ARIC MANUSCRIPT PROPOSAL FORM

Manuscript #283

1. Title:
Unstable Angina
Full Title: Unstable angina in the ARIC communities: Prevalence and Medical Care

2. Writing Group:
(lead) W. Rosamond, Z-J Zheng, J. Cai, A. Folsom, D. Conwill, L. Cooper

3. Timeline:
Analyses are expected to be completed with 3 months; a draft manuscript can be presented to the writing
group within 2 months after the completion of the analysis.

4. Rationale:
Unstable angina is a syndrome that comprises a spectrum of symptomatic manifestations of coronary artery
disease intermediate between the well-defined diagnosis of stable angina pectoris and acute myocardial
infarction. It is a common condition affecting a heterogeneous population of patients, and most often results
from disruption of an atherosclerotic plaque and the subsequent cascade of pathologic processes that
critically decrease coronary blood flow. Although there has been a decline in hospitalization for acute
myocardial infarction in the United States, the number of patients discharged from hospitals with a diagnosis
of unstable angina pectoris has increased. In 1991 alone, 570,000 hospitalization for this principal diagnosis
resulted in 3.1 million hospital days. Unstable angina represents a challenge in medical management due to
its significant association with myocardial infarction and cardiovascular disease mortality. The epidemiology
of unstable angina, however, has not been well established. Little information is available regarding the
etiology, natural history, and prevalence and incidence of unstable angina in populations.

5. Main Hypothesis:
1) Attack rate of unstable angina is higher in men than women, in whites than blacks. 2) Treatment of
unstable angina differs by race and gender; 3) Prognosis and case fatality of unstable angina differs by race
and gender.

6. Data:
ARIC surveillance data will be used for analyses. The ICD-9 codes 411.1 and 411.8 will be used to define
unstable angina. The main variables include angina status, type of treatment (PTCA, CABG, thrombolytic
agents, medications), prognosis, days of stay. Other variables include center, age, race, ECG, medical Hx.