section while reviewing the EKGs. This is the first Kindle text I've ever seen that's so vastly inferior to the physical text.

I've worked with Dr. Amal Mattu in the ER here at University of Maryland, and let me tell you his EKG rounds are always excellent learning experiences be they at 2AM or noon. The same can be said of the book. As a resident in Internal Medicine I always want to look at more EKGs and this book is aimed at the professional who wants to see good examples of the common EKG findings, and also the rarer things such as Brugada syndrome. Each EKG is paired with a short vignette and the answers are in the back.

I recommend readers purchase the paper version of this book. The way in which it was written, with many pages of ECGs followed by many pages of interpretations of those ECGs, makes it almost impossible to follow in an e-book format. If the publisher can either marry the descriptions with each ECG or add easy to follow hyperlinks between ECGs and they're descriptions, that might make the book more user friendly. I gave the e-book only two stars. I'm sure the hard copy warrants more.

The way to get better at reading EKG's is to practice, practice, and practice some more! Thus, Dr. Mattu's book is invaluable in providing a multitude of great cases to work with. The explanations are very clear and help build your understanding of EKG patterns in a stepwise manner. I thought one particular strength are the illustrations in the "explanation" section. Often, with other practice ECG books, they just write out in words what you should be looking for. But Dr. Mattu's book provides examples for certain cases where illustrations help demonstrate the topic. (Example: One practice EKG strip shows LBBB. In the explanation section, they write out the criteria for LBBB. Additionally, they give extra pictures to demonstrate discordance versus concordance between ST segments and T wave morphology in LBBB). If I had read someone describe this phenomenon in words, it would have made it much harder to grasp the concept. Of course, not every explanation comes with an illustration. This book is a nice way to get good self-studying on EKG's and I think it's an appropriate level for med students or residents looking for more experience and guidance in this topic.

Over the last few years, I've looked at quite a few references about ECGs. Mattu's book is certainly one of a kind. Split into two sections, each with 100 12-leads, the text begins subtly and works towards increasing difficulty and complexity of the strips. Each strip includes but a single description of the patient e.g. "46 year old male complaining of left chest pressure." The reader can then form his own impression of the patient's condition, and then refer to the end matter for a detailed explanation of the actual diagnosis. This is certainly a teaching book. In many cases, I found myself formulating a diagnosis only to read in the back, "This is commonly misdiagnosed as [my guess]" or "This can easily be mistaken for [also my guess.]" Initially, I was not quite confident text was worth the trouble. It does, after all, simply present strip after strip, with commentary in the back. But the text is structured in such a way that the reader can build upon knowledge and apply past failures at diagnosis to each new strip. I found myself making fewer and fewer elemental mistakes and developing a more complete picture of differential diagnosis as I progressed through the book. Purely in terms of it's presentation of uncommon variants to common rhythms, the text is well worth the price. I'm not an emergency physician. My interest is EMS and prehospital care. Regardless, I found great utility in this text.

Dr. Mattu needs no introduction as a recognized expert. However, this book, whether in e-form or paperback is incredibly poorly assembled in my opinion. The EKGs are in one place in the book and the explanations are in another. So one must constantly switch back and forth. The publisher should consider changing the format so that the EKG and it's explanation is on the same page, even at the expense of adding a few pages!

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