

# 439 Writing Topic #4

- PASSIVE vs ACTIVE VOICE IN WRITING
- ST SEGMENT ANALYSIS for Lab Report 4

# Prefer Active Voice and Replace Weak Verbs

- Examples from Brogan's text.
- WORD's grammar check will find passive voice sentences.

# Passive and Active Voice

- Passive voice is sometimes necessary, but active voice is preferred.
- Active voice requires an ‘actor’ who— or that—performs the action of the sentence.

# Identify Active or Passive

- “The key was turned.”
- “He turned the key.”
- The key was turned by the manager.”
- Passive, actor unknown.
- Active, actor present AND taking action.
- Passive, actor present, but, not acting. NOTE: actor appears at the end of the sentence.

# Simple Edit: Activate the Verb

- “The ECG electrodes are connected to the recorder with the lead cables.”
- Can the verb become active?

# More Simple Edits for Active Sentences

- “Control of blood pressure is focused in the vasomotor center of the brainstem.” (occurs)
- “The error signal detecting dropping arterial blood pressure is combined with the feedback signal.” (combines)

# Complex Edit: Put the Best Actor at the Start

- “The ECG electrodes are connected to the recorder with the lead cables.”
- What does the connecting?

# Put the Actor Up Front

- “The heart rate curve is shown in Figure 2.”
- What is the actor in this sentence?



# One More Example

- “The reliability of a system is established by the design.”

# Extract an Actor from an Introductory Phrase

- “In each figure the results are shown.”
- “For complex motor tasks like handwriting, finer hand control is called for.”
- “By this process the head GXT technician is kept informed.”

# Mixed Active and Passive Verbs → Activate the Passive

- “The analysis shows that the failure is caused by two factors.”
- “The purchase request specifies that the facility design shall not be deviated from in the plans.”

# Replace Weak Verbs: Be, Do, Make

- More ‘\* of’ problems...
- “Table 2 is a list of error rates.”
- “This section is an explanation of how to measure power output.”
- “This systolic pressure is in excess of the maximal normal value.”

# Inspect Make/Made Words

- “With this device the cardiologist can make changes in the catheter placement.”
- “The baseline she drew did not make contact with the proper points on the ECG tracing.”
- “A measurement of % body fat was made using skin calipers.”

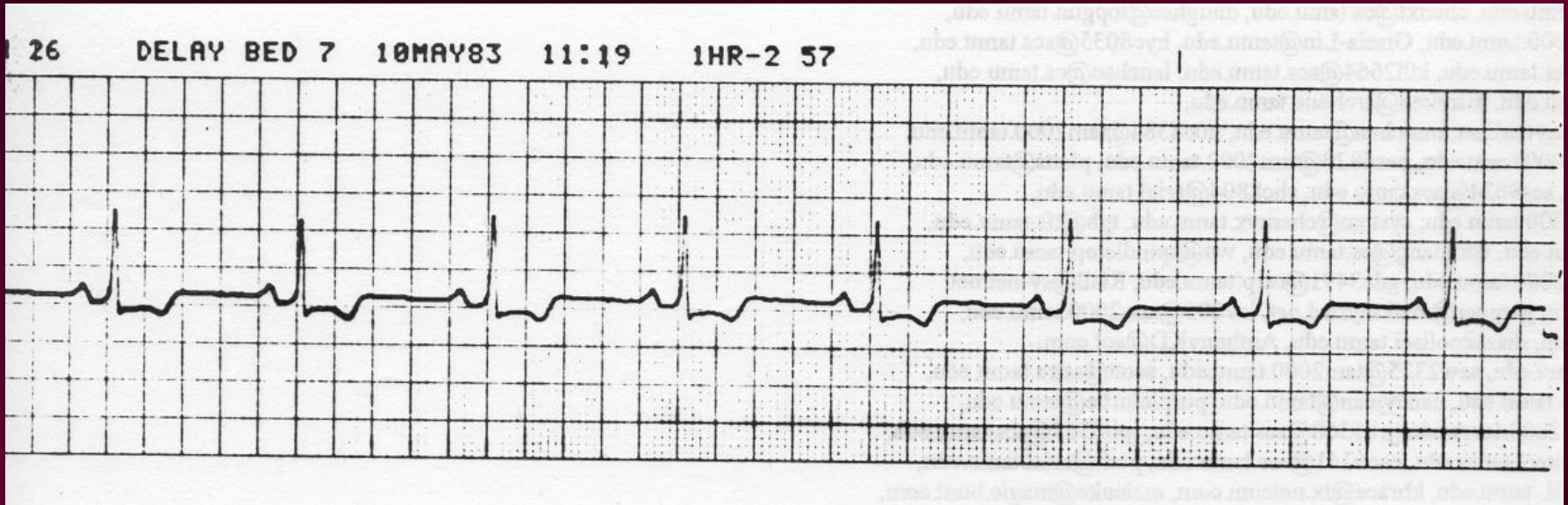
# And look at extra Do/Done's

- “Our staff has done examinations on this patient.”
- “The lead writer does the review for accuracy and logical order.”
- “Removal of the module is done by loosening the screws and pulling on the module.”

