Manuscript #249

1. Title:
Cardiac Medical Care: Diagnostic and Therapeutic Management in African Americans

2. Writing Group:
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3. Timeline:
Analysis to begin in December 1993. Abstract to be developed by June 1994.

4. Rationale:
Recent studies suggest that whites may be more likely than blacks to undergo invasive cardiac procedures
(Ayanian, 1993; Whittle, 1993). The purpose of this manuscript proposal is to develop a presentation on
cardiac diagnostic and therapeutic medical care among African Americans. This investigation will be
presented at the Workshop on Atherosclerosis Risk in African Americans scheduled for September 1994. A
manuscript will also be developed. This proposal is submitted as requested by the ARIC publications
committee. A trend paper will be developed when five year data become available.

5. Main Hypotheses:
(1) This analysis will primarily be descriptive in nature, highlighting the hospital use of diagnostic procedures
and surgical and medical therapeutic interventions among blacks in the ARIC Surveillance population.
Emergency medical care will also be described.
(2) Comparison of the use of diagnostic and therapeutic medical care between blacks and whites in the
Surveillance dataset will also be made.

6. Data:
Closed surveillance data for years 1987-89 will be used. The following data from the hospital record
abstraction will be used: cardiac catheterization, coronary angiography, coronary angioplasty,
echocardiography, coronary bypass surgery, thrombolytic therapy, and history of cardiac procedures. The
following medication use will be evaluated: nitrates, calcium channel blockers, beta-blockers, digitalis,
lidocaine, and anticoagulant therapy. Use of emergency medical services as documented in the medical
record will also be used, as will information on delay time to treatment. Where possible, informant interview,
physician questionnaire and coroner report data will be used to evaluate emergency medical care among
out-of-hospital cases.

References:
1. Ayanian JZ, Udvarhelyi IS, Gatsonis CA, Pashos CL, Epstein AM: Racial differences in the use of