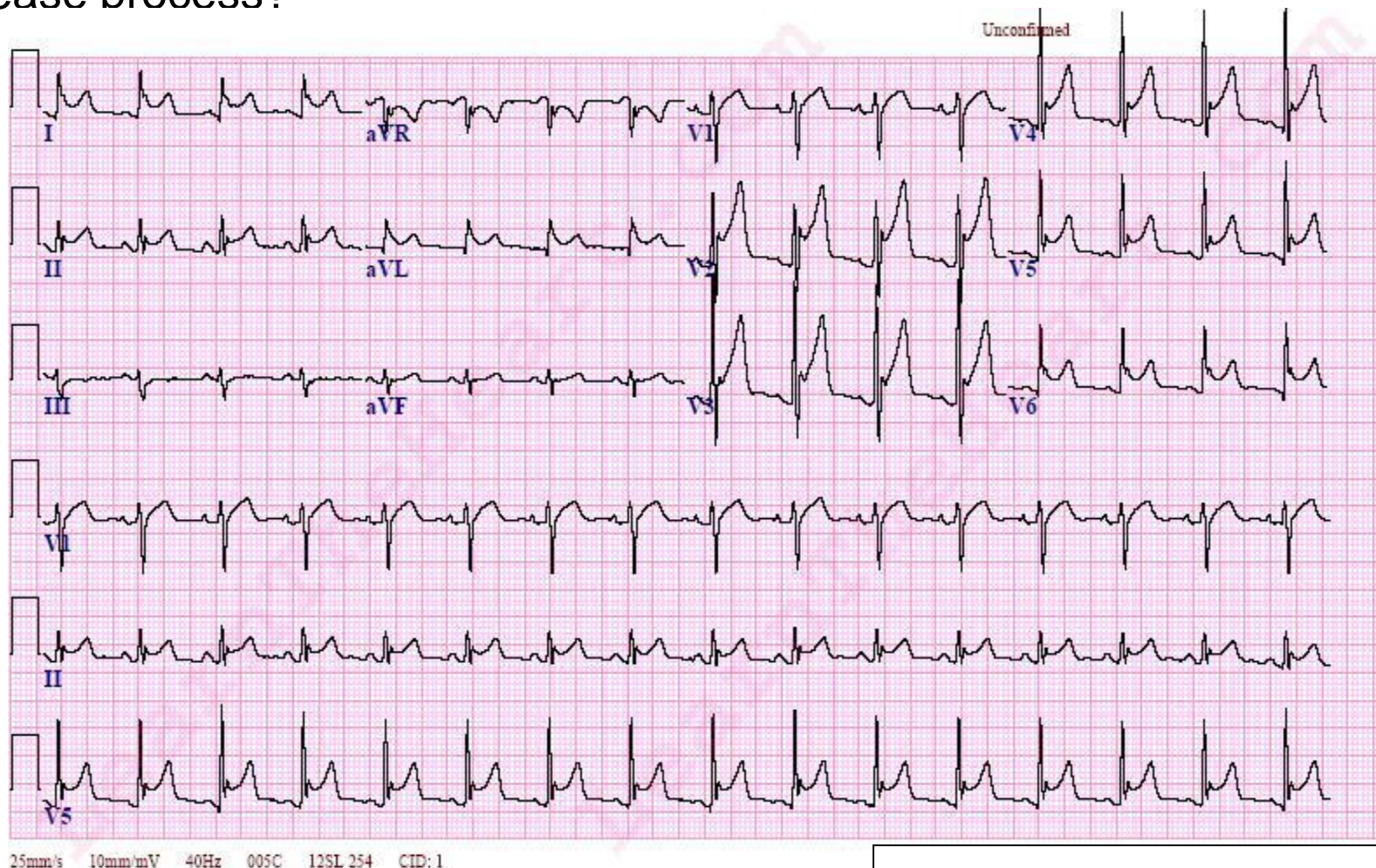


ECG of the Week for 9/6/2010

This is a 16 year old male with a history of chest pain for 2 days.

1. What is the most likely diagnosis?
2. What class of medication is the mainstay of therapy?
3. What class of medication has been linked with the chronic form of this disease process?



Courtesy of learntheheart.com

Answers to ECG of the week

1. Pericarditis. Note the significant ST- elevation across all of the precordial leads. Other findings include PR depression in lead II and sinus tachycardia.
2. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories are the hallmark of treatment in Pericarditis. Other modalities of treatment include pericardiocentesis when there is concern for the development of cardiac tamponade and colchicine has been used as an adjunct to NSAIDs. Colchicine has been noted to reduce recurrence rates and improve symptom relief in 72 hours.
3. Steroids are at times necessary in refractory pericarditis, but some studies have shown an increased incidence of chronic pericarditis or reoccurrence in those patients initially treated with steroids. *Circulation*. 2005;112:2012–6.