# Summary

- Whenever possible, use active instead of passive voice.
- Put the actor up front.
- Edit your text to minimize use of “be/do/make” constructions [since Dr. B will check on this for last lab report].

# Signs of infarct or ischemia?

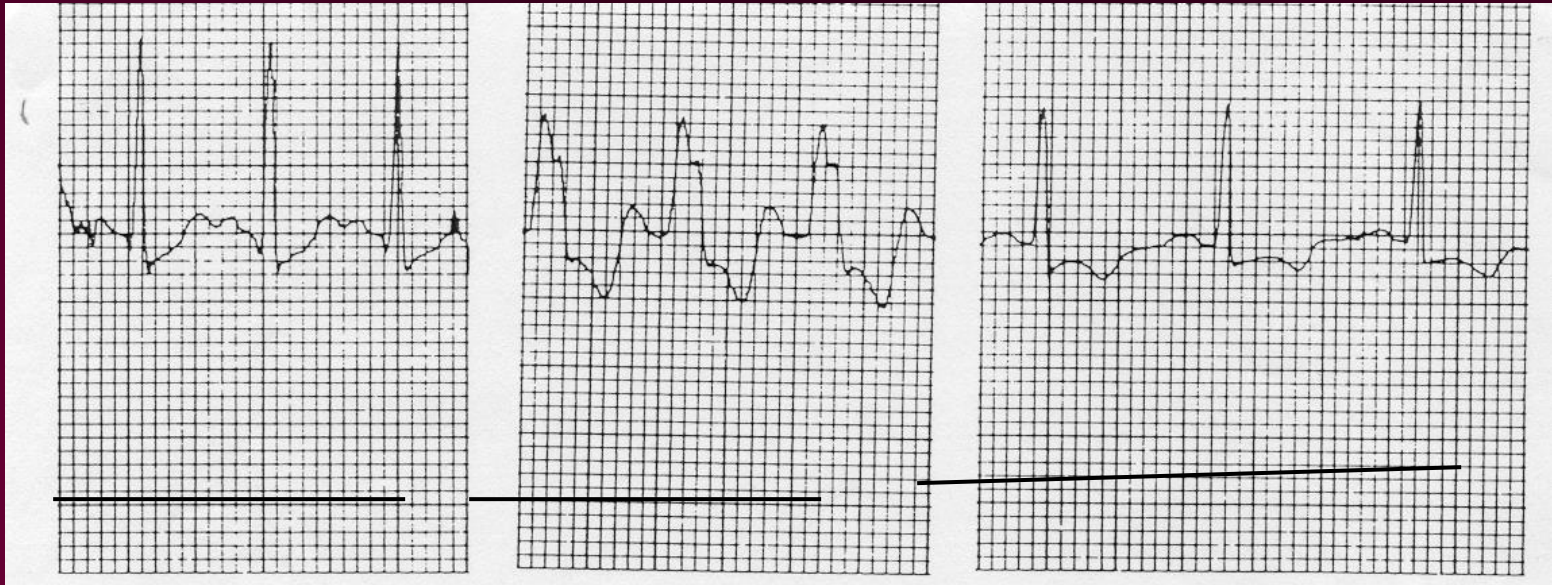


THE most common indicator of ischemia you will see during exercise stress tests:  
ST segment depression



# HOW TO DETERMINE ST SEGMENT DEPRESSION (or ELEVATION)

- Draw an accurate baseline across at least 3 cycles; analyze the middle cycle on this “stable” baseline.
- Pick the J point (end of S, start of ST)
- Count 2 mm (= \_\_\_\_sec) to the right of J point, determine position of ST relative to baseline



# USE OF ECG'S IN EXERCISE TESTING: WHAT YOU'RE MONITORING FOR

- Indications on resting ECG that exercise is not safe today. Sample contraindications: acute MI, frequent PVC's, major ST ↓ or ↑ at rest
- Arrhythmias during exercise: get *recorded* on rhythm strip if at all possible
- ST segment changes