

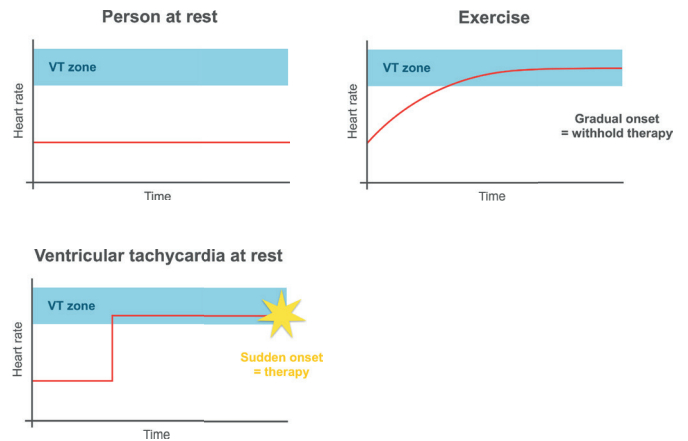
DISCRIMINATING BETWEEN DIFFERENT ARRHYTHMIAS

Onset—how did it start?

Key take-away points

- Onset looks how suddenly a heart rate increased.
- Onset is good at withholding therapy for sinus tachycardias.
- Onset can inappropriately withhold therapy for ventricular tachycardia (VT) that has occurred during exercise.

Rhythm	Onset	Ventricular rate	QRS morphology	AV association	Regular R-to-R
Sinus tachycardia		>100 bpm		As = Vs	
Atrial fibrillation		~ 30–200 bpm		As > Vs	
Ventricular tachycardia		~ 170 bpm +		As < Vs	
Ventricular fibrillation		Up to ~ 500 bpm		As < Vs	



Notes