



FIGURE 268-18 Classic triad of findings for pericardial effusion with cardiac tamponade: (1) sinus tachycardia; (2) low QRS voltages; and (3) electrical alternans (best seen in leads V_3 and V_4 in this case; arrows). This triad is highly specific for pericardial effusion, usually with tamponade physiology, but of limited sensitivity. (Adapted from LA Nathanson et al: *ECG Wave-Maven*. <http://ecg.bidmc.harvard.edu>.)

(11) abnormal Q waves, (12) ST segments, (13) T waves, and (14) U waves. Comparison with any previous ECGs is invaluable. **The diagnosis and management of specific cardiac arrhythmias and conduction disturbances are discussed in Chaps. 274 and 276.**

COMPUTERIZED ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY

Computerized ECG systems are widely used for immediate retrieval of thousands of ECG records. Computer interpretation of ECGs still has major limitations. Incomplete or inaccurate readings are most likely with arrhythmias and complex abnormalities. Therefore, computerized interpretation (including measurements of basic ECG intervals) should not be accepted without careful clinician review.