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DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIOSTATISTICS

January 20, 1971

File CDP

TO: Dr. Henry Blackburn
Dr. Jeremiah Stamler
Dr. Christian R. Kliment
Dr. Curtis L. Meinert
Dr. Paul L. Canner

FROM: Dr. Suketami Tominaga

SUBJECT: Current Status of the Ectopic Beat Special Study and How Far
Should this Special ECG Reading Go?

About 2,300 scheduled ECGs in which any ectopic beats exist were pulled from the file of about 16,000 scheduled ECGs in Shipments 1-19. These ectopic beat ECGs were coded by the girls at the ECG center according to the special manual prepared by Dr. Blackburn.

The tabulation sheets for these 2,300 ECGs were received by the Coordinating Center on January 4, 1971. A special coding form for keypunchers and programmers was prepared by me and the detailed ectopic characteristics are now being punched. As soon as all the punch cards are prepared, the first step of the analysis will be carried out. We are trying to present some preliminary results to the next CDP Data Monitoring Committee.

The ECGs in which any ectopic beats exist are still continuously being pulled from the scheduled ECG file at the ECG Center. We have to decide how far this ectopic beat ECG reading should go. This decision is very important from the standpoint of setting up a magnetic disk file for this information.

From the analytical point of view, I personally, do not see much point in going further than FV3 ECGs. Detailed baseline ectopic beat characteristics, change in these characteristics from baseline to FV3, and new ectopic beat characteristics at FV3 may be sufficient in studying:

1. Predictability of death and other important endpoints,
2. Changes over time in ectopic beat characteristics, and
3. Comparability among treatments of various ectopic beat characteristics at baseline.

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Please let me know your thoughts about this. If you can see any strong reasons for continuing this reading program beyond FV3 I would like to hear about them as soon as possible.

ST/amb

cc: Dr. William Krol
Dr. Thomas Landau
Dr. Yoshiyuki Ohno
Miss Robin MacGregor