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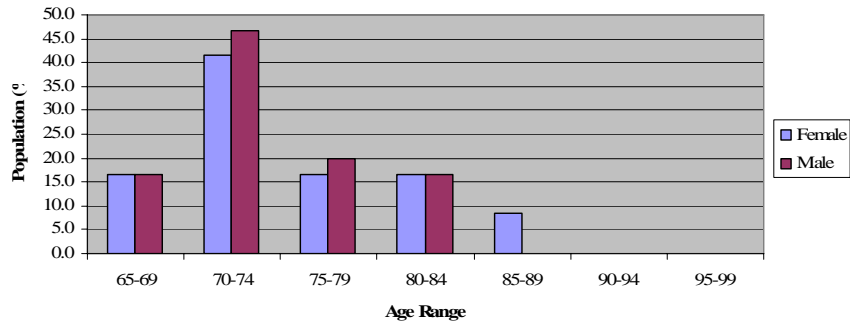
Abstract Subspecialty: Hypertension

Geriatric Gender Differences in Parasympathetic Tone May Modify Treatment of Geriatric Men and Women

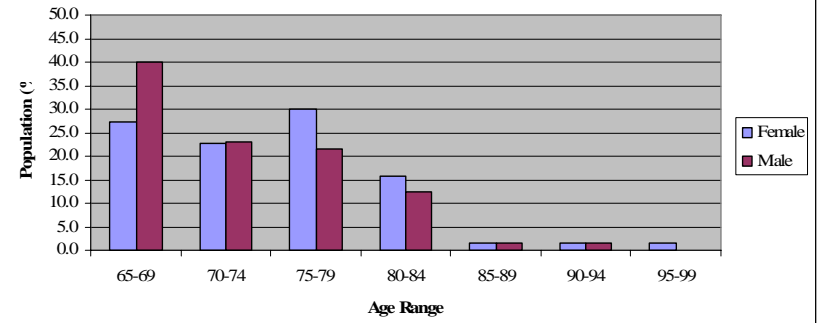
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Background: Geriatric Holter data indicate that elevated parasympathetic (PSNS) activity in elderly females (including heart failure (HF) patients) is associated with longevity. Elevated PSNS activity results in lower sympathovagal balance (SB=sympathetic/parasympathetic). This study investigates whether female-like SB in males is also associated with longevity. **Method:** 1008 consecutive geriatric cardiology patients (Diabetics=143; HF=564; Females=634; age=74.2±6.17; Arrhythmic patients were omitted) were recruited. The patients were classified according to SB: low, low-normal, high-normal, and high. Low and high SB are associated with poor outcomes. Low-normal in females is associated with longevity. Healthy males typically have high normal SB. **Results:** No patient with low SB lived beyond their 8th decade, only females lived beyond 85. No patient with high SB lived beyond 85, with more women reaching their 8th decade than men. Females in the high-normal sub-population lived into the first half of their 9th decade, but no males lived past 85. Females in the low-normal population lived into the second half of their 9th decade, and the males in this sub-population lived into the first half of their 9th decade. **Conclusion:** Patients with low-normal SB tend to live longer. The only males to survived beyond their 85th year had low-normal SB. The only females to survived beyond their 95th year had low-normal SB. Low-normal SB is associated with longevity independent of gender or disease.

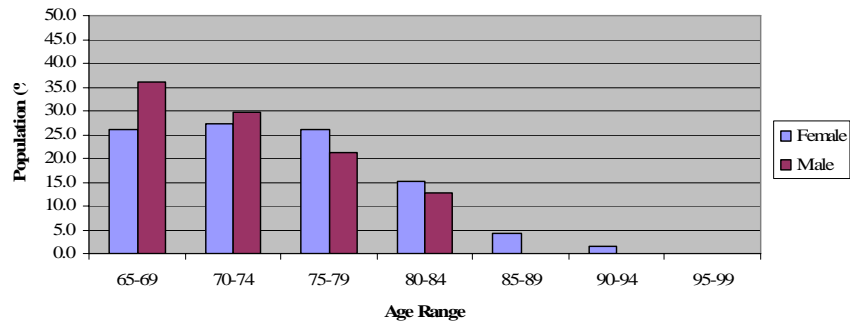
**Gender Differences
(Low SB)**



**Gender Differences
(Low-Normal SB)**



**Gender Differences
(High-Normal SB)**



**Gender Differences
(High SB)**

