

Case

Return to Ms. Klott

- After several hours, Ms. Klott is still waiting on her CTPE.
- She was started on heparin empirically.
- Her CTPE later showed “bilateral extensive proximal pulmonary emboli with findings concerning for right heart strain.”



Take Aways

- EKG changes are not a sensitive test for pulmonary embolism.
- Abnormal ECGs may suggest high clott burden and are generally found only in more severe forms of PE, and are associated with increased risk of circulatory shock and death.
- Many of these ECG changes can be seen in any condition that causes acute pulmonary hypertension.
- These findings may lead you to have increased concern for patient's with the right clinical picture for PE, but are unlikely to influence initial PE testing.