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SECTION 1.4 How is AFib Diagnosed?

TITLE: How can my doctor tell if I have AFib?

ROLLOVER COPY: How can my doctor tell if I have AFib?

See how >> Make sure your sound is turned on.

User Experience: *two animated EKG charts with voiceover contrast a normal sinus rhythm with an AFib rhythm. We zoom in and highlight the differences.*

AVO: You are looking at one of the tests your doctor can use to diagnose AFib. It's called an electrocardiogram, or—more commonly—an “EKG.” It shows your heart's rhythm.

The spikes and dips on the EKG are called waves.

Here, we see the waves of a normal heartbeat. It has a regular rhythm that doctors call *normal sinus rhythm*.

Now, you're looking at an example of what the waves of an AFib heartbeat might look like. AFib is the most common type of arrhythmia, or abnormal heartbeat. The waves show that the heart is beating rapidly and unevenly. The constant rhythm of the heart has changed.

(ZOOM IN TO EKG SHOWING NORMAL HEARTBEAT)

Let's take a closer look. Here, we see an EKG of a heart in normal sinus rhythm. Notice how the waves are evenly spaced and repeat themselves in a regular pattern.

(ZOOM IN TO AFIB EKG)

Now you're looking at an example of an EKG of a heart during an AFib episode. Notice the irregular waves between peaks. While not all EKGs of a heart in AFib look the same; these irregular waves show the doctor that the atrium is quivering rapidly and unevenly.

CAPTION COPY: One of the tests a doctor can use to diagnose AFib is called an electrocardiogram (EKG). This test shows information about the heart's rhythm.