12 Lead ECG Placement Guide

The correct positioning of leads is essential to taking an accurate 12 lead resting ECG and incorrect placement of leads can lead to a false diagnosis of infarction or negative changes on the ECG. This guide explains the common position for each of the 10 leads on a 12 lead resting ECG.

- **V1**: Fourth intercostal space to the right of the sternum.
- **V2**: Fourth intercostal space to the left of the sternum.
- **V3**: Directly between leads V2 and V4.
- **V4**: Fifth intercostal space at midclavicular line.
- **V5**: Level with V4 at left anterior axillary line.
- **V6**: Level with V5 at the midaxillary line. (Directly under the midpoint of the armpit)

- **R**: Right arm
- **L**: Left arm
- **F**: Left leg
- **N**: Right leg

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