1. Title:
The relationship of weight change and weight cycling with hypertension

2. Writing Group:
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3. Timeline:
We plan to begin the data analyses in the Fall 1997. Data are available from ARIC study visits 1, 2, and 3.

4. Rationale:
Although clinical studies have shown that weight change is directly associated with blood pressure change, secular trends of overweight and hypertension have been conflicting. The prevalence of overweight increased from the NHANESII to NHANES III (Kuczmarski et al., 1991) but, over the same period of time, the prevalence of hypertension decreased (Burt et al., 1994). The relationship between weight change and change in a hypertensive status in a free-living population is unclear, and we know of no studies examining this relationship.

There is some evidence that weight cycling has a negative effect on plasma lipids (National Task Force on the Prevention and Treatment of Obesity, 1994); however, effects on blood pressure and hypertension have not been studied.

To address the issue of weight change and weight cycling we will examine weight in visit 1, visit 2, and visit 3, and the incidence and remission of hypertension. Mixed model analyses (Searle, 1971; Hocking, 1985; Zeger et al, 1988) will be used to examine the relationships of weight change and weight cycling with the incidence of hypertension and the remission of hypertension.

From visit 1 to visit 3, the incidence of hypertension was approximately 19% and the hypertension remission was approximately 12% (Dr. Gerardo Heiss, personal communication).

5. Main Questions to be Addressed:
1. Among normotensive people, is weight change associated with the incidence of hypertension?
2. Among hypertensive people is weight change associated with the remission of
hypertension?
3. Is weight cycling associated with the incidence of hypertension or the remission of hypertension?

6. Data Requirements:
Variables needed:

Exposure variables (visit 1-3):
   BMI

Outcome variables (visit 1-3):
   Blood pressure
   Hypertension status

Others (visit 1-3):
   Id
   Age
   Gender
   Ethnicity
   Education
   Smoking
   Physical activity
   Pre-existing illness
   Reported dieting