Tombstone ST segments

David H. Spodick

University of Massachusetts Medical School
Tombstone ST Segments

David H. Spodick, MD, DSc

Shown is the electrocardiogram of precordial lead tracings of a 67-year-old man with an acute myocardial infarction. The patient survived a stormy course that included hypotension and multiple arrhythmic episodes. “Tombstoning” is quite rare, is associated with large infarcts,¹ and has been erroneously used on electrocardiograms showing “hyperacute” changes (high ST segments with tall, pointed T-waves).²⁻³

References

¹ Balci B, Yesildag O. Correlation between clinical findings and “tombstoning” ECG. Am J Cardiol. 2003;92:1316–1318.
² Spodick DH. All tombstones are not equal [letter]. Lancet. 1993;342:1000.