

ARIC MANUSCRIPT PROPOSAL FORM

Manuscript # 439

1. a. Full Title: Chlamydia pneumoniae and cardiovascular disease
b. Abbreviated Title: Chlamydia and CVD

2. Writing Group:

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3. Timeline: Immediately

4. Rationale:

Pathology studies demonstrate that chlamydia pneumoniae (CP) DNA can be found in atherosclerotic plaque tissue. Results from cross-sectional studies have demonstrated that past infection with CP may be associated with clinical CHD. In the ARIC study, CP antibody levels were associated with subclinical atherosclerosis (Melnick et al., 1993 1993). Results from a short-term follow-up analysis in the Helsinki Heart Study also showed an association between CP serum antibodies and incident MI.

5. Main Hypothesis:

- 1) Serum antibodies for CP are associated with incident MI and this association is independent of known cardiovascular risk factors.
- 2) Serum antibodies for CP are associated with the presence of cerebral infarcts and white matter lesions, independently of known cardiovascular risk factors.

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

Case-cohort data. Adjustment for the main CVD risk factors will be attempted, following previous findings in the baseline case-control study (Melnick et al., 1993).