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Angiology
2017, Vol. 68(2) 174
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DOI: 10.1177/0003319716658403
journals.sagepub.com/home/ang
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Drugs That Affect the Resting Heart Rate

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We read with interest the article "The Relationship Between Resting Heart Rate and SYNTAX Score in Patients With Stable Coronary Artery Disease" by Yilmaz et al.[1] Elevated resting heart rate is an independent marker of mortality within a wide spectrum of conditions.[2,3] Yilmaz et al found that resting heart rate predicts the severity and complexity of coronary atherosclerosis. We have some comments about this article.

In the study, the authors[1] specified the medications for patients. We think that the dosage of drugs such as β-blockers or calcium channel blockers is important, because target dose of these medications can affect the heart rate. We think that the dosage of these medications should be similar in both the groups. It is necessary to note the time period the patient has been receiving these drugs before the resting heart rate was measured. Although ivabradine has been used for the symptomatic management of stable angina pectoris, there were no data about the usage of ivabradine. Also, digoxin is occasionally used in the treatment of various heart rhythms, such as atrial fibrillation, atrial flutter, and sometimes heart failure that cannot be controlled by other medication. Despite the exclusion criteria of the patients with heart failure and atrial fibrillation, there was no information about the usage of digoxin.

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