

August 11, 1965

Dr. Thomas R. Dawber, Medical Director
Heart Disease Epidemiology Study
25 Evergreen Street
Framingham, Massachusetts

Dear Roy:

Your group has repeatedly pointed up the problem of ECG definition of "new events", which to my knowledge has not been systematically looked into.

In reading your records for new events I have formulated a design for a little study of this using your clinical impression as the independent reference.

- I would propose
- 1) making measurements in all leads except aVR,
 - 2) measuring these items:
 - Q duration
 - Q amplitude
 - R amplitude
 - T amplitude
 - S-T amplitude
 - P-R interval in lead II
 - QRS interval in I, II, or III
 - QRS axis in I and III
 - Minn. Code for arrhythmia
 - 3) punching these items for
 - a) baseline ECG
 - b) "best" hospital ECG
 - c) follow-up ECG
 - 4) making comparisons between a-b; b-c; and a-c for these items:
 - change in Q duration
 - change in Q amplitude
 - change in Q/R amplitude ratio
 - change in R amplitude
 - change in S-T amplitude
 - change in T/R amplitude ratio
 - change in P-R and QRS interval and axis.

There are records on approximately 150 of your new events here. We can measure them at the rate of about 50 per week and return them when each box is

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complete. We have ample material here on the variations between subjects not having a new event. Would you agree to our making these measurements, and to collaboration on an attempt to define the changes clinically recognized as "new coronary events" from your records?

I am leaving today for 1 month's work in Crete, and would appreciate your letting Tom Strasser, our mutual friend from Belgrade, know whether you approve of this little study. He could supervise the measurements and punching here. He incidentally wants to visit you some days on his way home in December.

The pooling codes have been changed from GHQ twice since I started the work, but, in absence of clinical data I coded the ECG part A 1 or A 2 or nothing.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M. D.

HB:mj

CC: Bill Parlin
Dr. Strasser