

ARIC MANUSCRIPT PROPOSAL FORM

Manuscript #470

1. a. Full Title: Coffee intake and homocysteine
b. Abbreviated Title: Coffee and Homocysteine

2. Writing Group:

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3. Timeline:

Immediately (to be sent as a letter to the editor in AJCN)

4. Rationale:

A recently published study (*Am J Clin Nutr* 1997;65:136-43) found that usual coffee intake is associated with plasma homocysteine in a Norwegian population. The authors reported this as an "unexpected" finding. They speculate, however, that homocysteine may be a mediator of the adverse clinical effects related to coffee consumption. The data from the ARIC cohort sample offers an opportunity to try to replicate these findings.

5. Main Hypothesis:

Coffe intake is associated with plasma homocysteine, independently of age, gender, and smoking history.

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

Study sample: cohort sample

Dependent variable: plasma homocysteine

Independent variable: usual coffee intake (DTIA61), and derived average caffeine intake

(CAFF in TOTNUT database).

Covariates: age, gender, race group, smoking history.