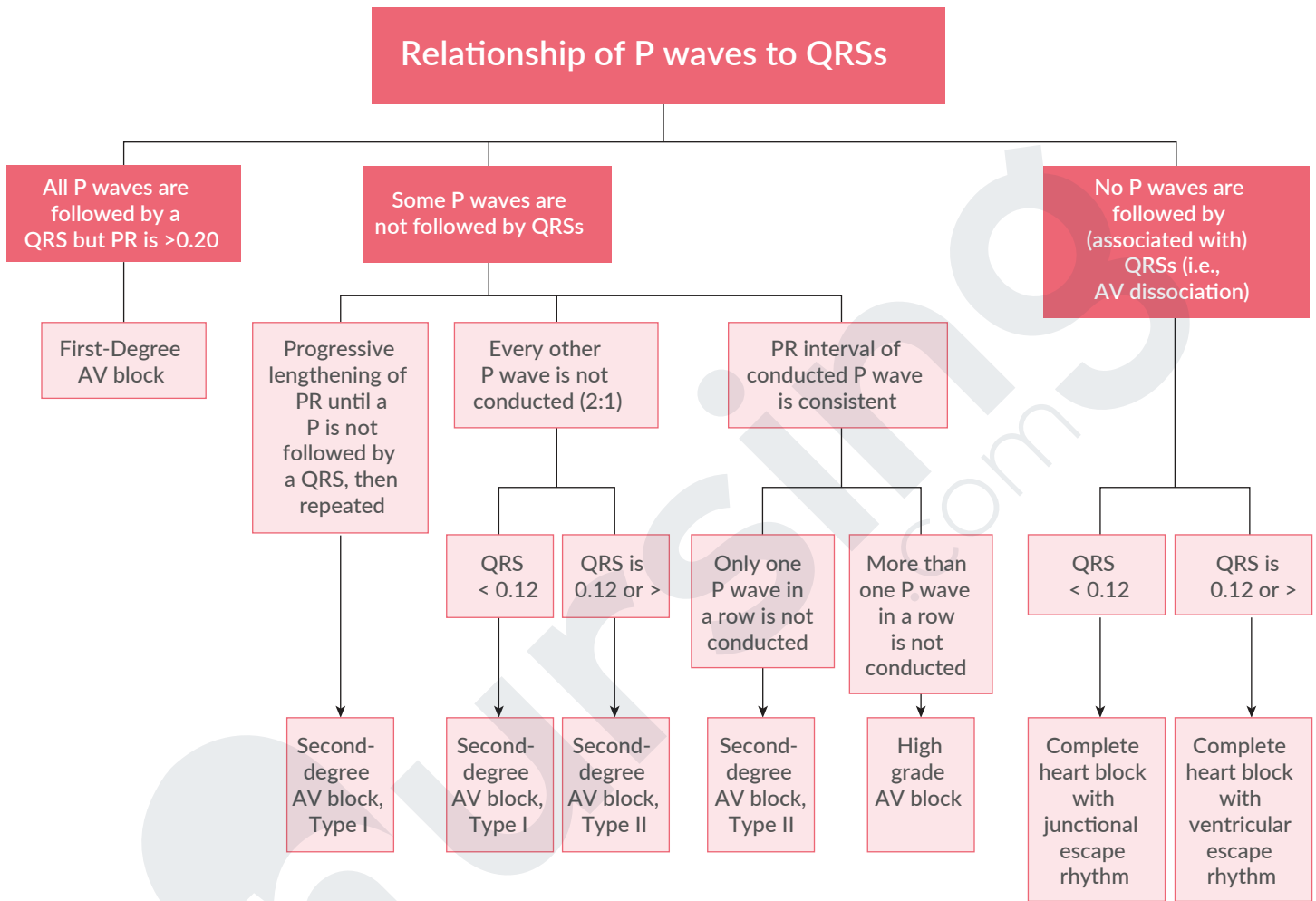


HEART BLOCKS

FAILURE OF THE HEART'S NATURAL PACEMAKER DUE TO OBSTRUCTION ("BLOCK") IN THE ELECTRICAL CONDUCTION SYSTEM OF THE HEART.



	1°	2° Type I	2° Type II	3°
Significance	Benign but can progress	Block at AV node, usually transient, does not usually progress	Block at Bundle of His, occurs with anterior MI, often progresses to complete block	Ventricular asystole in absence of escape beat
Treatment	Observation, d/c digitalis use	Close monitoring, d/c digitalis use, treat if patient is symptomatic	Atropine, transcutaneous or transvenous pacemaker	Pacemaker, atropine, monitor for hypoperfusion