

ARIC MANUSCRIPT PROPOSAL FORM

Manuscript #363

1. Title: A descriptive study of migraine headache prevalence in a biracial population: the ARIC Study, 1993-95.

2. Writing Group:

Cathrine Paton
Kelly Hunt
David Gordon

3. Timeline:

Preliminary analyses can begin after approval, although final analysis must await closure of Visit 3.

4. Rationale:

Many population-based prevalence studies on migraine headache have been conducted in the US and in Europe; most, however, have either used non-standardized diagnostic criteria for migraines, have surveyed young adults, or have based their surveys on a "prevalence" time frame of 1 to 2 years. To date, only two population-based studies on the lifetime occurrence of migraine headaches using a standardized definition (the International Headache Society classification) have been published; one in the US and the other in Denmark. Because of this, information on the descriptive epidemiology of migraines is inconsistent in European Americans, and unknown among the African American population.

5. Study Questions:

No hypothesis testing per se will be done in the descriptive paper. The few prevalence studies that have been published on the epidemiology of migraine headaches, based on standardized definitions and assessment techniques from population-based studies, have shown the lifetime occurrence of migraine headaches to range from 5.5-16.1% and clear demographic and socioeconomic differences. There is a 2 to 3 prevalence ratio of women to men; 1 to 2 of European to African Americans. Migraines appear to be more frequent in lower SES categories; but, diagnosis by physicians occurs more often in higher SES categories. The purpose of the first manuscript is to describe the lifetime occurrence and the distribution of self-reported migraine headaches by age, race, sex, study community, education, income, occupation, physician diagnosis and family history in the ARIC study cohort at Visit 3 using the International Headache Society classification criteria to define migraine headaches.

6. Data:

All study participants from Visit 3 will be included. Variables include age, race, sex, field center, education, income, occupation, the questions on migraine headaches, and the questions on health care utilization.