PHOTO QUIZ

A cool ECG

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A 50-year-old lady was brought into the emergency room because of unconsciousness and severe hypothermia. Her past medical history included type 1 diabetes mellitus. She was found in her home in a comatose state; she had last contacted her family 15 hours before presentation. She was directly admitted to the intensive care unit with a core temperature of 27.0°C, sinus bradycardia of 48 beats/min and a blood pressure of 78/48 mmHg. Her Glasgow Coma Scale was EVM 2-1-3. Laboratory results demonstrated a severe diabetic ketoacidosis (pH <6.80, glucose 62 mmol/l) for which she was immediately treated with fluid resuscitation and insulin.

A short ECG registration of lead II showed a remarkable pattern (figure 1).

What is your diagnosis?

Answer
You will find the answer on page 237 of this issue.

Figure 1. Short ECG registration of lead II during severe hypothermia (27.0°C)