

**Appendix 2 (as supplied by the authors): Characteristics of study population in tertiles of SDNN**

Characteristics	Tertiles of SDNN (msec)			p-value
	Low (1.70-13.30) n=1689	Medium (13.40-26.50) n=1670	High (26.60-422.60) n=1683	
<b>Socio-demographics</b>				
Age, years, mean (SD)	75.36 (3.39)	75.12 (3.30)	75.32 (3.32)	0.08
Female, n (%)	879 (52.0)	907 (54.3)	833 (49.5)	0.02
Age left school, years, mean (SD)	15.16 (2.00)	15.17 (2.08)	15.10 (2.08)	0.59
<b>Cardiovascular factors:</b>				
History of hypertension, n (%)	1079 (63.9)	1028 (61.6)	1020 (60.6)	0.13
History of stroke or TIA, n (%)	202 (12.0)	188 (11.3)	162 (9.6)	0.08
History of MI, n (%)	220 (13.0)	212 (12.7)	230 (13.7)	0.61
History of claudication, n (%)	129 (7.4)	113 (6.8)	94 (5.6)	0.06
History of diabetes mellitus, n (%)	210 (12.4)	160 (9.2)	147 (8.7)	0.001
Current smoking, n (%)	423 (25.0)	452 (27.1)	459 (27.3)	0.27
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup> mean (SD)	27.12 (4.25)	26.78 (4.13)	26.64 (4.12)	0.003
<b>Medications:</b>				
Beta-blockers, n (%)	377 (22.3)	478 (28.6)	465 (27.6)	<0.001
Calcium channel blockers, n (%)	424 (25.1)	424 (25.4)	427 (25.4)	0.98
Statins, n (%)	846 (50.1)	811 (48.6)	847 (50.3)	0.54

Abbreviations: SD: standard deviation; n: Number; TIA: Transient Ischemic Attack; MI: Myocardial Infarction; BMI: Body Mass Index.