



## More on the humility of Dr. Spodick, a giant in electrocardiology



I read with sadness but also with joy the tribute on the passing and legacy of Dr. David Spodick [1]. Despite never having met him personally, I can still corroborate Dr. Chhabra's account of his gracious and humble character. He frequently sent me brief comments on my publications. In one such letter he wrote: "I read everything that you publish." I felt in heaven although I knew it was almost certainly not so much for my writings but because my last name, and even its spelling, was the same as that of his beloved mentor, Dr. David Littmann.

In 2012, at age 84, Dr. Spodick sent me another e-mail commenting on an ECG quiz that had just been published by us in the Journal of Electrocardiology [2]. The note speaks for itself (Fig. 1). Only someone

of his stature would volunteer to concede and even pass along that he couldn't figure out the quiz despite the previous publication of a similar case in his own journal [3]. I agree with Dr. Chhabra that in addition to his giant professional repute, Dr. Spodick was a humble, respectful and extremely supportive clinician and scientist, a true role model.

## References

- [1] Chhabra L. Loss of a cardiology legend: a tribute to Professor David H. Spodick. *J Electrocardiol* 2019;56:125–7.
- [2] Littmann L, Khan R. ECG quiz: why the sudden PR prolongation? *J Electrocardiol* 2012;45(194):304. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jelectrocard.2011.12.008>.
- [3] Rusterholz AP, Marriott HJL. How long can the P-R interval be? *Am J Noninvas Cardiol* 1994;8:11–6. <https://doi.org/10.1159/000470151>.

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### Littmann, Laszlo

**From:** Spodick, David [DAVID.SPODICK@stvincenthospital.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 09, 2012 12:49 PM  
**To:** Littmann, Laszlo  
**Subject:** PR prolongation

Dear Dr Littmann

Just a note to complement your brilliant piece in JECG. I couldn't figure it out despite the fact that when I had my own journal (*Am J Noninvas Cardiol*) Henry Marriott published in it a case with a 110 ms PR which passed "through" a ventricular ectopic beat.

Keep up the good work  
 David Spodick

Fig. 1. Unedited copy of an e-mail sent by Dr. Spodick to Dr. Littmann on an ECG quiz published in the Journal of Electrocardiology.