

ARIC MANUSCRIPT PROPOSAL FORM

Manuscript # 073

1. Title (length 26):

Alcohol & Wall Thickness

2. Writing Group (list individual with lead responsibility first):

(lead) J. Demirovic	Carpenter	Folsom
Ultrasound Representative	Szklo	Nabulsi

3. Timeline:

Dr. Demirovic is a visiting professor for one year in Minnesota. We, therefore, would like this manuscript to have a high enough priority to allow it to be mostly completed within one year. Our preference is to have the analysis done by the Coordinating Center if the timeline allows.

4. Rationale:

Epidemiological, clinical, and angiographic studies have indicated that moderate alcohol consumption is negatively correlated with coronary heart disease (CHD). The mechanism by which alcohol may protect against CHD has not yet been completely elucidated. It has been hypothesized that the consumption of alcohol slows down coronary atherosclerosis and that this effect is mediated through its impact on lipid metabolism and on thrombosis and fibrinolytic activity. If this were so, similar effect of alcohol consumption on carotid atherosclerosis would also be expected. The ARIC Study provides an excellent opportunity to test this hypothesis by using carotid artery wall thickness and distensibility as an index of the degree of atherosclerosis.

5. Main Hypothesis:

We expect alcohol consumption to be negatively correlated with the degree of carotid artery wall thickness and distensibility

6. Data (variables, time window, source, inclusions/exclusions):

Visit 1 data. Dependent variables: carotid artery wall thickness and distensibility. Independent variables: alcohol consumption (gr/week). Covariates: age, sex, race, education, occupation, BMI, sport index, smoking, pulse rate, SBP, DBP, total cholesterol, LDL, HDL (HDL2, HDL3), apolipoproteins A1 and B, triglycerides, diabetes, blood glucose, insulin, hematocrit, platelet count, fibrinogen, antithrombin III, protein C, factor VII, factor VIII, von Willebrand factor antigen.