

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

REPLY

Sir,

We would like to thank Drs. Nilamadhab Kar and Varuni K. for their comments and questions regarding our study "A comparative study of psychological factors in patients with normal and abnormal angiographic findings" published in October 1999 issue of the IJP. We would like to reply to their queries as under :

We were not blind to the cardiological status of our patients. As regarding the personality profile of these patients, 16 PF was

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

used for assessment which is a self rated questionnaire, the scoring of which was done by the psychologists. Some bias may have crept in assessing type A behaviour patterns, as this was a clinical assessment.

Prior to being taken up for the study all the patients (cases as well as controls) were thoroughly medically screened. When no cause for chest pain was found, medical or cardiological, then only were they taken up for the study (cases). This list also included rheumatic heart disease, valvular heart disease, ischemic cardiomyopathy and congenital heart disease.

The idea was to differentiate between the cases and controls as regards the level of socio-occupational dysfunction experienced by these patients. A higher number of stressors experienced by patients reflect poor functioning in all walks of life. Moreover, the number of episodes of chest pain reported by these patients also coincided to some extent with the occurrence of the stressors. Hence we decided to focus on the number of stressors rather than the type or severity.

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