

out into left anterior and left posterior fascicle subdivisions. The depolarization wavefronts then spread through the ventricular wall, from endocardium to epicardium, triggering coordinated ventricular contraction. Since the cardiac depolarization and repolarization waves have directions and magnitudes, they can be represented by vectors.

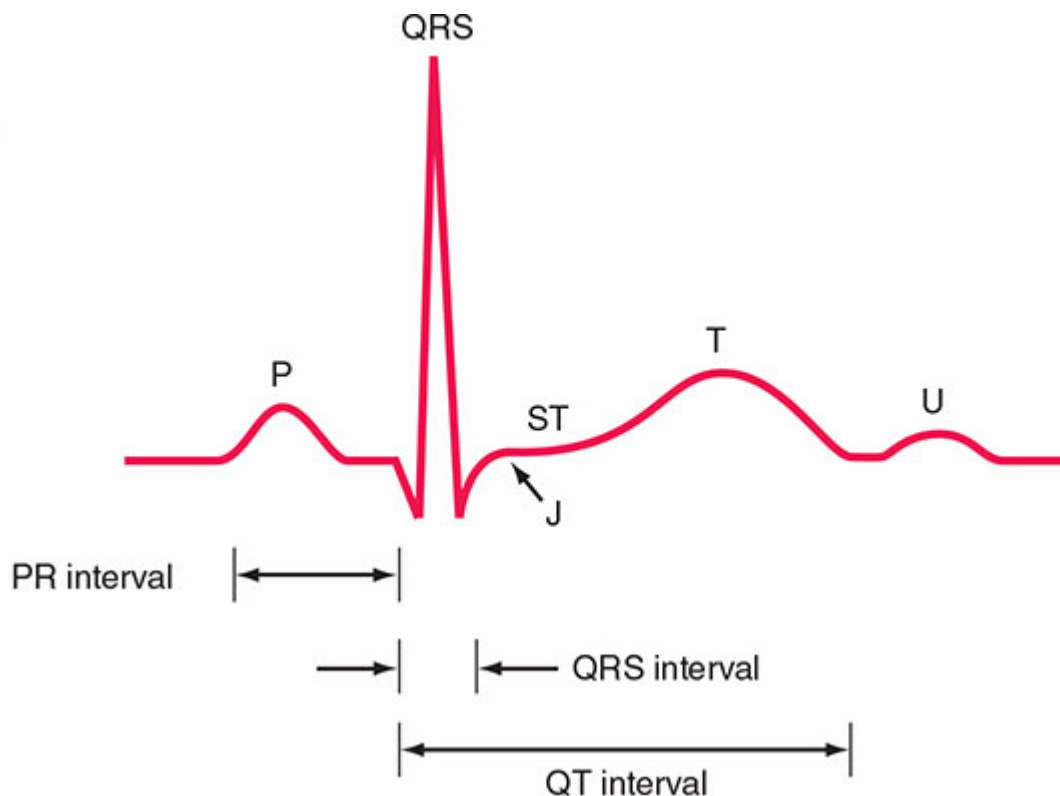


FIGURE 240-1 Schematic of the cardiac conduction system. AV, atrioventricular; LA, left atrium; LV, left ventricle; RA, right atrium; RV, right ventricle.

■ ECG WAVEFORMS AND INTERVALS

The ECG waveforms are labeled alphabetically, beginning with the P wave, which represents atrial depolarization ([Fig. 240-2](#)). The QRS complex represents ventricular depolarization, and the ST-T-U complex (ST segment, T wave, and U wave) represents ventricular repolarization. The J point is the junction between the end of the QRS complex and the beginning of the ST segment. Atrial repolarization waveforms (ST-T_a) are usually of too low in amplitude