Reviewer’s report

Title: Association of Health Behaviour with Heart Rate Variability: A Population-Based Study

Version: 1 Date: 12 October 2010

Reviewer: Jan-Christian Reil

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Aim of presented study was to investigate the relation of behavioural risk factors like sedentile life style, smoking, alcohol consumption etc with heart rate variability, a parameter of autonomic dysfunction, as the first step on the potential pathway to cardiovascular disease (CVD). The study was performed in a cross-sectional design and based on the baseline examination of prospective Carla-Study. The analysis of the data demonstrated that there was no causal association of behavioural factors and HRV.

Kluttig et al performed an interesting study with unexpected results- the lack of an association between heart rate variability and behavioural risk factors. The data analysis was carefully performed and reliable.

I have only a minor comment. (Discretionary Revisions)

Beside beta-blockers other drugs like digitalis, calcium antagonists and ivabradine influence heart rate. Were the different subgroups of the study matched for these drugs?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests'