ARIC Manuscript Proposal # 3294

1.a. Full Title: Association of global electrical heterogeneity with newly diagnosed atrial fibrillation: The Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) study

b. Abbreviated Title (Length 26 characters): GEH and AFib

2. Writing Group:
   Writing group members:
   - Aron Bender, MD, (design, background literature review, interpretation of results, writing)
   - Erick A. Perez-Alday, PhD, Yin Li-Pershing, BS (Matlab software development and automated ECG analyses, interpretation of results)
   - David German, MD, Tuan Mai, MD, Srini V. Mukundan, MD, (clinical adjudication of each cardiac beat origin and conduction path = beats labeling, interpretation of results)
   - Christopher Hamilton, BA, Jason Thomas, BS, Nichole Rogovoy, BS, (quality control of ECG analyses, review of accuracy fiducial points, interpretation of results)
   - Larisa G. Tereshchenko, MD, PhD (design, beats labeling, statistical analyses, oversight, interpretation of results, writing)

I, the first author, confirm that all the coauthors have given their approval for this manuscript proposal. AB and LT _____ [please confirm with your initials electronically or in writing]

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ARIC author to be contacted if there are questions about the manuscript and the first author does not respond or cannot be located (this must be an ARIC investigator).
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3. Timeline: 2019

4. Rationale:
   We recently showed that electrocardiographic global electrical heterogeneity (ECG-GEH), measured by five features of the spatial ventricular gradient (SVG) vector (SVG magnitude, direction (azimuth and elevation), a scalar value sum absolute QRST integral (SAI QRST), and spatial QRS-T angle) on orthogonal XYZ ECG is associated with sudden cardiac death (SCD).
In the pooled ARIC+CHS population, we showed that 5 GEH measurements were independently associated with SCD after adjustment for demographics, manifested CV disease (time-updated incident non-fatal cardiovascular events [CHD, HF, stroke, AF, use of beta-blockers], and known CV risk factors such as total cholesterol, HDL, triglycerides, physical activity index, smoking, diabetes, BMI, hypertension, anti-hypertensive medications, creatinine, alcohol intake, LVEF, and time-updated ECG risk-factors (heart rate, QTc, QRS duration, ECG-LVH, bundle branch block [BBB] or interventricular conduction delay [IVCD]). GEH selectively predicted SCA over non-sudden fatal CHD and non-cardiac death in competing risks models, suggesting that abnormal GEH selectively identified participants with abnormal EP substrate rather than simply identifying a sicker population with structural heart disease.

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is known to be associated with SCD. However, mechanisms of that association are unclear. In our preliminary analysis, only two out of five GEH variables (SVG azimuth and spatial QRS-T angle) were associated with AF. GEH-GWAS identified several genetic polymorphisms that can be implicated in mechanisms of both supraventricular and ventricular arrhythmias (e.g. HAND1, TBX3). Theoretically, it can be possible that a common underlying electrophysiological substrate increases propensity to both supraventricular and ventricular arrhythmias. We designed proposed study to test the hypothesis that GEH is associated with newly diagnosed AF.

5. Main Hypothesis/Study Questions:
We hypothesize that ECG GEH phenotype is associated with newly diagnosed AF.

6. Design and analysis (study design, inclusion/exclusion, outcome and other variables of interest with specific reference to the time of their collection, summary of data analysis, and any anticipated methodologic limitations or challenges if present).

All ARIC participants with available and analyzable ECGs, who have GEH results reported (both area vectors and peak vectors) will be included. We will exclude Black participants in the Washington and Minnesota cohorts and participants with reported race other than white or black, and participants with missing covariates, and participants with prevalent at visit 1 AF.

Cox regression analyses will be conducted with “incident” (newly diagnosed) AF as primary outcome. We will construct several models with the goal to determine whether association of GEH with incident AF is independent from structural heart disease (CVD and its risk factors). Model 1 is adjusted for demographic characteristics (age, sex, race, and study center). Model 2 is in addition adjusted for prevalent CVD and its risk factors (CHD, HF, stroke, use of β-blockers, creatinine, body mass index, hypertension, antihypertensive medications, diabetes mellitus, smoking status, alcohol intake, total cholesterol, high density lipoprotein cholesterol, triglycerides, and physical activity index). Model 3 further adjusted for electrocardiographic parameters associated with AF (heart rate, PR interval, QRS, QTc duration, sex-specific Cornell product, and bundle-branch block, or intraventricular conduction delay). Model 4 evaluated whether the association of GEH parameters with AF remained significant over time and included all baseline covariates included in model 3, time-updated GEH parameters, time-updated traditional electrocardiographic measurements, and time-updated incident nonfatal
cardiovascular events (HF, CHD, and stroke). Schoenfeld residuals will be used to confirm that the proportional hazards assumption is valid in all Cox proportional hazards models. Circular statistics will be used to analyze circular variables (SVG azimuth and elevation).

7.a. Will the data be used for non-CVD analysis in this manuscript? ____ Yes __X__ No

b. If Yes, is the author aware that the file ICTDER03 must be used to exclude persons with a value RES_OTH = “CVD Research” for non-DNA analysis, and for DNA analysis RES_DNA = “CVD Research” would be used? ____ Yes ____ No
(This file ICTDER has been distributed to ARIC PIs, and contains the responses to consent updates related to stored sample use for research.)

8.a. Will the DNA data be used in this manuscript? ____ Yes __X__ No

8.b. If yes, is the author aware that either DNA data distributed by the Coordinating Center must be used, or the file ICTDER03 must be used to exclude those with value RES_DNA = “No use/storage DNA”? ____ Yes ____ No

9. The lead author of this manuscript proposal has reviewed the list of existing ARIC Study manuscript proposals and has found no overlap between this proposal and previously approved manuscript proposals either published or still in active status. ARIC Investigators have access to the publications lists under the Study Members Area of the web site at:  http://www.cscc.unc.edu/aric/mantrack/maintain/search/dtSearch.html

__X____ Yes _______ No

10. What are the most related manuscript proposals in ARIC (authors are encouraged to contact lead authors of these proposals for comments on the new proposal or collaboration)? 2208

11.a. Is this manuscript proposal associated with any ARIC ancillary studies or use any ancillary study data? _X___ Yes _____ No

11.b. If yes, is the proposal
   _X__  A. primarily the result of an ancillary study (list number* _2012.14___)
   _____  B. primarily based on ARIC data with ancillary data playing a minor role (usually control variables; list number(s)* __________ __________ __________)

*ancillary studies are listed by number at https://www2.cscc.unc.edu/aric/approved-ancillary-studies

12a. Manuscript preparation is expected to be completed in one to three years. If a manuscript is not submitted for ARIC review at the end of the 3-years from the date of the approval, the manuscript proposal will expire.
12b. The NIH instituted a Public Access Policy in April, 2008 which ensures that the public has access to the published results of NIH funded research. It is your responsibility to upload manuscripts to PubMed Central whenever the journal does not and be in compliance with this policy. Four files about the public access policy from http://publicaccess.nih.gov/ are posted in http://www.csec.unc.edu/aric/index.php, under Publications, Policies & Forms. http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit_process_journals.htm shows you which journals automatically upload articles to PubMed central.

References:


