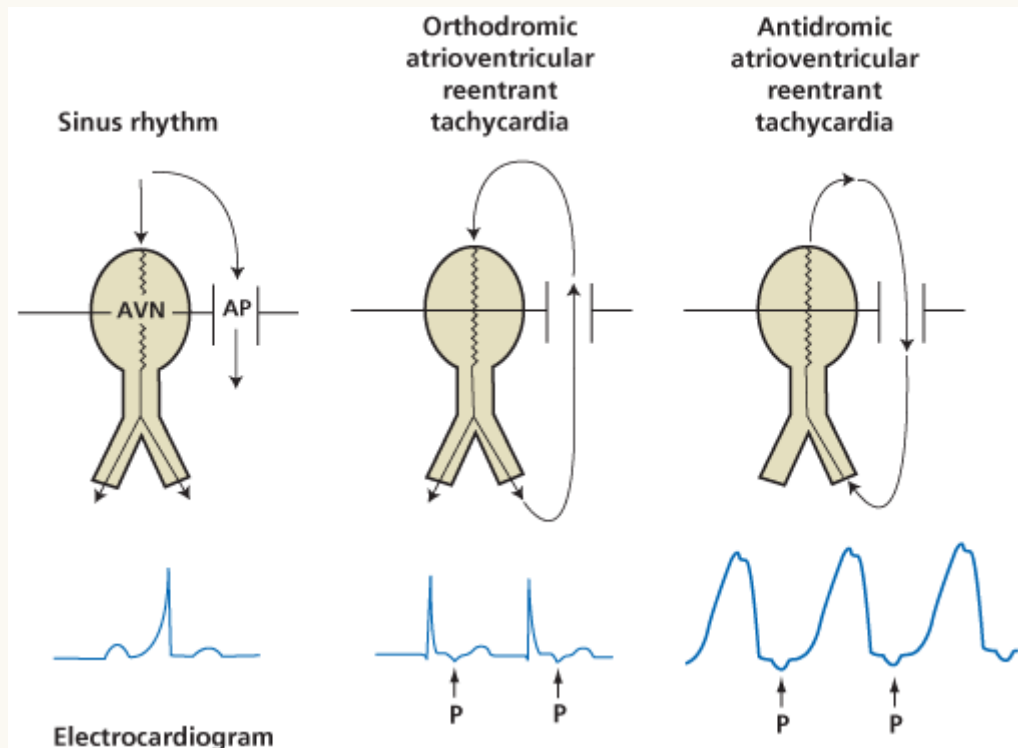




Mechanism of Atrioventricular Reentrant Tachycardia in Patients with the Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome



During sinus rhythm, slurring of the initial portion of the QRS complex (the delta wave) results from early activation of part of the ventricles through rapid anterograde conduction over the accessory pathway (AP). During orthodromic atrioventricular reentrant tachycardia, no delta wave is seen, because all anterograde conduction is over the atrioventricular node (AVN) and the normal His-Purkinje system. Retrograde P waves are visible shortly after each QRS complex. During antidromic atrioventricular reentrant tachycardia, there is maximal preexcitation with wide, bizarre QRS complexes, because ventricular activation results entirely from anterograde conduction over the accessory pathway.

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