possible to predict impending toxicity by salivary levels of electrolytes.

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Position of Patient for Echocardiography

To the Editor:

It has been pointed out that the quality of echocardiographic recordings is frequently enhanced by having the patient turned slightly on his left side.1,2 In our laboratory, we have noted a significant minority (estimated as 3 to 5 percent of all patients examined) of technically difficult subjects in whom the quality of the examination is markedly improved by having the patient turned rather steeply (from 50° to 90°) on his left side. In many instances, this has been the only position in which echoes adequate for interpretation could be obtained. This maneuver will distort the right ventricular dimension,2 and we are currently assessing its effect on other cardiac dimensions.

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