Manuscript #618

1. Title: The Effect of Social Support on the Relationship between Hostility and Seated Blood Pressure
   Abbreviated Title (Length 26): Hostility & Social Support

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3. Time Line:
   Preliminary Analysis: Summer 1998
   Completed Paper: Fall 1998

4. Rationale:
   Anger and social support have well established but opposing effects on cardiovascular health. In addition, the
   vast majority of studies have studied either anger or social support in relation to blood pressure, but rarely have
   the two constructs been examined simultaneously in a manner that allows for effective analysis. The few studies
   that have looked at these two constructs used small, highly selected, homogeneous populations. Although these
   investigations did not find an interactive relationship between anger and social support, an investigation that
   used a bi-ethnic community sample did find that social support significantly buffered the negative effects of
   anger on blood pressure among individuals with high anger levels. Although these results were suggestive, the
   small sample size of the trial was a significant limitation. The ability to explore this association in a larger,
   population-based study population using psychosocial instruments that are relatively well-known and validated
   will help establish the existence and strength of this association.

5. Main Hypothesis:
   As anger levels increase, individuals with higher levels of perceived social support will have lower blood
   pressure levels than individuals with lower levels of perceived social support.

6. Data (variables, time window, source, inclusions/exclusions):
   Analysis will be cross-sectional, with outcome (SBP and DBP) and exposure (Hostility and Social Support)
   from visit 2
   Visit 1 Variables: marital status, income group, education level
   Visit 2 Variables: SBP, DBP State-Trait Anger Inventory, ISEL, age, ethnicity, gender, BMI, smoking status,
   alcohol consumption status, Lubben Social Network Score
Exclusions: Non-African or European American, previous MI (self-reported previous heart attack, ecg or machine diagnosed MI), missing data (except for social network and income)