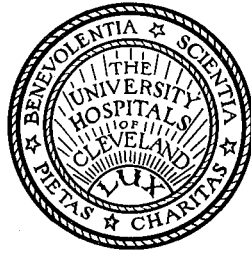


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Reply on page*

April 20, 1977

Henry Blackburn, M. D.
University of Minnesota
Stadium Gate 27
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear Henry:

Thanks for the advanced copy of your article on The Exercise Electrocardiogram in Diagnosis. As usual it is very perceptive, discriminating and provocative as well as humorous.

I am particularly pleased that you reacted as vigorously to the Borer subject.

At the meeting of the American College of Cardiology in Philadelphia, I indicted the NIH group for their irresponsibility for publishing a poorly designed unrepresented study, and worst of all the conclusions they drew. In other words, a poorly designed study, poorly executed, poorly documented, and over publicized.

The study by Erickssen had already appeared in the May issue of Circulation, and his results were certainly at variance with Borer, et al. Surprisingly Victor Froelicher continues to present his data, as of two weeks ago, on the military population which of course is highly selected and filtered, without reference to Erickssen's study.

By the way, for Erickssen's study to be completely above reproach, it would have been desirable to have performed arteriograms on an equal number of subjects with unequivocally normal responses to exercise.

Cont. -

Henry Blackburn, M. D.

April 20, 1977

In regard to Cumming's complaints, some are certainly valid but he seems to ignore that considerable progress has been made in demonstrating the interchangeability of the results of different protocols and of ECG criteria. His estimation of hazards and threats of lawsuits is exaggerated.

Perhaps we may see you around May 20th or 21st when we are coming up to Minneapolis to see Jonathan graduate from Macalester.

With best regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,



Herman K. Hellerstein, M. D.
Professor of Medicine

HKH:vh