Author's Accepted Manuscript

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Adam Bőhm MD, DSc, FESC, Robert G Kiss MD, PhD, FESC, Bela Bachmann MD, Gabor Z Duray MD, PhD, FESC



www.elsevier.com/locate/buildenv

PII: S1547-5271(13)00985-5

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.hrthm.2013.09.004

Reference: HRTHM5450

To appear in: Heart Rhythm

Cite this article as: Adam Bőhm MD, DSc, FESC, Robert G Kiss MD, PhD, FESC, Bela Bachmann MD, Gabor Z Duray MD, PhD, FESC, Exercise-induced vaso-vagal syncope, *Heart Rhythm*, http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.hrthm.2013.09.004

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Exercise-induced vaso-vagal syncope

Adam Bőhm MD, DSc, FESC, Robert G Kiss MD, PhD, FESC, Bela Bachmann MD, Gabor Z Duray MD, PhD, FESC

Department of Cardiology, Military Hospital, Budapest, Hungary

Corresponding author:

Adam Bőhm MD, DSc, FESC Department of Cardiology Military Hospital Róbert K körut 44 Budapest, Hungary 1344 Tel: +36 30 9417153

Fax: +36 1 2751317 abohm@freemail.hu

Conflict of interest of all authors: none

Several case studies have been published about vasovagal syncope following exercise occurring in young patients not suffering from structural heart disease (1, 2, 3). The present case is worth mentioning as sinus arrest leading to syncope has been successfully documented on ECG during exercise. We have no knowledge of any similar publication in the medical literature at this time.

The 37-year-old female patient has been experiencing since childhood recurrent syncopal episodes on various occasions ((blood taking, sudden postural changes), and particularly during exercise. She did not have diabetes, hypertension, and was not on medications. On extensive investigation, no structural heart disease was found. During a sitting bicycle exercise test in the 6th minute at exercise level of 100 watts, a sinus rate of 150/min was reached (Figure 1). A few seconds later, slower sinus rhythm was observed (Figure 2/A), and then a 50/min bradycardia was noticed (Figure 2/B). Three seconds later (at 6th min-23 sec of exercise), a 7.4-sec-long sinus arrest occurred with no ventricular escape rhythm resulting in syncope. External heart massage was administered, which resulted in a junctional escape beat

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