ARIC MANUSCRIPT PROPOSAL FORM

Manuscript #063

1. Title (length 26):
Atherosclerosis and TIA/Stroke Symptoms

2. Writing Group (list individual with lead responsibility first):
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3. Timeline:
A plan for analysis will be circulated within two months after approval, and analysis to begin shortly thereafter. A draft manuscript should appear within one year of approval.

4. Rationale:
In the ARIC cohort study we have both a means of identifying early carotid atherosclerosis by B-mode ultrasound, and a sensitive instrument, the TIA/stroke questionnaire, to detect TIA symptoms. Moreover, with some limitations, we also have the ability to localize both the atherosclerosis and the vascular distribution of the symptoms, providing a unique opportunity to consider the relationship.

5. Main Hypothesis:
There is a positive relationship between evidence of carotid artery thickness measure read by B-mode and related TIA symptoms reported in the TIA/stroke questionnaire.

6. Data (variables, time window, source, inclusions/exclusions):
Version B of the TIA/stroke questionnaire will be used and a computer algorithm, applied to diagnose TIA symptoms. Consideration will be given to physician's alternative explanation of etiology of symptoms. Atherosclerosis will be defined as in ARIC case-control definitions. The period of data used will be May 15, 1987, the present beginning of B-mode data, through the end of Visit 1.

Keywords: TIA, stroke, artery, B-mode, diagnostic algorithm