ARIC MANUSCRIPT PROPOSAL FORM

Manuscript #248

1. Title:
Menopause in Blacks  (Conference on CVD in Black Americans)

2. Writing Group:
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3. Timeline:
Draft of the manuscript ready by August 94.

4. Rationale:
Framingham other studies have shown an increase in the risk of cardiovascular disease in women related to menopause (Gordon et al, Ann Intern Med 1978). However, the role of menopause has been questioned (Bush, Ann N Y Acad Sci, 1990). Data from the Nurses Health study suggest that the detrimental effect in cardiovascular risk is present in surgical but not in natural menopause (Colditz et al, N Engl J Med, 1987).

Most, if not all of these studies have been carried out in white women. At least two studies have suggested that the effect of menopause in lipid levels may differ by race (Baird et al, Am J Epidemiol, 1985; Demirovic et al, Am J Epidemiol 1992). One of these studies (Demirovic et al, Am J Epidemiol 1992) also showed a higher proportion of surgical menopause among blacks, compared to whites.

5. Main Hypothesis:
The main questions to be addressed are:
1) Is there a racial difference in age of menopause?
2) Is there a racial difference in type of menopause (surgical vs natural)?
3) Is there a racial difference in the associations between menopause and cardiovascular risk factors (lipids, blood pressure, glucose, insulin, fibrinogen)?
4) Is there a racial difference in the associations between menopause and atherosclerosis (clinical, subclinical)?
5) Are racial differences explained by confounding effects (e.g., by smoking, socioeconomic)?

6. Data (variables, time window, source, inclusions/exclusions):
Analyses will be done in data from visit 1 in the entire cohort of black and white women.

Main variables: race, center, age at visit 1, age at menopause, type of menopause, prevalent disease, wall thickness, plaque/shadowing, total cholesterol, LDL, HDL, apolipoproteins, smoking status, blood pressure, glucose, insulin, fibrinogen, socioeconomic (income, education).